



REGIONAL SYSTEM OF THE RELATIONSHIP

AMONG

INDUSTRY - UNIVERSITY - STATE

(Practice - Intervention - Theory : PIT)

in the

SOUTHERN SWITZERLAND REGION

- CONFERENCE FOR ADULT LIFELONG LEARNING CFC -

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Transfer of Innovation

**REBASING – Research-based
Competence Brokering**

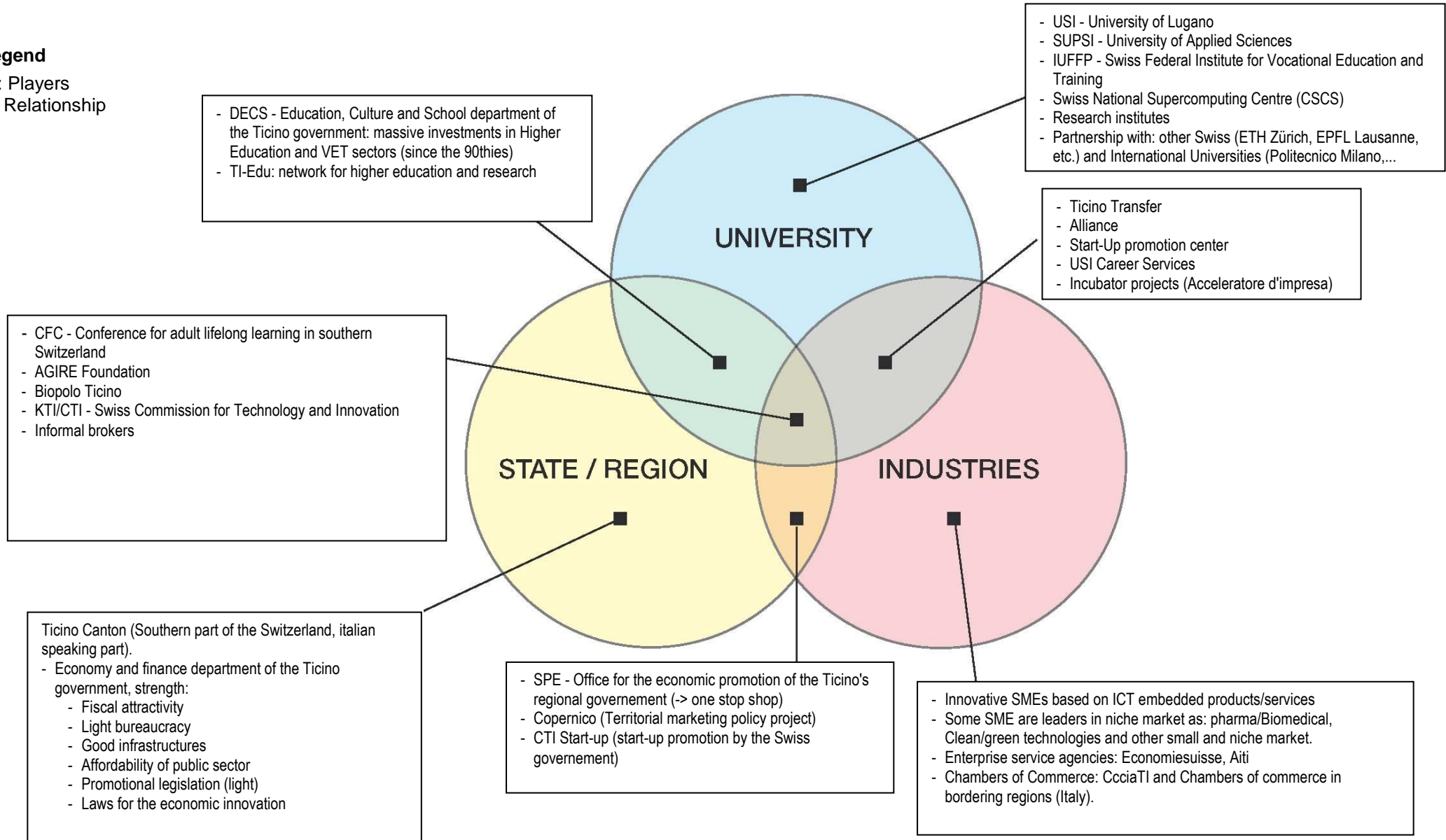
WP III – Transfer of Methodology: Knowledge for competitiveness

In order to describe the local partnership contexts with regard to REBASING focus on Competence broker, accordingly with DIMEG, we propose each partner to describe its local environment on the basis of the triple helix model, describing the relationship among Industry – University – State (practice – intervention – theory: PIT). Please list in the related field the organization and bodies working in your national or regional context, describing as well the formal and/ or non-formal relationship among them.

Legend

P : Players

R: Relationship



TICINO - THE CONTEXT

Demographics, geographic and economics facts

- Surface 2.812 Km²
- About 320.000 inhabitants
- 58% activity rate (local population)
- 180.000 workplaces
- About 5% unemployment rate
- 47.000 trans-border mobile workers
- 19.000 enterprises
- 98% of the firms are SMEs (80% micro)

Emerging clusters

Pharma / Biomedical

2.2% workforce, 4.9% added value

Mechatronic

10,6% workforce, 11,8% added value

Advanced services

R&D, logistic, ICT, trading...

14.8% workforce, 17.4% added value

LOCAL PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT

State/Region (S):

- **Ticino Canton** (Southern part of the Switzerland, Italian speaking part)

Economy and finance department of the Ticino government

Strength:

- Fiscal attractiveness
- Light bureaucracy
- Good infrastructures
- Affordability of public sector
- Promotional legislation (light)
- Laws for the economic innovation

University (U):

Background – Universities (USI/SUPSI), Applied Research institutes

Experiences of collaboration with firms - Several joint research projects

Research finality - Several experiences of applied research oriented to innovation of industrial processes / products

Work Organization - flexible and open structure of academic careers, mobility between public and private sectors

Benefits perception – Innovation is a driver for local SMEs

Structures and resources - emerging networks (initial phase)

Industry (I):

Presence of internal research team

Engineers and researchers acting as entrepreneurs, SME's acting as research laboratories, development of applied research units

Previous experiences of collaboration with universities/research centres

See above, and experiences developed in the framework of KTI/CTI

Benefits perception

Emerging innovation networks (Biopolo, Pharma Industry, etc.)

Environmental context

- Investments realized during the 90ties: establishment of USI, SUPSI, research centers connected with other Academic Institutions (internal / external)
- Traditional competitive advantages of the region
- Innovative SMEs based on ICT embedded products/services
- Niche markets as: pharma/Biomedical, Clean/green technologies and other small and niche market.
- Enterprise service agencies: Economiesuisse, Aiti
- Chambers of Commerce: CcciaTI and Chambers of commerce in bordering regions (Italy).

Overlap Industry / University / State-Region (IUS):

➤ **Conference for adult lifelong learning in southern Switzerland – CFC**

Is the umbrella organization for general and vocational adult lifelong learning in the Italian part of Switzerland

- CFC is a non-profit organization supported by the Ticino Canton government (Department for vocational training)
- CFC groups about 80 members: institutions (public and private), schools, governmental bodies and individuals involved in adult learning.
- CFC has a permanent Secretariat in Lugano.
- The steering committee counts 12 members; they represent the main stakeholders in the field of lifelong learning in our region.

CFC's activities mainly touches three different areas:

- ***Policy of adult education/learning***
 - Improvement of the conditions that lead to an efficient lifelong learning system
- ***Innovation and development***
 - Development of lifelong learning projects and activities through the participation in Regional and European projects
- ***Services and products***
 - Consultation to members and general public in the field of lifelong learning, information activities, publications and Internet site.

Partnership and Collaborations

CFC can rely on a network of association, organization and institutions active in the territory. Particularly:

- CFC has a tight collaboration with the Swiss Federation for Adult Learning (SFAL/FSEA) which is the umbrella organisation for lifelong learning of adults in Switzerland. CFC represents the interest of SFAL in the southern Switzerland and act as SFAL regional commission.
- CFC activities are supported by the government (Department for vocational training of the Ticino Canton).
- CFC work together with its members and other association, organization and institutions to promote and develop lifelong learning projects. In collaboration with SFAL, CFC has taken part in many regional, national and European projects in this field.

➤ **AGIRE Foundation**

AGIRE Foundation is the Agency for regional innovation created by the government of the Ticino Canton. The main aims of AGIRE is to foster the transfer of knowledge and technologies and to promote entrepreneurship in Ticino. AGIRE was co-founded by Ticino government, the University and Applied Science University of Lugano (USI and SUPSI), the Association of Industries of the Ticino Canton (Aiti) and the regional Chamber of Commerce (CciaTi).

➤ **Others**

- KTI/CTI - Swiss commission for Technology and Innovation (financing joint research projects) -> **Exogenous incentive**
- Biopolo Ticino
- Informal brokers

Overlap State-Region / University (SU):

Massive investments by the government in higher education and VET sectors (since the 90thies)

- DECS - Education, Culture and School department of the Ticino government
- TI-Edu: network for higher education and research

Overlap University / Industry (UI):

Support and fosterage of innovation, entrepreneurship and exchange between industry and university

- Ticino Transfer
- Alliance
- Start-Up promotion centre
- USI Career Services
- Incubator projects ("Acceleratore d'impresa")

Overlap Industry / State-Region (IS):

Support and fosterage of the government to innovative industries

- SPE - Office for the economic promotion of the Ticino's regional government (-> one stop shop)
- Copernico (Territorial marketing policy project)
- CTI Start-up (start-up promotion by the Swiss government)

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES IN TICINO

Challenges

- Intergenerational (re)production of human / entrepreneurial capital (after the “born global” innovative entrepreneurs generation)
 - Embedding local higher education / research resources in world wide excellence networks
 - Integration between technical / financial higher education paths & development of entrepreneurial attitudes and skills
 - Improving effectiveness of interface & technology transfer centers (developing networking attitudes and competences)
- **Better understanding the role of innovative local entrepreneurs as informal brokers (→ research!), in order to define structured competence building processes**

Perspectives

- Creating a local “development coalition” (team), involving key players (USI, SUPSI, IUFFP, SPL Insubria network, Ticinotransfer...)
- Development of a research devoted to analysis of competence brokering experiences of small innovative entrepreneurs (and other informal mediators)