



Innovation Vouchers for university-industry collaboration

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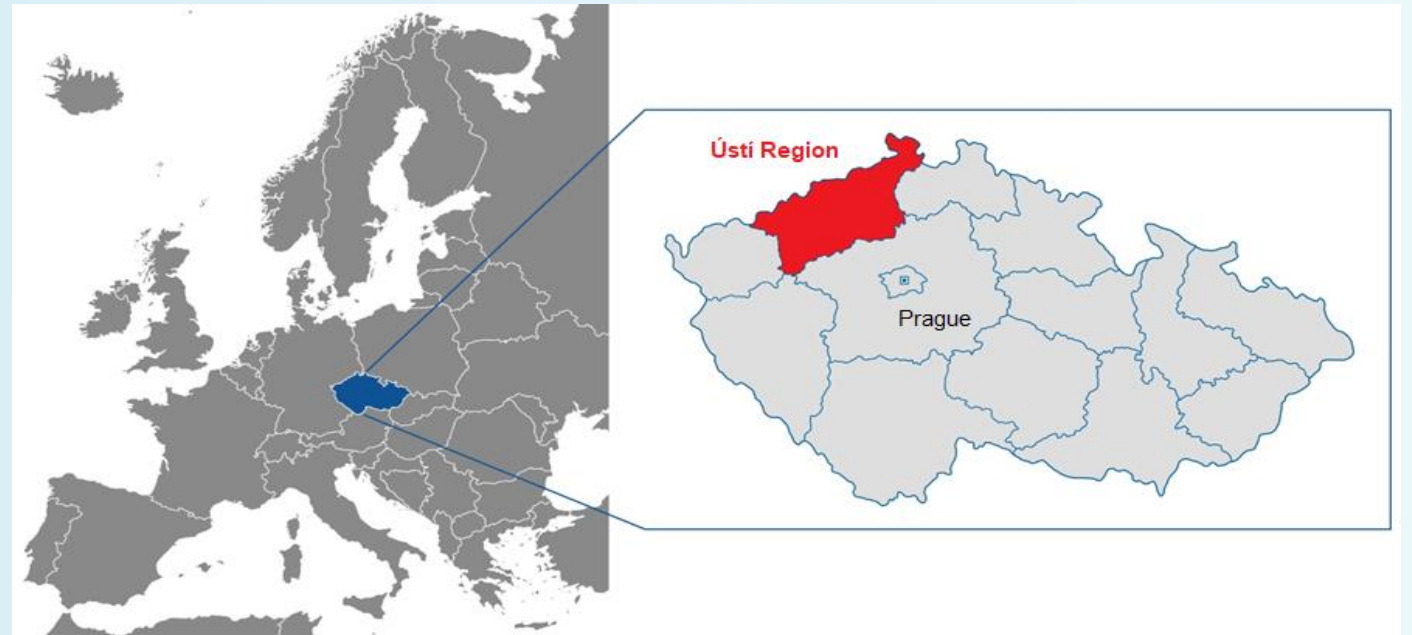
Regional Innovation strategy (RIS3) manager, Usti region authority

Team leader Smart Accelerator (RIS3 implementation) – Innovation centre Usti region

Industrial transformation
(chemistry, energy, automotive)

800 000 inhabitants

Challenge in lack of high skilled



Industry needs – EBN analysis

- Access to finance, 85 % of incubator tenants
- Company acceleration, 69 %
- Access to markets (especially B2B), 65 %
- Internationalization (access to foreign market), 63 %
- Access to open innovations (Universities), 56 %
- HR services, 55 %
- Cooperation with corporates, 55 %



Innovation vouchers - design

Description: small grant for business development, digitization, product development, testing,

Scale: 20 th. EUR, 40 th.EUR innovations

Resources: Just Transition Funds/regional

Provider: Regional authority

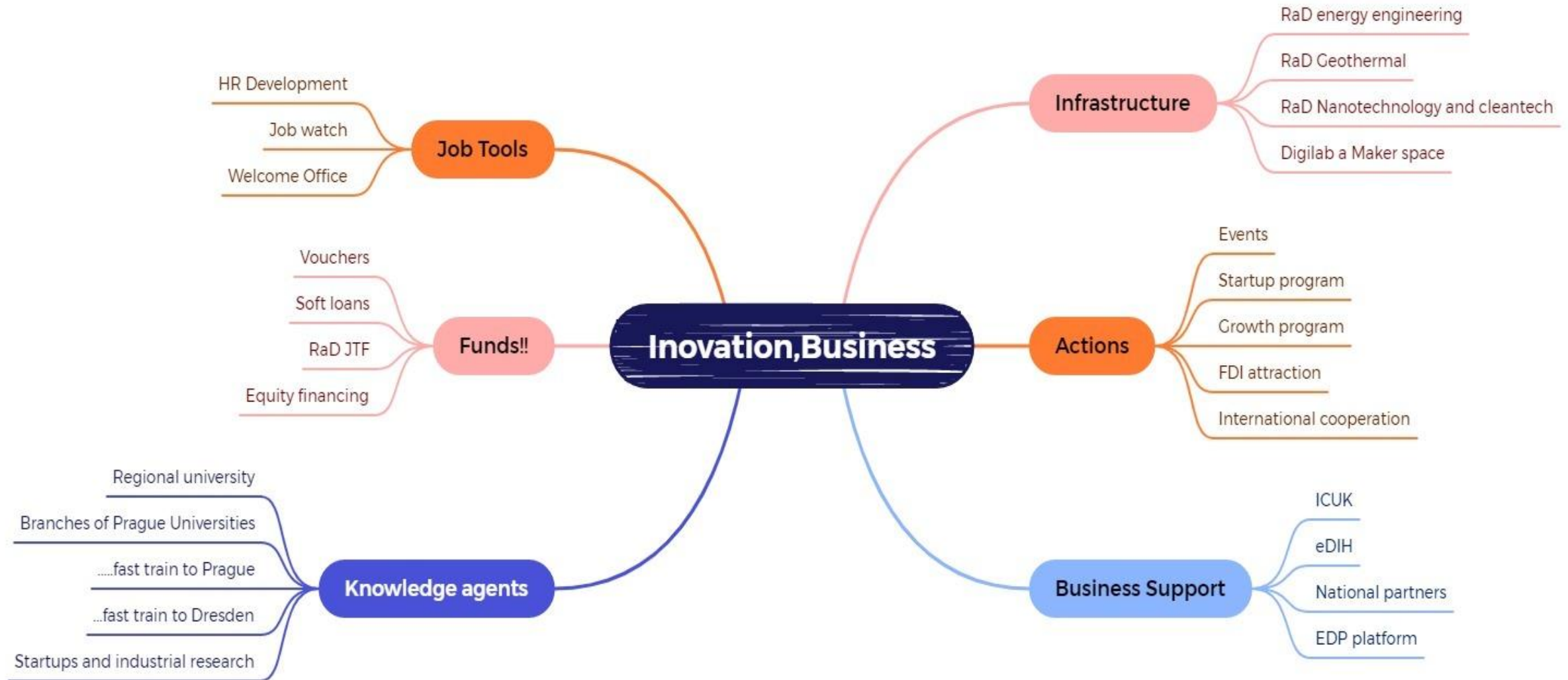
Target: leveraging of cooperation
in future (bigger!) projects!



Innovation vouchers – design recommendations

- Voucher must be part of ecosystem, not isolated action!
- There must be some ecosystem orchestrator (Innovation agency, technology transfer centre) who promote vouchers in „context“.
- Active selling! Promotion, marketing, key account management
- Also voucher is an innovation (early adopters' approach).
- Simple evaluation!
- Impact evaluation (World bank)

Innovation ecosystem model – role of vouchers?



Financing „one stop shop“! Role of vouchers

- RaD Grants (national and European level)
- Technology incubation (Czechinvest), startup grant
- Soft loans (10year, 0 % interest rate),
 - National Development Bank/JTF
- Semiprivate capital (equity funds co funded by EIB/EIF)
- Private capital (venture capital, corporates, business angels)



New initiative/vouchers

- Proof of concept grant (pre seed financing for RaD and spin offs), technical and market evaluation of promising technology.
- Scholarships for startups and spinoffs founders (students, PhD, academic staff, start uppers), one year, before company founding.



Policy recommendations



- Combination of grants and returnable financial tools
- Combination of resources (one stop shop approach)
- Covering different stages in company life (pre seed, seed, growth, A and B level of financing)
- Covering different level in Innovation process (TRL – technology readiness level)



Usti region – open for new challenges!



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