

CM International UK Ltd: Driving innovation for 20 years

Introduction

CMI is a European strategy consulting firm with offices in UK and France. We operate in both public and private sectors and have undertaken a wide range of assignments in the UK and Ireland, as well as other countries in Europe. This work includes policy, strategy and evaluation services for the EC, national, regional and local governments and higher and further education institutions. We also provide multinational corporate clients with innovation advice and support notably around Open innovation and innovation management.

Track record

CMI has a strong track record in the area of innovation. This draws on our specialist expertise in the area of research, development and innovation and its role in economic development. We have a detailed understanding of the UK research and innovation context from our work over the past 20 years and have carried out many research, technology and innovation assignments in all parts of England as well as for the Scottish Executive, Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

In Wales, close to our Cardiff base, we naturally have extensive experience with the Welsh Government and Welsh Higher and further education institutions in the area of research, technology and innovation.

We work regularly with colleagues at our Paris office (www.cm-strategies.com) notably for the *European Commission* and, in 2012, we completed a major study for EC DG Research on the 'Costs of Research'.

Innovation strategy

Over the past 20 years CMI has established itself as a leader in the development of Regional innovation strategies and, more latterly, *Smart Specialisation* strategies for regional and local authorities across the EU.

In the UK this work has included assignments to develop innovation strategies for London, North West and North East of England, the East of England and the East Midlands.

In 2012 we carried out a study of the Northern Ireland *innovation ecosystem* for Invest NI.

European funding

EU funding plays a part in many of our assignments. For example, we recently made recommendations to the *Welsh Government* on the opportunities to better support Welsh organisations to access *Horizon 2020* programmes and funding. We have also developed and drafted EU funding bids for a wide range of clients.

In addition, many of our evaluation and strategic review assignments are commissioned by European funding bodies. We have recently evaluated ERDF-funded programmes in Knowledge transfer (A4B); Innovation funding (SMART) and environmental services (WISE).

We have also recently completed a major evaluation of the *UKTI/ERDF* trade development programme for London SMEs, 'Global London'.

Knowledge transfer

In 2014, we have been working with *Cardiff University* to develop an innovation system strategy and approach to its next generation of translational research facilities and social science research park ambitions.

In Scotland, in 2010/11, we reviewed the opportunities for increased external funding for 6 Scottish research and technology organisations that had traditionally been funded by the Rural and Environment Research Analysis Division of the *Scottish Government* (RERAD).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/175356/0099745.pdf>

More recently, we looked at the commercialisation potential for publicly funded research in Northern Ireland, also for *Invest NI* (2013).

Innovation infrastructure

In 2013/14 we reviewed the performance of an innovative *Innovation Centre for Enterprise* (ICE) based around non-traditional, creative communities.

In 2006/7 CMI developed, with *emda*, the rationale, specifications and underpinning strategy and investment plans for the region's network of 'iNets'. A number of these innovation partnerships between industry and research partners survived the demise of the RDAs as, for example, the Transport iNet (<http://www.transport-inet.org.uk/about-us/>) and the Food and Drink iNet (<http://www.foodanddrink-inet.org.uk/>)

Clusters, networks and sectors

In 2012, for *Greater Lincolnshire LEP*, we conducted a study with recommendations on the opportunities for Innovation within the Greater Lincolnshire Traditional Industries – agriculture, horticulture and the agri-food industry (<http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/documents-and-resources>). The CMI report identified drivers, patterns and themes of innovation in the traditional industries and made recommendations to the GLLEP regarding the most effective policy narrative and role within the region and in establishing and sustaining effective relationships and interactions with key funders and policy players.

In Ireland our recent work has included an international benchmarking of supports for Innovation in Services and Business processes (2014), undertaken as part of the National Research Prioritisation exercise.

In France, our work has included a major review of the French 'poles de competitivite' programme covering major sector and thematic cluster activities.

Recent publications

"Regional Innovation Strategies" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_Innovation_Strategy

"Innovation management in companies" <http://www.know-hub.eu/knowledge-base/encyclopaedia/innovation-management-in-companies.html>

A fuller list of our project references in our main market areas are available on our UK web site at: <http://cm-intl.co.uk/innovation-technology/>