RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

REGIONAL INNOVATION
Deliverables Update and QnA

Summer 20, May 27

GEFÖRDERT VOM

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

INSTITUT FÜR ARBEITSWISSENSCHAFT
Lehrstuhl für Arbeit, Personal und Führung

Dates & Deliverables (Update)

1. **Exposé**
   → Please submit your Exposé until 01.06. via Moodle or Mail

2. **Tasks for the Stam Meeting**
   → Please return your short answers to us per group until 02.06. via mail

3. **Stam Meeting on 08.06. 1pm – 2 pm**

4. **Peer Review 29.06.**
   → Submit your preliminary poster until 26.06.
   → Prepare Feedback beforehand for peer poster

5. **Final Event (on July 27, 4pm)**
   → Pitch Video (~3 Minutes, Submission 23.07)
   → Poster Submission 26.07.

Regional Innovation Zoom-Meeting QnA 27.05.2020

Q: Has the pitch video any effect on the grading?

A: Yes, it is part of presentation.

Q: How to integrate interview results on the poster?

A: Condense the information into a form that you like. Cheapest layout: Bullet points or speech bubbles. Take rather new and striking insights as information, not already known ones. A template is already uploaded for design (Color scheme, layout, etc.). Old example posters are discussed to be uploaded as reference. Design can be dependent of topic and content. Basic research idea: Take a theoretical framework and discover how it is in practice (in this case: region, actors, etc.)   -> verify/falsify/argument framework. For analysis of a framework, dig up information about it and compare it to the insights from the interviews.

Q: If we make an interview and we are having posters, how do we fulfill the formal aspects of an interview? Is a transcription necessary and how do we do it (Extra paper, etc.)?

A: Because there are no papers this semester, it is not necessary. Only for you to comprehend and analyze the interviews or use it for later works (e.g. thesis), it could be helpful, but it's not needed for this module. It's rather recommended to get another interview than transcript a current interview.

Q: ("Accelerators"-topic) We were not sure about our region. We elected one, but we wanted to change the focused region due to the overflow of potential interview partners from other regions. Is it possible to change regions?

A: It is good to focus on a region, but having more interview partners (and more insights) can also be rewarding. The yet chosen regions are not really fixed, and comparisons of regions can also be a valid option or you can even work rather descriptively, depending on how the context is. Also, you have a lot of interview partners (4 in total), look for secondary data (statistics and so on).

Q: We wanted to refine our topic further. (Digitalization topic), we wanted to focus on new work, especially remote work due to Corona. We are struggling with finding a title and research question for it. Can you help us?

A: Hmm, where is the regional part in it? Maybe "how can new work shape a region?". Connection to a region is missing since Zoom, etc. are rather universal tools and not a regional specialty. Nonetheless the topic is interesting, but you should try to find a regional focus! Maybe "we used to be manufacturers, now we have to work remotely. How did that shape us?", but it's not a perfect approach. Upside-Down train of argumentation, discussion in the direction of "end of geography": How do regions become irrelevant with the strike of the actual digitalization? It's a bit farer away from your initial topic, but could be interesting, but look at possibilities for new work to impact the importance of proximity. You could analyze region's competences to cope with digitalization and eliminate importance of proximity, maybe the Ruhr area. Select representative companies that deal with the future remote work and look how they cope with proximity (or not). Just google "end of geography" and you'll find something.

Q: We wanted to use Porter's Diamond, but with the new topic it wouldn't work... What to do?

A: Agglomeration, knowledge spillover could be good. Dynamic Capability as a rather far stretch, but also possible.

Q: We wanted to deal with car-sharing and e-mobility. But this topic is rather old and obsolete, so we wanted Verkehrswende in the Corona Virus. Is it possible to go for numbers, compare them and take newspaper or do we use books? What is the best source for it?

A: Use whatever is available for you and backs up your assumptions. We also need a research question from you to see where you want to aim at.

Q: Where is scientific work standard important? Exposé or poster? Do we need sources and citations?

A: Both! Of course it is time-consuming, but scientific standards should be used. Use good sources, so we can see where you got your ideas from. Literature on e-mobility and mobility turn is available in masses and it is recent. For the Corona Virus, it is hard to find reviewed articles yet, but newspapers provide information at the moment, also statistics. According to the literature, build up a comprehendible train of thought. Get maybe interviews with relevant actors and institutions, find out their approaches and compare it to the theoretical framework, analyze if they use suitable strategies.

Q: Do we need to have any concrete methodological model or is a practical literature-based overview sufficient? We don't really have a theoretical framework, we wanted to compare two institutions in support.

A: To be honest, there are a lot of theoretical models. Look for so-called "spin-offs, technology-transfer offices, knowledge creation"! There is also a lot of literature on university support of start-ups. You can look at what is already there in the RUB.

Q: We have enough literature, but we still are missing an actual theoretical framework. Is it alright to not have one?

A: There are some frameworks, e.g Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by Stam or RDCV by Wilkens, it's a matter of scope though. Another option, instead of just looking at support, look at the knowledge production/transfer/exploitation perspective also. Also a combination of theories is possible. It's not about not having any theory, but choose the right one and frame it appropriately for the research.

Q: We discussed and want to focus on the machinery cluster in the Ruhr area (cluster analysis). Digitalization is a big topic on their homepage (produktion.nrw). We now want to look at digitalization in production of NRW. We want to get a rather bigger picture.

A: Dig deeper in this homepage as the information are a bit vague! Find out who controls the page and the cluster! What does this cluster do? Also, what do you mean by "digitalization"? Which processes and parts of the value/supply chain? Be more concrete! Write it in the exposé and we'll give you feedback about it! About the "bigger picture", "the more specific, the more expressive", but you can try your best.