

# STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN COAL REGIONS FOR JOINT INNOVATION AND R&D

## Who we are?

Fraunhofer Foundation is deeply involved in the discussion about the transformation process of coal regions in Germany with a special focus on Saxony-Anhalt and Saxony. The **Center for Economics of Materials** as a research unit of the Fraunhofer Institute for Microstructure of Materials and Systems IMWS provides techno-economic analyses to bring about opportunities to coal regions in transition. Fraunhofer has proposed and will bring large scale innovation projects in the coal regions in Germany to contribute to the transformation process in cooperation with industrial partners (e.g. chemical industry, automobile industry, bioeconomics).

**isw** is a research institute with focus on economic promotion and education research with long-term experience in the management of the cluster chemistry / plastics Central Germany and in the international cooperation of European chemical regions with the support of several EU funded projects (Interreg, Horizon, ERASMUS+).

## Our interest

- Strengthening cooperation with other organisations and industries from European coal regions for exchanging experience and develop common visions
- Contribution to the political debate about the framework conditions for coal regions in view of revision of state aid regulation or other state regulations that help to attract faster investments in innovation and infrastructure
- Developing and implementing joint projects as pilots to test new regulations or new innovations
- Combining the transformation process of coal regions with innovation development in other industrial sectors – with special focus on the chemical industry as anchor sector

## What we offer?

- Organisation and supervision of a partnership platform with organisations and industries from other European coal regions (e.g. research institutes, universities, technology centres, regional administration, networks and clusters, etc.)
- Building on common interests and communicate joint positions to the European Commission

## Next steps

- Establish contacts and network
- Exchange information
- Identify topics of common interest
- Develop a joint concept and vision for cooperation
- Meet in person alongside platform events
- Support online collaboration
- Develop joint positions and project applications

## Contact

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