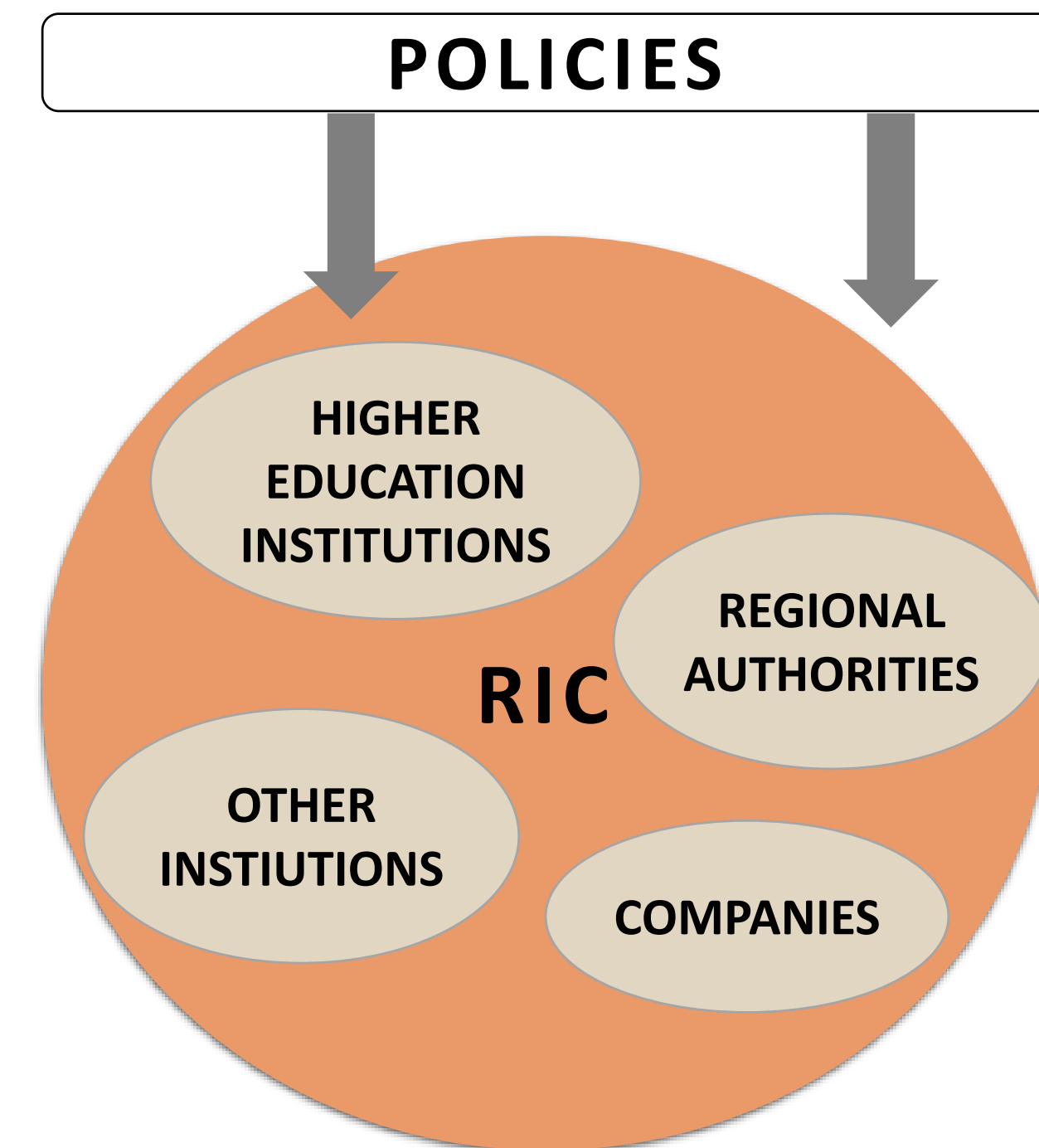


01 BACKGROUND

Starting Point → Regions on developmental trajectories

- A. These trajectories can be designed/enhanced/delivered by groups of actors from different organizations (regional authorities, companies, HEIs, etc.) who work together to reach a common agenda → **regional innovation coalitions, RICs** (Lester & Sotarauta, 2007; Benneworth 2007)
- B. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are expected to collaborate within RICs & have impact on the regional innovation capacity/development (OECD, 2011)
- A. Actors within RICs are very diverse, have different goals & make their own strategic decisions depending on variables defined by themselves
- B. HEIs are complex & 'loosely coupled' institutions (Reponen, 1999) that play diverse roles in their specific regional contexts, change in time and depend on a great number of variables



02 RQs

- I. What is the role of higher education institutions in regional innovation coalitions?
- II. What characteristics of higher education institutions affect collaboration in regional innovation coalitions?
- III. How can regional innovation policies & strategies accommodate HEI characteristics in RICs?

03 POLICY CONTEXT

Smart Specialisation & Entrepreneurial Discovery Processes

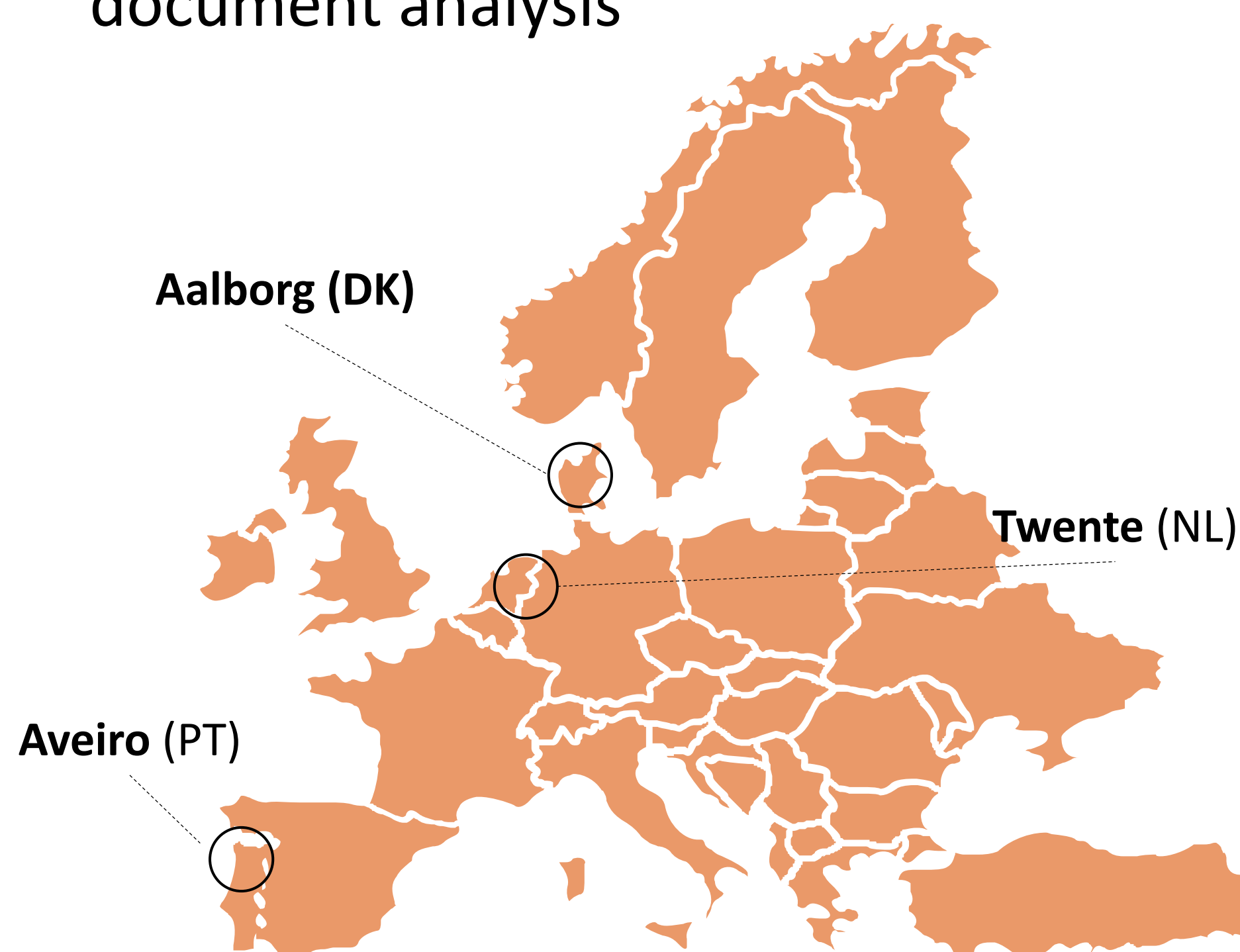
Actors are expected to engage in EDPs, which recognise and determine those sectors bearing future potential for the region (Foray, David, & Hall, 2009; McCann & Ortega-Argilés, 2013)

Constructing Regional Advantage

Regional advantage is to be pro-actively constructed by local actors according to regional contexts (Asheim, Coenen, Moodysson, & Vang, 2007)

04 METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative & comparative case-study approach: 3 European regions and their respective universities
- Data: semi-structured, open-ended interviews with key stakeholders & document analysis



05 STATUS OF THE RESEARCH

P1 The Anatomy of RICs & Stakeholder Tensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categories of drivers for strategic suboptimality: stakeholder misalignment, missing intermediaries, dependence on key individuals ➢ increase the amount of work & inhibit joint development of long-term strategies 	✔
P2 Processes of strategy formulation & implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the processes by which RICs achieve path switching activities & why stakeholders fail to implement long-term strategies ➢ Transformation phases: mobilization, articulation, programming, realization 	🔄
P3 Universities contributing to Regional Development Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth look at the role(s) universities take in the processes of design and implementation of regional development strategies: Growth Forum in Aalborg, Agenda for Twente, Regional development strategy of Aveiro 	🕒
P4 Effectual RICs versus the Causality of Regional Innovation Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how current policy concepts do not fit the reality of RICs and the diversity of stakeholders ➢ RICs as an effectual development, expected to be used and work in a causal way 	✔

06 REFERENCES

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