Conclusions of the round table I:
Using Cohesion Funding for Strengthening Knowledge Economy

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• Cohesion Policy is the process from Convergence to comewitiveness

• Convergence regions also need to introduce competitiveness objective of Cohesion Policy and shift the focus from hard investments in infrastructure to improving the business environment (soft investments)

• Need for regional specialisation (not only within MS or region – go beyond borders)

• Prevent investing in same objectives within the region
• Smart use of Cohesion funding - use existing infrastructure first before investing in new one
• Shift from grants to revolving instruments (financial engineering, like venture capital, guarantees)
• Cohesion policy should support investment readiness scheme
• Need to combine different funding resources beyond Cohesion Policy and create new added value
• Indicators such as “Number of patents” should be replaced with “Number of licences, start ups”
• Concentration of funding on major projects / less fragmentation
• Smart specialisation concept