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## Climate change: the regional scale matters

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**European Week of  
Regions and Cities**

**Brussels**

**10-13 October 2016**



# European Week of Regions and Cities 2016

## Proceedings



European Committee  
of the Regions

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# Organisers and partners





High Level Group on Simplification for Beneficiaries of the ESI Funds allowed us to identify common challenges and discuss solutions that can have a real impact in reducing administrative burden, removing bottlenecks and putting the focus on achieving results.

In keeping with last year's OPEN URBAN DAY, we joined forces with the European Committee of the Regions and the Brussels Capital Region to allow the broad urban practitioner community to attend workshops and project visits on sustainable urban development.

The timing is important as, after the Pact of Amsterdam, it is important to sustain momentum for implementing the Urban Agenda for the EU, which is one of the top priorities of my work as Commissioner. I really believe that by working more with cities and focusing more on urban matters we can significantly improve the daily lives of millions of people.

As always, a major part of the workshops focused on academic/policy-relevant research as part of the University initiative, which included a masterclass for PhD students aimed at improving understanding of EU cohesion policy and its research potential.

The European Week of Regions and Cities once again proved to be an incomparable opportunity to exchange data, project results, experiences and best practices for programme implementation, as well as to establish new contacts for partnerships and projects.

There is so much we can learn from each other. However, the aim is not just to replicate experiences but to give cities and regions the means to exchange, learn and develop their own ways to boost innovation, growth, jobs and quality of life.

I would like to thank all those that contributed to the success of this event and, in particular, Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions, and his staff for the excellent cooperation throughout these years and for agreeing to be involved in organising the 2017 edition.

*Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy*



The 14<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities once again showed the value of listening to messages from around Europe and speeding up the process of making Europe work.

Entitled 'Regions and cities for sustainable and inclusive growth', this year's edition gathered over 5000 participants at more than 130 events. These events were organised with our partners at the European Commission and 22 selected regional partnerships.

These thousands of people came here to find ways to improve the investment and delivery of EU funds. This must continue to be the EU's main investment policy in the future, in order to support growth, job creation, sustainable development and innovation.

The RegioStars Award – organised by our friends at the European

Commission – showcased many examples of how innovative approaches to what EU investment can deliver and make a difference to our communities. Nevertheless, during the opening debate it was evident that we need a reformed, stronger and more innovative Cohesion Policy that is fit for purpose.

With a 15% drop in European investment levels over the last decade, there is growing uncertainty. Honesty led the debate and it is clear we need to consider how best to utilise every source of financing to bridge the gap in investment: Cohesion Policy and public funds are not enough. We need to attract more private investment. The European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe – which is expected to trigger €500bn – done right, can drive our economy and create a more cohesive Europe. However, the different financing resources must be complementary to ensure that every region and city benefits and delivers for its citizens. Europe needs a change in mind-set geared towards empowering ecosystems, creating pioneering regions and cities and continual collaboration.

Today Europe is at a crossroads. As local and regional politicians, we know that Europe is facing a reality check. In addition to identifying and resolving the problems of investment, our heated plenary debate set the Committee on course to contribute to discussions on the sort of Europe we want. As well as launching a series of Citizens' Dialogues with and in our cities and regions, future Committee Presidents will deliver a State of the European Union's Territories address from 2017 onwards.

With better support from all levels of EU governance, more sharing of good practices and mutual learning, we can overcome the challenges. By working in partnership with the other EU institutions, with our members and with citizens we can find shared answers to shared problems. The European Week of Regions and Cities is an ideal setting for innovative learning. The ingredients of listening, sharing ideas and working in partnership have made and will continue to make the event a success.

I would like to sincerely thank Commissioner Crețu, staff, partners and participants for once again contributing to what I consider one of the most important weeks for Europe's regions and cities. Until next year!

*Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions*

# Partner regions and cities



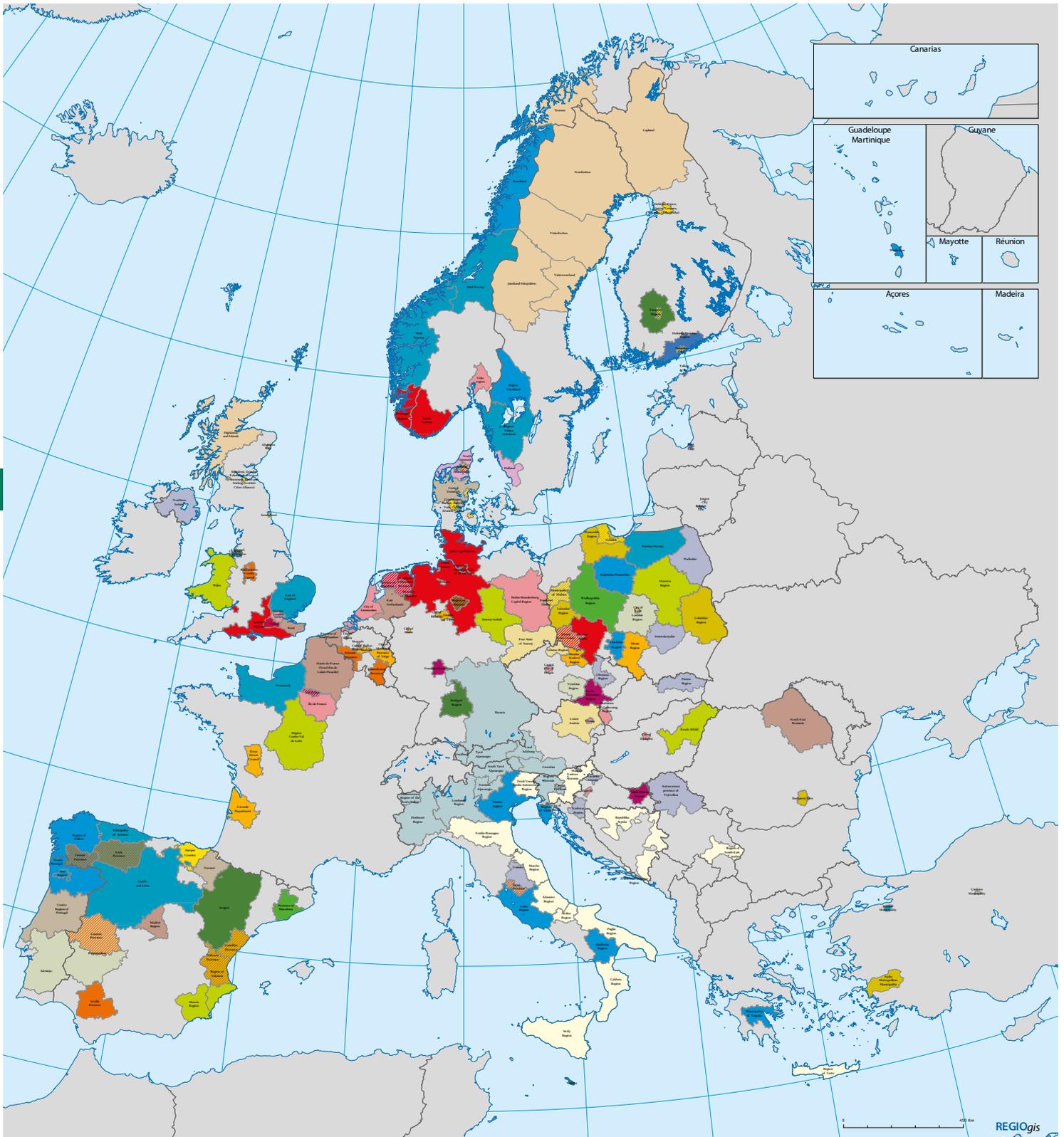




# Partner regions and cities



# Regional partnerships



# Partner regions and cities Regional partnerships

- Europe of traditions
- Active regional cooperation in circular economy
- Adriatic-Ionian macroregion
- Regions connecting territories
- Eusalp: Innovation and tradition
- Entrepreneurship education for economic growth
- Innofest – Festival driven innovation
- Regions and cities for circular economy
- Sustainable solutions in the field of circular economy regarding the strategy of Europe 2020
- Smart cities – Smart ambitions
- Regions for simplification
- Cities and regions for effective energy solutions
- Smart partnerships for new skills
- Local authorities promoting synergies between ESI Funds and H2020
- Rail Baltica
- Border competence – Early start in the neighbouring language
- EU urban regeneration – Sustainable cities for better future
- Innovative cities and regions for new mobility services
- Capital cities and regions network
- Sustained and sustainable growth strategies in areas around major urban centres
- Sustainable innovation in less urban areas in the North
- Intermediate authorities for waste to energy

# Opening session



**Europe's regions and cities:  
Partners for investment and growth**

# Opening session



**The 14<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities opened on Monday 10 October. The opening session was held in the hemicycle at the European Parliament with a high-level debate on 'Cohesion Policy: investing in Europe's regions and cities.'**

Keynote speakers were the Vice-President of the European Parliament, **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, the Commissioner for Regional Policy, **Corina Crețu**, the President of the European Committee of the Regions, **Markku Markkula**, and **Anton Marcinič**, Plenipotentiary of the Slovak government for support of least developed regions.

The importance of territorial cohesion as the cement that binds European regions fighting populism in Europe was stressed by Vice-President **Valcárcel**. The results and efficiency levels of Regional Policy need to be widely communicated while focusing at the same time on simplifying the Cohesion Policy framework. The European Parliament strongly believes in the necessity of maintaining the structural funds and fears that future budgetary cuts would create greater economic instability.

**Commissioner Crețu** also stressed the importance of communication: although evidence shows the benefits of Cohesion Policy for all EU Member States, in particular during difficult economic times, there are still obstacles to overcome in order to reach people and show how much this policy is doing for EU citizens.



*'The vast majority of political forces in the European Parliament are opposed to the freezing of structural funds in Spain and Portugal as that would be contrary to the very goals of cohesion policy.'*

*Vice-President of the European Parliament  
Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso*

The ex-post evaluation for the period 2007-2013 showed that Cohesion Policy has been a pillar of the EU's growth and jobs agenda: one million jobs were created, corresponding to one-third of overall net job creation across the EU, and nearly 400 000 SMEs and start-ups have benefitted from investments. In Eastern European countries 50% of public investments come from the EU. Yet there is a mismatch between the reality and its perception. There is obviously still scope to simplify procedures both at EU and national level, but if Cohesion Policy today is under attack it is not because of poor implementation but for reasons that are more internal to Member States. For this reason it is essential that information about good projects and results is widely distributed across Europe.



*'Solidarity and responsibility should go hand in hand. Our efforts aim to translate EU investments into excellence, growth, jobs and quality of life.'*

*European Commissioner Corina Crețu*

The President of the European Committee of the Regions, **Markku Markkula**, emphasised the need for a reformed, stronger, more innovative, more effective, simpler and more results-oriented Cohesion Policy. He called for an honest debate on how best to utilise every source of financing. It was necessary to attract more private investment and to foster the synergies between Cohesion Policy and the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe, with the aim of driving our economy and creating a more cohesive Europe. The EU needs higher quality projects, with an innovation dimension embedded within them. The path to a better Europe lies in more partnership, and regions and cities need stable, predictable investment.

# Opening session



*'When speaking about a reformed cohesion we must understand that we should not only invest in traditional projects, such as houses and roads, but also in our human capital!'*

*President of the European Committee of the Regions Markku Markkula*

During the debate other aspects were mentioned such as the need to guarantee Cohesion Policy funding, to avoid budget transfer to the Investment Plan and to find solutions to intelligently co-finance local authorities' projects (**Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, BE/Party of European Socialists, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions). Macro-economic conditionality should not be a penalty for regional and local authorities, and Cohesion Policy should be a tool not only for strong regions but also for the weak ones. That is why any suspension of structural funds for Spain and Portugal should be avoided (**Catuscia Marini**, IT/Party of European Socialists).

**Anton Marcinčín**, Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government, pointed out that the Bratislava Declaration could be a good basis for discussing Cohesion Policy in Europe. A strong Cohesion Policy after 2020 is vital for investing, creating new jobs and improving citizens' quality of life, particularly for Member States with large disparities between regions such as Slovakia. Acting together is crucial for a simplified and robust Cohesion Policy.



# Opening session



Cohesion Policy should be flexible enough to react to unexpected issues and crises such as migration, and simplification is a key driver for the future of the policy (**Michael Schneider**, DE/European People's Party). In this sense courageous measures are required for reaching ambitious objectives (**Ulrika Carlefall**, SE/Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe). Often SMEs cannot use EU instruments as they are too complex.



There is a common agreement that all regions need Cohesion Policy and in particular small and weak regions where Euroscepticism is growing. More power should be given to regional and local authorities to overcome the perceived democratic deficit (**Joseph Cooney**, UK/European Conservatives and Reformists Group).

Financial instruments are becoming more and more important in relation to investment, but they should not become a substitute for structural funds (**Stanislaw Szwabski**, PL/European Alliance Group). Complementarity with private resources and other EU instruments is needed (**Iskra Mihaylova**, Member of the European Parliament (EP) and Chair of the EP's Committee on Regional Development). The most urgent thing to do now is implement policy and share knowledge, examples and good practices to raise awareness about Cohesion Policy and the Investment Plan for Europe.

Urban development and its impact on surrounding regions was also discussed during the debate. Cities are engines for growth and jobs but face challenges like housing and pollution. Cohesion Policy should enable the smallest urban areas to develop as they are getting more and more depopulated, while big cities are facing a severe crisis due to migration flows. The importance of the integrated territorial investments (ITI) was highlighted several times, as well as the need for a set of indicators which take into account economic and social contexts, thereby improving Cohesion Policy.

The debate concluded with a call for a paradigm shift during the new programming period; this would be not punitive, simpler, allowing more flexibility for unforeseen problems and at the same time not undermining the essence of Cohesion Policy in the long term.

# Workshops



**Sustained and sustainable economic growth**

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Towards the circular economy: Local and regional solutions to food waste

According to the European Commission, around 88 million tonnes of food are wasted every year in the EU. The estimated cost is 143 billion euros. Wasteful production and consumption patterns entail substantial loss of global water resources, pose a threat to biodiversity in the form of arable land that has been unnecessarily cleared or is unproductive, impoverish the soil and squander other finite natural resources. What we have is a linear economy in which objects are briefly used and then discarded as waste. The workshop panel agreed that food waste is a threat to the economy, to biodiversity and to people's wellbeing. The panellists stressed the importance of a multilevel, "bottom up approach" in tackling the issue and emphasised that local and regional authorities should play a key role in preventing and reducing food waste and should promote good practice for better consumption and waste management.

**11A02**

**11 October 2016**

**09:00 - 10:45**

**Organiser:**

ALDE group, European Committee of the Regions

**Chair/moderator:**

Agnès Durdu,  
Vice-President, ALDE, European Committee of the Regions,  
Luxembourg

**Speakers:**

Ossi Martikainen,  
ALDE Rapporteur, European Committee of the Regions, Finland

Vanya Veras,  
Secretary General, Municipal Waste Europe, Belgium

Nicolas Scherrier,  
Project Manager, Brussels Environment, Belgium

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Towards an EU Rural Agenda – Revitalisation opportunities and challenges

11A05

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

European Alliance Group  
in the European Committee  
of the Regions

**Chair/moderator:**

Stanislaw Szwabski,  
President of the European  
Alliance Group, Poland

**Speakers:**

Liviu Bodolan,  
Rural Development Programmes  
Directorate, Romania

Christiane Canenbley,  
Cabinet of European Commissioner  
Phil Hogan, Belgium

Prof. Wojciech Knieć,  
Nicolaus Copernicus  
University, Poland

Mairéad Ní Oistín,  
Planning and Policy Department,  
Údaras na Gaeltachta, Ireland

### Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views and opinions on how to preserve rural areas across the European Union that suffer from de-population and how to increase the attractiveness of those areas. Across the globalised world there is a trend for people to move to cities around the world. This trend clearly affects rural areas and regions in terms of the population profile and socio-economic development. The speakers and the audience exchanged many points of view on the topic of revitalisation of rural areas in Europe. One of the most repeated issues was the poor broadband connectivity that isolates rural areas.

### Main messages/conclusions

Across the globalised world there is a trend for people to move to cities, and this trend clearly affects rural areas and regions in terms of the population profile and socio-economic development. Nevertheless, some regions' response to this problem is to switch to other economic sectors. Tourism is one of them, and according to Eurostat data it is a rapidly growing sector in some areas. However, as Mr Szwabski said: "the region that attracts tourism should not forget about [its] traditional professions".

Christiane Canenbley spoke about the success of the second conference in Cork that took place a few months ago. Cork 2.0 was the follow up to the first conference, held in 1997. She highlighted that there was a need to gather people's opinions to find out how to shape future rural policy.

Liviu Bodolan presented what the Romanian Directorate had implemented and what it had planned in terms of boosting the attractiveness of Romanian rural areas, as he explained that Romania was experiencing deep de-population problems in the countryside.

Mairéad Ní Oistín spoke about the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) areas in the west and south-west of Ireland. These areas are very rural, peripheral locations which experience huge problems with broadband connectivity where there is a need for a fibre optic network. Ms Ní Oistín also indicated that Gaeltacht areas needed to develop alternative sources of energy. However, as Mr Szwabski had previously mentioned, rural areas like the Gaeltacht could adapt to new circumstances, for example by actively encouraging tourism.

The final words belonged to the Chair, who emphasised that there was a strong need for a flexible rural policy that would address all the problems, and that managing balance and suitability of the grants was important so that the investment would get to rural areas.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Eastern Partnership Territorial and Parliamentary Cooperation: Advancing economic development, entrepreneurship and research & innovation

### Summary

The new European Neighbourhood Policy emphasises that economic development, entrepreneurship and youth employment should be at the heart of the EU's contribution to stabilising the neighbourhood and building partnerships. It therefore encourages policy-makers to reflect on new ways of enhancing cooperation under the Eastern Partnership, in the economic and social areas as well as for research & innovation.

The workshop discussed the strategies of regions and cities to foster growth, innovation and job creation and referred to illustrative case studies from Poland and Ukraine. It also explored how legislative and regional/local policy-makers could contribute to stepping up cooperation for economic development and innovation.

### Main messages/conclusions

Karl-Heinz Lambertz highlighted that economic and social development at local and regional level had a better chance to succeed when working in a decentralised system, where action was taken at the local level, the closest not just to citizens but also to the specific economic and social situation of a given region. CORLEAP was ready to help by engaging in administrative capacity building on sectoral projects. He also referred to various tools, such as the Knowledge Exchange Platform, the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation and the Portal for Decentralised Cooperation.

According to Heidi Hautala, the advantages of further economic integration could not be fully harnessed due to a number of challenges, such as the security situation, which was a deterrent factor for investors and responsible for damaged business links, as well as the legal framework necessary for a predictable business environment. As legislators, members of Euronest could support each other by sharing experience and knowledge on economic law, while Euronest itself was undergoing organisational changes, in order to become more dynamic, inclusive and audible.

Victor Halasiuk referred to the legislation on public-private partnerships which had been adopted in Ukraine. Energy service contracts had been introduced, which made it possible to profit from investment in the energy sector, and draft laws were being prepared on industrial parks, considered to be boosters of economic growth. Bila Tserkva was mentioned as an illustrative example.

Paweł Adamowicz emphasised that a culture of transparency and trust was a very important factor in implementing reforms in the socio-economic sector. It was time for building partnerships, involving civil society in the decision-making process through participatory budgets and civil society-led development.

Anastasia Fetsi acknowledged that the local level was becoming increasingly important in implementing skills management and often had a more innovative approach. Innovation came through partnership; however, local innovative capacities often suffered from weak institutional support.

Andriy Lopushansky agreed that reforms were painful, but an essential step forward. On the other hand, there was less confidence in the ability of local and regional authorities to manage funds on their own. Coaching was essential for all stakeholders, including decision-makers, civil servants and also citizens, who need to understand the meaning of reforms.

11A06

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) and EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly

#### Chair/moderator:

Heidi Hautala,  
Co-President of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly, Member of the European Parliament, Finland

Karl-Heinz Lambertz,  
First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions, CORLEAP Bureau Member, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Viktor Halasiuk,  
Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Industrial Policy and Entrepreneurship, Member of Parliament, Ukraine

Paweł Adamowicz,  
Mayor of Gdansk, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and CORLEAP, Poland

Anastasia Fetsi,  
Head of Operations, European Training Foundation

Andriy Lopushansky,  
Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine

#### More information links:

<http://ip-bt.com>

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Cities and regions as launch-pads for digital transformation

11A09

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

Marco Manfroni

**Chair/moderator:**

John Higgins,  
Director General,  
Digital Europe, Belgium

**Speakers:**

Dana Eleftheriadou,  
Policy Coordinator, European  
Commission, Belgium

Jan Sturesson,  
International independent strategy  
advisor, NEXTin, Sweden

Tomas Diez,  
Fab Lab Barcelona, Director, Spain

Adam Pustelnik,  
Director, Investor Service and  
International Cooperation  
Bureau, Poland

**More information links:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=8820&lang=en&title=Blueprint-for-cities-and-regions-as-launch-pads-for-digital-transformation](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8820&lang=en&title=Blueprint-for-cities-and-regions-as-launch-pads-for-digital-transformation)

[www.digitallytransformyourregion.eu](http://www.digitallytransformyourregion.eu)

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/industrial-modernisation>

### Summary

Cities and regions are entering a new area of transformation: a digital transformation which embraces social, economic, urban, mobility, educational, technological and cultural changes. The workshop illustrated the main attributes which characterise the digital transformation and the concrete steps to take in order to facilitate it. The 'Blueprint for cities and regions as launch-pads for digital transformation', conceived as a smart guidebook for all local stakeholders, was presented and representatives of Barcelona and Łódź, the cities used for the comparative analysis in the Blueprint, illustrated the main elements which characterised their digital transformation. A representative of the European Commission also presented the support actions related to this specific topic.

### Main messages/conclusions

The workshop highlighted how cities and regions are a driving force in the development of innovation and digital transformation ecosystems. By assuming sound leadership and building on their own strengths and smart specialisations, cities and regions can create a constructive and collaborative environment to reboot the economy and add value for their citizens.

In order to ensure the uptake of digital technologies that can foster industrial modernisation, cities and regions must develop smart governance by establishing coordinated actions on multiple levels and by creating collaboration across sectorial boundaries and value chains among the different local stakeholders.

The digital transformation of a territory is only possible if local businesses have the right talents to acquire and harness the required digital technologies. Therefore, part of their digital strategies should be focused on the development and attraction of digital talents.

Ensuring local access to technologies and data has become a catalyst for change. Cities and regions should adopt open data policies and ensure access to digital technologies through the provision of bandwidth and the establishment of innovation centres, such as Fab Labs. They will promote the creation of citizen-centric public services and incentives for local firms to innovate.

Finally, cities and regions should also integrate cyber and physical technologies in the use of resources. Moreover, they should consider investments in advanced technological infrastructures as a key priority.

Recognising the strategic role of cities and regions in taking advantage of digital transformation, the Commission presented the COSME action 'Transforming regions and cities into launch-pads of digital transformation and industrial modernisation' which will support cities' and regions' efforts to build up innovative and digital ecosystems and reinforce pan-European networking with a view to developing cross-regional partnerships on digital transformation in conjunction with the Smart Specialisation Platform on Industrial Modernisation.

In November, the Commission and the Committee of the Regions will also launch a Call for Expressions of Interest for cities and regions interested in joining forces in the abovementioned network and applying, using their own resources, the principles and recommendations established in the 'Blueprint for cities and regions as launch-pads for digital transformation'.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## How can cities and regions deliver the skills of the future?

### Summary

This workshop centred around the newly updated EU Skills Strategy published recently by the European Commission and reiterated that providing Europeans with the right skills is at the heart of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The workshop showcased best practice from across Europe's regions on how local and regional authorities are improving the skills and employability of EU citizens. Presentations ranged from research projects identifying how to match future demand for specialised skills with innovative provision of education and training to successfully embedding entrepreneurial 'start-up skills' in the education system for children starting out at school.

11A13

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45 and 11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

East of England European Partnership

### Chair/moderator:

Jugatx Ortiz,  
Business Coordinator, Earlall, Spain

### Speakers:

Elisabeth Vik Aspaker, Minister for EU and EEA Affairs, Norwegian Government, Norway

Mustafa Bozbey, Mayor of Nilüfer Municipality, Turkey

Frank Norbeck, CEO of Junior Achievement Mid-Norway (Ungt Entreprenørskap Trøndelag), Norway

Jose Jimenez Sierra, Director of Integrated Vocational Training Centre, Castilla y Leon Education Ministry, Spain

Konrad Rożłucki, Inspector, Marshal's Office of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship, Poland

Paulo Cunha, Mayor of the municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão, Vila Nova de Famalicão, Portugal

Dr Stian S. Ludvigsen, Senior Adviser, Hordaland County Council, Department of Regional Development, Section for Research, Internationalisation and Analysis, Norway

Andrew Thomson, CEO of ACER (Association of Colleges in the Eastern Region), United Kingdom

Alice Pedrotti, Project Officer, and Nadine Norgeot-Véron, Vocational Training Officer, GIP FCIP de l'académie de Caen, France

Joakim Larsson, President of Västra Götaland Regional Council, Sweden

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



11A14

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

## Funding sustainable TEN-T-related investments to improve regional competitiveness

### Summary

TEN-T is playing an important role in improving territorial cohesion. Accurately planned investments and transport infrastructures are key factors in providing companies with access to global markets. A balanced dialogue between the public and private sectors facilitates sustainable regional growth, especially relevant in border and less developed regions. There are many factors hindering the development of regions and companies: missing links, investments mismatches with the needs of local markets, and different priorities of the authorities. This event promoted initiatives to build efficient trans-European networks. Regions exchanged good practices in the TEN-T framework addressing the needs of companies. We also explored the potential complementarity of the European/national/regional funding sources.

### Main messages/conclusions

Carlo de Grandis, Policy Coordinator from the European Commission's DG MOVE, stressed that it was necessary to create the optimum conditions for developing an efficient transport system and not only to create the infrastructure. Due to this, a common transport policy in the European Union was established.

Isabel Alves, representing the Port of Sines (Alentejo, Portugal) and Juan Romero Miranda, Manager of the South-West Europe Logistics Platform (Extremadura, Spain) made a joint presentation. They presented the port of Sines and the logistics platform, located in Badajoz, in the border with Portugal.

The logistics platform was designed from the beginning to be the basic development tool of the hinterland of the ports of Lisbon, Sines and Setúbal.

Przemyslaw Dana, international PR Manager from LODZistics, Business Network Logistics Center in Poland (Łódź, Poland) explained that the Łódź Regional Development Agency is seeking to galvanise municipalities situated along the newly built expressway S8, which is part of the Baltic-Adriatic Sea corridor.

They also have a strategy for the development of multimodal terminals – both existing and new ones.

Miran Gajsek, Head of the Department of Urban Planning of the Municipality of Ljubljana (Slovenia), said that they are seeking to complete the Logistics Intermodal Terminal in their city. The idea is to enlarge the capacity of the terminal through the development of a public-private partnership.

Radek Handa, Head of the Project Management Section of the Vysočina region (Czech Republic) informed the participants that they are carrying out a project to improve their regional road infrastructure through EU funds in the region of Vysočina. The road infrastructure is the fundamental connection in the region, linking Vysocine with the most important cities in the area.

The president of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and Budget (COTER) of the European Committee of the Regions, Raffaele Cattaneo, outlined the Committee's main political ideas regarding sustainable investments in European Transport Networks.

Finally, Désirée Oen, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Transport of the European Commission, stressed that all national resources need to contribute to the whole network jointly and not in isolation, in order to develop intermodal connections and improve the ones that already exist.

#### Organiser/Leader:

Regions Connecting Territories

Extremadura Region

#### Chair/moderator:

Petr Votoupal,

Policy Officer, European Committee of the Regions, Czech Republic

#### Speakers:

Quirino Mealha,

Regional/Cohesion Policy Counsellor, Portuguese Representation to the EU, Belgium

Carlo de Grandis,

Policy Coordinator, DG MOVE, European Commission, Belgium

Isabel Alves,

Port of Sines, Alentejo, Portugal

Juan Romero Miranda,

Manager of the South-West Europe logistics platform, Spain

Przemyslaw Dana,

International PR Manager, LODZistics Business Network Logistics Center, Poland

Miran Gajsek,

Head of Department of Urban Planning, Municipality of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Radek Handa,

Head of the Project Management Section, Vysočina Region, Czech Republic

Desirée Oen,

Deputy Head of Cabinet of Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Transport, European Commission, Belgium

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Green solutions for energy poverty

### Summary

The economic crisis in the EU and its consequences have caused a considerable reduction in family income. Energy prices continue to increase in most EU countries and 20% of Europeans are affected by energy poverty. Many EU local and regional governments are investing in important initiatives to help residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, which is a key issue in addressing energy poverty.

The participants discussed the causes, obstacles and impact of energy poverty, and presented some best practices that address the problem; some of these are low-cost measures that focus on behavioural change, while others target social housing through either energy-saving measures for new buildings or refurbishment with energy-performance contracting models.

### Main messages/conclusions

Energy poverty has become an EU problem, with around 125 million people at risk of energy poverty in the EU. Only 4 to 5 EU Member States have defined 'energy poverty', and there is no EU-wide consensus on the definition. A strategy to collect the required data is needed to correctly identify energy-poor households. More standardised data is crucial to develop and implement the appropriate measures for the right consumers. Modernisation of buildings and energy-using appliances is an effective remedy for energy-poor households, but funding and identification of households remains an issue even in high-income countries with the means for extensive data collection.

Bottom-up approach: National government programmes have an important role to play in tackling fuel poverty, but implementation needs to be closely aligned to local delivery partners as they are the ones who can best identify and support fuel-poor households.

Local authorities are leading the fight against energy poverty in their cities and towns, finding innovative ways to fund policies and actions in this field while also helping to reduce energy consumption and climate change in the domestic sector.

In 2016, Barcelona Province launched a multi-year programme to continue with energy audits in homes, with the capacity to fund some small-scale investments to reduce the energy consumption of the audited dwellings. Within this programme 220 municipalities out of 311 will receive support to perform these audits and in the course of 2017 Barcelona will start to help them to carry out the necessary energy investments identified in those audits. Ghent focuses on the prevention of fuel poverty, with measures focused on the behaviour of inhabitants, and the city has instituted measures aimed at making private and public houses more energy efficient.

The UK Government published a Fuel Poverty Strategy in March 2015 to ensure that as many fuel-poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by 2030. In the Liverpool City Region a number of municipalities are developing revised Affordable Warmth strategies aimed at tackling local levels of fuel poverty.

An integrated and holistic approach is needed in the fight against and prevention of fuel poverty.

More funding is needed to protect vulnerable consumers: some funds are already available but they are not always well known by the public.

Exchange of good practices has to be promoted at EU level; small actions can make the difference.

11A16

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

Diputació de Barcelona

#### Chair/moderator:

Eva Baños de Guisasaola,  
Policy Adviser – Environment, Energy and Climate, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Belgium

#### Keynote speaker:

Eero Ailio,  
Deputy Head of Unit for Internal Market: Retail Markets Coal and Oil, DG ENER, European Commission, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Albert Vendrell Roca,  
Officer, Environment Department, Barcelona Provincial Council, Catalonia, Spain

David Cis, Director,  
Vzw REGent, Ghent, Belgium

Cora Hermenau,  
Regional Commissioner, Hanover Region, Germany

Peter Owen,  
Chief Executive, Energy Projects Plus, Liverpool City Region, United Kingdom

Ronald Zinkernagel,  
Senior Expert, Unit for City Development and Climate, City of Malmö, Sweden

Alicja Nowak,  
Head of Unit on Acquisition and Implementation of Projects, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Poland

#### More information links:

Barcelona Provincial Council International Relations Directorate: [www.diba.cat/ri](http://www.diba.cat/ri)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## From start-ups to scale-ups: How to support innovative business growth and the economy of tomorrow

11A17

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

Capital Cities and Regions Network

**Chair/moderator:**

Leo Exter,  
CEO, WeStartup, Belgium

**Speakers:**

Irmfried Schwimann,  
Deputy Director General, DG Growth,  
European Commission, Belgium

Tanja Wehsely,  
Chair, Committee on Economic,  
Financial and International Affairs,  
Vienna City Council, Austria

Christian Riemer,  
Manager for Strategy and Products,  
Investitionsbank Berlin, Germany

Hélène Tinti,  
Open Innovation Manager, Paris  
Region Enterprises, France

Peter Kolesár,  
CEO, Neology a.s., Slovakia

### Summary

Many European regions and cities implement strategies to sustain and increase economic growth and create new jobs, especially for young people. The aim is to create an inspiring entrepreneurship environment, where new ideas are forged into real enterprises and new job opportunities. Capital cities and regions are already supporting start-ups in their launch onto the market but what should they do to enable these companies to scale up and how can they create an innovative ecosystem? The workshop showcased and opened the debate on a set of territorial strategies and very diverse, concrete tools currently being implemented by local and regional players (innovation agencies, banks, clusters) to help SMEs grow and improve their competitiveness.

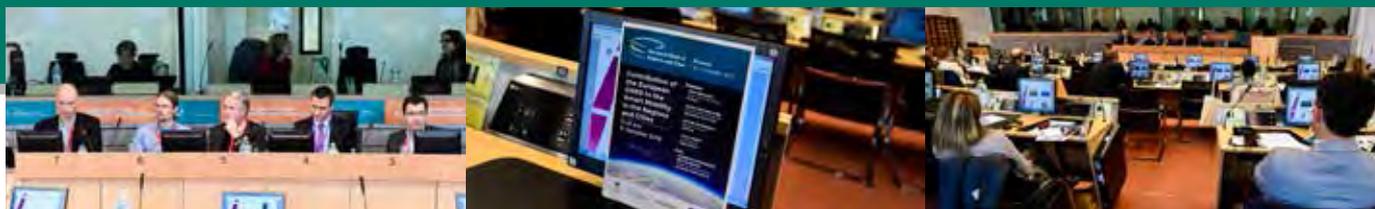
### Main messages/conclusions

The workshop proved that different capital regions and cities have similar strategies and are in fact implementing a similar set of tools and incentives in order to boost entrepreneurial spirit in their home regions. Nonetheless, the results can vary widely, and the question of what the critical niche is that makes some more successful than others was repeatedly raised in various forms by both the audience and the speakers. The answer seems to lie in the cultural setting, especially in accepting the idea that failing when building a start-up should definitely not be seen as a disaster. On the contrary, learning by failing is a natural process and indeed the way forward.

Another conclusion drawn was that building a true entrepreneurship environment in which hundreds of start-ups and dozens of scale-ups can flourish requires not only financial support or an appropriate legislative framework but also a great deal of patience and ongoing political support.

International cooperation between natural start-up hubs and innovative regions would be another powerful stimulus that could drive forward successful companies, innovative regions and, indeed, entire countries and Europe as a whole.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Contribution of the European GNSS to smart mobility in the regions and cities

### Summary

European satellite navigation technologies (GNSS) bring innovative opportunities for regions and cities to manage mobility in a more efficient and smarter way. With growing cities and increased public transport, location services and applications will secure a share of the massive GNSS global market, which is estimated to amount to EUR 36 billion in core revenue by 2018. A significant share of this market involves EGNOS and Galileo-related applications addressing opportunities for European businesses, SMEs and entrepreneurs. The workshop brought together professionals in the European GNSS sector, and demonstrated the economic and social added value of deploying this technology and the opportunities ahead.

### Main messages/conclusions

Satellite navigation (GNSS) based solutions provide more competitive solutions, offer quicker and less expensive adaptation over time and are interoperable with other technologies. They allow for value added services (VAS) to be deployed quickly in the different transport domains. Indeed, GNSS has many benefits in the transport domain, such as flexibility, extensibility, rapid deployment, and lower environmental impact and operational costs due to less infrastructure building.

Representatives from the road tolling industry, air traffic control, smart mobility and autonomous vehicles showcased during the session how GNSS is making an important contribution to improving the competitiveness of European industry and increasing living standards for European citizens.

With the appearance of new GNSS systems, many chipset and receiver manufacturers are getting ready to acquire new signals. The major systems being launched are Galileo, a unique civil system under civil control, the American GPS, the Russian GLONASS and the Chinese Beidou system.

Today, multi-constellation GNSS receivers are the 'standard'. Indeed, the signals coming from different systems can be used to complement each other and the more satellite signals are used, the more accurate and precise the determined position will be. As part of the innovation cycle, manufacturers are not waiting to have the full constellation of satellites, because there is no need to have the full constellation in order to enjoy significant improvements in signal availability in urban canyon environments, where reception of signals from GNSS satellites is limited due to the restricted visibility of the sky.

In Europe, Galileo's initial operational services will start at the end of 2016 and will be based on a first group of satellites in orbit that can be used together with GPS satellites. Galileo compatibility is rapidly becoming common practice in mass-market and professional receivers: 40% of chipset models on the market are already compatible.

11A20

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

European GNSS Agency

#### Chair/moderator:

Alberto Fernández Wyttenbach,  
Market Innovation Officer, European  
GNSS Agency, Czech Republic

#### Speakers:

Wim Henssen,  
Technical Advisor, VIAPASS, Belgium

Jordi Ortuño Ribé,  
Responsible for ICT Mobility  
& Infrastructures, Barcelona  
City Council, Spain

Peter de Bakker,  
Research Leader, WEpods, Netherlands

Paul Hopff,  
Senior Expert, Belgocontrol, Belgium

#### More information links:

<https://www.gsa.europa.eu>

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## From bio-waste to bio-based products: The potential for regional innovation development

11A26

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

European Commission,  
DG RTD Unit F.2

### Chair/moderator:

Waldemar Kütt,  
Head of Unit RTD.F2, bio-based  
products and processing, Belgium

### Speakers:

Silvija Aile,  
Policy Officer, European Commission,  
DG ENVI, Unit A.2 Waste Management  
and Recycling, Belgium

Philippe Mengal,  
Executive Director,  
Bio-based Industries Joint  
Undertaking (BBI JU), Belgium

Thorsten Hornung,  
General Manager, Susteen  
Technologies, Germany

Adrie Veeken,  
Research & Business Developer  
Bio-based, Attero, Netherlands

Carl Schultz,  
Business Development Manager,  
Pâques, Netherlands

### Summary

The workshop aimed at outlining the optimal use of bio-waste for the production of bio-based products.

Mr Stępień outlined the role of the Łódź region in developing a bio-based strategy. Ms Aile reported on the Circular Economy Package, which sets out the main actions and regulations to move to a circular model. Mr Mengal talked about the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI-JU) and mentioned 2 projects that turn bio waste into bio-based products. Mr Hornung outlined how Susteen Technologies GmbH processes regional and local feedstock to produce high quality products. Mr Veeken represents Attero, a company that processes organic waste to produce bio-based products. Mr Schultz represents Pâques, a company that produces PHA from waste water. Mr Kütt concluded the workshop by highlighting the need to look into the potential of this value chain, and outlined the big opportunities for regions to try to bring people together to boost growth and jobs locally.

### Main messages/conclusions

The workshop outlined the optimal use of the bio-waste value chain for the production of a wide array of bio-based products. This value chain has significant potential for regional innovation development in order to boost a zero-waste circular economy at local level, reduce resource depletion and create jobs opportunities at local level.

#### From the legislative point of view, the Review of EU waste will reduce complexity and provides for:

- ▶ Separate collection of bio-waste (Art 22 WFD)
- ▶ Ambitious recycling targets for municipal waste and wood (Art 11 WFD, 6 PPWD)
- ▶ Landfill ban for separately collected bio-waste (Art 5 LDF)
- ▶ Exclusion from the WFD of 'feed materials'
- ▶ Waste prevention, focus on food waste

#### The review of the Fertiliser Regulation will encompass:

- ▶ Recovery rules for organic and waste based fertilisers – compost and digestate
- ▶ Possibility to extend to other waste streams in the future (e.g. struvite, biochar).

From a financial point of view, better use of Cohesion Funds, Horizon 2020 (150 M for Circularity) and EFSI (EIB) will facilitate the development of the bio-waste value chain. Public funding should be less complex and should facilitate investments before the technology enters the market; new incentives for bio-based products are needed (e.g. green procurement, obligation to use a percentage of bio-based products, tax reductions) in order to cope with fossil resource markets at very low prices.

There is a need to overcome barriers to innovation and to the market, in particular the incentive scheme for production of sustainable energy which is opposed to the production of higher added value products, e.g. bioplastic, and any initiatives aiming to raise awareness of waste-derived bio-based products.

Regional and local authorities and companies should work together to investigate all synergies available to develop this value chain in order to boost development in local areas, increase jobs and reduce waste.

# Workshop – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## European territorial cooperation and the role of third country participation

### Summary

The seminar was well attended with over a hundred people. The event Chair welcomed everyone, before he opened the floor for each speaker to give a ten-minute speech. The different speakers outlined the importance of Interreg as a tool for regional development, and also the importance of third country participation. Examples were given of several Interreg-projects in Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as an overview of the newly published evaluation of the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy. The five different speakers led the way for an interesting debate, outlining the future of third country participation in Interreg, and discussing the means available for a more connected and co-operative Europe.

### Main messages/conclusions

In the speeches and also in the following discussions with regard to the future of Interreg, several issues were touched upon. They included the need for better cross-border statistics, the need for stronger involvement of SMEs, functional areas, the cross-border review (on border obstacles) and the role of the regions in Interreg cooperation.

The main message from the workshop was a wish for continued active participation of third countries like Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland in Interreg and for Interreg to be developed further.

#### The following points or issues were raised during the discussion:

There is a need for better cross-border statistics with regard to:

► Cross-border commuting; ► Planning cross border infrastructure; ► Monitoring the implementation of programmes; ► Functional cross border regions (relations in space).

There is a need to mobilise the business sector, particularly SMEs, in the Interreg programmes; the main challenge today is creating more jobs, particularly for young people, but simplifying regulations and achieving more concrete and tangible results are also important questions.

The notion of functional areas could be important for the next programming period, linking it to cross-border areas and also to larger areas like macro-regions.

EUSALP should provide the strategic dimension, and the Alpine space programme should support it.

Simplification, performance frameworks and functional areas are all important issues in making implementation more effective, and the question of how Interreg can support macro-regional strategies is an important one.

The cross-border review (on border obstacles) is important in order to tap into the growth potential of border regions. 37% of the EU's population lives in border regions. Many SMEs are innovative and their first export market is often across the border.

The basic requirement for cross-border cooperation and macro-regional cooperation is confidence.

The regions have an important role to play in Interreg. They provide great added value for example by having a more strategic approach to regional policy, implementation of regional development programmes, development of skills, new public services and infrastructure and awareness of local and regional development in a wider European perspective.

Interreg provides a platform to meet and discuss issues and obstacles and solve problems.

11A27

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

Oslo Region European Office

#### Chair/moderator:

Jan Edøy,

Director, Oslo Region European Office, Norway

#### Speakers:

Elisabeth Vik Aspaker,

Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Norway

Lena Andersson Pench,

Director, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, Sweden

Thomas Egger,

Director, Swiss Center for mountain regions (SAB), Switzerland

Roger Ryberg,

Chairman of the Regional Cooperation Board, Eastern Norway County Network, Norway

Bo-Josef Eriksson,

Deputy Head, Regional Growth Department, Region Värmland, Sweden

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## New urban mobility services: Europe's cities and regions as engines for growth

11A34

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

### Organiser:

European Regions Research and Innovation Network, ERRIN

### Chair/moderator:

Richard Tuffs,  
Director of ERRIN, Belgium

### Speakers:

Eddie Blanco Davis,  
Senior Lecturer in Marine and Offshore Engineering, Department of Maritime and Mechanical Engineering, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom

Susana Val,  
Associate Research Professor and Transport Research Group Manager, Zaragoza Logistics Center, Spain

Herm Lux,  
Business Development Manager, Flanders Make, Belgium

Nadia Theuma,  
Executive Director, Paragon Europe, Malta

Michael Hollerith,  
Traffic Management Advisor, Verband Region Stuttgart, Germany

Jukka Lintusaari,  
Executive in Residence (EiR) Smart Traffic Business Development, School of Information Sciences, University of Tampere, Finland

Marina Martinez,  
H2020 Programme Officer, CDTI, Dirección de Programas Internacionales – Directorate for International Programmes, Spain

### Summary

This event showcased ERRIN members' activities across European regions and cities. In the first part, two regions presented new freight transport services. Liverpool has designed and developed an autonomous vehicle (AV) to transport containers. Zaragoza has carried out data collection for collective mobility solutions for freight. In the second part of the event, new passenger transport services were showcased. Flanders is piloting AVs for cargo and passenger transport. Malta is encouraging the use of bikes to commute to work to combat congestion. The Stuttgart Region is improving Park&Ride services, by informing travellers about free parking spaces in real time. Tampere is utilising data and digitalisation for door-to-door transportation services, providing real time information for car sharing.

### Main messages/conclusions

Mobility is a burning issue for cities. According to the United Nations, currently 54% of the population live in urban areas and this proportion will rise to 66% by 2050. Therefore, congestion and pollution will become an increasing challenge.

The quality and efficiency of urban innovative mobility services, both for passenger and freight, is crucially important to make the city environments liveable for citizens. The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities deals extensively with the subject.

In many cities, including Zaragoza, freight transport suffers from a lack of attention and consideration in comparison to passenger transport. Sustainable mobility plans should take into account data from freight transport and should involve freight stakeholders. Collecting data is the first important step in this direction. Researchers from business environments in Tampere designed architecture for interoperable data systems so that other cities can also utilise the same data and act against department silos. Autonomous vehicles are being used more and more frequently to transport both goods and passengers. Liverpool has developed one for logistical services at the port as it is more economical than trucks. The prototype needs a business model to scale it up. Engaging local industry is essential to launch the initiative. Flanders is also a living lab for using autonomous vehicles to transport cargo and passengers. Now a new pilot has just been launched at Zaventem airport.

Concerning autonomous vehicles, functional and operational security is crucial. In harbours and airports alike pedestrians and cyclists have to be protected. If we want to promote alternative clean modes of transport, like biking, cycling routes need to be developed and, in order to reduce the physical effort that perhaps not all cyclists can expend, e-bikes could facilitate the switch to bikes. Of course, the mentality of drivers also needs to change, so that they look out for cyclists' safety.

With a view to reducing driving distances, and lengthening the distance travelled by public transport, a private company Bosch invested in detectors and worked with the Stuttgart regional authority to integrate real-time Park&Ride information into traffic management, making public transport more attractive for passengers. In the future this information will be integrated into multimodal navigation devices. The experiment is also useful in collecting data for research on P&R use.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Renaissance for remote rural regions through research – The case of less urban areas in the North

### Summary

The theme of the workshop was the means by which sparsely-populated areas may create strategies for growth and innovation with the support of research. The focus was on the presentation by Dr Garcilazo of the OECD's newly-published Regional Outlook on the innovation potential in low-density economies. Minister Ms Avspaker and Mr Nilsson, MEP, gave the political perspective on cooperation in the northern regions and on the EU Arctic policy. A panel of experts then described regional examples of smart innovation in Scotland (innovative business support), Sweden (research testbeds), Norway (e-Health service provision) and Finland (the Lapland Arctic Smart Specialisation Strategy). Audience discussions with the panel were moderated by Mr Janson of North Sweden and the chairman, Mr Bergkvist.

### Main messages/conclusions

The OECD Regional Outlook put forward low-density rural economies as places of unique opportunity that are sustainable, but subject to shocks. Linkages between urban and rural policies are important. To foster sustainable development, the OECD believes good communication capacity may reduce many of the challenges.

The OECD presentation delivered new perspectives on innovation, noting that 68% of growth in the OECD is outside urban centres. It calls for different approaches depending on the type of rural ecosystem, with research as a tool to better adapt development strategies to different contexts, sparsely populated northern regions having a potentially unique innovation system to build on.

The OECD's Outlook and coming report on the European Arctic regions will provide valuable input for creating sustainable innovation strategies for the northern regions. The EU Arctic policy is in this context a valuable statement of support for the development of regional strategies in the north.

There are important initiatives in northern Scotland, Norway, Sweden and Finland for driving innovation. Support for a diversified business sector via entrepreneurial capacity was a key for northern Scotland's growth. The development of test environments with research and academia in the north of Sweden puts the region in the forefront, attracting global companies and research, the entire city of Kiruna being a test bed for smart solutions in a cold climate. E-health in northern Norway is an example of strategic investment in the frontline for less-urban areas. The Lapland Arctic Smart Specialisation Strategy is in turn an example of an integrated strategic approach with business-driven clusters to establish Finnish Lapland as the leading sparsely-populated smart region.

The seminar participants recognised the need for trust, continued and deepened cooperation and exchange of best practices and experience between the regions. The EU cohesion policy is an important tool for this. The initiatives can also contribute significantly to the propagation of new insights, projects, planning and collaboration in other parts of Europe and the world. A participant from 'southern sparsely populated areas' saw the potential for better cooperation to manage the common challenges.

Mr Bergkvist summed up: he is proof that also people live in the sparsely populated areas, and the solutions for facilitating the everyday life and challenges in remote areas are also innovations needed in urban areas.

11A35

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

Regional Partnership, Sustainable innovation in less urban areas in the North

#### Chair/moderator:

Erik Bergkvist,  
Chairman, Region Västerbotten,  
Sweden

#### Speakers:

Elisabeth Vik Aspaker,  
Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Jens Nilsson,  
Member of the European Parliament,  
Sweden

Dr José-Enrique Garcilazo,  
Head of Unit Rural Programme,  
OECD, France

Donna Chisholm,  
Regional Head of Programmes,  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise,  
Scotland, United Kingdom

Prof. Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn,  
Pro-Vice Chancellor of Luleå University  
of Technology, Sweden

Tove Sorensen,  
Head of WHO Telemedicine Centre,  
Centre for e-Health Research, Norway

Harri Malinen,  
Project Manager for Arctic Smartness  
Excellence, University of Lapland,  
Finland

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



11A36

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

**Organiser:**

European Committee of the Regions  
– ENVE Commission and Covenant of  
Mayors Office; Eurocities

**Chair/moderator:**

MODERATOR (PANEL 1):

Sorcha Edwards,

Secretary General – Institutional relations  
and Coordination, CECODHAS Housing  
Europe – Federation of Public, Cooperative  
& Social Housing, Belgium

MODERATOR (PANEL 2):

Stefan Bouzarovski,

Professor of Geography, University of  
Manchester, United Kingdom

**Speakers:**

Michel Lebrun, CoR member, CoR Ambassador  
of the Covenant of Mayors, Member  
of Viroinval Municipal Council, Belgium

Sébastien Occhipenti, Policy Officer, DG  
Energy, European Commission, Belgium;

Dagmara Koska, Member of Cabinet of  
Commissioner Šefčovič, Belgium;

Vojko Obersnel, CoR member, CoR  
Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors,  
Mayor of Rijeka, Croatia;

István Zachariáš, CoR member, CoR  
Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors,  
Vice-Chairman of Košice Self-Governing  
Region, Slovakia;

Niels Ladefoged, Policy Officer, DG Energy,  
European Commission, Belgium;

Alan Coleman, City Councillor of Cork,  
Ireland;

Christophe Rouillon, CoR member, CoR  
Ambassador of the Covenant of Mayors,  
Mayor of Coullaines, France;

Ismaël Daoud, CEO, ENERGIRIS scrl,  
Belgium;

Marco Giuli, Policy Analyst, European  
Policy Centre, Belgium.

**More information links:**

[www.covenantofmayors.eu](http://www.covenantofmayors.eu)

## The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy: Tackling energy poverty in European regions and cities

### Summary

Signatories and coordinators of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy are implementing local energy and climate actions with the aim of providing their citizens with access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy, tackling the issue of energy poverty that nearly 11% of the EU population faces nowadays.

There is no one single model to achieve such goal, but each city and region is adapting to the local context, as attested by CoM members from Croatia, Slovakia, Ireland and France. New business models are emerging in this process, such as local energy cooperatives, empowering citizens and providing more affordable energy solutions. The Covenant of Mayors community was highlighted as a way to spread the word and upscale local solutions developed to fight energy poverty.

### Main messages/conclusions

The main messages arising from the workshop were as follows:

- There is no one single model to tackle energy poverty, but each city should adapt to the local context. Nonetheless, reducing households' energy consumption remains the most efficient way to protect vulnerable consumers;
- Cities and regions are still in the lead when it comes to climate action through locally-implemented measures that matter, inspire, and contribute to the global climate solutions agenda because they hold competencies in key areas, from energy efficiency in buildings to delivery of social benefits to citizens;
- All around Europe, Covenant of Mayors signatories and coordinators are implementing local energy and climate actions;
- In Eastern Europe building owners are given support for renovations, while tenants can obtain incentives to buy more energy efficient devices. However, for the Vice-Chairman of the Kosice self-governing region in Slovakia, István Zachariáš, the best way to reach out to the most-deprived households is still to give them direct budget support to pay their energy bills;
- Many cities are also tackling energy poverty through local energy generation and district heating, as both facilitate access to energy;
- New business models such as local energy cooperatives empower citizens and provide more affordable energy solutions to their members, as shown by the example of Energiris in Brussels, or by collaborative windfarms in the county of Cork, Ireland;
- Local politicians pointed out challenges faced on the ground, and discussed the type of support needed from the EU. Besides the question of access to funding, they expressed the need to get inspired by other fellow cities;
- The Covenant of Mayors community was highlighted as a way to spread the word and upscale local solutions developed to fight energy poverty.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Enhance regional innovation and growth: Possibilities for integrated funding through regional cooperation with joint undertakings (JUs)

### Summary

To boost innovation and growth in the regions, synergies between different funding mechanisms such as the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Horizon 2020 programme are crucial. Five public-private partnerships (BBI, Clean Sky, ECSEL, FCH, IMI) and their regional and industrial partners (Andalucia, Carinthia, Clariant GmbH, Noord-Brabant, Scotland, Valcea) came together to exchange best practices on enhancing regional innovation by combining public and private funding and explored new ways of collaboration. Speakers represented regions, JUs, industry and research project partners in the field of electronic components and systems, health, fuel cells and hydrogen, aeronautics and bio-based industries.

### Main messages/conclusions

EU-wide efforts need to be made to reach the research quota of 3% by 2020. In order to achieve this goal and to boost innovation and growth in the regions, private and public investment must be combined, businesses and research organisations need to collaborate closely and high-quality education has to go hand in hand with excellent research. Joint Undertakings are key to implementing the research and innovation agenda under the Horizon 2020 framework, from which they draw funds, as PPPs enable closer collaboration and synchronisation of national authorities, the EU and industry.

Through the alignment of strategies and the synchronisation of actions, powerful eco-systems are created and efforts are focused on industrial competitiveness. However, this cannot be done effectively and to its full extent without the engagement and participation of EU regions. In this regard, the region of Carinthia can be seen as a role model for other regions through its close cooperation with ECSEL JU, which builds on existing strengths in the field of key enabling technologies.

The Seal of Excellence quality label, awarded to excellent projects submitted to Horizon 2020, is a good instrument to facilitate synergies of the programmes by supporting alternative funding through the European Structural and Investment Funds ESIF, managed by the regions. But what is the way forward?

For the funding period post-2020, there have to be structural changes in the EU rules for ESIF and Horizon 2020. In theory, these funds can be used in a complementary way but in practice, the process is sometimes confusing, disconnected and exclusive. The access to these funds is disparate, complicated and sometimes tedious. Furthermore, EU rules need to be harmonised with national and regional rules, in order to reduce red tape and administrative obstacles like a threefold control system. Therefore, a clear, stable, structured policy framework for all JU activities with regions is needed to create the right conditions for synergies to exist.

11A37

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

EU-Representation Office of Carinthia

#### Chair/moderator:

Cathy Smith

#### Speakers:

Prof Dominique Foray,  
École Polytechnique Fédérale  
de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

Peter Kaiser,  
Governor of Carinthia, Austria

Bart Biebuyck,  
Executive Director FCH JU, Belgium

Mirjam Mol-Arts,  
Chief Executive Officer Pivot Park,  
Netherlands

Paolo Corvo,  
Head of Business Development  
Biofuels & Derivates, Clariant GmbH,  
Germany

Bruno Mastantuono,  
Legal Manager & Strategic Advisor  
Clean Sky, Belgium

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Climate change and major projects. Climate change related requirements and guidance for major projects in the 2014-2020 programming period

11A40

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

### Organiser:

European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA)

### Chair/moderator:

Ms Beatriz Yordi,  
Head of Unit – Adaptation,  
DG CLIMA, Belgium

### Speakers:

Claus Kondrup,  
Policy Officer, DG CLIMA, Belgium

Nancy Saich,  
Senior Advisor on Climate  
Action, EIB, Luxembourg

Sarah Duff,  
Climate Change and Sustainability  
Specialist, JASPERS, Belgium

Camelia Kovacs,  
Project Officer, DG REGIO, Belgium

George Paunescu,  
Policy Officer, DG CLIMA, Belgium

### More information links:

Directorate-General for Climate  
Action ('DG CLIMA'):  
[ec.europa.eu/clima](http://ec.europa.eu/clima)

EU Strategy on Adaptation  
to Climate Change:  
[ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/index_en.htm)

European Climate Adaptation Platform:  
[climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu](http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu)

JASPERS Networking Platform:  
[www.jaspersnetwork.org](http://www.jaspersnetwork.org)

### Summary

The workshop aimed to present how to promote sound major projects that are climate-resilient and include low-carbon options. Topics included:

- ▶ presenting guidance on how to deal with the climate-related requirements included in the major project applications for ESIF 2014-2020: CLIMA presented adaptation aspects, and the EIB presented mitigation aspects;
- ▶ presenting views and lessons learnt collected from both sides of the 'project pipeline' – i.e. the project developers' end (via JASPERS), and the programme management end (via REGIO);
- ▶ setting adaptation and projects in a wider context – cooperation with multi- and bi-lateral development banks (CLIMA presented the EUFIWACC guidance note);
- ▶ engaging with stakeholders in the audience for a constructive debate and drawing conclusions.

### Main messages/conclusions

The key messages that could be extracted from the presentations and discussions were:

- ▶ New investment projects must consider including options for ensuring resilience to negative climate impacts, and promote low-carbon solutions. This approach is in line with the EU's policies on climate action, and with the objectives of the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 with regard to global action on climate change;
- ▶ Climate-resilient investment projects underpinned by climate-aware national and regional programmes represent part of the European response to this global challenge;
- ▶ The institutions financing development and large infrastructure projects – be it the European Commission, or multi-lateral development banks – are promoting climate change adaptation as an intrinsic component of new projects. These projects need to be able to withstand not only today's climate, but also climate extremes that will be experienced several decades from now;
- ▶ Project developers have access to a clear methodology (published by DG CLIMA), and to technical assistance (from JASPERS) for successfully including climate-related considerations in their projects. The first major projects submitted to the Commission are indeed starting to use these tools.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## The final regional Social Progress Index

### Summary

The workshop presented the final version of the EU regional Social Progress Index developed by the Commission's DG for Regional and Urban Policy in cooperation with the Social Progress Imperative and Orkestra. It customises the global Social Progress Index for the EU to measure social progress in a meaningful way for policy makers at multiple levels. The draft index was presented in 2015 and went through an extensive revision on the basis of consultations with stakeholders. The goal is fostering the development of a network of European regions sharing knowledge on social progress drivers and expertise on socially innovative policies.

### Main messages/conclusions

The Social Progress Index has been designed to complement GDP such that it can be used as a robust, comprehensive and practical measure of inclusive growth.

This new regional index may:

- ▶ help regions to identify peers, at any level of economic development, from whom they could learn and, if applicable, prioritise issues they want to address with their Cohesion Policy Programme;
- ▶ serve as a sounding board for the European Commission to assess whether the 2014-2020 programmes address the right issues in the right places;
- ▶ allow DG REGIO to make a contribution to the GDP and beyond debate;
- ▶ underline the need for more harmonised data on social progress at regional level.

**11A44**

**11 October 2016**

**14:30-17:00**

#### **Organiser:**

European Commission, DG REGIO

#### **Chair/moderator:**

Eric Von Breska,  
Director, DG REGIO,  
European Commission, Belgium

#### **Speakers:**

Michael Green,  
Executive Director, Social Progress  
Imperative, United Kingdom

Piotr Żuber,  
Director, Ministry of Economic  
Development, Poland

Jan Fidrmuc,  
Head of the Government Office,  
Slovakia

Nicola Caputo,  
Member of the European Parliament,  
Belgium

#### **More information links:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/information/maps/social\\_progress](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/maps/social_progress)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Smart regions in smart Europe: Digital innovation hubs shaping the digitisation of European industry

11A45

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG Connect

**Chair/moderator:**

Willy Van Puymbroeck

**Speakers:**

Willy Van Puymbroeck,  
Head of Unit, A3, Competitive  
Electronics Industry, European  
Commission, DG Connect, Belgium

Cecile Huet,  
Deputy Head of Unit, Unit A1 Robotics  
and Artificial Intelligence, European  
Commission, DG Connect, Belgium

Christophe Leroux,  
CEA, France

Isabelle Guillaume,  
CEO of Minalogic and vice-chair of  
Silicon Europe Alliance, France

Carsten Schierenbeck,  
European Commission,  
DG GROW, Belgium

Stephan Karmann, Hahn-Schickard  
Business Development, Germany

**More information links:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/smart-regions-smart-europe-digital-innovation-hubs-shaping-digitisation-european-industry>

### Summary

The Commission's strategy on Digitising European Industry plans to roll out 'Digital Innovation Hubs' (DIH) – competitive ecosystems developed around regional digital competence centres – which will be networked EU-wide to make digital technologies accessible to any EU businesses, especially SMEs. Regions have an essential role to play in such a strategy! Digital technologies are nowadays crucial for the competitiveness and value creation of a wide majority of industries. By bringing together clusters and by fostering closer cooperation in micro- and nanoelectronics, Europe has the means to prosper in the emerging digital economy and society.

### Main messages/conclusions

This workshop brought together decision-makers, experts and practitioners of regional policy, as well as representatives from industry, organisations, academia and the EU institutions, in order to stimulate a discussion about new opportunities for regions and cities to foster growth and jobs while helping innovators launch new products on the market.

It focused on some of the main factors attracting new productive investment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: digital technologies, taking into consideration the concrete case of micro- and nanoelectronics.

The presentations were 'Smart regions in smart Europe: Digital innovation hubs shaping the digitisation of European industry' 'Digital innovation hubs: From theory to practice', 'Digital Innovation Hubs: An inside view', 'Digital innovation hubs in regions & clusters', 'Experiences in the field – Digital innovation hubs today and tomorrow'.

The main message was that by bringing together clusters and by fostering closer cooperation in micro- and nanoelectronics, Europe has the means to prosper in the emerging digital economy and society.

Moreover, regions can play a major role in ensuring that the clustering activities help Europe establish, maintain, grow and utilise effectively centres and clusters of excellence.

The workshop discussions and presentations focused on topics like the role of electronics clusters in increasing Europe's competitiveness and in providing solutions to some of Europe's greatest societal challenges like healthcare, food quality, environment and resource efficiency.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Policy learning lab: Practical approaches for smart and sustainable regions

### Summary

More than 140 regional policy stakeholders attended the launch of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms. The workshop, organised as an open lab, provided a favourable environment for the participants not only to find out in detail about the objectives and services offered by the platforms, but also to get to know and interact directly with the expert teams behind the platforms. Representatives of running Interreg projects shared their experience in policy exchange in an interview-like format. Time as a key resource was dedicated to Q&A sessions in order to gather the audience's needs, opinions and inputs to be used to shape further development of the platforms' services.

### Main messages/conclusions

The Policy Learning Platforms are the second pillar of action of the Interreg Europe Programme, besides the interregional cooperation projects. They represent a space for continuous learning where any organisation dealing with regional development policies in Europe can find solutions to improve the way they manage and implement their public policies on four topics: Research and innovation, SME competitiveness, low-carbon economy and environment and resource efficiency.

The team of experts behind the Policy Learning Platforms first introduced the knowledge gained from a brief analysis of the projects from the first Interreg Europe call, their challenges, their themes and sub-topics addressed. In a truly interactive manner the interest of the participants for these was raised and measured through a suspenseful voting session.

The experts continued their presentation of the objectives and the key services the platforms' users will be able to benefit from, totally free of charge. These are clustered in two categories. The first one is available for the general public and includes free access to a wide-ranging knowledge bank consisting of: ▶ a database of expert validated good practices; ▶ policy recommendations, EU policy trends, thematic studies; ▶ analysis of approved projects and ROPs; ▶ events and links with other relevant platforms.

In addition, interested visitors to the platforms can make good use of the networking opportunities offered, such as: ▶ Database of practitioners; ▶ Matchmaking events; ▶ Monthly online discussions on users' interests.

For registered users the services include an expert helpdesk facility that capitalises on the wide experience of a large team of experts: ▶ for policy advice on regional development issues; ▶ for guidance in good practices and practitioner databases.

The expert support increases in complexity through the provision of: ▶ policy learning events; ▶ thematic workshops; ▶ online e-learning on users' interests; ▶ and for the Managing Authorities and public authorities an exclusive offer of peer reviews and benchmarking exercises.

The platform teams place a strong emphasis on building communities of like-minded policy makers, with practitioners openly exchanging information to improve the implementation of Structural Funds and other regional policies. To this end it is essential to listen to the needs of the target audience and put this user-oriented attitude at the forefront of their efforts to support the platform visitors or members to improve their policies.

11A49

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms

#### Chair/moderator:

Ieva Kalnina,  
Community manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, Latvia

#### Speakers:

Andrea Di Anselmo,  
Manager of Research and innovation, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, Italy

Philippe Delearde,  
Thematic manager of SME Competitiveness, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, France

Marie-José Zondag,  
Thematic manager of Low-carbon economy, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, Netherlands

Venelina Varbova,  
Thematic manager of Environment and resource efficiency, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms, Hungary

#### More information links:

[www.interregueurope.eu](http://www.interregueurope.eu)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Reassessing economic development policies for regions and cities

11A79

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

European Commission,  
DG REGIO, unit DGA1.01

**Chair/moderator:**

Peter Berkowitz,  
HoU DGA1.01, DG REGIO,  
European Commission, Belgium

**Speakers:**

Simona Iammarino,  
London School of Economics,  
United Kingdom

Andres Rodriguez-Pose,  
London School of Economics,  
United Kingdom

Michael Storper,  
London School of Economics,  
United Kingdom

**More information links:**

[www.lse.ac.uk/geographyAndEnvironment/pdf/ReassessingEconomicDevelopmentPoliciesforRegionsandCities.PDF](http://www.lse.ac.uk/geographyAndEnvironment/pdf/ReassessingEconomicDevelopmentPoliciesforRegionsandCities.PDF)

### Summary

The objective of the workshop was to present and discuss with the participants the results of the conference 'Reassessing Economic Development Policies for Regions and Cities: Growth and Equity; Institutions and Governance; People and Places', which was jointly organised by DG REGIO and the London School of Economics (LSE) in London in April 2016. The conference brought together leading academics and policymakers from Europe and North America for a dialogue and comparison of the state-of-the-art of urban and regional economic development theory, evidence and policy. In the workshop, the main organisers of the conference: – Simona Iammarino, Michael Storper and Andres Rodriguez-Pose from the LSE and Peter Berkowitz from DG REGIO – presented its main results and conclusions.

### Main messages/conclusions

In the workshop, Peter Berkowitz presented three main topics of the London conference 'Reassessing Economic Development Policies for Regions and Cities'. The first topic was 'Growth, equity and geography'. Agglomeration economies are a reality of life and together with dispersion forces drive spatial economics, but at the price of externalities such as inequalities and congestion costs. The second was 'Institutions and economic governance': institutions matter for economic growth. The third was 'Practices & instruments of economic policy', where the role of local constraints to growth and the long term nature of development tends to be underplayed.

Michael Storper spoke about uneven development and regional policy. The 'great inversion' – rising incomes and size of big cities, contrary to the de-agglomeration trend observed in the 2nd half of the 20th century – was predicted by the New Economic Geography and urban economics. Urban concentration is economically efficient, but socially and politically difficult. Mobility ('move and train') has limits as a solution. The alternative, regional policy, should be diversified to face place-specific problems.

Simona Iammarino elaborated on the links between globalisation, investment flows and regional development. In the last decade, an increasing share of FDI from the EU is directed out of Europe (delocalisation). The impacts of globalisation on regions are complex and differentiated. The policy response to globalisation should be place-specific, reconciling firms' cross-border networks with space-specific assets and institutional structures.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose spoke about the institutional changes and the development of less developed regions in Europe. Poor initial quality of governance is not an insurmountable barrier; some new Member States (like Estonia) have substantially improved their institutions over the last years. Government quality improvements are essential for growth, especially in low growth regions in the southern Europe, while in low income regions in the eastern Europe they should be combined with investment in basic endowments.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Cohesion policy support for the circular economy

### Summary

EU Cohesion Policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the Circular Economy Package both in terms of funding and by offering an integrated policy framework, capacity-building and cooperation. Three examples of best practices were presented: in the area of waste management, support to SMEs and innovation.

### Main messages/conclusions

The Circular Economy Package provides for a new growth model that covers the entire lifecycle of resources: from production and consumption, to waste management and secondary raw materials.

EU cohesion policy makes an important contribution to its achievement, by helping not only Member States and regions to reach their recycling target, but also companies to be more sustainable, innovative and competitive. This support goes beyond investments, providing tools such as the smart specialisation platform for innovation, facilitation of short-term exchanges of knowhow, and the fi-compass platform for financial instruments. Furthermore, the reformed cohesion policy puts in place pre-conditions for funding, ensuring for instance that all waste investments are set in a strategic framework and in line with the waste hierarchy.

As the implementation of the 2014-2020 funding framework is taking off, good projects are needed to capitalise on the various opportunities. The workshop allowed participants to learn about the circular economy and about cohesion policy's contributions. Speakers from Slovenia, Germany and Belgium presented three good practices aimed at inspiring, and stimulating a broad use of the funding and support mechanisms.

There was general agreement that the circular economy presents huge potential for regional jobs and growth that should be exploited, also with the support of cohesion policy. Several participants wished to see the model go further at a conceptual level, and to explore deeper changes that may be needed to achieve a transition in how we use resources, while pursuing regional development across Europe.

#### European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented:

With regard to improved waste management, Ljubljana showed how the RCERO project turned linear waste treatment into a circular economy, capitalising on constructive cooperation between the state and the local authority.

PRESOURCE, a transnational project under the Interreg Central-Europe programme, developed a tool for SMEs to reduce their resource use and overall costs, focusing on material, energy and water. This was done through a holistic approach tailored to the needs of each company and tested in 18 SMEs across six countries.

Closing the circle, an enhanced landfill mining project in Flanders (Belgium) taught us how to capitalise on old waste landfills as stocks of valuable materials and energy, using innovative transformation technologies.

11A80

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission

#### Chair/moderator:

Colin Wolfe,

Head of Unit: Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth, European Commission

#### Speakers:

Rudolf Niessler,

Director, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Hugo-Maria Schally,

Head of Unit: Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption, European Commission, DG Environment

Leon Behin,

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Janko Kramžar,

SNAGA (Ljubljana waste management company), Slovenia

Sander Happaerts,

Policy Analyst, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Dr Daniel de Graaf,

German Environment Agency (UBA), Germany

Gergana Miladinova,

Team Leader 'Sustainable Growth', European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Prof Dr Ir Steven Van Passel,

Associate professor, University of Antwerp, Belgium

#### More information links:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/themes/environment/circular\\_economy](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/themes/environment/circular_economy)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## The European Cities Report

11A130

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

European Commission, DG REGIO

### Chair/moderator:

Paulius Kulikauskas,  
Chief (Ag), Office for Europe and  
European Institutions,  
UN HABITAT, Kenya

### Speakers:

Nicola de Michelis,  
Head of Cabinet, European  
Commission, Belgium

Lewis Dijkstra,  
Deputy Head of Unit, DG REGIO,  
European Commission, Belgium

Filipe Batista e Silva,  
Researcher, JRC, European  
Commission, Italy

Teodora Brandmueller,  
Teamleader, EUROSTAT, European  
Commission, Belgium

Jan Olbrycht,  
Member of the European Parliament,  
Belgium

### More information links:

The State of European Cities Report:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/cities-report>

The new Urban Data Platform:  
<http://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

## Summary

The workshop presented the European Cities Report, which was jointly prepared by the European Commission and UN-Habitat for the HABITAT III Conference in Quito on 23- 26 October 2016.

The goal of the report is to:

- ▶ Stimulate the debate on the EU urban agenda,
- ▶ Present the latest knowledge on European cities to the world,
- ▶ Support the policy development of Cohesion Policy programmes in 2 cities.

The workshop discussed the importance of reliable and independent data for urban sustainable development. In this vein it presented the latest publication of EUROSTAT on 'Urban Europe'. It also presented the experiences of DG JRC and DG REGIO in developing the 'Urban Data Platform' (UDP) and its importance for EU, national and local policy makers.

## Main messages/conclusions

The European Cities Report shows how cities are leading the way to a more innovative, inclusive and sustainable future. Cities are making a big contribution to a wide range of EU objectives. Increasingly, mayors are being recognised as key actors in promoting jobs and growth, social inclusion, resource efficiency, low carbon mobility and climate change. The report builds on a wealth of new data to show the performance of European cities both within Europe and in a global context.

### The main messages are:

- ▶ European cities are central to reaching key EU economic, social and environmental goals.
- ▶ European cities already have many benefits but they need to improve their performance.
- ▶ Cities need solid metropolitan governance and sufficient funding and autonomy.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Medium-sized cities: An opportunity for sustainable inward investment and enterprise growth in a global economy

### Summary

Medium-sized cities face multiple challenges in an environment where public resources are diminishing and the expectations of citizens are increasing. In this context, it is even more important for cities to attract inward investment to ensure sustainable economies and a good quality of life for local inhabitants. The workshop 'Medium-sized cities: An opportunity for sustainable inward investment and enterprise growth in a global economy' set out the role of medium-sized cities in attracting international private-sector investment and promoting innovation for sustainable urbanisation. It showed that urban-planning developments are important for attracting investments and that projects carried out by a number of cities are relevant to innovations in sustainable urbanisation.

### Main messages/conclusions

At the beginning of the workshop, Francesco Notari, Deputy Mayor for Economic Affairs, Budget and Public Companies, gave an overview of how the medium-sized city of Reggio Emilia is working on innovation as a driver for urban regeneration and economic development. He stressed that an important challenge for the public administration was to find strategies and good practices to sustain local economic development through innovation, knowledge and creativity.

Tom Daamen, assistant professor at the Delft University of Technology, focuses in his research on waterfront development strategies in the context of urbanising deltas and seaport regions. He is currently helping the city of Schiedam and other stakeholders to find a collective strategy for a sustainable future for the Schiedam port area. His presentation gave an overview of how the medium-sized city of Schiedam is working on such a strategy through governance innovation, and how the process is challenging institutions throughout the Rotterdam region.

Another medium-sized city that aims to attract investments is Sabadell in Catalonia. Alain Jordà is a Local Development Expert and is advising Latin-American and European medium-sized cities on the definition of their local development strategies. During the workshop he informed the audience about how Sabadell uses the Smart Specialisation Strategy as a tool to attract investments. This process has led Sabadell and its local agents to define a strategy oriented at 'Innovation and Design for Industry'.

The last speaker at the workshop was Birte Viétor, who is responsible for the climate protection management of the German city of Solingen. This city is trying to do without inward investment by looking for innovative solutions in sustainable urbanisation that save money. Birte Viétor presented an example of how to use innovative climate protection processes as a spur for the local economic cycle. Thus, the audience learned about a strategy focusing on the potential within the city itself without looking for inward investments as another way of developing a city.

12A51

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

Eurotowns

**Chair/moderator:**

Cor Lamers,

Mayor / Head of the Dutch Delegation of the European Committee of the Regions, City of Schiedam, Netherlands

**Speakers:**

Francesco Notari,

Deputy Mayor for Economic Affairs, Budget and Public Companies, City of Reggio Emilia, Italy

Dr Tom Daamen,

Assistant Professor, Delft University of Technology (Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment), Netherlands

Alain Jordà,

Local Development Expert, Sabadell, Spain

Birte Viétor,

Climate Protection Management, City of Solingen, Germany

**More information links:**

[www.eurotowns.org](http://www.eurotowns.org)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Harnessing the benefits of international cooperation in the frame of the Slovene Smart Specialisation Strategy (Macroregional approach)

12A55

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG REGIO

**Chair/moderator:**

Gregor Cufar,  
Programme officer, DG REGIO,  
European Commission Belgium

**Speakers:**

Peter Wostner,  
Head of unit for Smart spec,  
Government office for development  
and European cohesion policy,  
Slovenia

Peter Virtic, Vice Dean,  
Faculty of Energy Technology;  
University of Maribor, Slovenia

Iztok Lesjak,  
General Manager, Technology park  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Gordana Danilovic,  
Science and technology park  
Belgrade, Serbia

Ljiljana Rsumović,  
Science and technology park  
Belgrade, Serbia

### Summary

This workshop focused on the importance and specific approach of building on the Slovene Smart Specialisation strategy with specific national niche areas and synergising those at a macroregional level with the aim of achieving a higher level of innovation. Specific emphasis was given to the collaboration within the ADRIION programme and the EU Strategy for the Danube region, with several key stakeholders from Slovenia who actively work towards building this kind of synergy. Participants were provided with first hand knowledge and insight into the process of developing a national smart specialisation strategy, great collaboration with stakeholders in the entrepreneurial discovery process and cooperation at international level.

### Main messages/conclusions

- ▶ The inclusion of stakeholders in the preparation of smart specialisation was the key element. What is important is their active participation and, moreover, that they take ownership of the strategy. Only by members of the quadruple helix believing that this strategy was theirs was Slovenia able to establish such a good basis for the delivery of the various instruments.
- ▶ The involvement of stakeholder structures has to be formalised and accepted by government. Strategic and innovation partnerships in Slovenia are establishing the roadmaps for implementation by continually evolving the strategy.
- ▶ Introducing cross-sectoral approaches, especially with sectors that are not traditionally a part of the RDI cycle, such as the design and arts sectors, is key to success.
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation at the micro level, setting indicators and seeing tangible outputs and results are all vital to developing and evolving the approaches in all priority areas.
- ▶ The development of a business and innovation entrepreneurial ecosystem, which comprehensively covers the needs of clients is a key element of technology parks. It enables both the clients as well as the technology parks to focus on areas with critical mass without losing time.
- ▶ Macroregional projects, such as DO-IT are of key importance to regions and countries, especially taking into account the fact that developing large European value chains requires strong cooperation and collaboration.
- ▶ Increasing cooperation between research institutions, businesses and NGOs is a key element of the DO-IT project across different priority areas. This enables good networks and connections to be established.
- ▶ The capacities aspect, both in terms of infrastructure and human resources is one of the weakest points in the Danube region. Infrastructure has to be made compatible and interchangeable transnationally thus enabling an optimal use of resources. At the same time, building human resources through programmes such as Erasmus, competence centres etc. enables us to have long term vision and planning.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Open Data for macro-regional development. How to make the most of an underused resource?

### Summary

Data drives good management and increasingly the economy. The open data movement not only helps the free flow of data within and between organisations, but also can aid innovation, transparency and growth. Within this context, the JRC and partners in the Danube region have established the Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI); an open data infrastructure in support of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). By bringing together a range of stakeholders, the DRDSI is fostering technological innovation and triggering public sector modernisation. The workshop outlined the benefits of open data and showcased the results of the DRDSI. This was followed by flash presentations covering their experience and the opportunities they see related to open data and innovation.

### Main messages/conclusions

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission is coordinating an initiative aiming to provide scientific support to the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in close cooperation with key scientific partners of the Danube Region for the implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region ([danube-region.eu](http://danube-region.eu)).

The Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI) are the developers and facilitators of the open data portal storing free open data from the Danube region. On the DRDSI Portal there are thousands of datasets which can be used for developing new research projects, expanding current ideas and connecting stakeholders.

**From the various presentations made, the following recommendations were proposed:**

1. Data are crucial for macro regional strategies
  - ▶ Policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation
  - ▶ At all levels (macro, regional and local)
  - ▶ For all stakeholders
2. Best use of investments and targeting resources require facts and data
3. Countries face similar challenges, so experience should be shared further
4. ... and common solutions developed to address them to continue collaboration
5. Seed investments create sustainable and transferable results
6. Data should be:
  - ▶ considered as a reusable asset
  - ▶ made available at the right level of governance
  - ▶ easily found and accessed to maximise its potential

12A56

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

Joint Research Centre (European Commission) with DG Regional and Urban Policy (European Commission) and the Danube Strategy Point as co-organisers

#### Chair/moderator:

Jean Dusart, Scientific/Technical Project Manager, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Italy (chairman)

Dr Alexander Kotsev, Scientific/Technical Project Manager, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Italy (co-chairman)

Matija Vilfan, Head of the Danube Strategy Point, Danube Strategy Point, Belgium (co-chairman)

Prof Miroslav Veskovic, Coordinator of Scientific Support to Macro-regional Strategies, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Belgium (moderator)

#### Speakers:

Prof. Miroslav Veskovic, Coordinator of Scientific Support to Macro-regional Strategies, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Belgium

Jean Dusart, Scientific/Technical Project Manager, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Italy

Marco Onida, Programme Officer, European Commission, Belgium

Matija Vilfan, Head of the Danube Strategy Point, Danube Strategy Point, Belgium

Goran Pastrovic, Programme Manager, Regional School of Public Administration, Montenegro

Dr Markus Seifert, Head of the SDI coordination office for the establishment of a spatial data infrastructure in Bavaria, SDI Office Bavaria – Administration for Digitisation, Broadband and Surveying, Germany

Dr Florian Petrescu, Associate Professor, Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania

Dr Tomáš Mildorf, Project Manager, University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic

Simon Vrečar, Member of Executive Committee, Danube Civil Society Forum, Slovenia

Dr Enrica Chiozza, Policy Analyst, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Belgium

Dr Alexander Kotsev, Scientific/Technical Project Manager, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Italy

#### More information links:

<https://goo.gl/4jJ8tt>

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Building European value-chains based on regional specialisations for circular economy, the role of research and innovation policy

12A57

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

### Organiser:

European Commission,  
DG Research and Innovation

### Chair/moderator:

Wojciech Klimek,  
Research Programme Officer,  
DG Research and Innovation, Belgium

### Speakers:

Jan Larosse,  
Policy Advisor, European Commission –  
Competence Centre Smart  
& Sustainable Growth DG REGIO,  
Belgium

Françoise Bonnet,  
Secretary General, Association of Cities  
and Regions for Recycling and  
Sustainable Resource Management  
(ACR+), Belgium

Dr Christine Levêque,  
Director Business Innovation,  
Recycling & Recovery Benelux &  
Germany, SUEZ, Brussels, Belgium

Marcin Podgórski,  
Director of the Regional Office of  
Łódzkie in Brussels, Poland

Prof Alessandro Ruggieri,  
Faculty of Economics, Rector of the  
Università degli Studi della Tuscia –  
Viterbo, Italy

### Summary

In the framework of its Circular Economy Action Plan, the European Commission is supporting a systemic circular economy approach at different levels, inter alia via related research and innovation funding under Horizon 2020, while also removing regulatory and financing barriers to innovation. In the sphere of regional policy, it is targeting activities to assist the Member States and regions in using cohesion policy funds for the circular economy. The purpose of this workshop was to encourage European regions to exchange best practices and knowledge in the field of R&I for the circular economy and to showcase practical examples of cooperation between public bodies, universities and private companies in this field as a tool to re-industrialise Europe and its regions (thus supporting the creation of jobs).

### Main messages/conclusions

Both the Horizon 2020 and ESIF funding schemes and the new thematic smart specialisation platforms call on committed regions and clusters to engage in the 'joint-demonstration' of new circular economy solutions. To build critical mass and promote innovation at the level of value chains efforts at EU level are needed.

On the way to the circular economy, transdisciplinarity is crucial. Public authorities have an important role to play, far beyond their traditional tasks: they must act as an active facilitator guided by public interest, promoting partnership between scientists, companies, societal partners, consumers etc., and stimulating local industrial ecosystems able to capture the value of additional streams of resources made available by the circular economy.

Even in less developed European regions, where small enterprises prevail over medium ones, the circular economy is perceived as a business opportunity. Because of this, the regional authorities had already included this approach in their RIS3 priorities, and a system of private and public funding has already been organised. In this context, the ESIF funding support for SME and entrepreneurship was appreciated as well as the importance of municipality participation in the EU regional cooperation projects sharing best practices among regions.

The circular economy means enabling raw materials to be reused in European industry, and quite often live several product lifetimes without losing their properties. To make this happen, the EU needs to develop new policy measures. Taking the example of the value chain of plastics packaging, no circularity can be reached without public support schemes compensating the financial gap between the production costs of high quality recovered polymers and the low market price of virgin polymers. ('Do with circular materials what you do for renewable energy!').

The Member States and the regions need to develop a secondary raw materials markets and related ecosystems, and to ensure the continued quality of these materials by introducing new waste traceability systems and improving data reporting on waste (location, composition, quantity, quality). Hence the importance of ambitious policies for waste prevention and reuse and for landfill reduction through eco-design and waste separation and recycling, in particular to reduce food and packaging waste, and to intercept and manage valuable materials like rare earths contained in waste.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Boosting the development of information products and services based on the re-use and combination of open public data across the EU

### Summary

Open data is information made available freely for reuse by anyone. Regions and cities play a key role in open data as they collect data and interact with their constituencies more directly than at national level. The examples of the region of Trento and the city of Helsinki underline the importance data plays in improving public services and engaging openly with their communities. Businesses, in turn, make use of the data made available by the public sector and combine it to deliver insight in areas such as smart cities leveraging both public data and information collected from sensors (Glimworm) and real estate by providing unique insight into property value (Urban Data Analytics). Open data stimulates participation, open culture and innovation benefitting all players.

### Main messages/conclusions

Open data is information made available freely for reuse by anyone. All levels of government are publishing data to increase transparency, participation and drive the creation of new products and services. The European Data Portal has been created to increase awareness around open data made available across Europe, whatever the language and whatever the domain. Data publishers are using data as an asset to transform their processes and improve service delivery. Reusers are harnessing this new material to combine it with other data sources leading to innovative solutions and products contributing to further data driven decision making. Data is a turning point and the Province of Trento is working within a consortium together with municipalities to bring all stakeholders on board into the digital economy and make the region more attractive. The city of Helsinki believes open data can help develop a more sustainable and competitive society too. It has launched a programme called 'Open and active Helsinki' aimed at improving service delivery as well as business and innovation. Open data is a starting point to bring about change, to co-design citizen-centric services and test solutions in real environments. Seeing how the data is being used is also a practical illustration of the benefits of open data. Cooperation is also taking place at national level across the 6 biggest cities in Finland. Glimworm started working with open-data-developed applications/apps focused on locating bike repair shops and identifying parking spaces and parking prices across several cities in the Netherlands. A lab was developed to test further solutions in the field of data and beacons (sensor devices). This gradually led to consideration of the role of sensitive cities, making the most of the Internet of Things and creating easy to use sensor networks that add value to cities and citizens. Urban Data Analytics chose a domain-specific approach and has been combining data in the field of real estate, a market that contributes 12% of GDP to a country. Combining open data with further real estate brokers' data captures insights from 160 indicators on aspects such as the quality of the neighbourhood, schools, mobility, etc. Alert mechanisms have also been developed to match-make supply and demand. Work started off in Spain and is extending to other countries such as Portugal and Italy. As regions and cities build data-driven cultures new business activities emerge, creating a sustainable and competitive ecosystem.

12A58

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

European Commission, Directorate-General Communication Networks, Content and Technology

#### Chair/moderator:

Wendy Carrara,  
Project Manager European Data Portal,  
Principal Consultant,  
Cappgemini Consulting, France

#### Speakers:

Francesca Gleria,  
Policy Officer – Open Data in Trentino  
Project, Italy

Tanja Lahti,  
Programme Manager, the City  
of Helsinki, Finland

Paul Manwaring,  
Co-founder and Creative Director,  
Glimworm IT BV, the Netherlands

Alberto Santos,  
Founding Director,  
Urban Data Analytics (uDA), Spain

#### More information links:

<http://dati.trentino.it>

[www.hri.fi](http://www.hri.fi)

[www.urbandataanalytics.com](http://www.urbandataanalytics.com)

[www.glimworm.com](http://www.glimworm.com)

<http://data.europa.eu/europeandata-portal>

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Pathways to a circular economy in cities and regions

12A61

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

### Organiser:

ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe, URBACT

### Chair/moderator:

Eilish O'Loughlin,  
Policy Officer, Interreg Europe, France

### Speakers:

Kai Böhme,  
Lead Partner ESPON project on  
territorial futures, Director – Spatial  
Foresight GmbH, Luxembourg

Tamás Kállay,  
Interreg Europe Policy Learning  
Platform Expert, Expert of Regional  
Environmental Center, Hungary

Ania Rok,  
Programme Expert, URBACT, France

Jean-Benoit Bel,  
Project Manager, ACR+, Belgium

Ivana Lazic,  
Project Manager, Interact, Austria

Lisa Enarsson,  
Coordination Team,  
City of Stockholm, Sweden

Michal Preisner,  
Referent, Malopolska Region, Poland

### More information links:

ESPON: <https://www.espon.eu/main>

Interact: [www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)

Interreg Europe:

[www.interregueurope.eu](http://www.interregueurope.eu)

URBACT: [www.urbact.eu](http://www.urbact.eu)

Policy brief 'Pathways to a circular  
economy': [http://www.interregueurope.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Policy\\_brief\\_on\\_Circular\\_economy.pdf](http://www.interregueurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Policy_brief_on_Circular_economy.pdf)

### Summary

In the world of limited natural resources the linear model of economic activity based on the 'take, make, use and throw-away approach' is not sustainable. The circular economy offers an alternative model where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained for as long as possible and waste is significantly reduced or even eliminated.

ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe and URBACT joined forces to explore and share with participants in an interactive session:

- ▶ the diversity of challenges and potential for moving to a circular economy in Europe
- ▶ the practical meaning of the circular economy for cities and regions
- ▶ good practices in circular economy approaches.

### Main messages/conclusions

The circular Economy is high on the EU policy agenda. It is increasingly recognised as both a necessity and an opportunity, offering long-lasting economic, environmental and social benefits. The pan-European cooperation programmes ESPON, Interact, Interreg Europe and URBACT produced a policy brief and organised this workshop to contribute to this debate, and to outline the support they offer to cities and regions looking to advance on the circular economy.

An expert panel discussed the steps needed to transform cities and regions towards a circular economy, taking into account the wide territorial diversity across Europe. To begin with, cities and regions need data on their territorial context, although data mapping circular economy performance is often lacking. To address this, ESPON will soon launch a call for targeted analyses, providing a chance to gather evidence on the circular economy and improve policy making.

Traditionally, the circular economy debate emphasises waste management. However, the circular economy also encompasses issues like social innovation, the sharing economy and the repair and re-use of materials. Cities and regions have a crucial role to play at all stages of the product lifecycle, be it through their purchasing power or in setting up framework conditions and networking opportunities. Global production chains remain a challenge, but cities and regions can use public procurement to foster green products.

The workshop highlighted the circular economy experiences and good practices from the City of Stockholm which has embedded circular approaches in sustainable urban developments, and from Malopolska Region, which is cooperating with other EU regions on industrial symbiosis.

The key message of the workshop was that cooperation is a powerful tool to help cities and regions to advance on their path to the circular economy, be it through the European Territorial Cooperation programmes or through financing cooperation through Article 96(3)(d) of the CPR. Many good practice examples are available to get inspired from, including those found in the Interact KEEP database. URBACT will launch a call for good practices in December, followed by a call for transfer networks in mid-2017. Interreg Europe's Policy Learning Platform on Environment and Resource Efficiency will offer networking opportunities for policy makers, organise thematic events, and provide targeted support for policymakers in order to improve their policies connected to the circular economy.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Delivering EUSAIR: Time to invest

### Summary

Since the launch of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region in November 2014 much has been done to set up its governance and to identify the projects to be implemented in order to effectively deliver the strategy in all its pillars. The area has indeed been recognised as a crucial one for ensuring growth and stabilisation for Europe. The ambition of the strategy requires investments that go beyond the classical territorial cooperation measures and Structural Funds: In this respect the relevant players are now called to cooperate with financial institutions and private investors. The conglomerate organised a debate comprising two panels, at political and technical levels, to discuss how to attract and implement investments in the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion.

**12A62**

**12 October 2016**

**14:30-17:00**

**Organiser:**

Emilia-Romagna Region

**Chair/moderator:**

Andrea Mairate, Head of Unit Macro-regions and European Territorial Co-operation – Transnational and Interregional Co-operation, DG REGIO, European Commission, Belgium

Eleni Hatziyanni, Director of Environment and Spatial Planning and Coordinator of European Projects, Region of Crete, Greece

**Speakers:**

Lorenza Badiello, Head of Office, Emilia-Romagna Region Delegation to the EU, Belgium

Sandro Gozi, State Secretary, Italian Prime Minister's Office, Italy

Jan Mikołaj Dzieciolowski, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner for regional policy Corina Crețu, Belgium

Ivan Jakovčić, Member of the European Parliament, Croatia

Odetta Barbullushi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Albanian Republic, Albania

Massimo Cingolani, Managerial Adviser and Head of Unit European Investment Bank, Luxembourg

Patrizio Bianchi, Regional Minister of the Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy

Debora Serracchiani, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Italy

Nikola Dobroslavic, President of the Dubrovnik-Neretva Region, Croatia

George Alexakis, Regional Councillor of Crete in charge of European and International Affairs, Greece

Manuela Bora, Regional Minister for EU policies of the Marche Region, Italy

Mitja Bricelj, General Manager for Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Paolo Pratico, Director General, Department for National and European programmes, Calabria Region, Italy

Aleksandra Lugovic, Head of Representative Office of South Serbia in Brussels, Belgium

Paolo Casalino, Head of Office, Puglia Region Delegation to the EU, Belgium

Zlatan Klokić, Minister of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation of the Government of the Republic of Srpska, Serbia

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



12A63

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

Regional partnership 'Eusalp:  
Innovation and tradition'

**Chair/moderator:**

Panel 1: Richard Tuffs, Director ERRIN  
network, United Kingdom

Panel 2: Jean-Marc Venineaux, Quality  
management officer, European Commission  
DG Regio, Belgium

**Speakers:**

PANEL 1:

Roberto Maroni, President, Lombardy  
Regional Government, Italy

Arno Kompatscher, Governor,  
Autonomous Province of Bolzano /  
Bozen-South Tyrol, Italy

Peter Kaiser, Governor, Carinthian Govern-  
ment, Austria

Donati Davide, Director, Piedmont Regional  
Government, Italy

Augusto Rollandin, President, Autonomous  
Region of Aosta Valley, Italy

Andreja Jerina, Director, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic  
of Slovenia, Slovenia

PANEL 2:

Anna Giorgi, Eusalp AG 1 leader,  
University of Milan, Italy

Boglarka Fenyvesi Kiss, Eusalp AG 3 leader,  
Autonomous Province  
of Trento, Italy

Silvia Draghi, DG GROW, European  
Commission, Belgium

Christian Salletmaier, Head of Unit Regional  
Development and Regional Policy, Land  
Salzburg, Austria

Brigitte Plemel, Content manager,  
Vorarlberg Tourismus GmbH, Austria

Uros Brežan, Mayor, Municipality of Tolmin,  
Slovenia

## EUSALP: An engine for Europe growth

### Panel 1: The impact of Eusalp implementation on growth and sustainable development in the Alpine region

### Panel 2: Innovative tourism as a key factor for cultural heritage development and youth employment

#### Summary

The debate aimed to compare different views on the main challenges in the Alpine area: how to reconcile even greater economic development with the sustainable management of natural resources; how to harmonise innovation with tradition. The debate considered the growth prospects of an area that is virtually the biggest in Europe by population, surface and GDP, representing a culturally diverse area, that can be the real engine of a new renaissance of the European Union. In this framework, tourism is one of the best assets of this area, which is seeking to reconcile innovation and tradition.

#### Main messages/conclusions

In the first panel 'The impact of Eusalp implementation on growth and sustainable development in the Alpine region' six political speakers took part in the debate which focused on three main issues: the impact and future expectations of Eusalp in the regions/ Länder in the mid/long term, projects in pipeline and more general aspects of the Eusalp strategy. In this regard, four basic elements were emphasised, namely identity, innovation, challenges and consensus. Among the challenges facing the Alpine Region, there is its remoteness, geographical and mental, from the national capitals, which do not fully understand the circumstances of these particular regions. These challenges, are being transformed into opportunities with a bottom-up approach, thanks to the long history of cooperation in the macro-region. One of the most discussed topics was the mobility in the area, not only thinking in terms of large infrastructures, but also taking into account intelligent policies, for example pricing policies for public transport. Another relevant topic was the green economy, which must be a priority of the strategy too and also new forms of agrifood production.

A point on which everyone agreed was the need to overcome the problems of the digital divide as this is fundamental to avoiding youth depopulation of the alpine region and ensuring the creation of real employment opportunities. In particular, it is crucial to find common policies which will enable us to pursue common solutions to make work more attractive in the Alpine area for young people. As a conclusion, our future activities must focus on creating a new vision for the alpine region which can ensure a bright future for the generations to follow. The second panel of the debate 'Innovative tourism as a key factor for cultural heritage development and youth employment' focused on tourism in the macro-region. The importance of tourism was underlined, it being an important sector in Europe (it represents 10 % of European GDP and 25 million jobs). New aspects of modern tourism were highlighted based on three key dimensions: experience, evidence and emotion. Additionally, it is important to eliminate problems resulting from the gap between high and low season tourism and to exploit natural resources using new technologies and develop more diversified tourism through seasonal adjustment. All the speakers underlined the importance of cooperation, taking into account historical, cultural and natural heritage.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Investing into the future – Local and regional authorities and their stakeholders searching for sustainable solutions for economic growth in the field of circular economy

### Summary

The need for sustainable development and national and international environmental targets has led local authorities to think about the circular economy. In many cases, it was also a bottom-up approach, initiated by local companies, which pushed the regions and cities to come up with local strategies and practical actions. Engagement in the circular economy is an investment 'in money and time' but it brings positive results in the mid- and long-term. The concept of the circular economy is a new way of thinking. In order to create new jobs, people need to adapt their skills. Education must be prepared to generate skilled people in this field. People also need to be motivated. Last but not least, people have to be informed. Many LRAs are launching awareness-raising campaigns regarding the circular economy.

### Main messages/conclusions

Via two panels, the conference showed that the need for sustainable development and national and international environmental targets has directed local authorities to think about the circular economy. In many cases, it was a bottom-up approach initiated by local companies that led the regions and cities to come up with local strategies such as life cycle management, waste management or energy performance contracting and practical actions in the circular economy, e.g. landfills for household waste or the reuse of combustions to produce heat.

Participants had the opportunity to exchange best practices on addressing environmental challenges at regional and local levels. Speakers stated that engagement in the circular economy is an investment 'in money and time' but that everybody can be easily rewarded with positive results in the mid- and long-term as many projects are self-financed.

The concept of the circular economy is a new way of thinking and the second panel pointed to the need to get people involved. In order to create new jobs, people need to adapt their skills. Education must be prepared to generate skilled people in this field. People also need to be aware of the benefit for them and they must be motivated. Some examples in this respect were presented, eg. the payback card in the City of Essen.

Last but not least, people have to be informed. Many local and regional authorities are launching campaigns to raise awareness regarding the circular economy. Citizens are being informed and trained to reuse materials and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Moreover, the concept of the circular economy has social aspects as it can create new jobs. The conference fulfilled the expectations of the organisers as it ensured an interactive debate with speakers and allowed the exchange of ideas and contacts.

12A64

12th October 2016

09:00-10:45

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

District of Lippe

#### Chair/moderator:

Alena Mastantuono,  
Director, Czech Business  
Representation to the European  
Union, Czech Republic

#### Speakers:

Dr Thomas Wolf-Hegerbekermeier,  
Head of Auditing Department,  
District of Lippe, Germany

Céline Mahute,  
Coordinator of the provincial Postschool  
of Agriculture, Province of Liege, Belgium

Marc Bastin,  
Provincial Deputy in charge of European  
affairs, Wallon Brabant, Belgium

Simone Raskob,  
Head of Department Environment,  
City of Essen, Germany

Martin Hubáček,  
Senior Project Manager, Centre for Invest-  
ment, Development and Innovation,  
Czech Republic

Prof Dr Tim Brüggemann,  
Director of the Institute for advanced  
Training and Development of Competences,  
University for Applied Science of SMEs from  
the City of Bielefeld, Germany

Denise Greslard-Nédelec,  
Vice-president in charge of social inclusion,  
Gironde County Council, France

Dorota Burchart-Korol,  
Head of the Laboratory of Technologies and  
Products Eco-Efficiency Analyses, Central  
Mining Institute, Poland

#### More information links:

[www.kreis-lippe.de](http://www.kreis-lippe.de)  
[www.provincedeliege.be/fr/conserveriesolidaire](http://www.provincedeliege.be/fr/conserveriesolidaire)  
[www.brabantwallon.be/bw](http://www.brabantwallon.be/bw)  
<https://www.essen.de>  
[www.cirihk.cz](http://www.cirihk.cz)  
[www.fh-mittelstand.de](http://www.fh-mittelstand.de)  
[www.gironde.fr](http://www.gironde.fr)  
[www.silesia-europa.pl](http://www.silesia-europa.pl)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## The benefits of a modern circular economy for regions, cities and business

12A65

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Speakers:

**Elisabeth Hamdouch**,  
Deputy Head of Unit, DG GROW,  
European Commission, Belgium

**Wiktor Kowalczyk**,  
Lower Silesia KGHM Cuprum Ltd  
Research and Development Centre,  
Poland

**Lasse P. N. Olsen**,  
Alderman, Aalborg Municipality,  
Denmark

**Dr Ulrich Kammer**,  
CEO, PPM Pure Metals GmbH, Lower  
Saxony, Germany

**Tor Martin Larsen**,  
Department of Environment & Waste,  
Municipality of Stavanger, Norway

**Lars Petter Maltby**,  
CTO, Eyde Cluster, Managing Director,  
Eyde Innovation Center, Norway

**Meije Gildemacher**,  
Public Affairs Coordinator, Province of  
Fryslân, Netherlands

**Ian Williams**,  
Professor, University of Southampton,  
United Kingdom

**Sven Robert Ganschow**,  
Public Cleansing Service of Hamburg,  
Germany

### Summary

This was an exciting opportunity to discuss, develop and learn more about the benefits of a modern circular economy for regions, cities and business. Held at the Joint Representation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, this workshop addressed how a modern circular economy can contribute to a more sustainable society. By providing resource-related environmental, economic and social benefits in European regions, the circular economy could further the creation of both sustainable economic growth and a cleaner European economy. Understanding skills through good practices and useful lessons learnt in the field can contribute to the development of the circular economy in Europe's regions.

### Main messages/conclusions

Richard Tuffs of ERRIN stated that all regions have something to learn because there isn't just one circular economy. Keynote speaker Elisabeth Hamdouch from the European Commission discussed the two parts of the Circular Economy Package. One is legislative and the other, an action plan, with practical exchanges between regions and EUR 650 million allocated to the circular economy. Speakers focussed on a number of innovative regional solutions in our changing world. It was clear from Lars Maltby that the wood industry and waste value programme has a key focus on 're-use'. In a modern world, materials such as metals in mobile phones, as discussed by Dr Ulrich Kammer, can and most importantly, should be re-used. Not only is this economically beneficial, but moreover it is environmentally critical. Through the ZeroWIN approach, Professor Ian Williams of the University of Southampton put forward key proposals for eliminating waste. This has to be considered on both an individual basis and through the framework of cooperation. Through circular economy models, this is possible.

The speakers in the second panel of the workshop presented different best practice examples of the circular economy from the public sector. With innovative solutions for sustainable waste sorting and recycling the workshop showcased how municipalities and regions can act as pioneers within the circular economy. The emphasis was also on the importance of citizen engagement and commitment from private companies. The main message of the second section of the workshop was to acknowledge and understand the actions within the circular economy as a coherent system where joint action by public, civil and private players can create sustainable societies and economic growth.

Concluding remarks from the workshop. With keynote speakers from a variety of regions and fields on innovative regional solutions, including Elisabeth Hamdouch of the European Commission's DG Grow, the workshop enabled rich discussion and debate around the circular economy.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Role of regions and cities in transition to circular economy

### Summary

Adopting the Circular Economy Package in December 2015, Europe recognised the need to build its competitiveness and growth on a stronger and more circular economy where resources are used in a sustainable way. Regions and cities have an important task to adopt policies and strategies and to establish circular economy models in the regions and cities in order to promote sustainable growth and competitiveness. Specific projects and regional models and practices in promoting the transition to the circular economy that cover the full lifecycle, from production and consumption of waste, to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials, were presented at the workshop.

### Main messages/conclusions

The circular economy should be seen as a restorative solution, with the potential to eliminate waste and reduce carbon emissions through environmentally superior materials, products and processes, while at the same time driving green growth and jobs. The following measures should be taken: create a new revenue stream from materials which were previously discarded, lower production costs and bring down carbon emissions by using recycled materials, design products with recycling already in mind to encourage recovery and thus improve the competitiveness of European industry.

The circular economy should involve a fundamental change as regards rethinking the way products are designed, produced, consumed and disposed of. The potential for more re-use, re-manufacturing and recycling of products should be supported. The market economy should be transformed in a more sustainable direction. It is about changing mindsets and business models. It is also an opportunity to modernise our industry, increase its material and energy efficiency and to put it back on track for growth.

The Circular Economy Package itself is just the beginning; the successful transition will require some really ambitious proposals and actions from Member States, regions and the private sector. The three main issues that all stakeholders should be focused on are: Bringing eco-design into the mainstream, creating a viable European market for secondary raw materials and preventing food waste across the supply chain.

12A67

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00 1

#### Organiser:

Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)

#### Chair/moderator:

Philippe Micheaux Naudet,  
Project Manager, ACR+, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Introductory words:

Dr Janez Potočnik,  
Former EU Commissioner, Co-Chair  
UNEP International Resource Panel,  
Slovenia

Presentations by regions:

Anil Sevinc,  
Deputy mayor of Cankaya Municipality,  
Cankaya Municipality, Turkey

Ana Abrunhosa,  
President of CCDRC, Centro Region,  
Portugal

Montse Guerrero,  
Coordinator of Circular Economy  
Circle and Laura Alba, Plastic Repair,  
both from Navarre, Spain

Martin Thim,  
Founder of World Perfect, Aarhus,  
Central Denmark

Igor Kos,  
Advisor to the Mayor,  
City of Maribor, Slovenia

Concluding remarks:

Hugo Schally,  
Head of Unit, DG Environment,  
European Commission, Belgium

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Sustained and sustainable growth strategies around major urban centres

URB12A71

12 October 2016

11:15 - 13:00

### Organiser:

Regional partnership 'Sustained and sustainable growth strategies around major urban centres'

### Chair/moderator:

Vincent O'connell, Strategy & Commissioning Manager (Europe), Surrey County Council, United Kingdom

### Speakers:

Ivan Jakovčič, MEP, REGI Committee, ALDE coordinator, European Parliament, Croatia

Tomáš Grulich, Department of Strategic Development, Regional Authority of South Moravia, Czech Republic

Piotr Brzeski, Director, Mazovian Office of Regional Planning, Poland

Roman Haken, Rapporteur on the Future of the EU Urban Agenda, European and Economic Social Committee

Katarína Nevedalová, Cohesion Policy Unit, Permanent representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU, Slovakia

### Summary and conclusions

Cllr. Helyn Clack from Surrey County Council introduced the ongoing work being done by a dozen European regions working together in the Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE) on challenges and opportunities relating to those places where the urban and rural overlap to help ensure that such areas are understood and recognised.

"Peri-urban" territories (are) areas around major capital cities characterised by dynamic economic growth", she said, "Without exception, we will find a whole complex web of relationships and inter-dependencies between these areas and the urban centres, including transport links, labour market patterns, spatial planning issues and quality of life factors. Without London, Surrey would be very different, whilst at the same time, London would not be the London we know without Surrey and the same principle applies to all my fellow PURPLE regions."

MEP Ivan Jakovčič stated that peri-urban areas across Europe faced the same challenges, but the one-fits-all principle could not be applied, because of the specificity of local communities and the synergies with the regional and national levels. In some contexts, where drivers such as culture and tourism were well developed and managed, it was more appealing for people to live in the countryside instead of moving to the city centres.

Istria has witnessed this trend over the past few years, as a result of the financial support of local and regional authorities. Before joining the EU, involvement in EU projects was a great boost for countryside regeneration for Croatia. The city of Brno has a robust cooperation plan in place between the main urban centre (where 60% of the population lives) and the surrounding peri-urban area. The ongoing action plan started in 2013, when local stakeholders and representatives of all the municipalities came together to designate transport, tourism and spatial planning as focus areas. The use of EU tools (e.g. ITI) has since helped strengthen the cooperation, grouping stakeholders around key working areas and making the link with a local management tool for local action, based on the bottom-up principle.

The Mazovian region in Poland has faced issues of local action coordination and management in the past which have been overcome thanks to the ITI tool. In fact, the different administrative levels (national, regional and local) were not integrated and urban sprawl represented a real challenge. The region is now using the ITI tool to establish successful cooperation with its 300 municipalities, through a focus on effective communication, an ongoing dialogue, and the setting up of working groups and funding schemes. The strategic approach produced significant results in cooperation, strategy planning, project proposal and initiatives from which the local population is now benefitting.

Roman Haken from the EESC said the concept of "urban space" was not well defined yet and in some Member States an urban area was identified by the number of people living in it and in others (as in the UK, for example) they were defined on the basis of the function they fulfilled: health, education, etc. Anyway, there is a link between urban and rural areas and there are two tools that could help in strengthening the links among them: LEADER (a tool for local development focused on the rural and agricultural fund) and CLLD (a tool open to all EU funds with an urban and rural focus).

In the EU Urban Agenda, the twelve thematic groups are primarily geared towards citizens. The Slovak EU presidency is cooperating with the Dutch and Maltese presidencies on the EU Urban Agenda through four initiatives launched at the beginning of October 2016: urban mobility, jobs and growth, digital transition and the circular economy. Slovakia is leading a partnership on housing, working on the idea of the city authority owning properties and subsequently renting them to citizens, to facilitate urban mobility. The Slovak presidency started the discussion on a post2020 cohesion policy, which is considered the most important budget item and in which context a potential Brexit could mean a considerable loss of income.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Succeeding locally in the circular economy

### Summary

Through a series of case studies, our moderator chaired a lively debate on how to be successful with circular economy initiatives at local level that engage citizens and reduce raw material consumption and create economic opportunities within our communities. Successful solutions have been developed throughout the EU at local level, which are informative in helping other communities make the move. Financing the circular economy, though, requires upfront investment, through EU and national funding, to kickstart new partnerships, shared business models, recycling and separation schemes, waste awareness campaigns, industrial symbiosis and links with waste to energy platforms and district heating network opportunities.

### Main messages/conclusions

Ronny Frederickx (UDITE) emphasised the need to link the public and private sectors locally to the circular economy. New incentives, sharing of knowledge, study work and best practice sharing are vital. Pierre Henry from DG Environment gave an update on the circular economy package since its adoption in December 2015. In addition to the ongoing debate in the EP, next steps include an eco-design working plan, a communication on 'Waste to Energy', the REFIT of EU Ecolabel and EMAS, the next round of pilots under the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) and Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), Green Financing Platform with the EIB and national banks, an assessment of the contribution of the circular economy to the bio-economy strategy and a recycling protocol for construction and demolition waste. Hugo Meeus, from Turnhout (Belgium), talked about their circular initiatives in support of waste reduction including a RepairCafé, urban farming, food strategies and energy from waste. Meanwhile, Sébastien Deviers (Pévèle Carembault) underlined the lead role local authorities play in inspiring and stimulating networks with local SMEs. Sergio Bastos of Valnor, an energy and waste company from rural Portugal, spoke of the vital need for local authorities to work in partnership to create critical mass in the most hard-to-reach communities to deliver effective waste collection systems. Presenting a series of impressive case studies on plastics (PET), solvent leasing and a 100% biomass city in Denmark, Gary Crawford, from Veolia, underlined the importance of the circular economy being extended to commercial and non-hazardous wastes, in developing common performance methodologies and encouraging cogeneration and waste to energy schemes for wastes that are not recoverable or recyclable. The session discussed the Juncker investment plan, in connection with which Grzegorz Radziejewski said that priority must be given to mobilising private capital financing. The debate discussed the merits of using targets as an incentive to attract private sector investment to develop circular economy schemes.

The debate concluded: 1) EU funding to stimulate the circular economy must be additional to national funding, not replace it; 2) More effort is needed to win the support of the public, because the circular economy begins with the smallest act to reduce waste and inefficiency; and 3) the circular economy is an ongoing process and can drive environmental sustainability locally if successful.

12A74

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

UDITE, European Federation of Chief Executives in Local Government

#### Chair/moderator:

Geoff Meade,  
Meade Davis Communications,  
www.meadedaviscomm.eu, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Ronny Frederickx,  
President of UDITE, Belgium

Pierre Henry,  
European Commission (DG ENV),  
Acting Head of Unit,  
Circular Economy, Belgium

Hugo Meeus,  
Project manager of urban planning  
and development, Municipality  
of Turnhout, Belgium

Sébastien Deviers,  
Director, Economic Development  
Centre, Pévèle Carembault community  
of municipalities, France

Gary Crawford,  
Vice President – International Affairs,  
Veolia, France

Sergio Bastos,  
Director General, Valnor, Portugal

Grzegorz Radziejewski,  
Member of the Cabinet of Commission  
Vice President Jyrki Katainen, Belgium

#### More information links:

<http://tinyurl.com/j4uevpw>

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Renewable energy and circular economy: New job opportunities in the outermost regions

12A81

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

European Commission,  
Directorate-general for Regional and  
Urban Policy and Directorate-general  
for Energy

### Chair/moderator:

Tudor Constantinescu,  
Principal Adviser to the Director  
General for Energy, European  
Commission, Brussels, Belgium

### Speakers:

Maria Teresa Covisa Rubia,  
Deputy Director for Promoting Social  
Economy, Servicio Canario de Empleo,  
Spain

José Filipe Nunes de Oliveira,  
Chairman of administration board,  
AREAM, Portugal

Yvette Izabel,  
Policy Coordinator, DG Environment,  
European Commission, Belgium

Antonio Lopez- Nicolas,  
Deputy Head of Unit, DG Energy,  
European Commission, Belgium

### Summary

The outermost regions face specific challenges due to their remoteness and small markets. Developing renewable energies and setting up a circular economy offers proper solutions to reduce their dependence on the outside world alleviate stress on their ecosystems and strengthen their economies.

The outermost regions enjoy unique assets such as their natural environment, marine resources and geographic situation which allow them to experiment and build circular economy know-how for small areas and in renewable energy.

To foster the creation of employment, the ORs set up two networks, one on employment in the blue and green economy and the other on energy.

### Main messages/conclusions

The circular economy, renewable energy and energy efficiency can alleviate outermost regions' constraints linked to their isolation, remoteness and small size.

The circular economy 'closes the loop' of product lifecycles through recycling and re-using waste. It is also about minimising waste production, changing consumer behaviour and producing renewable energy. It brings benefits for the environment and creates jobs as demonstrated by the trend in the EU between 2000 and 2012, including during the 2008 crisis. The outermost regions can contribute to the circular economy by investing, collaborating and sharing good practices in specific sectors (e.g. waste management, recycling of domestic or building waste, re-use of car parts, etc.). For example, in Guadeloupe the AER company recycles electronic waste for Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana, thus achieving the necessary critical mass. In the Canary Islands, the Ataretaco Foundation has supported two enterprises working in the treatment of electronic, textile, and domestic oil waste by employing and training socially excluded people.

Investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency will enable the EU climate and energy targets for 2020 and 2030 to be reached. The revised EU Directive on renewable energy will focus on cooling/heating and transport where there is still great potential for investment. Reducing administrative barriers, ensuring regulatory stability, informing consumers and fostering innovation will support this effort. For the outermost regions, the common challenges are: dependency on fossil energy importation, isolated electricity grids, small markets, environmental constraints for energy infrastructures and a lack of local skills. To increase the security of electricity provision, new solutions for storage are being tested.

In Madeira, public-led projects are focusing on the energy efficiency of public lighting and buildings, electric public transport, the creation of a market for biomass based on the hotel and catering sectors' needs, the connection of Porto Santo island to Madeira's grid and the production of renewable energy in this island. The Azores will invest EUR 220 million between 2016 and 2020 to increase the share of renewable energy in electricity production from 39% to 59%.

Such practical examples show the importance of identifying specific problems in each region, involving all public and private stakeholders and embedding projects within wider strategies to create new activities and new jobs.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Integrating funds and policies towards active inclusion

### Summary

An integrated approach, combining strategic policy measures and support from EU funds is essential to acquire an efficient active inclusion and labour market activation. Such approaches can help Member States address at the same time employment, education and social challenges while working towards achieving the EU 2020 targets by using both EU funds and national budgets. Romania and France explained their integrated schemes (at national and local levels) and how they face and overcome specific but sometimes similar challenges.

### Main messages/conclusions

Active inclusion is key to sustainable economic growth and to reaching the Europe 2020 targets, notably the poverty and social exclusion reduction target. The three pillars of the Recommendation on active inclusion (adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services) are mutually reinforcing and equally important. However, the follow-up to the recommendation revealed several challenges that the Member States are facing. Working in an integrated way, on both the policy and funds fronts is not easy, especially at larger scales. The Structural Funds aim to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth through integrated measures, while focusing on effectiveness and results in line with the country-specific recommendations. The challenges identified in the 2007-2013 programming period, such as sustainability of investment, alignment with demographic needs, shifting to community-based care and Roma segregation, need to be strategically addressed in the current programming period in order to build a better future for everyone.

Several Member States have set up integrated measures. In Romania, previous successful local projects are planned to be scaled up within the national anti-poverty package launched this year in February. Structured per age group, the package comprises a comprehensive set of 47 integrated measures to address poverty, combining different operational programmes funded from ESF funds with policy measures supported from the national budget. Measures like integrated community teams, every child in kindergarten, active measures for employment – mobility package, social entrepreneurship, occupational insertion, case management in the PES and social inclusion for children and people with disabilities from institutions are being rolled out.

In the Auvergne – Rhône-Alpes region in France, active inclusion is being tackled through a multilayer policy involving different governance levels, different funds and different policies. The integrated approach ensures a better structuring of projects for the deprived area, boosting the interventions and fostering a multilevel governance approach around a common territorial project and a concerted strategy. The 'contrat de ville' covers an entire city while the ESF intervenes only in the deprived area. Coordination is a challenge; however the integrated approach is the only way to achieve practical and visible results in deprived areas. Integrated urban projects combine urban renewal, social cohesion, economic development and environment as well as the provision of services.

### European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented:

In Romania: integrated community teams, every child in kindergarten, active measures for employment – mobility package, social entrepreneurship, etc. <http://antisaracie.mmuncii.ro/>

In the Auvergne – Rhône-Alpes region in France – Saint-Etienne, acquiring IT skills, others. <http://www.europe-en-rhonealpes.eu/1322-developper-les-quartiers-urbains-en-difficulte.htm>

12A83

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

European Commission,  
DG EMPL, DG REGIO

### Chair/moderator:

Ioana Gligor

### Speakers:

Irma Krysiak,  
Team leader, European Commission,  
DG EMPL, Dir C, Belgium

Andor Urmos,  
Policy officer, European Commission,  
DG REGIO, Dir H, Belgium

Oana Țoiu,  
Secretary of State, Minister of Labour,  
Social Protection and the Elderly,  
Romania

Nicolas Leté,  
Head of the Representation  
of the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region,  
Brussels

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## How can cities use smart technology to encourage a circular chain of local production, distribution and consumption?

12A89

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

URBACT III Programme

### Chair/moderator:

Nora Fanderl,  
Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial  
Engineering IAO, Germany

### Speakers:

David Sánchez,  
Project Manager, Centre for Intelligent  
Infrastructure Innovation (CI3),  
City of Guadalajara, Spain

Thomas Nylund,  
CEO of Gästrike Ätervinnare,  
City of Gävle, Sweden

Maximilien Ast,  
CEO Drees & Sommer, Luxembourg

Michael Moradiellos del Molino,  
CEO Lateral Thinking Factory  
Consulting, Brussels, Belgium

### More information links:

[www.urbact.eu](http://www.urbact.eu)

[www.urbact.eu/smartimpact](http://www.urbact.eu/smartimpact)

[www.urbact.eu/techtown](http://www.urbact.eu/techtown)

[www.tuciudapp.es/guadalajara/app](http://www.tuciudapp.es/guadalajara/app)

### Summary

The URBACT workshop 'How can cities use smart technology to enable the circular economy?' focused on the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in fostering the circular economy at local level.

### Main messages/conclusions

Representatives of the cities of Gävle (Sweden), which is involved in the URBACT TechTown network, and Guadalajara (Spain), which is involved in the URBACT Smart Impact network, presented technological innovations they have been using over recent years to optimise existing local resources. Thomas Nylund from Gävle explained that the goal of the city was not only to manage waste but to prevent it. To do so, the city has put in place various ICT systems, including social media to raise people's awareness of and responsibility towards waste. One of these systems is the computers installed in all garbage trucks informing the cleaning and recycling services what kind of waste each household throws away and where to find it. Whenever the waste is badly sorted by inhabitants the cleaning services use their computer to record the incidents and give feedback to citizens. Most of the citizens in Gävle get feedback through their mobile applications dedicated to this purpose. The city plans to go further with informing people about the environmental impact of the products they buy. One of their ideas is to supplement the barcodes of each product with information on the origin of the materials and the impact of each product and to link these barcodes with mobile applications anyone can use.

Similarly, Guadalajara aims to become an open innovation space and deploy smart technologies and foster citizen interaction. It uses a Technology, Talent and Tolerance model, focusing on ICT to make use of and enhance human capital and develop a tolerant, open and innovative civil society. The city is currently testing 5 pilot projects in different policy areas: Bindogs, intelligent waste bins connected to the internet notifying the cleaning services about the waste contained in each bin and rewarding users who recycle as necessary; SmartCross for an intelligent pedestrian crossing; Tuciudapp, a communication channel using QR codes, SMairT, an environmental monitoring system with low-cost sensors; and SmartAparc for parking space detection based on computer vision.

Both cities stressed the need for circular economy-related projects to have monitoring systems measuring the impact at local level.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Smart Specialisation Strategy: From planning to funding

### Summary

'Smart specialisations' is a territorial innovation strategy aiming to make efficient use of public funds. Instead of distributing them to too many sectors, thus reducing the effectiveness of operational programmes, smart specialisation identifies and focuses on the strengths of a particular region. The areas of specialisation are the drivers to be switched on in order to boost the regional system. The moderator introduced the event explained briefly what S3 is. Later on both theoretical or programmatic approaches and specific examples of implementation were illustrated by each speaker, conveying the message that smart specialisation is a flexible instrument to boost any development policy.

### Main messages/conclusions

The process of smart specialisation is not a unified model that is equal for all Member States, but is the entrepreneurial process that is based on the use of territorial capital and innovation.

The workshop focused on the Smart Specialisation Strategy 'S3' to show the different scopes and implementations in each partner territory.

Through the debate the participants had the chance to learn about the approaches chosen by different regions and compare the different areas of smart specialisation of each partner.

Galicia region started with their innovative public procurement, followed by the Smart Specialisation Academy in Värmland region. Basilicata region presented their Smart Specialisation Strategy as focused on the Bioeconomy Cluster. Lazio region went through a brief overview of their strategy and the example of startup and creative industries.

The region of Istria's contribution focused on their most successful projects aimed at providing support for innovative startups in the field of innovative research and development.

Tripolis smart specialisation strategy is based on cooperation between Greek and European academic institutions as a way to enhance the contribution of universities to common development.

The Kujawsko-Pomorskie region pointed out the importance of bringing business and academia close to each other in order to involve university staff in the process of smart specialisation development.

Nordland county's smart specialisation contribution was about how it would be possible to expand value chains and transform the economy for future green growth in the region.

Veneto region focused on an innovative funding approach to increase the resources available and the impact of programmes through the 'leverage' effect and also improve the quality of funded projects.

Opolskie region illustrated the development of the smart specialisation potential in steel and machine industries discussing collaborations between the participants of the regional innovation system: workshops, training, activities.

Martinique region presented their specific example of the Blue Tourism model, for the sustainable territorial development of blue ecotourism and ecomobility, and the local event for Smile 2016.

Finally stakeholders in the Norte region of Portugal using the participative methodology of the RIS3 strategy developed a collective broadly shared vision for 2020 with shared priorities in the NORTE 2020 Operational Programme and the RIS3 strategy for growth.

12A90

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

Regione del Veneto

#### Chair/moderator:

Francisco de Calheiros,  
Coordinator of Consortium MINHO IN,  
Norte de Portugal Region, Portugal

#### Speakers:

Olsson Anders, Manager Research and  
Innovation, Region Värmland, Sweden

Luca Braia, Agricultural and Forestry Council-  
lor, Basilicata Region, Italy

Manuel París, R&I project officer, Axencia  
Galega de Innovación, Spain

Rossana Bellotti, Regional Director for  
Economic Development and Productive  
Activities, Lazio Region, Italy

Patrizia Bosich, Head of Administrative De-  
partment for International Cooperation and  
European Affairs, Region of Istria, Italy

Pavlis Dimitrios, Mayor, City of Tripolis, Greece

Korolko Michał, Head of Department of  
Economic Development and International  
Cooperation, Kujawsko-Pomorskie  
Region, Poland

Mona Fagerås, Executive of Economic Deve-  
lopment, Nordland County, Norway

Giuseppe Pan, Regional Councillor for agricul-  
ture, hunting and fishing, Veneto Region, Italy

Manzella Gian Paolo, Councillor of Lazio  
Region, Lazio Region, Italy

Adam Pienio, Senior Officer in the Section  
for innovation, Opolskie Centre for Economic  
Development, Poland

Michał Durzyński, Senior Officer in the Section  
for innovation, Opolskie Centre for Economic  
Development, Poland

Eugène Larcher, President / Territorial  
councillor, Espace Sud Martinique /  
CTM, France

Rodolphe Désiré, Mayor, Le Marin,  
Martinique, France

Ester Gomes da Silva, Vice-president of the  
CCDRN, Norte de Portugal Region, Portugal

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



12A93

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

## EU LIFE programme: A chance for green business, innovation and job creation preserving the environment

### Summary

Local and regional authorities count amongst the LIFE programme's major beneficiaries. They play an indispensable role in bringing eco-innovations and environmental best practices to a wider audience. The workshop showcased best practices in LIFE projects implemented or supported by local and regional authorities, with a particular focus on the recently launched Integrated Projects and projects that support the circular economy. It also looked at how the projects successfully managed to support local and regional green business, innovation and job creation, and the implementation of EU environment legislation. Finally, the European Commission provided an overview of the ongoing midterm evaluation of the programme and an outlook on its future prospects.

### Main messages/conclusions

Since 1992, the EU LIFE programme has co-financed 1 083 projects coordinated by local and/or regional authorities. LIFE Integrated Projects have been launched as a new type of catalyser action aimed at implementing, on a larger territorial scale, environmental plans or strategies with the involvement of stakeholders. The example of the Małopolska Region Air Quality Plan has proved that such a type of project has the potential to create additional employment, capacity building, cooperation networks and the exchange of experience at all levels, as well as increase public awareness about the need to improve air quality. The Belgian 'Natura2000 project' which focuses on the development and implementation of site management plans and species actions plans also confirmed how LIFE integrated projects can be a driver for mobilising additional regional and EU funding.

LIFE is also investing in the local and regional circular economy as witnessed by examples at EU level with the ACR+ initiatives, and local level in Spain and Italy. ACR+ has been able, through their LIFE projects, to reinforce and deepen understanding on waste prevention, preparing for reuse, and recycling (European Week for Waste Reduction), to reduce energy consumption and waste production by means of simple and easy measures (Green Commerce); to minimise municipal organic waste in EU Member States (MiniWaste); and to promote green public procurement for urban furniture (Urban FURniTURE). One of the partners of the latter is AIMPLAS, a centre of innovation and technology in the Valencia region, which through other LIFE projects has also been able to develop a demonstration plant to produce new packaging raw materials from waste products of the bakery industry (BREAD4PLA project) and to implement a new solution in the plastics recycling industry leading to more efficient and environmentally friendly processes as well as a higher quality recycled material (EXTRUCLEAN). Finally, the LIFE+ project LOWaste in Ferrara municipality (Italy) showed a pattern towards a circular economy based on the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste under a public-private partnership. Starting from some pilot tests, it is creating the foundation for a genuine local green circular economy.

The debate with the audience revealed that despite some challenges in terms of administrative burden, LIFE is a genuine instrument contributing to better implementation of the EU environmental laws at local and regional levels across the EU.

### European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented:

The LIFE Belgian Nature Integrated Project (BNIP) has triggered complementary funding of EUR 33 745 000 from the ERDF in the regions of Flanders and Wallonia.

#### Organiser:

European Committee of the Regions –  
ENVE Commission & European  
Commission – DG Environment

#### Chair/moderator:

Babette Winter,  
CoR rapporteur on the Circular  
Economy Action Plan, State Secretary  
for European Affairs and Culture,  
Region of Thuringia, Germany

#### Speakers:

Herve Martin,  
Head of LIFE Unit, DG Environment,  
European Commission, Belgium

Tomasz Pietrusiak,  
Project Coordinator, Małopolska  
Region, Poland

Tom Andries,  
Project Coordinator, Agency for Nature  
and Forests, Flanders Region, Belgium

Lisa Labriga,  
Project Manager, Association of Cities  
and Regions for Recycling and  
Sustainable Resource Management  
(ACR+), Belgium

Liliana Chamudis-Varan,  
Deputy Director and Head of  
International Projects Area of Plastics  
Technology Centre AIMPLAS, Valencia  
Region, Spain

Michele Pancaldi,  
Municipality of Ferrara, Italy

#### More information links:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life>

<http://powietrze.malopolska.pl/en/life-ip>

[www.LIFE-BNIP.be](http://www.LIFE-BNIP.be)

[www.acrplus.org/index.php/en/activities/acr-projects](http://www.acrplus.org/index.php/en/activities/acr-projects)

[www.lowaste.it/en/index.html](http://www.lowaste.it/en/index.html)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Overcoming obstacles to investment

### Summary

In the wake of the financial crisis, the level of investment in the EU fell considerably and has remained relatively depressed ever since. To reverse the situation, relaunching public and private investment was set as a top priority of the European Commission in its 2016 Annual Growth Survey, the first step of the 2016 European Semester. This workshop focused on the territorial dimension of obstacles to investment and how to overcome them so as to help bridge this investment gap. CoR president Markku Markkula, in his capacity as rapporteur for a CoR opinion on this topic, discussed the issue with representatives of the OECD, think-tanks and academia. The results of a CoR survey and findings of a study on obstacles to investment at the local and regional level were also presented.

### Main messages/conclusions

Whilst obstacles to investments are often presented from the national perspective, many are territory related, meaning that they either have a territorially differentiated impact within countries or are relevant to the functions of the local and regional authorities (LRAs). Considering the results of the CoR online survey regarding obstacles to investment at the local and regional level, the commissioned study on the same topic, and the various contributions from the panelists, various challenges to deploying further investment, from a territorial perspective, were mentioned such as deficiencies in the quality and efficiency of public administration; a lack of administrative capacity; a lack of coordination with other levels of government, sectors, and localities; burdensome rules, regulations, and administrative procedures; low awareness of financing opportunities through EU funds and difficulties in accessing and managing these funds; high levels of public debt; complexity or inefficiency in the public procurement framework; weak management of public-private partnerships; among others.

In order to address these issues, as CoR President Markku Markkula stated, 'it is essential to fully involve [local and regional authorities] in decision-making processes, give cities and regions the chance to learn from each other and support them at EU level so that we can bridge the investment gap'. Additional recommendations put forward by the panelists included: the need to simplify the cohesion funding framework so as to further facilitate access by local and regional authorities; better communication between the different tiers of government; seek partnerships with other players such as local development banks; improve administrative capacity to access various funding opportunities such as through the creation of special units within the administration that deal with EU funds or the development of public procurement platforms; formally integrate local and regional governments in the European Semester governance process through the adoption of a code of conduct by the relevant parties involved; among other measures.

The panelists agreed that many obstacles to investment need to be addressed taking into account their territoriality. They noted, however, that not all territorial obstacles are equally important in terms of their relevance to the competencies and functions of LRAs or because of the actual impact they create.

### European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented:

In the context of assessing the EFSI program, the ECOTITANIUM project was mentioned as an innovative and more risky type of project that EFSI needs to target.

12A94

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

### Organiser:

European Committee of the Regions,  
ECON commission

### Chair/moderator:

Ton van Lierop,  
news manager, Flemish public  
broadcaster VRT

### Speakers:

Bert Kuby,  
Head of unit, CoR ECON commission,  
Belgium

Markku Markkula,  
CoR president, Finland

Grégory Claeys,  
Research Fellow, Bruegel, Spain-France

Claire Charbit,  
Deputy Head of regional development  
policy division, OECD, France

Haris Martinos,  
independent local and regional  
development expert, Greece

Michael Thöne,  
Managing Director, FiFo Institute for  
Public Economics, Germany

### More information links:

Event website to consult documents  
discussed in workshop:  
[http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/  
obstacles-investment-ewrc.aspx](http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/obstacles-investment-ewrc.aspx)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Agriculture and innovation in the Mediterranean Regions: High potential for boosting rural areas

12A96

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

### Organiser:

European Committee of the Regions,  
NAT Commission, Occitanie /  
Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, ACTA

### Chair/moderator:

Randel Länts (EE/PES), member of the  
NAT commission and rapporteur for  
the innovation and modernisation of  
the rural economy, Estonia

Guillaume Cros, Vice-Chair EUROPE,  
Occitanie Pyrénées Méditerranée  
Region, France

Philippe Lecouvey, Managing Director,  
Representative of ACTA, France

### Speakers:

Jaume Sió Jaume, General Sub-di-  
rector for Agrifood Innovation and  
Knowledge Transfer, Regional Council  
Catalunya, EIP Operational Groups and  
the multi-actor innovation scheme in  
the agrifood sector in Catalonia, Spain

Mateu Ginard i Sampol Mateu, Direc-  
tor-General of Agriculture and Cattle  
Industry Region Isles Balearic, The  
insular reality of Balearic Islands, Spain

Claudio Bogliotti, Senior counsellor,  
University of Bari, CIHEAM-IAMB,  
Euro-Mediterranean joint-program-  
ming to enhance long-term  
cooperation on agriculture, Italy

Damiania Maiz, Project manager,  
Euromontana, Mountain areas: a spirit  
of innovation, Belgium

Adrien Guichaoua, Head of European  
and Regional affairs unit, National  
Contact Point H2020 BIO – Societal  
Challenge 2, ACTA, Improve synergies  
between EU funds to boost agriculture  
potential in rural areas, France

### Summary

The 2014-2020 European programming period, led by the flagship initiative 'The Innovation Union' for 'smart, inclusive and sustainable growth' is characterised by huge potential in innovation for agriculture and rural development. Sustainable use of natural resources while enhancing productivity and creating jobs in rural areas are common objectives of the EU Mediterranean regions enabled by EU policies and their related funding mechanisms. With the intention of entering the discussion on the future of cohesion but also the research and innovation policies after 2020, the region LRMP and ACTA focused on the current measures being implemented in the rural areas of the Mediterranean region and also underlined the initial results of the programming period.

### Main messages/conclusions

The MED region is an innovative area, diversifying tools to support rural and agricultural development and innovation. The stakeholder panel was chosen to reflect these innovations across all sectors (digital, organisational, disadvantaged geographical areas, quality of products, competitiveness...). The evidence and the shared experiences gathered during this debate will feed into the vision of a Rural Agenda, based on a land approach, territorial vision and public and private needs.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Supporting urban climate change adaptation with cohesion policy funds and the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

12A105

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

### Summary

Urban areas are increasingly hit by the already visible, negative impact of climate change. Both gradual climatic processes (such as rising sea levels) and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events (such as heat waves or floods) cost lives and cause damage to urban infrastructure.

What is needed from cities to become better prepared? What support and funding does the EU provide? What are the costs and benefits (including avoided costs) of investing in adaptation? What good practice examples can national, regional and local authorities share? These questions were at the heart of the workshop's discussions.

### Main messages/conclusions

The Paris international climate agreement recognises the important role of cities and regions in reducing emissions and building resilience to the effects of climate change. To inform, mobilise and support cities in taking climate mitigation and adaptation action, the Commission, together with cities, launched the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in 2015. The new Covenant offers cities recognition, visibility, guidance, exchange of experiences and financial opportunities.

Urban adaptation has also has benefits for citizens' health and quality of life, and the low-carbon economy, and it also creates employment and innovation opportunities.

The presentation from the European Environment Agency (EEA) on the economic case for urban adaptation highlighted resilient and attractive cities have many benefits and that it is possible to turn challenges into opportunities. The EEA recommends that cities combine financing tools, try to find financing on other related areas, bear in mind that initial money can trigger bigger activities and look at how regulations can promote financing.

Urban climate change adaptation is an important feature of EU cohesion policy and significant funds have been allocated to urban climate adaptation actions. The involvement of national, regional and local authorities and of stakeholders is the key to success. Implementation of urban adaptation is now taking off, making it possible to protect millions of citizens from floods or forest fires. European Structural and Investment Funds can finance projects from preparing strategies to climate-proofing infrastructure, reinforcing institutional capacities, and integrated, sustainable, innovative and ecosystem-based approaches. Additional opportunities for cities include guidance and URBACT networks.

### The workshop also showcased inspirational good practice examples of the use of EU funds for urban adaptation:

The Polish Ministry of the Environment is supporting the development of adaptation plans and actions in the country's main cities, which have been identified as a vulnerable sector.

The region of North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany) is calling for projects using EU Structural Funds to support climate change adaptation in urban environments. The region has experienced heavy storms and rains causing casualties and millions of euros in damage. It has developed an adaptation strategy involving municipalities, regions, companies and citizens.

### Organiser:

European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Climate Action

### Chair/moderator:

Beatriz Yordi,  
Head of Adaptation Unit,  
Directorate-General for Climate Action,  
European Commission, Belgium

### Speakers:

Beatriz Yordi,  
Head of Adaptation Unit,  
Directorate-General for Climate Action,  
European Commission, Belgium

Birgit Georgi,  
Project manager regional vulnerability  
and adaptation, European  
Environment Agency, Denmark

Colin Wolfe,  
Head of Unit, Competence Centre  
Sustainable Growth, Directorate-  
General for Regional and Urban Policy,  
European Commission, Belgium

Szymon Tumielewicz,  
Deputy Director, Ministry of the  
Environment, Poland

Cornelius Laaser,  
Desk Officer, Adaptation Unit, Ministry  
for Climate Protection and  
Environment, North Rhine-Westphalia,  
Germany

Christine Rambaud,  
Deputy Mayor for Urban Planning, city  
of Rouen, France

Céline Fréchet,  
Head of urban development project,  
city of Rouen, France

Lina Liakou,  
Deputy Mayor, city of Thessaloniki,  
Greece

### More information links:

[www.covenantofmayors.eu](http://www.covenantofmayors.eu)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## How to aggregate small energy investments into a large regional project

13A21

13 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

Krapina-Zagorje County (supported by REGEA North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency), FEDARENE, European Committee of the Regions' ENVE Commission

### Chair/moderator:

Mislav Togonal,  
Editor, Croatian Radiotelevision,  
Croatia

### Speakers:

Željko Kolar,  
Prefect, Krapina-Zagorje County,  
Croatia

Michel Lebrun,  
Member, Committee of the Regions,  
Rapporteur of ENVE Commission,  
Belgium

Dr Julije Domac,  
President of FEDARENE and Managing  
Director of REGEA, Croatia

Ralf Goldmann,  
Head of Energy and Solid Waste  
Division, EIB, Luxembourg

Anette Jahn,  
Head of the Energy Efficiency Finance  
Team, Energy Unit – EASME, Belgium

Paul Kenny,  
Chief Executive Officer, Tipperary  
Energy Agency, Ireland

Timothée Noël,  
Policy Officer, European Commission,  
DG Energy, Belgium

### More information links:

[www.fedarene.org](http://www.fedarene.org)

[www.regea.org](http://www.regea.org)

### Summary

Regions and cities play an essential role in the implementation of energy efficiency policies and are the most appropriate decision makers for investment actions in energy efficiency. As public funds alone are not sufficient for delivering EU energy targets, a different approach relying on market-based solutions is required. The main aim of this debate was to guide and motivate regions and cities to aggregate small investments into bigger projects in order to maximise their feasibility and success for financing. This event was organised in two parts – a policy panel involving the Committee of the Regions, European Commission, FEDARENE, European Investment Bank and EASME, and a networking session co-organised by partners from Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Ireland and Slovenia.

### Main messages/conclusions

The event attracted around 200 participants and was built upon recent successful examples such as the ELENA-supported NEWLIGHT project where Krapina-Zagorje and Zagreb County (Croatia) aggregated street lighting reconstruction projects in 57 cities and municipalities into a single regional project with total investment exceeding EUR 20 million. The debate intended to explore options to encourage and support the creation of regional platforms aimed at aggregating small energy efficiency projects of the same type in order to maximise the use of and access to the EFSI.

The opening speeches given by Željko Kolar and Michel Lebrun emphasised the benefits of energy projects and the important role of regions in achieving the Europe 2020 objectives, which can only be done through large investments, with regions as the main actors in attracting and facilitating those investments.

The panel debate that followed gave participants the opportunity to hear first-hand views from policymakers and experts, from both European and local levels. The role of the regions was emphasised several times, but the task of the European Union is to create an environment in which private investors will also find energy efficiency investments attractive. Work has to be done on standardisation, making projects solid and robust, and have attractive projects ready to be invested in. Representatives of the energy agencies agreed that the EU provided the financial means to start working on energy projects, but in addition to money, they also need expertise, guidance, knowledge, and for that strong communication between regional actors and Europe, and also between actors from different regions, is crucial.

The debate touched upon the Commission's efforts to promote innovative financial models, and despite there being some positive developments in the use of these models in the Member States, there is still lack of knowledge, understanding and trust, which are the main barriers that have to be addressed.

The response from the audience, the number of questions raised and the fact that the time proved to be too short for the panelists to address all of them showed the interest this topic raises in European regions. The organisers of the debate planned the event as a first step in creating Europe-wide momentum in the aggregation of energy investments and attracting investment into the energy sector. A position paper will be prepared which will indicate future activities needed to this end.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Culture and creative industries in the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3): How are regions handling it?

### Summary

This workshop brought together regions that have chosen cultural and creative industries to be a priority of their regional smart specialisation strategy. Representatives from Wallonia (BE), the Basque country (ES), Ile de France and Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT) shared their experiences from designing and implementing the RIS3, looking at successful developments, but also addressing specific challenges on the ground. The workshop turned into a lively debate – also with the audience – about how Structural Funds can help EU regions to become wealthier and more prosperous, by supporting their regional cultural and creative assets. It also enabled a wider look at other EU initiatives, which benefit creativity in the regions, such as the European Capitals of Culture.

### Main messages/conclusions

The cultural and creative industries play an important role in the economic development of cities and regions. This workshop confirmed the importance of a cross-cutting approach to creativity, to boost competitiveness, job creation and innovation and to develop cross-sectoral collaborations.

How can such an approach work in practice? It is all about creating partnerships. Cap Digital in Ile de France supports innovative start-ups in the area of digital creation and, to do so, is working with associations and NGOs in the region, creating links not only with technology, but also with education. A 3D approach was developed in the Basque country, linking industry (entrepreneurial development and business models), culture (talent, creativity and creation) as well as research, innovation and technology. Friuli Venezia Giulia focuses on interconnecting efforts and players to enhance the sustainability of cultural heritage.

The speakers agreed that smart specialisation strategies should take into account the specific context of a given region and be based on evidence. They should also link to a broader political setting and overarching development plans, as confirmed by the recent study on the competitiveness of CCLs.

For Wallonia, for example, key ingredients of a successful creative strategy include business support, tailored financing tools and the involvement of intermediaries (local platforms, incubators or agencies). A participatory approach is essential.

But speakers also pointed to challenges for regions related to the implementation of creativity-based strategies: insufficient funding, silos between culture and industry, including in the administrations and shortcomings in the management of regional funds.

The discussion also focused on other EU initiatives benefiting creativity in the regions. All speakers agreed on the added value of participating in Interreg Europe projects and other initiatives like the Creative Europe-funded project Culture for Cities & Regions and the European Capitals of Culture. They all help to build cohesive governance systems and create bridges. In this context, engagement, inclusiveness and legacy were the key words. The new Smart Specialisation Platform on Industrial Modernisation will also facilitate cross-regional cooperation.

Networking among regions and exchange of good practice is essential, therefore initiatives such as the Regional Initiative for Culture and Creativity (RICC) can benefit regions that have made or will make creativity a priority.

13A113

13 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

European Commission (DG EAC in cooperation with DG GROW)

#### Chair/moderator:

Walter Zampieri,  
Head of Unit of Cultural diversity and Innovation, Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), European Commission

#### Speakers:

Patrick Cocquet,  
Délégué Général Cap Digital, France

Carlo Corazza,  
Head of Unit of Tourism, Emerging and Creative Industries; DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission, Belgium

Vincent Lepage,  
Director, Creative Wallonia, Belgium

Marta Marin,  
Basque Government Delegate to the European Union, Regional Initiative for Culture and Creativity (RICC), Belgium

Elena Mengotti,  
Directorate for Culture, Sports and Solidarity of Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Regional Initiative for Culture and Creativity (RICC), Italy

#### More information links:

<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/18001>

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Mind the gap! Cross-border rail investment in EU border regions

13A114

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

### Organiser:

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, Unit D2 Cross-Border Cooperation

### Chair/moderator:

Agnes Monfret,  
Head of Unit, DG Regio,  
European Commission, Belgium

### Speakers:

Martin Guillermo,  
Secretary General, Association  
of European Border Regions,  
Germany

Alfred Nagelschmied,  
Office of the Regional Government  
of Styria, Austria

Gudrun Schulze,  
Policy Officer, DG Move,  
European Commission, Belgium

Michiel Scheffer,  
Member of the Executive Board  
of the Province Gelderland and  
Chairman of the Monitoring  
Committee of Interreg V-A  
Deutschland-Nederland,  
Netherlands

### More information links:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/cross-border](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/cross-border)

<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport>

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure_en)

### Summary

This workshop focused on the consequences of the fragmented European railway market for EU border regions. While significant progress is being made along TEN-T core network corridors, regional and local cross-border rail connectivity remains an issue. This gap derives from different technical standards, national planning as well as diverging national interests. Cross-border mobility and the accessibility to TEN-T corridors is sometimes not taken into account. The fact that one third of the EU's population lives in border regions increases the importance of an advanced infrastructure, including a 'capillary' rail transport system which ensures the access of citizens to major EU transport axes.

### Main messages/conclusions

One of the main conclusions was that more attention should be paid to 'smaller' cross-border rail projects which ensure regional accessibility to TEN-T nodes. This investment is needed to make 'large' investment in TEN-T corridors viable.

Overall, the need to better coordinate funding and planning activities was recognised: while Interreg programmes could act as a catalyst and preparation tool, ESIF mainstream programmes and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) could serve as investment platforms. One issue raised was that Interreg had only limited financial means for regional and local transport projects, whilst ESIF mainstream programmes with large financial capacities would often prioritise national projects over cross-border transport. In that context, the newly opened call for proposals under the CEF was announced which will address the issue of cross-border bottlenecks in the TEN-T network.

However, it was also pointed out that funds per se could not eliminate bottlenecks, if there is a lack of political will and trust at the local/regional/national level. Therefore, the speakers appealed to the citizens of border regions to take the reins and fill the gap of potentially lacking motivation among authorities. In the discussion, the example of a cross-border connection between Germany and Poland was mentioned. In that case, serving commuters was relatively difficult but the high demand and public pressure from citizens forced the authorities to act and the track could finally be realised. A multi-level approach could also resolve the issue by putting cross-border needs on the national agenda. The point made was that policy-makers have to understand that missing links in border regions affect the economic performance not only of regions but also of the whole country because one cannot live without the other. In other words: regional cross-border rail is needed for the proper functioning of the TEN-T networks at pan-European level.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Specialisation and Energy Platform: Energy and innovation tendencies of European regions

13A116

13 October 2016

09:00-10:45

### Summary

The Smart Specialisation platform on Energy (S3PEnergy) is an EU-wide initiative that engages contributions of three different departments of the European Commission: DGs REGIO, ENER and JRC. The main objective is to assure an optimal uptake of EU Cohesion Funds for energy. Among the smart specialisation strategies to be implemented in the period 2014-2020, energy-related priorities feature in more than 2/3 of the Member States and regions.

This workshop highlighted how smart specialisation priorities on energy can contribute to the EU cohesion and energy policies. The latest activities of the S3PEnergy were also presented including the creation of interregional cooperation partnerships on bioenergy, smart-grids, offshore renewables and sustainable construction.

### Main messages/conclusions

A. Rainoldi emphasised the role of S3PEnergy in promoting interregional cooperation leading to better implementation of S3 energy-related priorities. Tudor Constantinescu pointed out that the share of renewable energy in the EU will increase in all possible scenarios by 2030. Technology energy mixes are a key aspect for smart specialisation in energy as new technologies can come into the picture. G. Miladinova highlighted that 'energy' is one of the winners of the cohesion policy reform: before there was a maximum possibility to finance energy efficiency; now there is a minimum obligation to finance the low-carbon economy. Interregional cooperation is a driver for S3 implementation. M. Klawiter-Piwowska said that eco-effective technologies in the generation, transmission, distribution and consumption of energy and fuels and in construction will contribute to decreasing energy consumption in the Pomorskie economy. She also called for more cooperation with other regions in order to achieve the smart specialisation aims. I. Havukainen highlighted that the bio-economy is a pillar in the smart specialisation of Lapland. Five 'arctic clusters' have been implemented, including one on the circular economy and another on smart rural communities. J. Villar stressed that S3 energy priorities in Andalusia are aimed at promoting the energy rehabilitation of buildings and urban rehabilitation. Implementation of these priorities is taking place by establishing synergies with other EU cohesion policy instruments, such as for example the Interreg project BUILD2LC for priorities of sustainable construction. C. Oyón presented the energy strategy in the Basque Country identifying marine renewables as a priority. The Basque Energy Cluster gathers 350 companies, with a total turnover of nearly EUR 50 billion and more than 64 000 jobs worldwide. Regional challenges cannot be tackled alone and therefore interregional cooperation in energy priorities is crucial. The participation of the Basque Country in the Vanguard initiative is an example of cooperation among regions, something which can also be synergized with the S3PEnergy work. In the wrap-up session it was concluded that: cohesion policy plays a significant role in the delivery of the Energy Union. Research and innovation is one of the five pillars of the Energy Union and the S3PEnergy platform provides key support to the EU Member States and regions with energy-related priorities. S3PEnergy spills over the concept of S3 by facilitating synergies with the TO4.

### Organiser:

European Commission:  
DGs REGIO, ENER and JRC

### Chair/moderator:

Ales Gnamus,  
Scientific Officer,  
Joint Research Centre, Spain

### Speakers:

Alessandro Rainoldi,  
Head of Territorial Development Unit,  
European Commission, Joint Research  
Centre, Spain

Tudor Constantinescu,  
Principal Advisor to the Director  
General, European Commission,  
DG ENER, Belgium

Gergana Miladinova,  
Team Leader Sustainable Growth,  
European Commission, DG REGIO,  
Belgium

Małgorzata Maria Klawiter-Piwowska,  
Office of the Marshall of Pomorskie  
Region, Poland

Ilari Havukainen,  
Project Manager, Regional Council  
of Lapland, Finland

Joaquín Villar Rodríguez,  
Head of Department Internationali-  
sation and Prospection, Andalusian  
Energy Agency, Spain

Cristina Oyón,  
Head of Strategic Initiatives at SPRI,  
business development agency in the  
Basque Country, Spain

### More information links:

[www.s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3p-energy](http://www.s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3p-energy)

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



13A120

13 October 2016

09:00-10:45

11:15-13:00

## Organiser:

European Committee of the Regions,  
SEDEC commission, and European  
Commission, DG RTD

## Chair/moderator:

Doris Schroecker, Head of Unit  
Strategy, Industrial technologies,  
DG Research and innovation, and

Tanya Hristova, CoR Member, Mayor  
of Gabrovo, Bulgaria

## Speakers:

Peter Dröll, Director Industrial  
Technologies, DG Research and  
Innovation, Belgium

Yoomi Renström, Chair of the SEDEC  
commission of CoR, Sweden

Hans Hartmann Pedersen, Advanced  
Materials and Nanotechnologies Unit,  
DG Research and innovation, Belgium

Maurice Mourad, project coordinator,  
TNO, Netherlands

Ane Irazustabarrena, Programmes  
Director TECNALIA, Business  
Development, industry and transport  
Division, Spain

Dr Babette Winter, CoR Member, State  
Secretary for Europe and Culture in the  
Thuringia State Chancellery, Germany

Goran Granholm, VTT, Finland

Roberto Fedrizzi, EURAC Research, Italy

Martin Wifling, VIF, Austria

Henning Kroll, Fraunhofer, Germany

## More information links:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/networks/Pages/kep.aspx>

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial\\_technologies/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/index_en.cfm)

## Industrial technologies for inter-regional cooperation and growth

### Summary

This thematic seminar on Key Enabling Technologies was organised by the SEDEC commission of the CoR and the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation under the umbrella of the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP). Participants, representing local authorities, scientists and the private sector, underlined the need for a greater connection between the centres of production of knowledge and the market by creating integrated, cross-border value chains. Projects promoting synergies and clustering in the field of industrial technologies were presented, emphasising solutions that help bridge the innovation gap among regions. Finally the need for sustainable funding and simpler funding procedures was stressed in order to maintain high standards and affordability of the products.

### Main messages/conclusions

- ▶ Europe is one of the leaders in knowledge, but this doesn't necessarily lead to production, signifying a problem when one attempts to scale up from academic knowledge to commercial products.
- ▶ There is a need to enable KETs to attain a better correlation between what we invest and what we achieve, between knowledge and production.
- ▶ There is a great opportunity in the field of industrial technologies to go back to producing tailored products, according to the needs of consumers.
- ▶ We need a transformation of the procedure from knowledge to a marketable product, this doesn't always happen mainly because enterprises lack human and financial resources
- ▶ The effectiveness of pilot line projects that aim at achieving the business potential by taking the results to the regional level, creating cross-border value chains and ensuring industrial-relevant application of industry participants and SMEs. For SMEs, pilot projects are of great value, since they can minimise risk by using open-access infrastructure, and directly connect knowledge and research centres with production.
- ▶ Promotion of one-stop shops for SMEs, in order to coordinate and organise services provided on a regional level and establish innovation hubs as match-makers. The aim is to make available knowledge and advice on business opportunities, gather regional and local resources and ultimately ensure that research reaches the market.
- ▶ Although KETs are useful, we also need to bring people together in person in order to facilitate synergies and deeper cooperation.
- ▶ We need to upgrade current structures and adapt to new challenges, such as digitalisation, which also creates great changes in the labour market.
- ▶ It is important that understanding and knowledge are spread among users and stakeholders. To do so, a comprehensive systems approach is useful, one that brings together technology, businesses and people. By bringing people together and including actor perspectives, we can move from businesses to collaborations and ultimately to system modelling. System modelling helps us develop tools and technologies in order to understand how value is created.
- ▶ Our goal should be to do things smartly and tailored to the specific environments. Although affordability is crucial, this shouldn't be to the detriment of quality of products.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## Building capacities for Smart Specialisation in urban areas

### Summary

The workshop, explorative in nature, aimed at mapping the key issues in relation to the role that urban areas – meaning both cities at the institutional level and broader socio-economic spatial agglomerations beyond individual municipalities – play in the implementation of RIS3.

The order of presentations went from the general to the specific, starting from a policy overview of urban issues at Commission level, moving to the experience of a URBACT network of cities engaged in RIS3, followed by a description of the experiences of two urban areas (Rotterdam-The Hague, a metropolitan area in the Netherlands, and Ruse, a city of 250 000 inhabitants in Bulgaria), and concluding with an example of a project (RESPIRA) that is fully aligned with RIS3 principles.

### Main messages/conclusions

- 1) The urban level is an important institutional and socio-economic space for RIS3, presenting its own challenges and opportunities, related to the density of the population, the presence of specific infrastructure (e.g. energy, mobility) which demand innovation, and the presence of social disparities which call for RIS3 as a tool for inclusive growth.
- 2) It is important to recognise that urban areas are very varied (some of them are NUTS2 regions, others comprise different cities, and others are smaller conglomerations in sparsely populated regions, etc.). The way in which the urban level is taken up or interacts with RIS3 will vary depending on the different roles of urban areas and cities within the regional context. These configurations are to be taken into account when looking at the multilevel governance of RIS3. However, it is important that today we identify in the urban dimension a legitimate angle through which to look at RIS3.
- 3) In acknowledging such heterogeneity, it is necessary to commit to a clear communication strategy which allows stakeholders at the urban level to be aware of the opportunities offered by RIS3 as well as the challenges (for example, in terms of capabilities at local level). Important gains in efficiency are to be expected by engaging more closely with local authorities.
- 4) RIS3, as a place-based policy, is compatible with support for urban cultural identities. Moreover, urban actors and urban authorities are already collaborating beyond regional borders. The outward looking dimension of RIS3 could support further cooperation and mutual learning by sharing a common framework.
- 5) Conceptualising RIS3 at the urban level does not mean attempting to fragment strategies aimed at larger territories; rather, it means identifying ways to connect urban strategies to other strategies. There is a need to master and blend different disciplinary approaches and communities of professionals and policymakers.
- 6) RIS3 and the broader economic regeneration strategy that RIS3 promotes can support a comprehensive view of innovation and also help in tackling the interplay of skills, space and infrastructure that is often managed at the urban level. There are several examples of existing smart specialisation processes running at the urban level that could be scaled up thanks to their integration in the RIS3 framework.
- 7) Smart specialisation offers the opportunity to place city-specific issues in the field of R&I policy, not traditionally managed at the urban level.

13A124

13 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

Joint Research Centre,  
European Commission

#### Chair/moderator:

Dr Elisabetta Marinelli,  
Research Fellow, Joint Research Centre,  
European Commission, Spain

#### Speakers:

Dr Martina Pertoldi,  
Research Fellow, Joint Research Centre,  
European Commission, Spain

Miguel Rivas,  
Managing Partner, Grupo Taso, Spain

Hans Verdounk,  
EU representative for the City  
of Rotterdam – G-4 EU office, Belgium

Iliyan Stoyanov,  
Representative of the Association  
of Danube River Municipalities  
'Danube' (ADRM), Bulgaria

Prof. Arturo Ariño,  
University of Navarra, Spain

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



13A126

13 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD)

**Chair/moderator:**

Dr Antonio di Giulio,  
Head of Unit – Research Infrastructure –  
DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD),  
Belgium

**Speakers:**

Antonio Di Giulio,  
Head of Unit Research Infrastructures,  
DG RTD, Belgium

Mercedes Bresso,  
Member of European Parliament,  
Belgium

Witold Willak,  
Deputy HoU, Competence Centre Closure  
and Major Projects, DG REGIO, Belgium

Eugenia Kazamaki Ottersten,  
Head of Smart Development Division,  
JASPERS, Luxembourg

Carl-Albert Hjelmborn,  
Director, Skåne European Office, Belgium

Salvatore La Rosa,  
Ministry of Education, University  
and Research, Italy

Sylvie Niessen,  
Department of Research  
Infrastructures, Ministry of Education  
and Research, France

Jakub Uchytíl,  
Director, Ministry of Education,  
Youth and Sports, Czech Republic

Ornela Degiacomo,  
Deputy Executive Director CERIC  
ERIC, Italy

Carlo Rizzuto,  
Director General, ELI-DC, Italy

Ondřej Hradil,  
Senior Analyst, CEITEC, Czech Republic

**More information links:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index\\_en.cfm?pg=events](https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=events)

## Sustainable Research Infrastructures and socio-economic impact: Opportunities and challenges for the regions

### Summary

This workshop was aimed at stimulating the discussion on the impact of Research Infrastructures (RIs) on the regions and exchange experiences on policy and planning cycles at national and regional levels. It showcased examples and methodology(ies) to assess the socio-economic impact generated by RIs and promoted discussion on the pre-conditions and main factors attracting productive investments in the regions and their relevance for RIs. Around 100 participants (local, regional, national and European decision-makers and experts) registered to attend the workshop.

### Main messages/conclusions

During the workshop it was underlined that RIs should be part of a larger ecosystem at regional and local levels, strictly connected to universities and companies. Using ESIF funds for creating a pole of excellence is strategically important. However the visibility of RI services in the regions is still not optimal and additional efforts need to be put in place to this purpose.

Participants stressed the need for RIs to be connected to innovation ecosystems in order to generate regional socio-economic development. It is possible to improve the research capacity of a region by investing in researchers, research centres, patents, students. The EP works to facilitate the creation of instruments that regions can implement to this purpose.

While the value of RIs for society is not easy to assess, it cannot however be overlooked because it affects society in the longer term. Similarly, it is not easy to assess the value of failure in research but it should not necessarily be perceived only in negative terms, being in itself still a valuable learning experience.

The socio-economic impact of RIs can be demonstrated and valued although it is not a straight-forward exercise. It is however important to consider that RIs do produce 'value flows' and not necessarily 'cash flows'.

The importance of engaging with all relevant stakeholders regionally and nationally was underlined. A good RIS3 with related coherent investments, together with a strategic use of EU funding and a sound prioritisation exercise at both national and regional level, were among the issues highlighted as fundamental during the discussion.

The presentations provided insights into the ongoing discourse on designing a comprehensive model for measuring the socio-economic impact of RIs. They took into account the outcomes of the Commission's stakeholder consultation on the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures and provided valuable inputs to the upcoming action plan.

**European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented:**

CEITEC in the region of South Moravia (CZ) is a prestigious European centre of science benefiting from the support of FP7, Horizon 2020 and ESIF funds. CEITEC is a centre of scientific excellence in the fields of life sciences and advanced materials and technologies. The Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) is a distributed RI, a laser facility that aims to host the most intense beamline system world-wide. ELI is pioneering an innovative funding model, pooling FP7 and H2020 funds for the preparatory phase, EU Structural Funds and EIB loans for construction and Member States' contributions for operation. CERIC-ERIC is an integrated multidisciplinary and multiprobe research infrastructure open to external basic and applied users in the fields of materials, biomaterials and nanotechnology.

# Workshops – Sustained and sustainable economic growth



## International cooperation for improving the capacity to deal with waste management in the Mediterranean

### Summary

Regions and cities are the key players in waste management. This workshop was a kind of follow-up of the activities undertaken by the CoR with the representatives of several Libyan municipalities in order to support them in delivering services in the field of the waste management. The City of Antwerp and ACR+ were involved in these activities. The Antwerp authorities will be available to jointly identify suitable recycling and waste-to-energy strategies to efficiently direct potential investors in the sector. ACR+ will involve Libyan municipalities in the European week for waste reduction and in all awareness campaigns at network level. Training material and awareness products are already available on ACR+ web site. Suez is also prepared to share its experience in cooperation projects.

### Main messages/conclusions

Thanks to the region-to-region cooperation, several projects in waste management have been implemented in the Mediterranean. There is no need to reinvent the wheel in helping Libyan local authorities; experience should be shared and projects adapted to specific local needs.

13A129

13 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

European Committee of the Regions,  
CIVEX Commission

#### Chair/moderator:

Luc Van den Brande,  
Member of the European  
Committee of the Regions and  
Chair of the Management Board  
of the Flanders-Europe Liaison  
Agency, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Christof Delatter,  
Managing Director of Interafval,  
the association of Flemish inter  
municipal waste management  
organizations, Belgium

Françoise Bonnet,  
Secretary General, ACR+  
(Association of Cities and Regions  
for recycling and sustainable  
resource management), Belgium

José Muñoz,  
Director in charge of the Suez activities  
in the Mediterranean Region, France

# Workshops



**Inclusive economic growth**

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Skills guarantee in your region

### Summary

More than 64 million European adults do not have basic qualifications. In many cases that prevents them from getting and keeping a quality job.

- ▶ How can this situation be improved?
- ▶ How can we reach out to adults without basic qualifications?
- ▶ How can cooperation and partnership be encouraged between institutions and organisations that could support low-skilled adults?
- ▶ How can this kind of support be financed?

Together with representatives of the European Commission and authorities from Spain, Belgium, Hungary, Sweden and France we addressed these and other questions by discussing support for low-skilled adults and the European Commission's recent proposal on establishing a Skills Guarantee.

### Main messages/conclusions

1. Europe needs the Skills Guarantee. More than 64 million European adults do not have basic qualifications and more than 20% of Europeans do not have basic skills (literacy, numeracy or digital skills) – that means high costs, not only to the individual but to the economy and society as a whole, including public expenditure on unemployment and social benefits.
2. The Skills Guarantee means giving adults who lack the basic skills the opportunity to successfully enter or keep pace with the labour market and to actively participate in the society.
3. Carefully targeted outreach strategies are needed to encourage poorly-qualified people to develop their skills. They should be based upon an adequate overview of the many different sub-groups that are included in the low-skilled population, each of which may need a different approach.
4. A key feature of effective provision for poorly-qualified adults is to tailor the training to individual needs. Therefore a skills assessment is needed to identify the skills a person has, and any gaps to be filled. This may take the form of a 'skills audit', as proposed in the 2012 Council recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning.
5. The delivery of education and training for poorly-qualified adults should take place in appropriate learning settings, in which appropriately qualified teachers and trainers apply adult-specific teaching methods and exploit the potential of digital learning.
6. Validation will allow learners' progress to be recorded at different stages on the pathway so that they can collect credits towards a qualification or part qualification in the national qualifications framework. This is easier if national qualifications frameworks accommodate small, transparent steps toward full awards for poorly-qualified adults and allow learning outcomes to be achieved in different ways.
7. Supporting poorly-qualified adults requires the active involvement of a wide range of stakeholders including those organisations that are closest to the target groups.
8. In designing support for low-skilled adults Member States and regions can build on years of mutual learning and experience in the field of education, training and employment policies, and harness funding from the European Structural and Investment Funds and in particular the European Social Fund.

11B29

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission,  
DG Employment, Social Affairs  
and Inclusion

#### Chair/moderator:

Anna Nikowska,  
Policy Officer, European Commission,  
Belgium

#### Speakers:

Dana Bachmann,  
Head of Unit, European Commission,  
Belgium

Tamás Jankó,  
Senior Advisor, Ministry for National  
Economy, Hungary

Myriam Schauwers,  
President Consortium de Validation  
des compétences, Ministère  
de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles,  
Belgium

Sagardui Goikoetxea Miren Gotzone,  
Spain

Claire Ariston,  
Deputy Head of the Office, Ministry  
CVT of Education for Higher Education  
and Research, France

Yoomi Renström,  
Chair of SEDEC, Committee  
of the Regions

Martina Ni Cheallaigh,  
Policy Officer, European Commission,  
Belgium

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



11B38

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

**Organiser:**

Métropole de Lyon

**Chair/moderator:**

Ivan Tosics,

Director, Metropolitan Research Institute,  
Budapest, Hungary

**Speakers:**

Kati Brenner,

DG REGIO, European Commission,  
Belgium

Valérie Lapenne,

Coordinator of the EU partnership  
on urban poverty, CGET, France

David Kimelfeld,

Vice President, Métropole de Lyon, France

Jonas Attenius,

Deputy Mayor, City of Gothenburg,  
Sweden

Lloyd Broad,

Head of European and International  
Affairs, City of Birmingham,  
United Kingdom

Claire Hiscott,

Councillor and Cabinet Member for  
Education and Skills, City of Bristol,  
United Kingdom

Hanns-Ulrich Barde,

Project Manager, Sportgarten Bremen  
e.V, Germany

Laia Ortiz,

Deputy Mayor, City of Barcelona, Spain

Perrine Ezelin,

Project Manager, Métropole européenne  
de Lille, France

Stijnie Lohof,

Senior urban planner, City of Rotterdam,  
the Netherlands

**More information links:**

[www.grandlyon.com/metropole/insertion-et-emploi.html](http://www.grandlyon.com/metropole/insertion-et-emploi.html)

<http://distinctlybirmingham.com/eu-programmes/birmingham-and-solihull-youth-promise-plus-ypp>

## Creating inclusive cities and combating urban poverty

### Summary

The event started with an introduction from both the European Commission on the EU initiatives on urban policies and the partnership for the EU on urban poverty. The workshop provided the participants with specific examples of how cities in Europe are combating urban poverty. Cities were divided into two panels according to the type of solutions they are offering: people-based solutions that focus on the socio-economic integration of people living in deprived neighbourhoods and territorial-based solutions and more specifically the urban regeneration of deprived areas. Various best practices in the fields of social inclusion and innovation, employment and education were presented by the two panels and discussed with the audience.

### Main messages/conclusions

Cities are welcoming the Urban Agenda which is finally recognising the role of cities and metropolitan areas at European level and fosters a direct link between cities and the European Union. Cities have high expectations towards the Urban Agenda and hope that it will achieve the objectives set in the pact of Amsterdam: better policies, better tools and a more integrated approach. On the latter, the speakers were quite interested in the integrated approach followed by the different partnerships that are emanating from the Urban Agenda and consider it as an interesting work method giving cities a stronger voice.

Integrated approaches are also an efficient method for combating urban poverty. The speakers agreed that in order to set up successful and comprehensive policies to combat urban poverty, one needs to combine both place-based and people-based solutions. For instance, the National program for Rotterdam South Bank presented by Ms Lohof, integrates social inclusion measures (linked to education, employment and housing) and urban generation measures.

A key message underlined by several of the workshop presentations was the importance of including local stakeholders in setting up the policies and also during their implementation in order to ensure their success. Thus, Lyon Métropole's Metropolitan Pact on Inclusion and Employment is the result of an extensive consultation process. NGOs are at the core of Barcelona's 'Citizens Agreement for an Inclusive Barcelona' which involves 12 networks of NGOs.

Concerning place-based approaches, several speakers stressed the importance of integrating deprived neighbourhoods in the city's transport network and better linking them to job markets, as it can sometimes be quicker to come from outside the city in order to reach these workplaces. Someone in the audience asked about the phenomenon of gentrification that can be triggered by place-based policies. Barcelona explained that it was an important issue for them and that they were still looking into possible solutions to be developed while Rotterdam explained that in their particular case the issue is not gentrification but to ensure accessible housing for families that have more difficulties than just low incomes when it comes to finding affordable housing.

Finally, some cities were favourable to an ITI plus, where cities would have a bigger role than just selecting projects. Lille Métropole mentioned the impossibility in the case of French local authorities to combine ESF and ERDF via the ITI.

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Ensuring the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged through integrated Community-Led Local Development

### Summary

This workshop provided an opportunity to managing authorities and practitioners to share experience as regards opportunities, obstacles and solutions on how to best use CLLD for the purpose of the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged.

Practical examples were presented by the National HU Managing Authority in charge of ESF-funded CLLD and the UK ERDF Managing Authority, as well as by the Swedish Rural Network and the Cornwall FLAG on how social inclusion has been programmed and integrated into CLLD Strategies as well as on how to support LAGs in this field. These examples focused both on mainstream and target group approaches in urban and rural areas, on the basis of the social challenges identified with examples of coordinated use of ESI Funds.

### Main messages/conclusions

In his introductory remarks, Mr De Keersmaecker, from DG EMPL, particularly stressed the importance of the CLLD methodology as a bottom-up, innovative instrument that can swiftly adapt to new emerging social issues. In this regard, he outlined how the new CLLD opportunities under the ESI Funds Regulations for 2014-2020 can effectively contribute to providing innovative, efficient solutions on the ground to social exclusion and poverty issues.

Ms Horváth and Mr Derrick as Representatives of ESF and ERDF managing authorities described how CLLD is being implemented to tackle social issues in Hungary and the UK. They particularly stressed CLLD as a new powerful tool to help both rural and urban areas strengthen communities and social inclusion/ cohesion (Hungary) and unlock the growth and jobs potential of urban deprived areas (UK).

They raised the fact that CLLD represents the closest point of coordination/ integration between the different ESI Funds. The possibility given to local authorities, players (including NGOs) and communities to develop their own solutions in a cooperative manner around long-term initiatives is of particular relevance to delivering positive social results. The pre-requisite is to set the right parameters beforehand such as preparatory support and assessment criteria so as to select the right CLLD strategies.

Mr Fadai (Swedish Rural Network) and Mr Poole (Cornwall FLAG) outlined complementary views on how to ensure effective implementation of CLLD for social outcomes on the ground. Mr Fadai focused on the importance of the CLLD strategy for providing small-scale and hands-on support to migrants to accompany them along their pathway to labour market integration and how a national rural network can help in this regard. Mr Poole presented the methodology developed by the Cornwall FLAG to measure social returns and how this influences the CLLD strategy. In this regard, he underlined the crucial need to have quality leadership to engage with socially excluded communities as well as for capacity building including risk-taking.

This fruitful debate was followed by an interactive session where participants stressed key success factors like building up the capacities of local communities, equipping community leaders with the skills needed to reach out. Balanced and integrated CLLD strategies are also crucial to delivering effectively on social inclusion. Finally, the role of the EU level in providing more networking possibilities was raised.

11B42

11 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission, DG EMPL, DG AGRI, DG MARE and DG REGIO

#### Chair/moderator:

Edina Ocsko,  
Policy Analyst, ENRD, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Stefan De Keersmaecker,  
Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG EMPL, Unit F1, ESF and FEAD Policy and Legislation

Csilla Horváth,  
Programme Manager, Ministry for National Economy, Regional Development Programmes, Managing Authority, Hungary

Iain Derrick,  
Deputy Head of the ERDF 2014-2020 Policy and Partnership Team, ERDF UK Managing Authority

Sohrab Fadai,  
Regional Manager, Företagarna / Swedish Rural Network, Sweden

Robert Poole,  
Economic Rural Development Officer, Cornwall FLAG, United Kingdom

#### More information links:

[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/themes/social-inclusion\\_en](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/themes/social-inclusion_en)

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet>

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## EU Urban Agenda – Urban poverty partnership

### Summary

The urban poverty partnership is one of the 4 pilot partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU. It focuses its work on the causes and effects of urban poverty, and has two priorities: the regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods and the fight against child poverty. The workshop enabled the partnership to present the work it had achieved so far (communication, study visits, recruitment of experts, drafting a scoping paper), its ongoing activities (drafting a scoping memo) and the expected short term outcomes (draft action plan). Moreover, the working method of the partnership was explained, as it is a multi-level partnership with 18 members (Member States, regions, cities, Commission DGs and relevant NGOs).

### Main messages/conclusions

The challenges when addressing urban poverty are multiple and lie in access to education, housing, culture and public services, for instance. The partnership presented its approach to addressing urban poverty, focusing on integrated strategies based on three pillars (social, economic and urban regeneration).

The contributions of some members of the partnership enabled the audience to learn more about the reasons to get involved in such a partnership: the desire to find new solutions to tackling increasing urban poverty, linked to the impact of the crisis, or to be involved in empowering cities in the EU's Urban Agenda process. The integrated strategies of some members were also presented to give a broad idea of local projects launched to combat urban poverty.

The richness and the challenges of the partnership lie in the diversity of its members, of the tools they use to tackle urban poverty, and the different policies implemented.

The experts from the partnership presented the draft scoping paper and highlighted the complexity of the definition of urban poverty. The next steps will lead to the finalisation of the preparatory documents, including a scoping memo, i.e. a common understanding and vision about urban poverty for all members of the partnership, as well as the identification of key-building blocks for the action plan.

11B134

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

Coordination team of the partnership

#### Chair/moderator:

Katalin Brenner,  
Policy officer, DG REGIO, European  
Commission, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Valérie Lapenne,  
Head of office for territorial and urban  
cohesion, CGET, France

Beverly Bernard,  
Attaché, Public Planning Service,  
Ministry of Social Integration, Belgium

Ivan Tosics,  
Managing Director, Metropolitan  
research institute, and URBACT Expert,  
Hungary

Laura Colini,  
URBACT Expert, Germany

Yann Thoreau La Salle,  
Projects Director, City of Lille, France

Lloyd Broad,  
Head of European and international  
affairs, Birmingham City Council,  
United Kingdom

Bruno Nys,  
Head of Office, Urban development,  
Brussels Capital Region, Belgium

Eduardo de Santiago,  
Technical advisor, Ministry of public  
works, Spain

#### More information links:

<http://urbanagendaforthe.eu/partnerships/urban-poverty>

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Contribution of non-agricultural geographically-rooted products to regional inclusive economic development

### Summary

The speakers agreed that non-agricultural geographically-rooted products contribute to regional inclusive economic development. These products are important for maintaining economic activities, and hence population, in rural and remote areas. Better protection of geographical indications would provide consumers with better quality products, enhance the fight against unfair competition and increase the visibility and reputation of those products. This would be essential to attract youngsters into this sector, thereby facilitating know-how transmission and transmission of businesses. The positive link between these products and tourism-related activities was also underlined. Several examples of how EU cohesion policy could support activities related to these products were provided.

### Main messages/conclusions

Economic activity related to non-agricultural geographically-rooted products strongly contributes to regional inclusive economic development. A possible EU initiative on the legal protection of geographical indications for such products would have several positive effects in that regard.

1. Safeguarding quality and skilled jobs, in particular in remote and rural areas where many jobs are related to those products, contributes to the economic sustainability of those areas. The protection of geographical indications could help prevent the relocation of these jobs and facilitate the transmission of know-how to younger generations. Many producers/authorities are investing in training workers in various skills, including through top class apprenticeship schemes, helping young people to get marketable skills – thereby contributing to integrating youngsters into the job market and limiting migration to richer/urban areas.
2. Sustained economic activity within disadvantaged regions, since conditions for maintaining local businesses are improved – thus providing better opportunities to those regions. Fair competition conditions for regional businesses constitutes a key factor. Free-riding on others' (geographical) reputation weakens businesses producing the genuine geographically-rooted products and puts jobs and economic activity at risk. Businesses producing the genuine products would benefit from, inter alia, a single procedure for obtaining legal protection across the EU; higher visibility vis-à-vis consumers; more opportunities for ancient crafts to survive; higher attractiveness of the sector to youngsters, being enabled to transfer businesses; and increased product traceability.
3. Consumers who value authentic geographically-rooted products with a link to a particular area would be better protected against fake products and imitations.
4. Additional economic activity within regions, thanks to a strong positive link between geographically-rooted products and tourism-related activities and also to opportunities along supply chains. There are also strong links and synergies with the production of agricultural geographically-rooted products in the same regions.
5. Geographically-rooted products reinforce the link between generations, through the transmission of traditional know-how and cultural heritage.

EU cohesion policy provides for funding opportunities to support activities related to geographically-rooted products which aim at developing regional economies.

12B10

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

#### Chair/moderator:

Slawomir Tokarski,  
Director, European Commission,  
DG Internal Market, Industry,  
Entrepreneurship and SMEs (Innovation  
and Advanced Manufacturing)

#### Speakers:

Vincent Labarthe,  
Vice-president of the French region  
of Occitanie and President of AREPO  
(Association of European Regions  
for Products of Origin), France  
Kathleen Walker-Shaw,  
Member of the European  
Economic and Social Committee  
(Workers' Group), European officer  
for GMB Trade Union, United Kingdom  
Davide Servadei,  
National President of the craft artist  
section of Confartigianato, also  
representing CNA Artistico, Italy  
Patrick Bernard-Brunet,  
Programme Manager, European  
Commission, DG Regional  
and Urban Policy  
Virginie Rozière,  
Member of the European Parliament,  
France

#### More information links:

[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/  
intellectual-property/geographi-  
cal-indications/non-agricultural-prod-  
ucts\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/intellectual-property/geographical-indications/non-agricultural-products_en)

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Promoting young entrepreneurship at regional and local level: The European Entrepreneurial Region experience

12B19

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

European Committee of the Regions,  
ECON commission

**Chair/moderator:**

Carl Fredrik Graf,  
Member of the CoR, member  
of Halmstad Municipal Council

**Speakers:**

Francisco Álvarez Molina,  
Director-General of Economy and  
Entrepreneurship, Region of Valencia  
(EER 2015)

Robert Maciaszek,  
Director of Economic Development,  
Marshal's Office of Małopolska Region  
(EER 2016)

Christine Chang,  
Senior Advisor EU Affairs, iEER Project  
Coordinator, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional  
Council (EER 2012)

Katarzyna Balucka-Debska,  
Policy Officer – SME policy,  
Directorate-General for Internal  
Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship  
and SMEs, European Commission

Dana Redford,  
Professor of Entrepreneurship and  
Innovation, Universidade Católica  
Portuguesa; President of the Portugal  
Entrepreneurship Education Platform  
(PEEP)

**More information links:**

[cor.europa.eu/eer](http://cor.europa.eu/eer)

### Summary

Entrepreneurial learning enables young people to acquire essential skills and attitudes such as creativity, initiative, and an understanding of risk. It encourages business creation, while also promoting entrepreneurial mind-sets that significantly increase employability. Linking entrepreneurship education with support for early-stage entrepreneurs can help maximise the impact of regional and local entrepreneurship policies. The workshop showcased some of the EER's most successful schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurial skills and spirit, boosting young entrepreneurship and creating partnerships between regions, and reflected on the best form and future of related public policies at different levels including the EU.

### Main messages/conclusions

In his opening statement, Mr Graf pointed out that the promotion of entrepreneurial attitudes can have a big impact on business creation and economic development in European regions and cities, and stressed the role of the CoR in fostering the exchange of good practices.

Three EER region representatives presented successful practices aimed at boosting young entrepreneurship. Francisco Álvarez introduced initiatives developed by a network of five public Valencian universities ranging from summer school for university teachers to start-up contests and a university patent bank. Robert Maciaszek focused on the motivational events organised by the Małopolska region within Global Entrepreneurship Week, where young entrepreneurs can network and get inspired by mentors and role models; he also emphasised cooperation with the regional start-up community. Christine Chang presented the recently launched iEER Interreg Europe project led by the Helsinki-Uusimaa region, which aims to connect stakeholders from ten European regional entrepreneurial ecosystems in order to help them learn from each other and ensure holistic support for start-ups and young entrepreneurs.

Katarzyna Balucka, representing the European Commission, presented the initial findings from the public consultation conducted earlier this year under the Start-up Initiative with the aim of receiving direct feedback from stakeholders on the best ways to improve the start-up environment in the EU. Partnership, connectivity and skills are the watchwords that summarise the findings of the extensive survey and the direction to be taken by the Commission in the future. Europe must support peer-learning in its entrepreneurial communities, help intensify mutual contacts and strengthen partnerships and networks. Regions play an important role in this regard.

As regards the educational facet of entrepreneurship development, Dana Redford highlighted the long-term impact of the promotion of entrepreneurial attitudes among children and young people and of teaching entrepreneurial skills in schools. Underlining the importance of policy experimentation in entrepreneurial education, he also stressed the need for evidence-based policies and for continuous policy assessment and evaluation.

Among other factors, fear of business failure was identified during the panel presentations and the ensuing debate with the floor as an considerable obstacle to business creation in Europe that needs to be further addressed.

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Smart homes for independent living – Opportunities for the growing Silver Economy

### Summary

Connected homes can help people stay independent in their homes as they age, improving quality of life, supporting inclusion and sustainable health and care services, and creating growth and job opportunities, e.g. in the building and ICT sectors. To make these goals attainable on a large scale across Europe, the European Commission is seeking to support investment in smart and age-friendly housing. This workshop showcased the need to build and retrofit homes with examples from England and Ireland, and discussed obstacles and success factors for successful implementation.

### Main messages/conclusions

The speakers and audience agreed that in most cases people, as they age, prefer to live independently in their own home for as long as possible. The existing housing stock in Europe, however, cannot provide for age-friendly living in all circumstances unless it is adapted.

Peter Wintlev-Jensen introduced EU-led initiatives around the silver economy, particularly the large scale pilot on internet of things-based environments for ageing well and the emerging Blueprint on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing.

A framework of reference with guidelines, good practices and definitions is needed to provide a basis for investment and commitment to building and retrofitting smart, connected, age-friendly homes.

Sue Adams emphasised the importance of home to older people's health and wellbeing, noting that connectedness (with family and friends, local shops and facilities, medical services and public transport) are as important as the design of the home e.g. adaptations, sufficient space.

Ms Adams illustrated the economic case for retrofitting homes with an example of health care costs caused by poor housing in the UK: they amount to GBP 1.4 billion per year. A common vision and accompanying legislation are additional drivers needed to address this shortage of adapted and adaptable homes.

Rodd Bond identified the confidence to stay at home, the prevention of falls and dealing with multiple chronic diseases as major elements to consider. All of these can be seen against a background of the convergence of public and private provision of health and care services.

It should be a major objective to help older persons to access services as they become increasingly responsible for awareness and planning. Empowerment can be achieved by community building and social connectivity. Technology can play an important role here, but also in the provision of health services and, most importantly, prevention and prediction. The Great Northern Haven project is a community model for smart, age-friendly housing which showcases this empowerment approach in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

During the discussion, the need for public and private investment was emphasised as it is needed to trigger network collaboration and to facilitate the retrofitting and adaptability of houses. Planning and housing projects must also take into consideration cultural aspects and differences in needs in rural and urban environments. In all cases, affordability remains a major challenge.

12B59

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

European Commission, DG CNECT

#### Chair/moderator:

Horst Krämer,  
Programme Officer, European  
Commission, DG CNECT

#### Speakers:

Peter Wintlev Jensen,  
Programme Officer,  
European Commission, DG CNECT

Sue Adams OBE,  
Chief Executive, Care & Repair England,  
United Kingdom

Rodd Bond,  
Director, NetwellCASALA, Ireland

#### More information links:

<http://europa.eu/!hV83qQ>

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Accelerating the digital transformation of government

12B60

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG CNECT Unit  
H4 eGovernment & Trust

**Chair/moderator:**

Andrea Halmos,  
Policy Officer, European Commission,  
DG CNECT Unit H4

Szabolcs Szekacs,  
European Commission, DG DIGIT

Rodrigues Frade Joao,  
European Commission, DG DIGIT

Da Rosa Isabel Maria,  
European Commission, DG GROW

Joran Frik,  
Connectis

Debby van der Schuit,  
Connectis

**More information links:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-egovernment-action-plan-2016-2020>

### Summary

The workshop on Accelerating the digital transformation of government presented the Commission's eGovernment Action Plan 2016 – 2020 and associated EU funding instruments with a focus on how regions can contribute to achieving the objectives of the action plan. The participants got an overview of how funding opportunities at EU level (Connecting Europe Facility CEF Programme and the ISA2 Programme) could help local and regional governments accelerate the digital transformation in the public sector. Two case studies, one on eProcurement in Portugal and another on making local public services Eidas compatible to allow for the use of cross border eIDs, illustrated the benefits, the use of available EU funds and how the regions could get involved.

### Main messages/conclusions

To a full room, the Commission presented the opportunities for local and regional authorities provided by the eGovernment Action Plan, the Connecting Europe Facility and the ISA2 programme. Two case studies, one from Portugal and the other from the Netherlands, gave supporting evidence for the benefits of transforming the public sector and how it can be done with financial and administrative support at EU level.

Digital public services reduce the administrative burden on businesses and citizens by making their interactions with public administrations faster, more convenient and less costly. The new eGovernment Action Plan addresses these issues by setting out 20 practical measures to modernise public administrations using ICT, to enable the mobility of citizens and businesses in the EU and to facilitate digital interaction with administrations for high-quality public services.

Beyond the actions identified in the eGovernment Action Plan, further actions may be proposed either by the Commission or by stakeholders, including Member States and public administrations at all levels. This element is of particular importance for regions and local authorities as it allows them to contribute directly to the content and design of EU policy priorities in eGovernment.

The Action Plan and the associated funding instruments support regional and local governments in their efforts to accelerate the transition of eGovernment at their level. For instance, the CEF programme makes funding available in order to enable cross border availability of online services using so-called building blocks such as the eDelivery and eSignature components. The ISA2 programme provides a set of recommendations on the sharing and re-use of data and public services as well as legal support.

Transforming the public sector is not always easy but can be achieved, as the introduction and use of eProcurement in Portugal illustrates. The solution, partly financed by the EU Structural Funds, was introduced in 2011 and has resulted in significant benefits to the public sector and its users.

In the Netherlands, 81 regions are about to enable the cross border use of online local public services using electronic identity schemes as set out by the eIDAS Regulation. The CEF programme provided financial support to facilitate the transition.

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Urban regeneration as a tool in creating sustainable Europe

### Summary

The workshop was organised by the City of Łódź as leader, assisted by Lubuskie Province as deputy, in cooperation with the following cities and regions: Pomorskie Province, Lubelskie Province, Maastricht, Rijeka, Bucharest-Ilfov Region and Aydin Metropolitan Municipality. During the workshop, best practices in urban regeneration were discussed with the aim of establishing effective solutions implementing inclusion policies for disadvantaged parts of cities. Panellists presented projects and processes implemented in their cities/regions to regenerate and revitalise urban areas. Moreover, ideas on how regeneration can enhance the competitiveness of cities and regions were discussed and exchanged.

### Main messages/conclusions

Speakers presented examples of good practices in their cities/regions regarding regeneration strategies, as well as the challenges encountered and problems solved. All the speakers concluded that the process of regeneration should not be considered the sole responsibility of local authorities, since it also requires social influence and citizens' involvement in creating urban areas.

Analysing the speakers' presentations, the following points emerge: the need to exchange experience between cities regarding the regeneration process, the importance of understanding regeneration as an ongoing process and not as a free-standing project or intervention, the value of communication with citizens and taking into account their needs, and dovetailing of the regeneration process with infrastructure policy, tourism and culture.

According to the speakers, the challenge is two-way communication between citizens and local authorities. It is important to precisely identify aims relevant to urban areas. Moreover, the crucial element is solid preparation before starting the urban regeneration process, i.e. strategy, diagnosis, analysis and planning. Regeneration should be understood in the broader context of influencing society, i.e. with the aim of improving the quality of life.

URB12B70

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

City of Łódź

#### Chair/moderator:

Mr Jan Olbrycht,  
Member of the European Parliament

#### Speakers:

Wojciech Rosicki,  
Deputy Mayor of the City of Łódź,  
Poland

Marek Trznadel,  
City of Łódź, Poland

Evrin Karakoz,  
Deputy Mayor of Aydin Metropolitan  
Municipality, Turkey

Anna Krzyżanowska-Orlik,  
Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie  
Province, Poland

Miroslav Matešić,  
Deputy Mayor of the City of Rijeka,  
Croatia

Jacek Sauter,  
Mayor of Bytom Odrzański, Lubuskie  
Province, Poland

Alicja Zajączkowska,  
City of Łębork, Pomorskie Province,  
Poland

Claudia Ionescu,  
Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Develop-  
ment Agency, Bucharest-Ilfov Region,  
Romania

Sam Spoelstra,  
City of Maastricht, Netherlands

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



12B75

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

Harghita County Council organiser  
Assembly of European Regions  
co-organiser

**Chair/moderator:**

Lulu Winkler,  
Member of the European Parliament,  
European Parliament

**Speakers:**

Csaba Borboly,  
President of Harghita County Council  
and member of the Committee  
of the Regions, Romania

Andrea Bocskor,  
Member of the European Parliament,  
Hungary

Dr László Csák,  
Specialist, Romania

Róbert Szabó,  
President of Heves County  
Government and member of the  
Committee of the Regions, Hungary

Seszták Oszkár,  
President of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg  
County Government and member  
of the Committee of the Regions,  
Hungary

Gloria Vitaly,  
President of the Youth Regional  
Network, Assembly of European  
Regions, Norway

Marta Vialta Torres,  
Chairwoman of the AER  
Subcommittee on Youth, Spain

Roger Soler Marti,  
Research technician of the General  
Directorate of Youth of Catalunya,  
Spain

Lóránd András,  
representative of youth of Harghita  
County, UIET, Romania

## EU regions – Partners for youth

### Summary

The workshop, entitled EU regions – Partners for Youth, focused on the priorities established by the partnership that represent support for youth not only in our regions, but also at European level. The programme provided a clear picture of how the partnership tries to overcome the challenges faced by young people in their everyday life and what solutions have been proposed to successfully implement the Europe 2020 strategy on this issue. Furthermore, since European societies face deep transformations with a particular impact on youth, the workshop tried to raise awareness at all levels of the need to jointly devise practical and reasonable solutions for the future of young generations in the areas of workforce integration, education and social inclusion.

### Main messages/conclusions

The theme of the event focused on important EU documents, such as the EU level report entitled *Implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)*, which presented the opportunity to implement the proposed practical solutions, bearing in mind the dangers, needs and challenges young people face nowadays. Also, the presentations focused on the sharing of best practices and experiences – strategies, EU projects and other initiatives – that have successfully launched the support of youth at local, regional and European levels. All of these were put forward not only within the presentations of the institutional representatives from the EP, CoR and local authorities, but within the interactive debate of youth with the professional contribution of young representatives of the AER, the General Directorate of Youth from Barcelona and local youth associations. This enabled participants to learn about local and European level best practices on this issue related to youth, their education, workforce and social integration, as well as to openly join the debate with questions and problems in these matters.

The main success of this event was the setting up of a common Erasmus+ project in order to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the event and launch a European Youth Caravan in the following year. The main objectives of the project are the launch of a dialogue between young people and decision-makers, the organisation of events for the discussion of issues raised by European youth, consultation with youth about their needs for active participation, encouraging them to actively participate in democratic life and to reach those results that are useful for policy-making through structured dialogue. These will target the main issues youth faces, including workforce migration and how to motivate young people to establish in their area of origin; the need to put more emphasis on vocational guidance; ensuring a reliable financial institutional background; opportunities for the nurturing of sporting talent and devising talent programmes; continuous consultation with local, regional, national and EU level institutions; voluntary services; cultural programmes; young entrepreneurship support, as well as social services and employment. All of these activities will focus on the framing of a final joint action plan that will highlight proposals for the improvement of youth policies in the future.

**European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented:**

- CreArt Project – funded by the European Commission <http://www.creat-eu.org/presentation> (Exhibition during the networking).
- Heves County Employment Pact to boost employment in the county – co-financed by the European Social Fund and the Hungarian Government.

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Achieving social inclusion in Community-Led Local Development in the context of the results orientation of the ESI Funds

### Summary

A 'problem-oriented' workshop with a focus on the challenges facing CLLD in pursuing social inclusion while meeting the requirements of the results-oriented approach of the ESI Funds. These challenges have been growing throughout Europe with the rise of populations at risk, including migrants and refugees. Local development players from countries which have experienced economic crises and their social implications (Greece, Ireland), countries with a track record in integrating inclusion in the local development process (Sweden) and other countries addressing social inclusion in multi-funded CLLD (Poland) presented relevant experiences and led an open debate on EU-wide lessons.

### Main messages/conclusions

LDnet's workshop on 'Achieving social inclusion in CLLD in the context of the results-orientation of the ESI Funds' focused on the challenges of a results-oriented approach combined with the pursuit of social inclusion, especially in the context of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).

The ESI Funds' new focus on results can help to focus on reaching objectives rather than on the disbursement rate and procedures, and to develop a culture of responsibility across the delivery chain. However, this results-orientation can have the effect of narrowing down the intervention and imposing additional conditions or bureaucratic barriers. In the context of CLLD, where the main added value of reaching the hard-to-reach groups and getting them involved is not easy to capture, there may be a temptation to focus on easier target groups to obtain the expected 'measurable results', e.g. jobs created. With the rise of populations at risk, including migrants and refugees, local development players may need to introduce flexible systems of adjusting their strategies to the changing situation.

The workshop presented and debated experiences in local development from different EU contexts. Dr Eileen Humphreys from Ireland presented the experience of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, which has achieved good results in terms of reaching disadvantaged groups, but involved a lot of top-down influence and a tight administrative system. Anastasios M. Perimenis from Greece demonstrated how a local development approach can help the community not only to successfully integrate sources of funding, but also deal with extreme situations such as the influx of refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos.

Sohrab Fadai from Sweden showed how local communities can deal with the integration of migrants through spontaneous action initiated by individual persons or businesses, effectively supported by the National Rural Network. Dr Ryszard Kaminski from Poland stressed the need for autonomy for the local community to address local challenges; this could be particularly difficult with CLLD financed from several Funds, including those with little experience in the approach, e.g. the ESF.

The discussion also showed the difficulty of measuring 'soft' results such as stronger community ties or adaptation to change; the importance of local grassroots leadership; and the need to better coordinate and ensure mutual learning between different CLLD funds.

12B76

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

LDnet (Local Development Network)

#### Chair/moderator:

Urszula Budzich-Tabor,  
FARNET / Vice-President LDnet

#### Speakers:

Dr Eileen Humphreys,  
Limerick City & County Council,  
Ireland / President LDnet

Anastasios Perimenis,  
Manager, Lesvos Local Development  
Company S.A, Greece

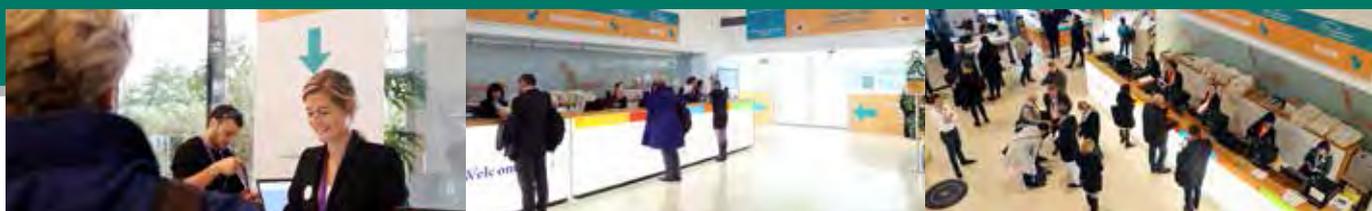
Sohrab Fadai,  
Regional Manager, Business  
Association Företagarna, Sweden

Dr Ryszard Kaminski,  
Kujawsko-Pomorskie Agricultural  
Extension Centre / Polish Rural Forum,  
Poland

#### More information links:

<http://ldnet.eu>

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Practical ways for local communities to foster inclusion of mobile EU citizens

12B85

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

European Commission,  
DG Justice and Consumers

### Chair/moderator:

Caroline Loup,  
Policy officer, European Commission,  
DG Justice and Consumers, Unit D3:  
European Citizenship Rights  
and Free Movement

### Speakers:

Katarina Dimitrakopoulou,  
Policy officer,  
DG Justice and Consumers

Niels Tubbing,  
Policy advisor on education  
and integration for the city  
of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Michael Ryan Andersen,  
Policy advisor of the City  
of Copenhagen, Denmark

Geert Daems,  
Local coordinator of the Brussels  
Agency of Integration, Belgium

### More information links:

[www.amsterdam.nl/immigratie/inburgering/europees-project-0](http://www.amsterdam.nl/immigratie/inburgering/europees-project-0)

### Summary

The Commission described the EU citizenship rights of European citizens, including free movement, and what the Commission is doing to help to develop local inclusion policies in this context.

This was followed by the presentation of a project, financed by the Commission and led by a network of 6 cities, which has helped develop welcoming policies for mobile EU citizens. Three speakers from Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Brussels, took their turn to explain how this project helped their respective city to improve and develop their own local policies and welcome newly arrived EU citizens. They also described their dissemination work and the toolkits they are currently developing to help other cities to put in place their own inclusion policies.

The workshop ended with a lively question-and-answer session.

### Main messages/conclusions

Free movement is the most cherished right in the EU (for 57% of European citizens), and brings economic benefits to host countries. However, free movement can also create challenges for local communities faced with new inflows of inhabitants.

At the same time, as demonstrated by the 2015 public consultation on EU citizenship, mobile EU citizens are keen to receive information and help when they move abroad. To settle down, they wish to receive information and help, preferably through a one-stop-shop portal.

Addressing the needs of local authorities by promoting the exchange of best practices in this context was identified in 2013 as a priority by the European Commission.

The project 'Welcoming policies for mobile EU citizens' demonstrates that cities have a key role to play in the inclusion of mobile EU citizens in the host community. They are best placed to define the needs in their locality and put in place adequate policies to fill these needs.

Many useful local policies are already in place. Such a network of cities enables them to be showcased and also helps to generate a deeper understanding of an area's own local needs and therefore to develop new local policies that work in a given region/city/community.

In the absence of such network, the dissemination of existing policies/practical information and advice on how to develop inclusion policies at local level is very helpful.

The project is now working on creating a practical toolkit to give practical information to any interested city which wishes to develop its own local inclusion policies, for example on issues such as healthcare, collaboration with NGOs, education, housing etc.

As demonstrated by the question-and-answer session, it is important that inclusion policies do not focus solely on one type of mobile EU citizen and take into account the challenges that cities, including big cities, are facing, such as homeless people, which include mobile EU citizens. Policies have to be adapted on a case-by-case basis and take into account the needs/concerns of inhabitants as well as of newly arrived EU citizens.

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Jobs at the borders: How border regions can boost employment opportunities

### Summary

This workshop intended to shed light on the dynamics of cross-border labour markets and on how we can boost the opportunities for employment offered by such regions. 37.5% of the EU-population lives in border regions and cross-border employment therefore represents huge untapped potential for growth. Four panellists shared their thoughts around three key questions: the employment opportunities of cross border regions, the challenges of the cross border labour market and ideas for improvement of the situation. The initiative for the joint DG REGIO-EMPL workshop is to be seen in the context of the Commission's review of obstacles in border regions ('the cross-border review') and will be one element to feed into the communication that the Commission will publish in 2017.

### Main messages/conclusions

The four panellists represented different perspectives: While the two first panellists presented the perspective of the cross-border employer/worker, the two last panellists presented their experiences from having worked with a European instrument created to encourage cross-border cooperation and labour mobility. Their presentations were followed by an interactive debate with the audience. A few conclusions from this are as follows: The opportunities and challenges of the cross-border labour market depend on the border, the direction of the mobility flow and the sector. Moreover, there are several issues that create uncertainty or concern for workers: lack of language knowledge, difficulty in the recognition of diplomas, a lack of information on taxation and social security rights. Other issues are the lack of suitable public transport and difficult access to training opportunities since many training activities are only available to nationals and not to border workers. The pull factors for labour mobility change over time and the information available is scattered. For employers it is important that the skills of workers (including language) are tailor-made to the type of activity, which raises the issue of in-house training. Cultural differences even within the same language are not to be underestimated. While there is a European institutional framework that supports labour mobility in border regions (e.g. coordination of social security institutions, access to regulated professions etc.) problems still remain at local level. It is important to find pragmatic solutions that make a difference in practice such as joint employment teams, cross-border apprenticeships, upskilling of workforce using ESF funds etc. Solutions should also be adapted to the sector and more needs to be done to motivate employers to benefit from cross-border work. An important role of European programmes and cooperation structures is to facilitate access to specific information and to debunk myths about working or hiring at the other side of the border. Regions should be involved more actively to facilitate cross-border work. Participants mentioned the need for comparable data on cross-border labour mobility as well as specific issues such as cross-border traineeships and the specific situation of rural border regions. Finally, it was concluded that we need a more holistic approach to cross-border work also from the point of view of cohesion policy and more action at local level.

12B86

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

[European Commission](#)

#### Chair/moderator:

[Lena Andersson Pench](#),  
Director for Territorial Co-operation,  
Macro-regions and Programmes  
Implementation, DG REGIO,  
European Commission, Belgium

[Jordi Curell Gotor](#),  
Director for Labour Mobility  
DG EMPL, European Commission,  
Belgium

#### Speakers:

[Francis Beunens](#),  
HR-Manager Westvlees, Belgium

[Katrin Distler](#),  
InterRegional Trade Union  
Confederation Dreiländereck,  
Germany

[Oliver Abrecht](#),  
EURES German National  
Coordination Office, Germany

[Niels Boye](#),  
Interreg-programme  
Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak  
(SE-DK-NO), Sweden

#### More information links:

<http://ip-bt.com/english>

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Europe's demographic – From challenges to local and regional opportunities

12B92

12 October 2016

14:30 - 17:00

### Organiser:

EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions

### Chair/moderator:

**Arnoldas Abramavicius**, First Vice-President, EPP Group, European Committee of the Regions, Lithuania

### Speakers:

**Michael Schneider**, President, EPP-CoR Group, Germany

**An Hermans**, President, the European Seniors' Union, Belgium

**António Bragança Fernandes**, Mayor & EPP-CoR Member, Maia, Portugal

**Andrzej Buła**, Marshall & EPP-CoR Member, Opolskie Voivodeship, Poland

**Helen Campbell**, Vice-President, AGE Platform Europe, Ireland

**Arnoldas Abramavicius**, First Vice-President, EPP-CoR Group, Lithuania

**Andor Urmos**, Policy Analyst, European Commission Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, Belgium

Nearly 150 people attended the workshop on demographic change organised by the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions during the European Week of Regions and Cities on October 12 2016. "As Europeans grow older and continue to age – while fewer children are born – the political and societal situation is bound to change drastically. Many treat demographic change simply as a challenge. And while there are many issues to solve, demographic change also includes a hint of a possibility - of a chance for a better future." EPP-CoR President Michael Schneider opened the event.

The call for building intergenerational bridges to exchange experiences and foster intergenerational communication and interaction was a strong element in European Seniors' Union President An Hermans' keynote speech on their project "Life history" which enables senior citizens across Europe to be able to tell their life stories - and also for younger people to listen.

The workshop continued with a panel of best practices of realising the potential of developing the silver cities of Europe. Examples from António Bragança Fernandes, Mayor of Maia in Portugal, and Marshall Andrzej Buła, from Opolskie Voivodeship in Poland, highlighted the key role of the local and regional authorities in providing programmes for social inclusion and activities for the elderly as well as developing the region from a holistic point of view, including all stages of life.

Altogether 42 billion euros of funding is available for tackling social inclusion challenges – including demographic change – but the lack of efficiency in their usage was the problem in the opinion of Andor Urmos from the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy. The final example came from Helen Campbell, Vice-President of AGE Platform Europe, on the Age Friendly Ireland initiative. The core of the initiative is an alliance of stakeholders from the public sector, businesses and NGOs launched around the elderly to include them in the decision-making and business development according to their needs – with usually the city mayor as its leader - and the results have been so encouraging that the initiative is now nation-wide.

First Vice President of the EPP-CoR Group and Vice-President of the Zarasai Municipal Council in Lithuania, Arnoldas Abramavicius, closed the workshop by emphasising that "Local and regional authorities that have been taking the lead in developing new innovative or ICT-based tools that support active and healthy ageing need the right supportive legal, financial and structural environment from both the national and EU levels to move those successful local initiatives to a larger scale. We now call for a broad coordinated and integrated European Strategy on demographic change."

This event is part of a wider set of initiatives around Europe's Demographic. It follows from the launch of the EU Covenant on Demographic Change last December, and the Committee of the Regions' recent opinion on "The EU response to the demographic challenge" led by EPP member Juan Vicente Herrera Campo, President of Castilla y Leon, Spain.

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## High Level Event on Urban Agenda for Europe

### Summary

The Political Event on the Urban Agenda for the EU would look back at the work being done so far and on the work that still needs to be done in the coming years. A new Urban Data Platform has officially been launched, a one-stop-shop is now online and a new Secretariat for the partnerships will start in January 2017. The four partnerships that will start on January 2017 were presented. Following two interesting panel debates and a presentation on the State of the European cities report the end of the session was reserved for the announcement of the 18 winners of the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA).

### Main messages/conclusions

The Political Event on the Urban Agenda for the EU would look back at the work being done so far and on the work that still needs to be done in the coming years. Corina Crețu (European Commissioner for Regional Policy) opened the session, which was moderated by an energetic Ruben Maes. Corina Crețu mentioned that the Urban Agenda for the EU will be connected with the New Urban Agenda next week during the Habitat III meeting in Quito. A new Urban Data Platform has officially been launched, a one-stop-shop is now online and a new Secretariat for the partnerships will start in January 2017. This means the European Commission is working hard to join all other partners in making the Urban Agenda for the EU a success. Both Markku Markkula (President of the European Committee of the Regions) and Maroš Šefčovič (Vice-president of the European Commission) were praising the efforts of all partners so far and thanked the Netherlands for realising the Pact of Amsterdam. Dutch Urban Envoy Nicolaas Beets responded by saying the Pact of Amsterdam is truly a joint European accomplishment.

Mr. Šefčovič also provided further information on the one-stop-shop stating that the European Commission responded to the call that all information needs to be gathered in a structured way. The one-stop-shop provides a point where all the information you need as a city on how to achieve EU objectives can be found. You can learn how cities can gain and share knowledge and get information on funding and other support.

Judit Törökne Rózsa presented the four partnerships that will start on January 2017.

- ▶ Circular Economy coordinated by Oslo (NO)
- ▶ Digital Transition coordinated by Estonia, Oulu (FI) and Sofia (BG)
- ▶ Urban Mobility coordinated by the Czech Republic and Karlsruhe (DE)
- ▶ Jobs and Skills coordinated by Romania, Rotterdam (NL) and Jelgava (LV)

Following two interesting panel debates with notably Hella Dunger-Löper (State Secretary, Representative of the Land of Berlin, CoR rapporteur on "Concrete steps for implementing the EU"), and a presentation on the State of the European cities report, the end of the session was reserved for the announcement of the 18 winners of the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA). Director General of DG Region, Marc Lemaître and Elisabeth Boulet Regional Councillor of Hauts-de-France announced the winners. This provided a festive end to a successful meeting and with the next call of UIA coming up, more opportunities arise for cities throughout Europe.

### European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented

18 winners of the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA):

Theme of Energy transition: City of Gothenburg; City of Paris; City of Viladecans

Theme of Integration of migrants and refugees: City of Antwerp; City of Bologna; City of Munich; City of Utrecht; City of Vienna

Theme of Jobs and skills in the local economy: City of Bilbao; City of Madrid; City of Milan; City of Rotterdam

Theme of Urban Poverty: City of Barcelona; City of Birmingham; City of Lille; City of Nantes; City of Pozzuoli; City of Turin

More information available on UIA's projects: [www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities](http://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities)

### URB12B98

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission (DG REGIO)  
and European Committee of the Regions

#### Chair/moderator:

Ruben Maes,  
Strategic Communication Consultant,  
The Netherlands

#### Speakers:

Corina Crețu, European Commissioner  
for Regional Policy  
Markku Markkula, President of the European  
Committee of the Regions  
Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European  
Commission  
Nicolaas Beets, Dutch Urban Envoy,  
The Netherlands  
Judit Törökne Rózsa, Head of Unit Competence  
Centre Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial  
Development, European Commission, Belgium  
Mark Boekwijt, City of Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands  
Elena Szolgayová,  
Ministry of Transport, Construction  
and Regional Development, Slovakia  
Rene Korenromp,  
Ministry of Infrastructure  
& Environment, The Netherlands  
Laura Colini, URBACT expert, Italy  
Lewis Dijkstra, European Commission, Belgium  
Marc Lemaître, Director General, European  
Commission, Belgium  
Elisabeth Boulet, Regional councillor  
Hauts-de-France, France  
Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European  
Parliament  
Hella Dunger-Löper, State Secretary, Repre-  
sentative of the Land of Berlin, CoR rapporteur  
on 'Concrete steps for implementing the EU  
Urban Agenda'  
Andre Sobczak, Vice-President of Nantes  
Metropole  
Stafania Giannuzzi, City of Turin, Deputy Mayor,  
Italy  
Jean Louis Missika, City of Paris, Deputy Mayor,  
France

**More information:**  
Urban Agenda for the EU: <http://urbanagenda-forthe.eu/urban-agenda-for-the-eu-during-the-european-week-for-regions-and-cities>  
European Committee of the Regions and  
the Dutch Presidency: <http://cor.europa.eu/eurbanagenda>  
Urban Innovative Actions: [www.uia-initiative.eu](http://www.uia-initiative.eu)

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Urban Agenda for the EU – Partnership for Housing

12B131

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

### Organiser:

European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Regional  
and Urban Policy

### Chair/moderator:

Merja Haapakka,  
Policy Coordinator, Commission  
Directorate-General for Regional  
and Urban Policy

### Speakers:

Andrea Meszaros,  
Policy Officer, Commission  
Directorate-General for Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion

Michaela Kauer,  
Director, Vienna House, Brussels  
Liaison Office of the City of Vienna

Sorcha Edwards,  
Secretary General, Housing Europe

### Comment contributions:

Dr Orna Rosenfelt,  
Senior Housing Expert

Dr Laura Collini,  
URBACT Expert

Silvia Ganzerla,  
Policy Director EUROCITIES

### More information links:

Housing Partnership coordinators:  
Elena.Szolgayova@mindop.sk and  
Michaela.kauer@wien.gv.at  
<http://urbanagendaforthe.eu>

## Summary

This workshop was held to present the Urban Agenda Housing Partnership coordinated by Slovakia and the City of Vienna, and to discuss with the stakeholders participating in the European Week of Regions and Cities the work done so far and the main issues involved. The EU Urban Agenda is a framework bringing together cities, EU Member States, the EU Commission and other relevant stakeholders (NGOs, experts, etc.) to discuss and improve policies/legislation, financing and knowledge relevant for cities in key thematic areas – in this case in the field of housing and in particular affordable/social housing.

## Main messages/conclusions

The EU Commission introduced the Urban Agenda framework of the Housing Partnership. The Housing Partnership is one of the four pilot working groups set up under the Urban Agenda alongside the themes of Air Quality, Poverty and Migration. Altogether 12 partnerships will be set up to bring cities, Member States, EU institutions and other relevant stakeholders together to work towards the aim of improving policies/legislation, financing and knowledge, and to scale-up good projects and transfer them across Europe. A dedicated website will also be available next year to facilitate communication and links with wider stakeholders.

The City of Vienna and Housing Europe presented the Housing Partnership which involves the EU Member States Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, the cities of Lisbon, Poznan, Riga, Vienna, the Scottish Cities Alliance and EUROCITIES, as well as AEDES (NL), Housing Europe, the International Union of Tenants, URBACT, the EU Commission and the European Investment Bank. The Partnership is coordinated by Slovakia and the City of Vienna.

In their presentations the City of Vienna and Housing Europe stressed that the overall state of housing in the EU remains unstable. Six years after the low point of 2009 many steps remain to be taken to respond to two very alarming issues: there are not enough affordable homes available in most European countries to meet increasing demand and there are more people without a home today than six years ago. Some key questions for the current work include: What is the overall contribution of housing policies to making cities places where all citizens can live, learn, work, and access opportunities equally? How can cities maintain social cohesion and decrease inequality through a broad affordable housing stock? What financial instruments and legal conditions do cities need for their housing policies at EU level and to boost long term investment in affordable housing with adequate recognition of their social and environmental returns? How can cities address affordability and security for tenants and small homeowners, including protection from speculation and expulsion?

The Partnership is currently carrying out further expert work and analysis in the areas of EU state aid and competition law, VAT, funding and instruments (incl. innovative funding) and general housing policies: construction standards, affordability and social cohesion, which are important to the Partnership's work.

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Urban Agenda for the EU - Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

### Summary and conclusions

During the workshop organised by the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, the partnership was able to share its process with the participants and include them in a panel discussion on how to best achieve the goal of smooth and comprehensive integration.

Firstly, the Urban Agenda was introduced by Fiona Wieland. Fiona stated that the Urban Agenda “strives to involve cities better in the decision making process, as a real example of multi-level governance.” Sabina Kekic, coordinator of the Partnership, then introduced the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees and gave participants an overview of the aims, timeline, and progress of the Partnership. She explained the relevance of the partnership by asking: “Why is this a challenge in the Urban Agenda? Because 70% of refugees in Europe seek shelter in cities, and it is cities that provide access to housing, healthcare, education and work.”

After the introductions, the panel discussion moderated by Sally Kneeshaw considered the shortcomings of current systems. The panel was made up of Moritz Munderloh from the City of Berlin, Thomas Jezequel from EUROcities, Agnese Papadia from DG Home Affairs and Migration, and Giovanni Pineschi from the Cohesion Agency of the Italian government. Opening the discussion up to the participants, Sally Kneeshaw remarked that “the Partnership is eager to hear your contributions, thoughts, and ideas”.

The workshop covered issues such as the shortcomings of current integration systems, but also the promises, advantages and drawbacks of new innovative systems that are being implemented. Some interesting points were made during the workshop. For example, the best way to approach migration might be to view it not as a problem to deal with, but as a phenomenon that, if handled properly, could create a vibrant economic, cultural and social environment. On the other hand, the importance of respecting the existing community when bringing in a new group of people was stressed by participants: how can one expect a community to just accept an influx of new members from radically different backgrounds without being informed, having the situation explained to them and being able to provide their opinions on the matter beforehand?

Moving forward, the Partnership will hold the first of a series of working conferences in Amsterdam on November 10th and 11th, on the topics of housing, reception and community building. The working conferences aim to bring together relevant organisations, civil servants, and experts in this field in order to find solutions to problems with integration in these areas. Once all working conferences have been held, the Partnership’s Action Plan is scheduled to be presented in July 2017, in order to be implemented and reviewed over the course of 2017 and 2018. A final report on the activities of the Partnership is scheduled to be presented in late 2018.

URB12B133

12 October 2016

11:15 - 13:00

#### Organiser:

Sabina Kekic

#### Chair:

Sabina Kekic,  
Advisor to the Mayor,  
City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

#### Moderator:

Sally Kneeshaw,  
Director, Kneeshaw Consultancy

#### Speakers:

Agnese Papadia,  
DG Home Affairs and Migration  
Giovanni Pineschi,  
Italian National Governmental Agency  
for Territorial Cohesion, Italy  
Moritz Munderloh,  
City of Berlin, Germany  
Thomas Jézéquel,  
Policy Officer, Eurocities

# Workshops – Inclusive economic growth



## Integrated services to NEET's, long-term unemployed and other vulnerable groups

13B127

13 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Chair/moderator:**

Anita Vella,  
Head of Unit, DG Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Speakers:**

Tommi Eskonen,  
Director of Tampere City Region  
Multidisciplinary Employment Services  
– Multidisciplinary joint service for  
long-term unemployed, Finland

Ilkka Haahtela,  
Head of Unit of Immigration and  
Employment Services of the City  
of Helsinki – Helsinki One-Stop-  
Guidance Centre for youth, Finland

Mark Koetsier,  
Programme Manager City of Zaanstad,  
Zaanstad Social Community Team,  
the Netherlands

Marijn Freud,  
Project Manager, City of Zaanstad,  
Zaanstad Social Community Team,  
the Netherlands

### Summary

Public services throughout Europe are facing challenges in finding synergies, increasing their efficiency and ensuring their quality as well as in ensuring equal access to these services. This workshop discussed how integrated services can address these challenges.

The focus of the workshop was to provide the audience with information and examples of how integrated services can facilitate access to employment, education and/or to social and health care services for people in vulnerable situations. The workshop presented the advantages of integrated service models as illustrated by three different examples from two countries – Finland and the Netherlands. Presentations included service models targeted at young people, the long-term unemployed and deprived people.

### Main messages/conclusions

Building up an integrated service is a long-term project which requires commitment from politicians and different administrative layers. The integrated service model has the potential to strengthen the role of municipalities and better meet local challenges. Different services such as employment, social and health care services are used to working in silos. Integrated service models are challenging this old way of thinking, but bringing staff with different backgrounds together can be a difficult task. To make an integrated service model really functional, a change of mindset and working culture together with modern management skills are needed from the people who are engaged in the process.

It is essential to build a network of stakeholders who are committed to common targets. The involvement of various stakeholders such as local enterprises is important in order to open pathways to employment, apprenticeships or subsidised work. Local NGOs can bring in their expertise for example in working with the migrant population. The parties involved should realise that negotiating on shared responsibilities can be a long process. There are different approaches to how an integrated service is successfully built up: in some situations a bottom-up approach is the correct one, but in other cases it may require first a top-level strategy and a formal decision on pooling resources in order to strengthen commitment among different services. Regardless of the chosen approach, a well-designed integrated service should be more results-oriented and cost-effective and create a more motivating environment for staff than traditional service models.

The client must always be at the centre of the measures, and individually customised pathways are the key element in provision of services. Assessment of the client's needs as well as creating an individual action plan should be done together with the client in order to strengthen the client's commitment to it. Moreover, multi-professional teamwork is required from the experts and counsellors involved in the process. All staff in the service points must be flexible enough to be able adapt to different clients and their individual situations. On the other hand it may be challenging especially if more clients are coming into the services than going out. One of the risks identified with the integrated service model is saturation, which may lead to a weakening of the individual touch.

In general the speakers had a positive opinion on the prospects for integrated services.

# Workshops



**Making European Structural and Investment (ESI)  
Funds simpler**

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## The post-2020 growth and jobs agenda – What do local and regional authorities want?

### Summary

Questions raised at the workshop included how Europe's rapidly changing economy will affect the future of the strategy, along with internal and external issues such as migration and Brexit. Participants also criticised the strategy for so far failing to have the political impact initially hoped for, with others questioning whether a medium- and long-term growth strategy is relevant for today's fast-moving world.

### Main messages/conclusions

- ▶ Cohesive territorial development is crucial for economic growth and job creation as well as international competitiveness.
- ▶ A bottom-up, place-based approach to future policy is key. Cohesion policy needs to be based on real local and regional needs.
- ▶ Global trends and external factors will shape future policy and the EU's institutions must be prepared for future challenges.
- ▶ We need data that reflect the reality on the ground so as to enable us to better respond.
- ▶ TEU and national governments should cut costs wherever possible to ensure funding is used appropriately and effectively.
- ▶ There is a need to address the low absorption of Funds and simplify procedures.
- ▶ There is a need to make sure that citizens better understand the positive outcomes of cohesion policy by delivering the message to ordinary people. There is a lack of understanding of the current policy.
- ▶ Funds should be used predominantly for infrastructure projects.
- ▶ It should be considered whether EU 2020 and cohesion policy need to be tied together or whether it would be better to start from scratch rather than amending existing strategies and policies.
- ▶ Experiences from the past programming period should be shared so as to learn for the future.
- ▶ Outcomes need to be tangible, specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely.

### Extracts from speakers:

Gordon Keymer: *Importance of involving local and regional government – local and regional government is not only affected by some 75% of EU policies but they manage two thirds of all public investment.*

Oldřich Vlasák: *A post-2020 vision should include a place-based, bottom-up approach to policy-making and a holistic strategy on urban and rural matters that empowers local and regional authorities in development.*

Andrew Lewer, MEP: *Important to look at the impact of EU law on local and regional authorities and take EU action based only on added value.*

Jerzy Zająkała: *We should not decrease the allocation of funding to cohesion policy.*

Iain Begg: *People want growth and jobs. That should be our focus.*

11C04

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

### Organiser:

ECR Group in the European Committee of the Regions

### Chair/moderator:

Gordon Keymer CBE FCA, Former ECR Group president and CoR rapporteur on Mobility in geographically and demographically challenged regions (EN)

### Speakers:

Andrew Lewer MEP, Member of the European Parliament for the East Midlands, United Kingdom; ECR Group coordinator on the Regional Policy Committee and chair of the Subsidiarity and Localism Policy Group

Jerzy Zająkała, Mayor of Łubianka, Poland; Member of the National Development Council, Poland

Oldřich Vlasák, ECR Group vice-president and CoR rapporteur on Territorial Vision 2050; Member of the Council of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic; Director of the Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic

Professor Iain Begg, Professorial Research Fellow at the European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science; Associate fellow at Chatham House, United Kingdom

### More information links:

<http://europa.eu/!KG67cG>

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Effective and efficient use of ESI Funds: Regional best practices

### Summary

The first part of the workshop focused on ways of making policy implementation more efficient through strategic planning, simplification and concentration. Good practices which make ESI funds simpler for beneficiaries were highlighted, while asking what kind of simplification is needed and recommended by regional managing authorities. The second part considered whether RIS3 is an effective tool for better use of ESI funds. RIS3 allows regions to exploit synergies between EU, national and regional funds. It can lead to effective smart specialisation, thus increasing the impact of ESI funds. The aim was achieved of showing how regional good practices and projects can contribute to more effective use of ESI Funds, while also discussing ways of making programme management more efficient.

### Main messages/conclusions

Terri Thomas began by stressing the importance of overcoming public authorities' reluctance to cooperate. A holistic approach is needed to simplify the use of ESI funds for beneficiaries by using standardised and integrated processes and IT systems. Javier Celdrán also focused on beneficiaries, outlining the benefits of using financial instruments (FI). The key to providing tangible simplification is focusing on the lifecycle of the company and adapting FI accordingly. To deal with adverse audit findings, Myriam Fernández focused on Simplified Cost Options, which can also reduce the administrative burden if they are internalised. Finally, Clemens Esser outlined ways of increasing effectiveness and efficiency through the use of stakeholder-focused bottom-up approaches such as community-led local development.

David Dunn then showed that opportunities can be given to the local software industry. This requires linking education and industry at local level and giving clusters full autonomy. Multinationals need to be engaged and persuaded to invest in local software technology. It is important to provide dynamic business support and focus on communicating successes. Eszter Tóth showed that while some financial tools are used by local governments, their availability is limited. Non-profit companies are a valid bottom-up approach for identifying local needs, transferring good practices, and enabling cooperation and training. This results in higher levels of trust and reduced cost. Frédéric Pinna stressed that there is still a lot to learn about the entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP). A clear methodology needs to be developed to take into account the regional context. EDP is not only relevant to ERDF, but can provide knowledge which stakeholders are not usually ready to share. At the same time, effective use of EDP requires highly skilled staff. Finally, Marcin Wajda highlighted that stakeholder engagement is often a key factor in framing effective policy. However, the way in which actors are involved in the process should be adjusted to the specific conditions and characteristics of the region. Sometimes the additional activities intended to strengthen cooperation capacity are just as, or even more, important than institutional solutions.

11C12

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

Representation of Saxony-Anhalt  
to the EU

#### Chair/moderator:

Marek Przeor,  
Team leader, DG REGIO,  
European Commission Belgium

Richard Tuffs,  
Director, ERRIN, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Terri Thomas,  
Head of Rural Development Division,  
Welsh Government, United Kingdom

Javier Celdrán,  
General Director, INFO MURCIA, Spain

Myriam Fernández,  
Director General for Financing and  
European Funds, Ministry of Finance  
and Economy, region of Valencia, Spain

Clemens Esser,  
Policy Officer, State Chancellery  
of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Frédéric Pinna,  
CEO, ARITT (Regional Innovation  
Agency Centre-Val de Loire), France

Marcin Wajda,  
Department Director, Office of the  
Marshal of Mazowieckie Voivodeship,  
Poland

David Dunn,  
CEO, Sunderland Software City,  
United Kingdom

Eszter Tóth,  
Lecturer, University of Debrecen,  
Hungary

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Inter-city approaches to funding and delivering Smart City Ambitions

11C15

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

Smart cities - Smart ambitions

**Chair/moderator:**

Prof. Martin Brynskov,  
Chair of the Open and Agile Smart  
Cities Network

**Speakers:**

Alastair Brown,  
Director, Localities and Infrastructure,  
Stirling Council, United Kingdom

Hanna-Maria Urjankangas,  
Senior Officer, Ministry of Economic  
Affairs and Employment, Finland

Kim Speigelberg-Stelzer,  
Smart City Senior Advisor, City of  
Copenhagen, Denmark

Tomasz Nadolny,  
Head of Mayor's Office, Gdansk City  
Hall, Poland

Marta Marin,  
Delegate of the Basque Country to the  
EU, Spain

### Summary

Recognising the opportunities available to cities within a Member State if they collaborate to deliver on their smart cities ambitions, seven Scottish cities, six Finnish cities, five Danish cities, the Basque Country in Spain and Gdansk in Poland hosted a workshop to share their experience of working in partnership with each other and across their wider city regions on the smart cities agenda. The workshop focused in particular on the experience of cities which had adopted an inter-city approach to make progress towards their smart ambitions, accessing funding to deliver their collaborative programmes.

### Main messages/conclusions

The six Finnish cities were the most advanced in terms of accessing EU funding to make progress on a collaborative programme of smart cities activity using an integrated territorial initiative and the ERDF. This enabled them to create a joint operating model for urban development worth EUR 80m which will hopefully outlive the available EU funding.

The Scottish cities used the workshop to profile their Smart Cities Scotland Blueprint, which describes the Smart Cities Scotland collaborative programme, as well as to share their experience of developing co-designed smart cities projects across the Scottish cities as part of their £10m 'Scotland's 8th City - the Smart City' programme.

The Danish cities had not really focused on EU funding to further smart cities activity but instead focused their efforts on working with public/private partnerships to access a potential DKK 1.5m.

The Basque Country had a holistic and strategic vision for smart cities for the region, with cooperation focused on learning from other cities through lighthouse programmes.

Gdansk presented the 'Tristar' intelligent transportation system, on which it had cooperated with the neighbouring cities of Sopot and Gdynia to improve the efficiency of the existing road infrastructure.

**Lessons learned:**

1. to enable cities to collaborate and co-design smart cities projects using EU funding, the EU funding frameworks need to be more flexible and elastic;
2. funding calls for smart cities currently tend to be tailored to applications from single cities and their region. There would perhaps be an opportunity to inspire more cities to collaborate, share resources, create economies of scale and share learning and experience with each other in the process, if funding calls were tailored to inter-city networks;
3. the level of funding is key. The Finnish cities used the ERDF to create a much bigger funding pot than the Scottish cities but the administration/resource demands placed on cities to access this funding suggest that there may be an optimum funding level at which it is advantageous for an inter-city network to use the ERDF. There was a feeling that smaller funding pots with less regulation may allow inter-city networks to access funding more easily for pilot projects. Open calls with smaller calls within their framework would make smaller projects more feasible, creating an innovative environment for inter-city networks to experiment with smart solutions.

**European ESIF/EFSI-funded project presented:**

Scottish Cities Alliance - Scotland's 8th City - the Smart City - ERDF Programme

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Public procurement meets open data

### Summary

This workshop discussed the concept and importance of the 'open data' approach to public procurement and presented a few ongoing initiatives in this field, both at EU and national level. Jachym Hercher from the European Commission outlined the EU vision and activities in relation to open public procurement data. Luciana Cingolani from the Hertie School of Governance presented the DIGIWHIST project (<http://digiwhist.eu/>). The key objective of the project is to make available broad datasets of public procurement data and combine them with relevant indicators for analysis. Jiří Skuhrovec, developer of the zIndex tool, shared his experience of using procurement and other data to benchmark the performance of contracting authorities in the Czech Republic.

### Main messages/conclusions

Public authorities in the EU spend approximately 15% of GDP on the purchase of services, works and supplies via public procurement. Nearly 50% of funding from the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds is spent on public procurement. In a number of EU Member States, ESI Funds are the main source of financing for public investment. Taking all of this into account, it can be concluded that the efficiency and effectiveness of public investment depend to a large degree on the quality of procurement processes.

The open data approach and the latest IT technologies offer new opportunities for improving performance and governance in public contracting. Open data implies that public spending data are published in standardised and useable formats, available for everyone to access, use and re-publish. This not only leads to increased transparency, but is also expected to improve the decision-making of government organisations, businesses and individuals. The underlying assumption behind the open government data approach is that complex societal and governance issues cannot be solved by governments alone: cooperation among and insights from different players are needed.

The importance of data is recognised in the EU Single Market Strategy of 2015: one of the strands of action the Commission is pursuing under the strategy is to improve the transparency and quality of procurement systems through better collection and use of procurement data. Data on public procurement conducted according to EU-rules have been made available on the EU Open Data Portal. In the coming years, open data covering all EU public procurement should be gathered, published, and enhanced under the DIGIWHIST project financed by the EU HORIZON 2020 programme.

There are a number of specific examples of how procurement data can be used for analysis and to trigger discussions on the necessary improvements. The workshop presented the Single Market Scoreboard for public procurement as a tool at EU level and the zIndex benchmarking tool as an example from an EU Member State (Czech Republic). The workshop concluded that the work towards further improvement of openness and quality of procurement data will continue, and will require a consistent effort. In this endeavour, it is also important to ensure the proper link with activities to promote administrative capacity in public procurement in order to facilitate positive change.

12C32

12 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

[European Commission](#)

#### Chair/moderator:

[Pascal Boijmans](#),  
Head of Unit E1, Directorate-General  
for Regional and Urban Policy,  
European Commission, Belgium

#### Speakers:

[Jachym Hercher](#),  
Policy Officer, Directorate-General  
for Internal Market, Industry,  
Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European  
Commission, Belgium

[Luciana Cingolani](#),  
Post-doctoral Researcher, Hertie  
School of Governance, Germany

[Jiří Skuhrovec](#),  
EconLab and Charles University  
Prague, Czech Republic

#### More information links:

EU Open Data Portal:  
<https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data>

Single Market Scoreboard:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/scoreboard/](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/scoreboard/)

DIGIWHIST project:  
<http://digiwhist.eu/zIndex>

Benchmarking tool in the Czech  
Republic:

<http://wiki.zindex.cz/doku.php?id=en:start>

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



12C87

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

European Commission, DG REGIO

**Chair/moderator:**

Witold Willak,  
Deputy Head of Unit, Competence Centre  
Closure and Major Projects, DG REGIO,  
European Commission, Belgium

**Speakers:**

Dr Joanna Archutowska,  
Ph.D., Head of Cost-Benefit Analyses  
Division, Centrum Unijnych Projektów  
Transportowych, Warsaw, Poland

Camelia M. Kovács,  
Project Officer, Competence Centre  
Closure and Major Projects, DG REGIO,  
European Commission

Carlos Gonzalez-Finat,  
Case Handler, Unit H-1, Infrastructure  
and Regional Aid, European  
Commission, DG Competition

Georges Kremlis,  
Head of Unit D.1, DG Environment,  
European Commission

Claus Kondrup,  
Policy Officer, Adaptation Unit,  
DG Climate Action, European Commission

Maurits Van Der Hoofd,  
Transport sector specialist, JASPERS

**More information links:**

The slides are still available on the EWRC  
2016 site for a few months.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/  
projects/major](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/major)

<https://ec.europa.eu/sfc/>

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/  
index\\_en.htm#General](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/index_en.htm#General)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/  
index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm)

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/  
TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719\(05\)&  
from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719(05)&from=EN)

[http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/  
studies\\_reports/state\\_aid\\_grids\\_2015\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/studies_reports/state_aid_grids_2015_en.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/fund-  
ing/special-support-instruments/jaspers/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/special-support-instruments/jaspers/)

## How to efficiently apply for EU funds? Good practices with major projects' application forms

### Summary

The workshop focused on the application form and presented good examples and suggestions for ensuring that it is completed in full and properly with a view to quick decision-making by the European Commission. DG CLIMA, DG COMP, DG ENV, JASPERS and Poland were represented on the panel, providing advice and sharing their experiences. It was confirmed that significant resources and time are necessary to prepare projects to the appropriate quality standard. Poland stressed the importance of incorporating quality control, building sufficient administrative capacity for this and treating all project beneficiaries in a consistent and equal manner. Climate change and environmental and state aid considerations were highlighted as horizontal aspects to be addressed for all types of projects and early on in the preparation process.

### Main messages/conclusions

Given their size and importance, major projects require special attention with regard to planning, preparation and implementation. In addition, they require significant resources (human, financial, time) in order to be successful.

The European Commission's information requirements are quality-focused and serve the purpose of helping the Member States have viable and sustainable investments that society is better off with than without, and which also do not harm the environment and are not cancelled out by climate change or other extreme weather events. With this in mind and based on previous experience, the Commission has provided additional guidance in the major projects application documents, and also produced specific guidance (climate change, state aid, environment, cost-benefit analysis, etc.) and streamlined its relevant decision-making procedures.

It is important for Member States and their project beneficiaries to continue the culture of high quality for their major projects, so that the implementation phase runs smoothly and that projects are completed in time and on budget, or in the worst case with minimum delays and cost overruns. The Commission operates an open-door policy and Member States are encouraged to contact it in case of doubt or need for further advice. In addition, the special technical assistance partnership, JASPERS, is also available to the Member States with advisory services on quality of projects.

### European ESIF/EFSI -funded project(s) presented:

Extracts from application documents submitted by the Member States have been included in the slides as examples of good practice or examples of information that generates questions.

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Key to success for a performant programme

### Summary

The European Commission, the European Court of Auditors and the Member States – who administer funding – all see simplification as a way forward to reduce the administrative burden and reduce error rates. The workshop presented the view of the speakers on the topic with a clear focus on the various simplification possibilities provided by the current regulation and by the proposals made in the 'Omnibus' regulation, which is to be adopted by the end of 2017.

### Main messages/conclusions

The results of surveys launched by DG Regional and Urban Policy and DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion show that stakeholders experience a substantial reduction in administrative burden once simplified cost options are implemented. On the other hand, some stakeholders are reticent about the development of these options and the uncertainty e.g. in terms of audit. In addition, simplified cost options are very much a European Social Fund issue since it is very difficult to develop SCOs for the ERDF and any results are therefore quite far down the line.

A lot of progress has been made in the setting and monitoring of performance-based, reliable data. This makes it possible to demonstrate the added value of the funds and also to focus more on results and outputs.

The Commission is currently working on a 'Budget focused on results' initiative, since there is less funding available and hence the challenge is how to 'do more with less'. Also, the challenge of the Commission, where considerable progress is already being made, is to demonstrate the added value of its funding implemented in the various policy areas.

There are of course still some hurdles faced. The issue of compliance with state aid rules is of importance here, and the Commission is seeking to clarify the areas in which these apply. As mentioned during the workshop, currently some 80-90% of all operations implemented under the ERDF fall under the General Block Exemption Regulation, but further guidance or clarification is needed in order to provide legal certainty for Managing Authorities.

12C88

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

European Commission,  
DG Employment, Social Affairs  
and Inclusion

#### Chair/moderator:

Mark Schelfhout,  
Head of ESF Audit Unit,  
DG Employment, Social Affairs  
and Inclusion

#### Speakers:

Juan Ignacio González Bastero,  
Head of Unit, European  
Court of Auditors

Andreas Schwarz,  
Deputy Head of the Private Office of  
Commission vice-president Kristalina  
Georgieva, European Commission

Andriana Sukova-Tosheva,  
Director, Investment, DG Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion

Louis Vervloet, Director,  
ESF Agency, Belgium

Peter Berkowitz,  
Head of Unit, Policy Development,  
Strategic Management and Relations  
with the Council, DG Regional and  
Urban Policy

Santiago Loranca García,  
Head of Unit, Evaluation and Impact  
Assessment, DG Employment, Social  
Affairs and Inclusion

#### More information links:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/thefunds/fin\\_inst/pdf/simpl\\_cost\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/thefunds/fin_inst/pdf/simpl_cost_en.pdf)

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Supporting S3 strategies through H2020 and ERDF: Synergies, barriers and best practices

12C91

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

### Organiser:

Regional Partnership 'Local authorities promoting synergies between ESI Funds and H2020'

Hauts-de-France Region, Kent County Council, North-East Romania, Madrid Region, Province of West-Flanders, East-Netherlands

### Chair/moderator:

Emmanuel Boudard,  
Senior Consultant, La Rochelle Consult,  
France

### Speakers:

Romain Nivellet,  
Hauts-de-France region Brussels office,  
France

Stefaan Matton,  
Director, POM West-Vlaanderen,  
Province of West-Flanders, Belgium

Gabriela Macoveiu,  
Executive Director of Communication,  
Cooperation and Business Development  
Directorate, North-East Regional  
Development Agency, Romania

Jean-Marie Pruvot,  
Director, Nord-France Innovation  
Development, Hauts-de-France region,  
France

Michiel Scheffer,  
Representative of the East Netherlands  
region and member of the Executive  
Board of the province of Gelderland,  
East Netherlands, Netherlands

Sara Alfonso Romero,  
Head of Unit, Technology Transfer  
and European Programmes, Madri+d –  
Madrid, Spain

### Summary

Smart specialisation provides a strategic tool for guiding innovation and economic development spending towards regional needs. Although the ERDF requires smart specialisation to be used in setting spending priorities, other local, national and European programmes also fund innovation and there are clearly opportunities for better alignment. Under the Horizon 2020 programme, for example, ERA-NET schemes are used to coordinate regional and national programmes to create thematic calls for cross-border research and innovation. This seminar, organised in partnership with the H2020-funded project SYNAMERA, looked at how research and innovation and smart specialisation strategies can be supported by different EU programmes and how national and EU sources can be aligned to maximise return on investment.

### Main messages/conclusions

It is important to align different strategy levels (e.g. regional and S3 strategy, national, European) in order to be more efficient in public spending. These strategies, especially S3, must be narrowed to focus on a few sectors.

Synergies between Horizon 2020 and the ERDF/ESF operational programmes are possible but limited: the ERDF can be used to help build an ecosystem (e.g. funding training for potential applicants for Horizon 2020 calls) or to fund research infrastructure for use in Horizon 2020 projects.

ERA-NET projects are good instruments for fostering international cooperation, but it is difficult to combine funding (ERDF and direct European funding) for the same project partner because of differences in approach, timing of calls, requirements, criteria, etc.

Projects meeting Horizon 2020 selection and award criteria but which cannot be funded due to budget constraints can be funded through the ERDF if they match the S3 and the operational programme. But state aid rules do not allow the same funding rate for ERDF-funded projects as for H2020-funded projects. State aid rules are also problematic for INTERREG projects, which involve different types of partners and measures.

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Joint REGI-COTER Meeting: Achieving better performance in Cohesion Policy

### Summary

The COTER commission of the Committee of the Regions held a joint meeting with the Committee for Regional Development of the European Parliament (REGI). The discussion underlined the benefit of this ongoing cooperation, especially in light of challenges faced by European regions and cities. Local leaders and MEPs welcomed a wide range of speakers, including the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, and the president of the Committee of the Regions, Markku Markkula. Speakers and members addressed current and future challenges to the effectiveness of cohesion policy, in particular the need to focus on achievable targets and the broader objectives of the EU, while also bringing in the perspective of the local and regional authorities tasked with implementation.

### Main messages/conclusions

The conference opened with statements by the joint chairs. Raffaele Cattaneo of the COTER commission noted: 'Cohesion policy improves the quality of citizens' lives and fosters EU solidarity, including by tackling major challenges such as migration, climate change and energy dependence. But programmes have not always focused on results and targets have not been consistent or clear enough'. REGI chair Iskra Mihaylova added: 'European citizens make their own personal evaluation of cohesion policy every day in their cities and regions, and we should keep this in mind when focusing on regional policy results'. REGI and COTER members' statements addressed the ongoing need for simplification, and for a balanced approach to the application of ex-ante conditionalities, with Petr Osvald suggesting that on questions of simplification and ex-ante conditionalities the capacity of local and regional actors to meet bureaucratic requirements should be taken into account. Lambert Van Nistelrooij urged cohesion policy players to better communicate their successes, in order to highlight the ongoing importance of the policy. Marc Lemaître then highlighted the impressive return on investment of €3 for every €1 spent, while calling on stakeholders to be even more ambitious in the future, and to work with new instruments.

Looking to the future of cohesion policy, Commissioner Corina Crețu observed: 'Working on the present is the preparation for our future – we have no better argument than what we have already achieved'. President of the European Committee of the Regions Markku Markkula noted: 'We must trust those who do things at a regional level, and not let a focus on what has been done wrong stop us learning from the many positive examples of successful implementation. In addition, one of the major challenges for our Union nowadays is how to bridge the investment gap'. Michael Schneider underlined that the future benefit of financial instruments would be determined by how much they correspond to the real needs of regions, while Constanze Krehl noted the importance of simplification in rebuilding trust with citizens, and pointed to the need to support the implementation of cohesion policy in all regions and all Member States, given that cohesion was an explicit goal of the TFEU. In light of potentially difficult times ahead for cohesion policy, it was agreed that continued cooperation between the COTER commission and the REGI Committee was of utmost importance.

12C95

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

COTER commission, European Committee of the Regions

#### Chair/moderator:

Raffaele Cattaneo,  
chair of the COTER commission,  
European Committee of the Regions

Iskra Mihaylova,  
chair of the REGI Committee,  
European Parliament

#### Speakers:

Petr Osvald,  
COTER commission member

Lambert Van Nistelrooij,  
REGI Committee member

Marc Lemaître,  
Director-General, DG REGIO,  
European Commission

Corina Crețu,  
Commissioner for Regional Policy,  
European Commission

Markku Markkula,  
President of the European  
Committee of the Regions

Constanze Krehl,  
REGI Committee member

Michael Schneider,  
COTER member

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Maximising the potential of e-Governance: How to build on the experience of 2014-20 to deliver a more user-friendly approach to accessing ESI Funds

12C108

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

### Organiser:

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

### Chair/moderator:

Kadri Uustal,  
Policy coordinator, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, Belgium

Terri Thomas,  
Member of the High-Level Group of Experts on Monitoring Simplification for Beneficiaries of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), Wales, United Kingdom

### Speakers:

Katri Seier,  
Counsellor on EU Budget and Cohesion Policy, Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU

Rachel Stephens,  
ESI Programme Manager, Welsh European Funding Office, Wales, United Kingdom

### More information links:

<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/simplify-esif>  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/high-level-group-simplification](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/high-level-group-simplification)

### Summary

The purpose of e-governance is to simplify the implementation of ESI Funds by promoting the electronic exchange of information between beneficiaries and programme authorities to reduce the administrative burden for the former.

This workshop took as its starting point the recommendations on e-governance made by the High-Level Group on Monitoring Simplification for Beneficiaries of the ESI Funds (HLG) in March 2016. The workshop allowed regions and cities involved in managing ESI funding to explore the good practice examples of Estonia and Wales. They also had the opportunity to engage with the HLG's rapporteur for e-governance, Terri Thomas, and with the representative of the European Commission, Kadri Uustal, and to discuss how the recommendations could be put into practice in their own regions.

### Main messages/conclusions

Kadri Uustal introduced the simplification initiative on behalf of the European Commission and explained the role of the High-Level Group of Independent Experts in this context, as well as the importance of e-governance here.

Terri Thomas gave more details on the work of the group on e-governance and their conclusions and recommendations, which were sent to the European Commission in March 2016. She also presented an overview of the Commission's immediate follow-up to the legislative and non-legislative recommendations for 2014-2020. The following recommendations were highlighted:

- ▶ dissemination of best practice examples; ▶ encouragement of a business process approach, accepting IT as a core part of the business, accurately assessing the need for guidance to final users and beneficiaries, and appropriately communicating the goal of e-governance; ▶ use of Technical Assistance funding to facilitate the implementation of e-governance including guidance and training; ▶ clarifying the relationship between capacity to archive electronic documents and the opportunity for auditors to request original documents.

All the conclusions and recommendations finalised by the group are publicly available on the online Simplify ESIF platform (<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/simplify-esif>). All stakeholders were invited to use the platform more intensively in order to feed into the ESIF simplification process.

Two good practice examples (Estonia and Wales) were presented to the participants, each with their experience, challenges and solutions.

Participants and speakers converged on the great potential of e-governance to reduce the administrative burden for all stakeholders and beneficiaries. They nevertheless noted the ongoing challenges for implementation, such as:

- ▶ establishing more stable and simple processes and procedures; ▶ harmonisation of terminology, processes and structure between the funds; ▶ the difficulty experienced by some partners in changing their mindset and approaching e-governance in a constructive manner; ▶ adequate training and support at all levels; ▶ involvement of stakeholders.

Sharing of experiences between Managing Authorities can play a key role in a smoother transition to e-governance in all Member States.

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Policy Lab for Managing Authorities I – Working together to develop arenas for exchange between managing authorities/intermediate bodies.

### Summary

This was the first of three workshops for managing authorities/intermediate bodies of Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes financed by the ERDF/Cohesion Fund. Information was provided on work by DG REGIO and the Joint Research Centre's EU Policy Lab in close cooperation with representatives of different managing authorities, and opportunities were explored for developing areas where experiences and good practice could be exchanged between managing authorities and intermediate bodies. The innovative working method (policy lab) was explained. Feedback and ideas/topics for future work were collected through dialogue with the audience.

### Main messages/conclusions

There has been long-standing demand among Managing Authorities (MA) and Intermediate Bodies (IB) for more horizontal interaction. Additionally, exchange on problematic issues and ways to tackle them, as well as sharing information and practices, were identified as highly relevant for MAs and IBs. The Know Share process is one approach that has been adopted by REGIO to accommodate this demand and introduce ways for MAs and IBs to engage in the process. Activities to date were presented in a dialogue between facilitators and various representatives of MAs that were part of the project.

Three phases have been identified for the process. The first phase involves analysing the issue/problem (finding ways to exchange experience and practices) and co-designing, as well as prototyping, a solution together with a group of MAs and IBs. The second phase includes functional prototyping and testing of solutions. The third and final phase is dedicated to further development, up-scaling and mainstreaming of the proposed tool for interaction. A group of around 30 people from MAs and IBs in 16 Member States has been actively engaged in the project, with a further 20 following it.

During the first phase, a series of meetings and a lab session were organised between REGIO, the JRC and MAs/IBs to explore the issue/problem and create user-led knowledge-sharing. Solutions are co-developed with MAs/IBs and not for them, the idea being to achieve peer-approved solutions to problems complementing REGIO-endorsed (audit-proof) answers to questions. The tools used for interaction include web meetings, workshops and seminars as well as emails and Facebook discussions. The first phase ended in March 2016 and the moderators encouraged participants to reflect on future ways of tackling common issues through the proposed tools.

In the dialogue with the audience that followed MAs and IBs attending the workshop showed their interest in future active participation in the next phases. Moreover, positive feedback was collected on the idea of developing a more structured exchange space/platform, given that the need for cooperation and dialogue between MAs/IBs was emphasised by all.

13C43

13 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

Competence Centre for Administrative Capacity-Building, DG REGIO, European Commission

#### Chair/moderator:

Pascal Boijmans,  
Head of Unit E1, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, Belgium

Xavier Troussard,  
Head of Unit, Foresight and Behavioural Insights, EU Policy Lab, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

#### Speakers:

Malina Kroumova,  
Director of the Central Coordination Unit, Council of Ministers, Bulgaria

Emanuele Cuccillato,  
Policy Analyst, EU Policy Lab, JRC, European Commission, Belgium

Christian Svanfeldt,  
Policy Analyst, EU Policy Lab, JRC, European Commission, Belgium

Alessandro Rancati,  
Policy Analyst, EU Policy Lab, JRC, European Commission, Belgium

#### More information links:

Communities of Practitioners:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/regio-communities-practitioners](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/regio-communities-practitioners)

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Policy Lab for Managing Authorities II – Knowledge mapping on State Aid in the R&D sector

13C104

13 October 2016

11:15 – 13:00

**Organiser:**

DG REGIO, Competence Centre  
for Administrative Capacity-Building,  
European Commission

**Chair/moderator:**

Pascal Boijmans,  
Head of Unit E1, Directorate-General  
for Regional and Urban Policy,  
European Commission

**Speakers:**

Palma Muñoz Morquilla,  
Senior consultant, Innovation and  
Development Agency of Andalusia,  
Spain

Christophe Gouache,  
Consultant, Strategic Design Scenarios  
(SDS), Belgium

**More information links:**

Communities of Practitioners:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/  
en/policy/how/improving-investment/  
regio-communities-practitioners](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/regio-communities-practitioners)

### Summary

This was the second of three workshops for managing authorities/implementing bodies of Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes financed by the ERDF/Cohesion Fund. It demonstrated the results of knowledge-mapping on state aid in R&D performed by experts from different authorities using a mapping method applied in a policy lab environment. Together they identified the main documents relating to state aid that they use to produce a practical, hands-on map of documents relevant for everyone working on this topic. Audience feedback helped to further develop the map.

### Main messages/conclusions

Sharing of resources was identified by practitioners as a valuable tool in the first phase of the REGIO Know Share project. One tool that emerged from this was knowledge-mapping on topics related to implementation of programmes.

Results were presented of the knowledge-mapping on state aid in the R&D sector carried out by a team of experts from different managing authorities in Europe using an innovative working method (policy lab). Together they listed the main documents related to state aid that they use in their work, blending different information sources, official documents and memos in order to produce a practical, hands-on map relevant for everyone working on this topic.

During the interactive workshop half of the participants spent time adding more documents to the map as well as details on chapters, sections and page numbers indicating where to find the necessary information. Another group discussed how to make the existing map more user-friendly from a design perspective as otherwise the resource would not be used. The current idea is to enter the map with guiding questions and for more detailed questions to give direct links to the resources.

However, it was recognised that it is impossible to map all eventualities and issues a practitioner might face, and the need was emphasised for 'champions' among colleagues who can be consulted directly. Work will continue on further developing the mapping of information sources on state aid in the R&D sector.

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Policy Lab for Managing Authorities III – How to support beneficiaries, the policy lab working method in practice

### Summary

This was the last of three workshops for managing authorities/implementing bodies of Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes financed by the ERDF/Cohesion Fund. Representatives of authorities shared their experience with support to beneficiaries. With the help of policy lab designers, participants had the opportunity to discuss and exchange views on how to best support beneficiaries using a policy lab approach. The 'journey of beneficiaries' from development of project ideas to project closure formed the background for this workshop.

### Main messages/conclusions

The participants were given an opportunity to test and experience policy lab working methods in practice in order to exchange knowledge on a number of topics. Participants were asked to use the storytelling method to share examples of beneficiary support. Amongst other good practices, Peter Ryland shared an example of raising the capacity of beneficiaries for audits. Through visiting beneficiaries beforehand and ensuring that they have located all the evidence they will need and that they understand the implications of getting things wrong during an audit, the number of 'false negatives' are greatly reduced. This good practice leaves more time to deal with any genuine issues that emerge and reduces the risk of unnecessary (and ultimately wrong) corrections. Another experience shared by Maciej Aulak was the idea of supporting beneficiaries and evaluating project documents before a project is submitted for assessment, and of helping the beneficiary to correct documents. Due to distance from the beneficiary and tight scheduling on the beneficiaries' side, the project did not have the positive outcomes the MA expected. However, Mr Aulak emphasised the added value and faster procedure for projects that had been included in this pre-consultation.

After these presentations and exchanges participants were divided into groups and shared experiences, as well as lessons learned, in a smaller setting, with peers able to comment and brainstorm on possible strategies for resolving issues.

In conclusion, participants felt encouraged to continue exchanging expertise and experiences and commented positively on the opportunity the workshop provided for guided discussion.

13C129

13 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

DG REGIO, Competence Centre for Administrative Capacity-Building, European Commission

#### Chair/moderator:

Pascal Boijmans,

Head of Unit E1, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

#### Speakers:

Peter Ryland,

Deputy Director, Welsh European Funding Office, United Kingdom

Maciej Aulak,

Head of Unit, Ministry of Economic Development, Poland

François Jégou,

Director, Strategic Design Scenarios (SDS), Belgium

#### More information links:

Communities of Practitioners:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/regio-communities-practitioners](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/regio-communities-practitioners)

# Workshops – Making ESI Funds simpler



## Financial instruments under ESIF (2014-2020) – Public banks sharing experiences and best practices

12C73

12 October 2016

11:15-13:00

### Organiser:

European Association of Public Banks  
(EAPB)

### Chair/moderator:

Silke Wettach,  
EU correspondent,  
WirtschaftsWoche, Germany

### Speakers:

Csaba Harsányi,  
Director, Brussels Representative  
Office, Hungarian Development Bank,  
Hungary

Dariusz Wieloch,  
Deputy Director of Financial  
Instruments Department,  
Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego  
(State Development Bank, BGK),  
Poland

Marcel Roy,  
Secretary-General, European  
Association of Public Banks, Belgium

José Fernando Figueiredo,  
Executive President, Instituição  
Financeira de Desenvolvimento,  
Portugal

### Summary

The workshop showcased experience gained by, and good practices of, public banks implementing programmes supported under the European Structural and Investment Funds. The workshop presented best practices in urban development, integrated territorial investment programmes and community-led local development. The EAPB brought together high-level representatives from its member organisations who provided an overview of their relevant activities and of the challenges they are facing. The panel included representatives of the Hungarian Development Bank (MFB) and the State Development Bank of Poland (BGK).

### Main messages/conclusions

#### ► Simplify the legal framework for public banks

The legal framework public banks currently face is too complicated: eleven guidelines have to be taken into account; rules (e.g. for public procurement) are often not flexible enough; at times regulation is even contradictory. Less bureaucracy would bring huge benefits.

#### ► Special regulatory treatment for public banks

Public banks differ from commercial banks, the most obvious difference being that they are not profit-oriented. Their anti-cyclical behaviour has been acknowledged by the European Commission. Public banks can even act to reinvigorate the market in times of crisis. Their different nature should be taken into account in the regulatory framework.

#### ► Welcome trend away from grants towards financial instruments

Using financial instruments rather than grants is far more efficient and enables public banks to draw on funds more than once. It also ensures a level playing-field for companies. However, the institutional set-up should be adapted to take into account this recent trend. Ex-ante assessments, justified when handing out grants, seem less appropriate when it comes to financial instruments.

#### ► Facilitate the combining of different funds

At this point in time, combining resources from different sources (EFSI, ESIF, COSME, InnovFin) is proving rather difficult in practice. Huge benefits could be expected if obstacles were removed.

# University workshops



# University workshops



## Introduction

The University sessions are organised by the European Commission (DG for Regional and Urban Policy), the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), and the Regional Studies Association (RSA), along with the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP).

The aim is to bring the latest academic research and international case studies to the European Week of Regions and Cities and an audience comprised mainly of those working on policy and managing authorities.

The sessions are organised interactively and offer the possibility for vibrant discussions, allowing for a real exchange of knowledge between policy makers, practitioners and the academic community. Practitioners can use the sessions to make new contacts in academia in order to support their local work.

In 2016, twelve University sessions were hosted and proved popular with attendees. The topics ranged from smart specialisation, micro-business and sustainable innovation to climate change, economic and ecological development. They also touched upon demographic challenges, territorial aspects of migration and territorial approaches to implementing Cohesion Policy.

# University workshops



## Pearls of Knowledge: How can the city-university nexus contribute to closing the innovation gap?

### Summary

Lublin has always been an academic city. With its development strategy the municipality has helped three sectors start to meet and talk. A series of activities have been carried out as part of the new strategy, for example the Lublin IT Upland (LITU) programme and the Study In Lublin project. Plans for the future for Lublin: the city where innovation takes place in universities and is introduced in businesses every day, 15% of international students in 2025, engaging academic staff in internationalisation and international research, 100 programmes in English, leading centre of creativity, IT and start-ups in Poland. Challenges: developing a system for commercialisation in universities, fostering cooperation in marketing the academic nature of Lublin, promoting practical education, restructuring public universities.

### Main messages/conclusions

Lublin has always been an academic city. Private higher education institutions have been far more successful in adapting to new standards. The challenge has been and will be very tough for large public universities: old structures, ineffective teams, university authorities taking too much for granted, courses not meeting the needs of the job market, and fear of change itself place a heavy burden on them. Businesses were the first to send out the message: 'You need to change and adapt'. When universities failed to react, businesses gave up and started focusing on their own affairs. The city of Lublin stood on the side-lines and observed the entire game. The perspective was far clearer from that angle and representatives of the municipal administration thus became natural intermediaries and subsequently 'directed' the game being played between businesses and higher education institutions.

It was necessary to put things in the right order. In Lublin's development strategy, academic spirit became one of the four development axes. In addition, the Department of Strategy and Investor Relations was established and the academic relations team was set up. They have been responsible for establishing and fostering relations between the city, higher education institutions and businesses. Finally, all three sectors started to meet and talk. A local support group was founded and various projects were established to be implemented together.

A series of activities have been carried out as part of the new strategy, for example the Lublin IT Upland (LITU) programme and the Study In Lublin project. LITU's aim is to integrate the IT sector in Lublin by organising 'IT Breakfasts', establishing a cooperation network between businesses, the city and higher education institutions. Project Study in Lublin is a project aimed at supporting higher education institutions in Lublin, maintaining the number of students and graduates ([study.lublin.eu](http://study.lublin.eu)). Plans for the future for Lublin: the city where innovation takes place in universities and is introduced in businesses every day, 15% of international students in 2025, engaging academic staff in internationalisation and international research, 100 programmes in English, leading centre of creativity, IT and start-ups in Poland. Challenges: developing a system for commercialisation at universities, fostering cooperation in marketing the academic nature of Lublin, promoting practical education, restructuring public universities.

UNIV11A08

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

#### Organiser:

European Commission, DG RTD, in cooperation with EUniverCities Network, AESOP and RSA

#### Chair/moderator:

Olivier Brunet, Policy officer, European Commission, DG RTD, Belgium

#### Speakers:

Willem van Winden, Professor of Urban Innovation, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Jan Axelsson, Director of Valorisation, University of Linköping, Sweden

Mariusz Sagan, Head of the strategy and investor relations department, Poland

Athena Yiannakou, Professor of Urban Policy and Urban Development, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

#### More information links:

<http://lwit.lublin.eu/en>

<http://study.lublin.eu/en>

# University workshops



## Sustainable societies of tomorrow: Addressing the demographic challenge and the dynamics of the silver economy

UNIV11A110

11 October 2016

11:15-13:00

**Organiser:**

European Committee of the Regions,  
SEDEC commission

**Chair/moderator:**

Franck Debié,

Team leader, European Parliament  
2025, Member of the ESPAS (European  
Strategy and Policy Analysis System)  
Steering Committee

**Speakers:**

Arnoldas Abramavičius (LT/EPP),  
CoR member and rapporteur, Zarasai  
District Municipal Council, Lithuania

Professor Francesco Billari,  
Professor of Sociology and  
Demography, Fellow of Nuffield  
College, University of Oxford, UK

Dr Katarzyna Kajdanek,  
Faculty of Sociology, University  
of Wrocław, Poland

Dr Ruby Gropas,  
Leader of Social Affairs Team,  
European Political Strategy Centre  
(EPSC), European Commission  
and visiting professor at the College  
of Europe, Bruges, Belgium

**More information links:**

<http://europa.eu/espas>  
[www.cor.europa.eu/sedec](http://www.cor.europa.eu/sedec)

### Summary

The moderator, Franck Debié, referred to the 'Golden Aging' Report by the WB, emphasising the social disparities that exist across regions. CoR member Arnoldas Abramavičius stressed the need for clearer definition of the roles and responsibilities of all key actors in responding to the challenges of demographic change. Professor Billari outlined the challenges of evaluating demographic change and the problems arising when using projections in order to determine policy responses. Dr Kajdanek presented the forecasts for 2050 with regard to demographic change, emphasising the booming silver economy (cluster of 'silver services', silver villages and old people's homes). Dr Gropas emphasised the importance of active ageing, referring to the changing working trends with older people willing to continue working longer

### Main messages/conclusions

- 1) There are substantial social disparities that exist across regions in terms of public policy responses to aging and longevity;
- 2) Clearer definition of the roles and responsibilities of all key actors and stakeholders is needed, in order for vertical and horizontal coordination and networked governance arrangements to be created to respond to the challenges of demographic change;
- 3) Experts called for local and regional authorities to provide researchers with more, and more frequent data;
- 4) In practice, in order to achieve a higher quality of life in local and regional communities, a more qualitative approach is necessary towards demographic problems and aging;
- 5) Future policies shouldn't be based on a linear approach (study-work-retire) but rather give people of all ages the opportunity to enter the learning process at different stages of their working careers;
- 6) Curiously enough, the private sector is acutely aware of the capacities and productivity of different population groups. Social innovation should be deployed in order to facilitate the lives of the elderly in their own community.

**Key messages:**

'There is a clear challenge to see the demographic challenge', 'Demography is not easy and it unravels pretty fast', 'We need 'stress tests' for demographic challenges', 'A 'silver age tsunami' is awaiting Poland in the next 20 years', 'Brexit showed an age-gap', 'Living in a society that is old is fundamentally different'.

# University workshops



## Urban development/territorial policy provisions and the challenge of creating simplified and user-friendly implementation systems

### Summary

Territorial provisions have gained prominence in cohesion policy as part of a shift to more place based policy approaches. In particular, the urban dimension of cohesion policy has been strengthened for the 2014-20 period. Provisions such as Sustainable Urban Development (SUD – Article 7), Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-led local development (CLLD) provide opportunities for integrated approaches and therefore more strategic implementation of ESI Funds. These approaches are intended to engage local stakeholders in the implementation and management of ESI Funds. The extent to which these tools are used is flexible across the Member States and their implementation has raised some important challenges.

### Main messages/conclusions

Merja Haapakka from DG REGIO provided an overview of the state of play with regard to territorial provisions in cohesion policy for 2014-20, which include provisions for areas with certain territorial specificities as well as provisions for urban areas. The main objectives of the urban and territorial dimension in cohesion policy are to help address territorial challenges in their full complexity and to align specific local development needs with thematic priorities, as well as to promote multi-level governance. Some of the main outstanding issues in relation to the implementation of urban development strategies are:

- ▶ very little information about territorial strategies,
- ▶ investment in capacity-building activities,
- ▶ links to the urban agenda.

Professor Kristine Kern placed the development of territorial provisions in cohesion policy within the wider context of the EU urban dimension, highlighting the importance of transnational city networks and the role of cities in multi-level governance frameworks and pointing to hierarchical, vertical and horizontal Europeanisation processes. She also stressed the importance of upscaling according to different capacities:

- ▶ voluntary upscaling (leaders),
- ▶ embedded upscaling (latecomers),
- ▶ obligatory upscaling (those lagging behind).

Peter Ramsden reflected on some of the paradoxes of integrated approaches, particularly that ITI offer more potential but are too tied to the cohesion policy framework, which is facing a 'silent' and multifaceted crisis (e.g. fear of audit, continuing focus on spending, lack of focus on long-term results). The concentration of thematic objectives can work against integrated approaches. In some cases there is a lack of continuity whereas in others projects are continued without any real results. He also argued that the focus on results may have an inverse effect, that particularly the synergistic effects of ITI are hard to measure and that the inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders that are able to build for the long term is also valuable.

UNIV11C07

11 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

RSA and AESOP

**Chair/moderator:**

Dr Arno van der Zwet,  
Research Fellow, European Policies  
Research Centre, University  
of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

**Speakers:**

Merja Haapakka,  
Senior policy officer, DG Regio, Finland  
Professor Kristine Kern,  
University of Potsdam, Germany  
Peter Ramsden,  
Urbaact Pole Manager, United Kingdom

# University workshops



UNIV12A100

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

**Organiser:**

European Regional Science Association (Leader), Association of European Schools of Planning and Regional Studies

**Chair/moderator:**

Leïla Kebir,  
Ecole des Ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris,  
Lab'Urba, Paris Est University, France

Dominique Mignot,  
Head of the Transport, Health, Safety  
department at the Institut français  
des sciences et technologies des  
transports, de l'aménagement et des  
réseaux (IFSTTAR), France

**Speakers:**

Simin Davoudi,  
Professor of Environment Policy & Planning at the School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape and Associate Director of Newcastle Institute for Sustainability, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Torsten Klimke,  
Deputy head of the Research and Innovative Transport Systems Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, Brussels, Belgium

Matthieu Perrin,  
Researcher at INRA, AgroParisTech, France

Cristina Pronello,  
Professor at the Politecnico di Torino, former president of the COST Transport and Urban Development domain committee, member of ECTRI, member of the scientific advisory board of JPI Urban Europe, France

André Torre,  
Professor of Economics at Paris Saclay University and INRA – AgroParisTech, France

Olivier Sykes,  
Lecturer in European Spatial Planning, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

## Challenges and opportunities of climate change: Focus on smart transport

### Summary

Territories are nowadays key places in the development of actions dealing with global warming. This workshop addressed the issue of the territorial implications of climate change. It started with a round table on the challenges faced by EU regions and cities and how they take action to cope with them, with particular focus on environmental and socio-economic impact on the development of EU territories. The subject of the second round table was action to be taken on the transport issue and in particular the impact of the roadmap on accessibility and connectivity developed by JPI Urban Europe (2015).

### Main messages/conclusions

Leïla Kebir started by presenting the global challenges of climate change related to territorial approaches.

The first round table addressed three key issues of the relationship between climate change and territories. First, Matthieu Perrin and André Torre showed how spatial planning is both a 'producer' of climate change and tool for mitigating it. For instance, they explained how research has highlighted the substantial influence land use has on weather and air quality of regions. They ended with the possibility of extending the scope of climate action to a regional scale. Simin Davoudi followed on, saying that reducing energy demand is an important part of tackling climate change. Environmental behaviours are therefore fundamental. Three types of understanding of such behaviour can combine and should be considered in sensitisation policies: rational economic (utility maximisation, etc.), psychological (habits, etc.) and sociological (social pressure, mimetic, etc.). Olivier Sykes ended this first round table with the issue of consensus-building on climate. Despite strong scientific consensus, rising populist discourses, for instance, tend to dismiss expert knowledge and to weaken the implementation of climate change policies. There is an urgent need for reestablishment of expert knowledge and of more awareness among policymakers.

The second round table addressed few key factors related to smart transport for smart cities. Cristina Pronello started by addressing the effects of multimodal real time information on travel behaviour. She presented the results of the Optcities project (multimodal real time navigator). She highlighted the role of psychological and cultural aspects and presented clusters of users. Torsten Klimke presented first European initiatives concerning smart transport and smart cities, and then smart cities support actions under the Horizon 2020 programme. He highlighted the new tools proposed by the Commission, such as ELENA (technical assistance programme) and JESSICA (advisory service). Dominique Mignot concluded the round table by presenting new challenges for transport and mobility owing to huge, rapid development of ICT and autonomous vehicles. He highlighted that ITS and new mobility services improve multimodal practices and accessibility in suburbs and rural areas, but also bring new paradoxes. He concluded by pointing out the risk of an increase in social inequalities.

# University workshops



## Moving micro-businesses towards the productivity frontier

### Summary

Relatively little policy attention has focused on productivity upgrading of micro firms. Recent research has suggested a 1:5 ratio between productivity in micro and leading-edge firms, a gap which is larger in many developing economies. This session clarified current OECD thinking on upgrading productivity in micro-firms, explored issues around the mind-set of micro-entrepreneurs in terms of upgrading and considered policy to formalise informal companies. The key conclusions were: the importance of addressing productivity deficits in micro-enterprises; the importance of framework conditions in enabling and incentivising change; and the importance of policies which can promote a positive attitude to change by micro-entrepreneurs.

### Main messages/conclusions

Micro-enterprises play a significant role in all economies, accounting for 80-90 percent of businesses. Productivity in these firms lags behind that in larger, more internationally oriented firms and this productivity gap is increasing in most countries. Recent OECD thinking emphasises three steps which need to be taken to enable productivity upgrading in micro-enterprises. First, it is important to identify characteristics and bottlenecks using better data which can inform effective policy development. Second, providing global framework conditions conducive to productivity upgrading is vital, and leveraging the local dimension of growth is also important. This relates largely to the value of local networks, collaboration and support organisations.

Beyond these external supports it is also important to consider the mind-set of micro-business leaders. Is there the appetite for change? Are the incentives right to encourage innovation and risk-taking? Measures were discussed which might increase firms' ambition, including the use of successful case studies, media publicity for successful growth stories and business networks.

The challenges of informality were discussed in the context of Mexico. While the government is doing little to work directly with informal firms they are actively promoting the benefits of formality and participation in other government support schemes. Questions were raised as to whether it may be appropriate to support productivity upgrading in informal firms and how this might be done.

The discussion emphasised the importance of skills as an enabler of change in micro-businesses and their ability to adopt new technologies and ways of doing business. Final remarks by contributors emphasised this point and stressed that this went beyond leadership and management skills to include more technical competencies.

UNIV12B99

12 October 2016

14:30-17:00

#### Organiser:

Regional Studies Organisation and AESOP

#### Chair/moderator:

Prof. Stephen Roper, Professor of Enterprise and Director of the Enterprise Research Centre, Warwick Business School, United Kingdom

#### Speakers:

Alexander Lembcke, Economist and policy analyst in the Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD, France

Prof. Rene Rivera Huerta, Professor, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana Unidad Xochimilco, Mexico

Paul Braidford, Independent consultant, United Kingdom

#### More information links:

<http://ip-bt.com/english>

# University workshops



UNIV13A111

13 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

Regional Studies Association and JRC  
Smart Specialisation Platform

**Chair/moderator:**

Francesco Grillo,  
Oxford University; Advisor to Italy's  
Minister for Education, Universities  
and Research, Italy

**Speakers:**

Katerina Ciampi Stankova,  
Policy officer, JRC, Spain

Dr Edurn Magro,  
Researcher, Orkestra, Basque  
Institute of Competitiveness  
& Deusto University, Spain

Dr Monika Matusiak,  
Head of Centre for Public Policy,  
Knowledge Transfer Company,  
Poznan University of Economics  
and Business, Poland

Prof Philip McCann,  
Professor of Economic Geography,  
University of Groningen, Netherlands

**More information links:**

Francesco Grillo – Oxford University,  
Advisor to Italy's Minister for Education,  
Universities and Research: [www.vision-website.eu/UserFiles/Grillo\\_EWRC2016](http://www.vision-website.eu/UserFiles/Grillo_EWRC2016)

Philip McCann, University of Groningen:  
[https://danube-inco.net/object/document/1517/attach/s3\\_mccann\\_ortega.pdf](https://danube-inco.net/object/document/1517/attach/s3_mccann_ortega.pdf)

Monika Matusiak, Poznań University  
of Economics and Business:  
<http://www.cetc-egtc.eu/download/category/18-smart-specialisations?download=32:specialisations-analysis-monika-matusiak-english>

Ciampi-Nikolova, IPTS JRC, S3 Platform:  
<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Edurne Magro, Orkestra and Deusto  
Business School: [www.orkestra.deusto.es/en/about-orkestra/team/423-edurne-magro-en](http://www.orkestra.deusto.es/en/about-orkestra/team/423-edurne-magro-en)

## Smart Specialisation five years on: From design to implementation

### Summary

Policy experts discussed the challenge for smart specialisation to move from a design phase to an implementation phase. Whereas the design phase was driven by the obligation imposed by Structural Funds regulation for smart specialisation to be a condition for access to the programmes, the implementation phase will be successful only if regions really buy into the innovation argument and if smart specialisation is not overwhelmed by public administrations' routine.

The debate provided an overview of the main issues related to implementation of the strategies, focusing on monitoring and evaluation, which are key to linking implementation to (re)design and making implementation as an opportunity to learn.

### Main messages/conclusions

Introduced about five years ago, smart specialisation is a new, innovative policy concept encouraging regions and cities to find and build on their competitive advantages. Experts noted that mainstreaming smart specialisation and focusing on evaluating and monitoring recent policy outcomes are the key priorities now.

'It is important that smart specialisation goes beyond the domain of experts, practitioners and administrators of cohesion policies', Professor Francesco Grillo from Oxford University stressed, as this policy concept remains relatively unknown among business people, policymakers and the public. Participation is key to smart specialisation, together with innovation and choice, and a focus on knowledge management – as a mechanism to generate knowledge from projects.

Philip McCann from the University of Groningen traced a short history of smart specialisation as being at a crossroads between different academic research threads. The concept has now become interesting even beyond the European and cohesion policy domains. Moving forward, it is important for regions and cities to share experiences on implementing smart specialisation, as 'learning from other regions is crucial', and the Smart Specialisation Platform plays a key role as a learning network.

The platform was created to offer advice to EU countries and regions and to facilitate marking and peer review. Katerina Ciampi-Stankova from the IPTS – Joint Research Centre (where the S3 Platform is operating) provided an overview of the draft of the Handbook for the implementation of RIS, stressing the role of the inclusive and continuous Entrepreneurial Discovery Process in achieving good S3 governance.

Monika Matusiak from Poznań University of Economics and Business added: 'It is in the regions' best interests to monitor and evaluate [outcomes of S3] but there is also a need to involve more stakeholders'. Additionally, she listed few monitoring experiments (both diagnostic, cognitive and behavioural), identifying adaptive monitoring as an interesting approach once the learning phase of monitoring is under way.

Edurne Magro from Orkestra and Deusto Business School focused on challenges for monitoring and evaluation of RIS3 which 'are based on the distinctive elements of territorial strategies and especially on the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process novelty of RIS3 approaches'. Ms Adurno also provided some insights into the Basque Country's strategy and its implementation mechanisms.

# University workshops



## Sustained and sustainable economic growth: Balancing economic and ecological development in cities and regions

### Summary

Although the concept of sustainable development suggests the reconciliation of economic, social and ecological goals, the right balance has not yet been found. The first conclusion from the session is that in addition to enhancing eco-efficiency, local strategies should critically consider the level of overall consumption. Secondly, it became clear from the example of a post-socialist city that – despite significant environmental achievements – catching up economically has been prioritised. This highlights the relevance of distributional justice. Finally, results from the JPI Urban Europe project Governance of Urban Sustainability Transitions showed that Urban Living Labs might help by initiating and testing sustainability innovations directly involving public and private actors.

### Main messages/conclusions

For more than 20 years the concept of sustainable development has suggested the reconciliation of economic, social and ecological goals on a global scale. However, it is obvious that the right balance has not yet been found. Cities and regions do have a certain capacity to act. How can they support, in particular, achieving the right compromise between some kind of economic material or non-material progress on the one hand and retaining appreciated and essential ecosystem services on the other hand?

The three speakers shed light on the problem from different perspectives. Prof. Dr Petter Næss of the Norwegian University of Life Science in Ås, Norway, challenged the very idea of green growth. He pointed out that recycling strategies are technically limited and that significant improvements in eco-efficiency are often offset by rebound effects. It is possible, for instance, for efforts to reduce carbon emissions through improving public transport to be cancelled out by the shift of expenditure from cars to holiday flights. This means that future urban strategies should also critically consider the level of consumption, which involves the difficult question of distributional justice.

Then Dr Yuliya Voytenko Palgan of Lund University in Sweden presented results from the JPI Urban Europe project on Governance of Urban Sustainability Transitions (GUST). She showed that Urban Living Labs might help by initiating and testing sustainability innovations directly involving public and private actors. Promising key characteristics of these labs are geographical embeddedness, experimentation and learning, participation and user involvement, leadership and ownership, as well as evaluation.

Finally, Dr Marek Stępa, deputy mayor of the City of Gdynia in Poland, gave valuable insights from the perspective of practical local policymaking and planning. Having had responsibility for spatial development, municipal investments and public transportation since 1998, he could point to significant environmental initiatives and substantive environmental improvements. Nevertheless, it became clear that catching up in economic terms has been made a priority. This highlights once again the relevance of distributional justice and emphasises that responsibility for sustainable development needs to be shared among all political and administrative levels.

UNIV13A123

13 October 2016

11:15-13:00

#### Organiser:

Regional Studies Association, AESOP,  
DG Research

#### Chair/moderator:

Dr Gerd Lintz,  
Senior researcher, Leibniz Institute  
of Ecological Urban and Regional  
Development, Germany

#### Speakers:

Marek Stępa,  
Deputy mayor of the City of Gdynia,  
Poland

Dr Yuliya Voytenko Palgan,  
Associate senior lecturer,  
Lund University, Sweden

Prof. Dr Petter Næss,  
Head of the Urban Sustainability  
research group, Norwegian University  
of Life Science, Ås, Norway

# University workshops



UNIV13C112

13 October 2016

09:00-10:45

**Organiser:**

Regional Studies Organisation,  
AESOP and ERSA

**Chair/moderator:**

Dr Alasdair Rae,  
Senior Lecturer, University  
of Sheffield, UK

**Speakers:**

Oliver Müller,  
Eurostat, Luxembourg

Prof. Ron Martin,  
Professor of Economic Geography,  
University of Cambridge, UK

Prof. Stefanie Dühr,  
Professor of European Spatial Planning  
Systems, Radboud University,  
Nijmegen, Netherlands

Martin Gauk,  
Project Expert – Data, Toolbox and IT,  
ESPON, Luxembourg

## Spatial data requirements for effective spatial policy

### Summary

In recent years, we have seen an increasing amount of newly available data for policymaking, particularly in relation to local dimensions of economic growth and competitiveness. This session therefore brought together data experts from across Europe to present their thoughts on 'spatial data requirements for effective spatial policy'; particularly in relation to the subnational level. A key idea discussed in the session was the question of whether 'evidence-based policy' is actually, quite often, more like 'policy-based evidence' rather than being about truly transformative knowledge. Another key idea discussed during the session was the fact that good data does not necessarily mean good policy – a key point emphasised during the discussion at the end of the seminar.

### Main messages/conclusions

This session focused on uses of, and the need for, better spatial data at subnational level. In order to design, implement and evaluate spatial policies properly and effectively, we must have the necessary data to do so, but across European Member States this is not always the case.

After the chair's opening comments, Oliver Müller from Eurostat discussed 'A selection of sub-national indicators available at Eurostat'. This focused on datasets at the NUTS2 and NUTS3 levels, in addition to data on cities and different territorial types. There was also some discussion of how such data is disseminated, before numerous examples were presented to the audience.

Following this scene-setting paper, Ron Martin then presented his view of research and data requirements for evidence-based spatial policy. This was helpfully framed using an OECD quote from 2014 which emphasised the need – and demand – 'for better, more diversified and detailed statistical data'. This then led into a discussion on 'the new age of data', which it can be argued we are currently in. The question of what 'good' data is was also highlighted as a key point here. In relation to critical data gaps, a significant idea put forward here was the need for data that permit 'total place analysis'; not possible in the current environment. Three concrete examples (UK cities, smart specialisation, Brexit and EU regions) were given before concluding that constructing effective and far-reaching datasets should be an integral part of national economic development management.

Following Ron Martin, Stefanie Dühr presented her thinking on 'A 'European spatial planning and territorial cooperation' perspective on spatial data'. This provided particularly useful conceptual framing of the issue, in relation to the ontological and epistemological aspects of 'what can be known' from spatial data. Further elements of this talk focused on political and policy agendas and 'transboundary spaces'. A key idea embedded in the talk was the idea of the map as 'an argument' rather than an objective representation of reality.

Martin Gauk's presentation then logically followed on from this to present the ESPON perspective, in relation to filling data gaps and the need to keep developing our European data infrastructure.

In a nutshell, the session might best be summarised by saying that there was agreement that more, better data is needed in order to understand social and economic processes at subnational level.

# Master Class



# Master Class



***Held for the fourth time in 2016 as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities' University, the aim of the Master Class is to foster greater understanding of EU Cohesion Policy and its research potential for selected PhD students and early-career researchers.***



The Master Class is organised and led by the European Commission, the DG for Regional and Urban Policy, the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Regional Studies Association (RSA) in cooperation with the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). A selection panel drawn from these organisations was responsible for reviewing the applications and selecting participants.

**Following a call for paper proposals, 28 participants from 17 EU Member States attended the Master Class and discussed three topics in particular:**

- ▶ Promoting inclusive growth and social cohesion, including the territorial dimension and the integration of urban and rural development.
- ▶ The significance of the network economy: policy learning; transfers between regions and cities; knowledge spill-overs.
- ▶ Improving the Cohesion policy delivery system: performance, simplification and accountability.

35 speakers and moderators from partner institutions were involved and the selected participants attended the various modules offered as part of the Master Class, namely: lectures, presentations of selected students' papers, networking sessions, the European Week of Regions and Cities' opening session, interactive debates, role-play sessions, social events (the RegioStars Awards) and city walking tours with specialists in urban planning.

The most important aspect of the Master Class is its impact on the research trajectories of the attendees. Feedback from alumni has made it clear that the Master Class has a major impact on many of its students. It provides the opportunity for students and ECRs to come to Brussels to visit the institutions, engage with senior officials and experts and network with peers. By doing so, the Master Class facilitates the exchange of knowledge and learning, and builds both capacity and an international community of experts.

Earlier cohorts of Master Class students have reported that their attendance has led to: successful applications for funding, joint projects or publications, new contacts and networks (both within the student body and at the institutions), additional knowledge about the work of policy makers at the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Committee of the Regions, increased skills and employability and promotions or a new job.



# Master Class



This experience has also encouraged them to stay in the regional development field and to work on Cohesion policy; many of the students are staying in contact with each other and working/publishing together. This is critical to the EU institutions, especially now as currently much of the expertise in this area is British. Another important element bringing added value to the Master Class is that institutions can also see where there are gaps in current PhD research. This year there were 115 applications which is a reasonable survey of PhDs in Europe in this field taken on an annual basis.



After the Master Class, students and lecturers were invited to take part in an online evaluation and 21 of the 28 participants responded. For 77% of them, the Master Class is a real opportunity to meet EU institution representatives and to learn about new trends in regional and urban development research. The participants' main expectation was to network with other students/researchers. This expectation was met in some 86% of cases.

The session with the European Parliament Service was the most appreciated module with 81.82% rating it as 'excellent'. The role play session was also appreciated, with 59.09% rating it 'excellent' and 36.36% as 'good'. The academic programme was perceived as 'excellent' by 36.36% and 'good' by 54.55%. Regarding communication tools, the EWRC website was the most useful tool (54.55% found it 'useful').

**The presentation of PhD students' research will be rethought as it was the subject of the main recommendations for future events. Recommendations included:** 'more time for reacting to the feedback of paper reviewers', 'shorter presentation on the policy results', 'predefining the presentations to maintain a reasonable time schedule' and 'smaller groups for the discussions'. Another suggestion was to involve EU political representatives and local project leaders.

An Alumni Network is being formulated at the moment and will probably work as part of an RSA Funded Research Network on Cohesion Policy in the first instance.



# Investors' Café



# Investors' Café



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## Investors' Café at the European Committee of the Regions

***Support for investment in Europe is a key priority for the European Committee of the Regions and for the European Commission. Local and regional authorities are responsible for more than half of public investment in the EU and investments in areas such as infrastructure, energy, public transport education, healthcare, etc., have a direct impact on local economies, the dynamism of businesses and the life and well-being of European citizens.***

Local and regional leaders call on the EU to improve regulation and attract greater private-public investment in order to create more jobs and tackle the investment gap. The EU has many successful tools for investment, which can contribute to tackling Europe's large and harmful investment gap. However, major obstacles exist, including a lack of administrative know-how at local and regional level. With improved awareness, information and expertise, Europe's cities and regions could get more out of EU investment, including through the European Fund for Strategic Investments and other existing investment platforms.

In 2016, the Meeting Place at the European Committee of the Regions hosted an Investors' Café featuring information stands on advisory services relating to EU financial instruments, European Union SME-support and support for junior enterprises, as well as networking opportunities. The partners of the Investors' Café 2016 included:

- ▶ the European Investment Bank (Jaspers, Fi-Compass),
- ▶ the European Association of Public Banks,
- ▶ the European Commission Executive Agency for SMEs (Enterprise Europe Network, Horizon 2020 programmes, LIFE and EMFF),
- ▶ Eurochambres, as well as
- ▶ entrepreneurial associations such as Entreprs, EURADA, JA Europe and JADE,
- ▶ and the Committee of the Regions' EER initiative.

# Investors' Café



As well as providing an opportunity to meet and network with these representatives, the International Board of Business Owners and Entrepreneurs provided a TV platform and an 'app', in order to produce and broadcast live-streamed pitching videos via YouTube, presenting projects and initiatives from all over Europe. By signing in to the ByLeaders app (available at World GeoCommunity/Google Play), representatives of regions and cities were able to pitch their best projects and ideas to the entire community.

# Regiostars Awards



# RegioStars Awards



*This year for the second time, the European Commission's RegioStars Awards were included in the European Week of Regions and Cities's Official Reception. The reception took place in the BOZAR's Henry Le Boeuf Hall. This major social and networking event was an opportunity to find out the winners of the RegioStars Awards, an initiative by the European Commission to foster innovative and inspiring projects in the European regions. EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, and the President of the RegioStars Awards jury, MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, presented the winning projects with the RegioStars trophy and a certificate.*

This yearly EU-wide competition showcased the best EU projects that illustrate, through real-life examples, how Cohesion Policy supports the creation of economic growth and jobs. In addition to giving recognition to the selected projects, the competition aimed to encourage the exchange of good practices between Cohesion Policy practitioners, as well as to inspire other project managers and managing authorities.

During the first round of the competition, an independent expert jury shortlisted 23 finalists out of 104 applications. Then, during the second round, five winning projects were selected to receive the prestigious RegioStars trophy. In addition, this year, the project 'Circular Ocean' from the Arctic regions received a 'Public Choice Award', based on votes from attendees at the event.

This year, the submitted projects competed in 5 categories: support to businesses operating in the global economy, the circular economy, social inclusion strategies, sustainable urban development and, finally, a new category for projects that look at innovative solutions to manage EU funds more effectively. The projects that took home a trophy were:

## CATEGORY 1 – SMART GROWTH:

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

### **COPENHAGEN CLEANTECH CLUSTER (Denmark/Capital Region of Denmark):**

With the help of EUR 9 738 500 from the European Regional Development Fund, the Copenhagen Cleantech Cluster project created networks of companies and research institutes to spark ideas for new cleantech products and services and develop them into viable businesses. The project's overall vision was to develop a world-leading cluster of cleantech researchers and businesses in Copenhagen and the country's Zealand region. Over 600 companies were included, active in many different service and manufacturing industries. As a result, many local cleantech companies grew their businesses despite the financial crisis. Over 40% took on more employees and over half increased turnover.

## CATEGORY 2 – SUSTAINABLE GROWTH:

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### **CENTRO BIO: BIO-INDUSTRIES, BIOREFINERIES AND BIO-PRODUCTS (Portugal/Centro)**

In the forested mountains of Portugal's Centro region, a technology and innovation centre is developing a bio-based rural economy that sources fuel and raw materials sustainably, creating new jobs and businesses, while limiting imports and preserving the area's natural beauty. Inspired by agricultural/forestry waste and residues that were a local hazard but have the potential to interact with different value-chains, the 'Centro Bio: Bio-industries, Biorefineries and Bioproducts Project' works with researchers and local farmers, foresters and entrepreneurs to develop new industries from by-products, improve the efficiency of businesses and train future scientists and entrepreneurs. The project is working towards a sustainable 'circular economy' for the area – one where businesses interact and share resources to avoid waste – and is funded to the tune of EUR 2 640 000 from the European Regional Development Fund.

# RegioStars Awards



## CATEGORY 3 – INCLUSIVE GROWTH:

INTEGRATED LIVING – BUILDING INCLUSIVE AND NON-SEGREGATED COMMUNITIES

### ACADEMY OF SOCIAL ECONOMY (Poland /Malopolska Region)

To enhance the impact of non-profits, charities and other social enterprises in the Malopolska Region in Poland, the European Social Fund-supported 'Academy of Social Economy Development Project (ASEDP)' helped to centralise cooperation between these private entities and the public sector. It focused its attention on building a social economy capable of supporting at-risk individuals such as the unemployed, disabled persons, homeless persons, substance abusers and the mentally ill. The result was the establishment of an Information & Consultation Point, a hub where social economy stakeholders could meet for knowledge sharing, training, consultations and promotional activities. The hub served as the go-to-place for both existing and potential new social economy entities. In total, 1711 individuals benefited from the programme, along with 245 social economy entities and 126 local partners. Altogether, 208 financial subsidies were transferred to newly-established social cooperatives thanks to the project's success.

## CATEGORY 4 – CITYSTAR:

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### REVITALIZATION OF LOWER TOWN DISTRICT IN GDANSK (Poland /Pomorskie Voivodeship)

Gdańsk's Lower Town has historically been one of the most neglected districts of the city, with little investment or renovation taking place. In order to address this, a project has been carried out to revitalise historic parts of Gdańsk with the aim of both attracting sustainable long-term investment and encouraging greater social inclusion. The project, which received EUR 5 792 000 from the European Regional Development Fund, involved regenerating existing buildings and infrastructure and creating new social opportunities. Locals were asked about their needs and expectations, and their

responses were taken into consideration during the final drafting of the proposals. In order to attract investment and businesses, infrastructure such as street surfaces and public spaces have been repaired and revitalised, and an incubator for creative industries created.

## CATEGORY 5 – EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY MANAGING DIFFERENTLY

### TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE JONVABALIAI (FIREFLIES) (Lithuania)

The issue of transparency – and the public's misperception of it – consistently ranks as one of the biggest challenges for EU-funded projects. FIREFLIES tackled the problem by decentralising the reporting process, allowing project managers to show the public how they use EU funds directly. This meant they could promote the benefits of their work to the public directly, and the public could see first-hand how EU funding was being implemented – thus removing one of the major barriers to public trust. At the centre of this approach was the formation of a voluntary coalition of social partners and opinion leaders, operating under the name FIREFLIES, – a name symbolic of light, transparency and inner energy – who work directly with project managers to encourage them to be more open about how they use EU funds. Via a website ([www.jonvabaliai.lt](http://www.jonvabaliai.lt)), project managers can voluntarily submit information about project results, prices, public procurement, stakeholders, risk management practices, etc. The more information provided, the more 'transparency fireflies' they receive. When a user visits the website, they see a map highlighting all EU-financed projects, with each project's number of fireflies being fully visible – giving them a clear visual understanding of how transparent a project is. In less than two years, more than 630 project managers have joined and over 35 500 people have visited the site. Even more impressive is the impact the project has had on public perception.

#### More information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/regio-stars-awards](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/regio-stars-awards)

# Networking



## Networking during the European Week of Regions and Cities

***The European Week of Regions and Cities also provides an excellent networking opportunity for discussions and informal meetings between local, regional, national and European decision-makers, policy experts and practitioners.***

The social events, which included an opening event at the European Committee of the Regions featuring an exhibition of the RegioStars finalists, and the Official Reception preceded by the RegioStars award ceremony (see page xx) at BOZAR, were key moments for networking and mingling among the participants, speakers and politicians.

The Meeting Place at the European Committee of the Regions headquarters offered participants a central location for attending workshops, networking and developing new partnerships. At the Investors' Café, event participants also had

the opportunity to meet representatives from EU SME-support mechanisms and advisory services relating to EU financial instruments, as well as representatives of organisations offering support to junior enterprises. The European Commission's conference centre, the Centre Borschette, provided areas for spontaneous networking in line with the three themes of the event: 'Sustained and sustainable economic growth' (ground floor), 'Inclusive economic growth'(first floor) and 'Making ESI Funds simpler' (second floor).

Moreover, the event's mobile application offered a new tool making it possible to browse through the list of participants to identify key contacts, get in touch with them and exchange e-business cards thanks to the application's integrated messaging and match-making features.



# Networking



# Sustainable urban development: Exploring and networking



# Sustainable urban development: Exploring and networking



The 14<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities provided a platform for practitioners, officials and experts from all over Europe interested in the urban dimension of EU policies. It was built on the Pact of Amsterdam, the CoR Forum on the EU Urban Agenda (30 May 2016) and last year's OPEN urban DAY. The European Commission's DG for Regional and Urban Policy and the European Committee of the Regions joined forces with the Brussels-Capital Region and local institutions, representatives from other cities and European networks and initiatives to facilitate an exchange of best practices on sustainable urban development. It was the perfect opportunity for them to debate urban development issues such as the challenges facing European cities and the urban impact assessment and to attend specific interactive sessions, workshops, project visits and key events on the Urban Agenda for the EU. The European Week of Regions and Cities was also the key moment to reflect upon the progress made and the next steps to be taken to move the Urban Agenda forward, notably during with the Political Event on the Urban Agenda for the EU on Wednesday 12 October.

## Guided visits organised by the Brussels Capital Region and project teams

On 11 and 12 October, event participants, and urban practitioners in particular, could choose to visit some Brussels-based projects relating to sustainable urban development. Objective: fostering international exchange in this field and spotlighting inspiring practices and experiences.

## Community Land Trust Brussels (CLT), an innovative initiative for housing

This non-profit organisation helps low-income families to solve their housing problems through access to property. To do so, CLT renovates or constructs buildings to facilitate the purchase of housing and to encourage the development of value-added activities in the neighbourhood. By separating land ownership from building ownership, a family can buy the building at an affordable price, whilst CLT retains the ownership of the land. This highly innovative project receives support from the Brussels Capital Region.

[www.cltb.be](http://www.cltb.be)

# Sustainable urban development: Exploring and networking

## PORT SUD, promoting intangible heritage for sustainable quality of life and Bruxelles-Ecopôle/RecyK, a recycling project

Participants also discovered PORT SUD, a project contributing to dynamic growth in the canal area. This ERDF co-funded project promotes heritage and will generate jobs. PORT SUD is expected to add value to the area and improve services to the population. The project includes the renovation of emblematic buildings, to accommodate e.g. companies and a research and innovation centre.

Participants then moved on to the Bruxelles-Ecopôle/RecyK. This project sets up a platform of circular and social economy stakeholders specialised in the re-use, repair, reduction and recycling of waste/resources, as well as in training and professional reintegration.

[www.portsud.be](http://www.portsud.be)



# Sustainable urban development: Exploring and networking

## Greenbizz, a new development hub for the green economy, sustainable development and environmental entrepreneurship

This ERDF co-funded project provides companies and start-ups with facilities and services to create and develop their sustainable economy project. It is a new development hub for the green economy, sustainable development and environmental entrepreneurship. With a total floorspace of 5000 m<sup>2</sup>, which complies with low-energy standards, the facility is flexible and is set up as a modular incubator and modular workspaces. The aim of Greenbizz is to help new entrepreneurs to get their project off the ground as soon as they arrive at Greenbizz.

[www.greenbizz.brussels](http://www.greenbizz.brussels)



# Local events



# Local events



Since 2006, regions and cities participating in the European Week of Regions and Cities as 'partners' have to organise at least one local event. In 2016, some 144 'Europe in my region/Europe in my city' local events have been organised between September and November, in 29 different countries, all around Europe.

Local events were structured around the European week of Regions and Cities' three thematic priorities, namely: Sustained and sustainable economic growth, Inclusive economic growth and Making ESI Funds simpler. They encouraged 'interactive/citizens' dialogues and engaged local politicians. Their targets were the general public, regions and cities, potential beneficiaries of EU regional policy, expert audiences, academics and the media. The events could take various formats such as conferences, workshops, radio/TV broadcasts, information days or exhibitions. They could also be organised in conjunction with the launch of EU regional policy projects or as part of the annual information measures required by the Structural Funds' regulations.

Regional and local administrations, institutions or organisations which were not members of a regional partnership could also organise local events as part of the European Week. These are called local events organised by 'independent partners'. This year, 138 local events were organised by regional Partnerships and 6 by independent partners.

**The events, and their upcoming summary reports, can be consulted on the interactive map on the European Week's website:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/local\\_events.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/regions-and-cities/2016/local_events.cfm)

**Contact:**

[localevents-ewrc@cor.europa.eu](mailto:localevents-ewrc@cor.europa.eu)



# Local events



# Media analysis



# Media analysis



***The 14th edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities was attended by more than 170 journalists from 28 countries, including most of the European Union Member States, as well as some non-EU countries. Journalists had the opportunity to learn more about the Cohesion Policy, as well as the importance of regions and cities, not only during the media programme, but also during a series of more than 100 workshops, debates, exhibitions and networking events.***

A specifically designed media programme, taking place from Monday 10 October to Wednesday 12 October, was prepared for the journalists participating in the European Week. The media programme started with a press briefing on 'EU Regional Policy and Challenges Ahead', followed by a press roundtable with the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, and the President of the European Committee of the Regions, Markku Markkula. In the afternoon, the European Week of Regions and Cities 2016 was officially launched by Commissioner Crețu, President Markkula, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Vice President of the European Parliament, and Anton Marcinčin, Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for support of least-developed regions. In the evening, a networking reception and exhibition of RegioStars Awards projects was held, at which journalists had the opportunity to interview the finalists of the RegioStars Awards.

The journalists met experts from the European Commission on the second day of the media programme, which allowed them to get background information on Cohesion Policy and the use of cohesion funds in their countries. Later on, two workshops were held, focusing on the past and future of the policy and on the performance of European cities, respectively. On the same day the journalists met the winners of the 'Europe in my region' Photo Competition 2016 and the winners of RegioStars Awards. In the evening, the RegioStars Awards Ceremony acknowledged the most innovative projects funded in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy.

The media attending the European Week of Regions and Cities 2016 took part in a guided tour of the Canal Zone in Brussels on the final day. The aim of the visit was to showcase several projects supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a major cultural, social and economic impact on the municipality of Molenbeek.

## Key findings

The 2016 edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities was attended in larger numbers by journalists working for the print press with online outlets, in line with the trend towards digital publishing, but there was also an increase in the number of TV journalists in comparison to 2015. The participating journalists generated at least 279 reports that were published in the European national and regional media.

More than half of the coverage collected was published online and it included written media reports, as well as TV and radio. Reports in the print version of media outlets accounted for a fifth of total coverage. A positive trend observed is that this year's edition of the event saw a doubling in coverage generated by news agencies. As expected, most coverage of the event came from media in countries that benefited the most from European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). The reports analysed reflected an interest in ESI Funds, with more than half covering the topic. In most cases, the media adopted a national and/or regional stance and reported on the use of funds in their country or region of origin. In line with the idea of communicating about Cohesion Policy in direct proximity to the people and communities concerned, the analysis found that nearly 60% of the media coverage was distributed by regional media outlets, continuing the trend of previous editions of the event.

Among the thematic priorities of the event, sustained and sustainable growth and the new opportunities linked to innovation with reference to energy efficiency, the low-carbon economy, promotion of the circular economy and smart specialisation proved to be of high relevance for the media, being featured in nearly a quarter of the reports. Inclusive economic growth and social inclusion policies for disadvantaged sections of population, measures for the creation of micro-businesses and measures facilitating a self-employment-friendly working environment accounted for more than a fifth of the coverage analysed.

The RegioStars Awards Ceremony, a major item on the agenda of this year's edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities, attracted significant coverage from the media. Journalists from the countries of the winners reported the most on the RegioStars Awards, with a total of 39 reports covering

# Media analysis



the ceremony and the winners. Nevertheless, countries with no direct relationship to the winners, such as Bulgaria and Romania, also mentioned the initiative.

The projects visited in the Canal Zone and the Molenbeek neighbourhood of Brussels were also covered by journalists in their reports. Following the press trip, 'Molenbeek' was mentioned in 19 reports by journalists from 11 different countries. The journalists who took part in the visit discovered the stigmatised neighbourhood and learnt more about the diverse entrepreneurial initiatives supported by the European Regional Development Fund.

## Quantitative analysis

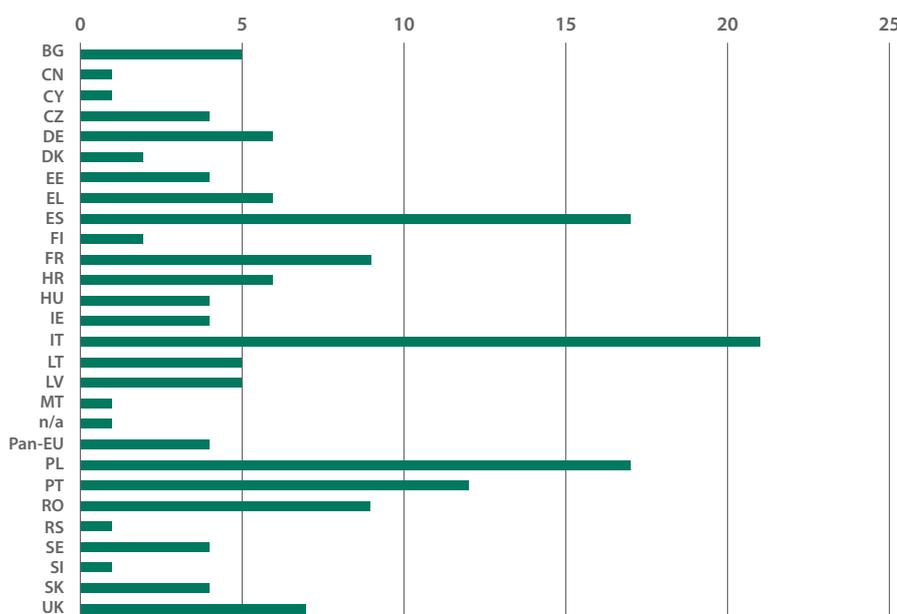
### Media participation

This edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities was attended by 208 media representatives from 26 Member States, as well as from Serbia and China. Of the EU Member

States, only Luxembourg and the Netherlands were not represented at the event by the media. As in previous editions the largest number of journalists came from Member States that are receiving large allocations of European Structural and Investment Funds. Italy was represented by 21 journalists, followed by Poland and Spain with 17 journalists each.

Most of the journalists work for the print press with online versions (38%). There was a slight increase in the number of TV journalists (24%) as compared with the previous edition (21%). Journalists working for online outlets (14%), radio (11%) and news agencies (8%) were also present at the event. National press agencies from 10 countries (Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain) were represented by 14 journalists.

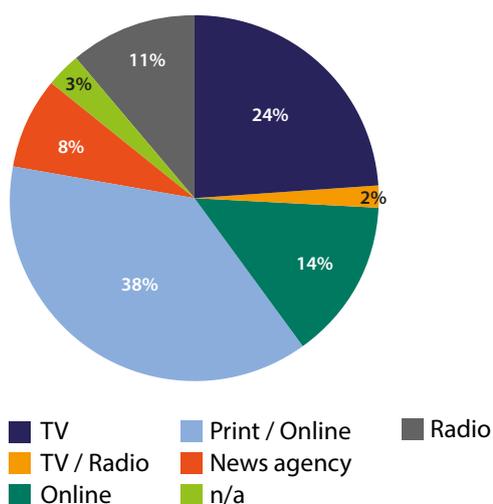
Distribution of journalists by country



# Media analysis



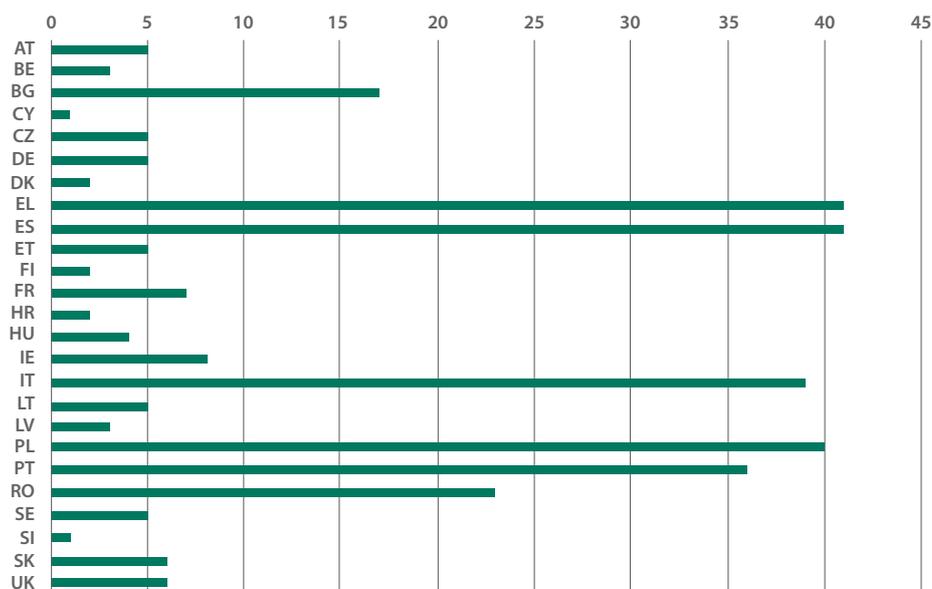
## Distribution of journalists by media type



## Media coverage

A total of 279 reports by journalists attending the European Week were identified, which represents a decrease in comparison with the 2015 edition. On average, the journalists that covered the event produced 1.6 reports about the event. Most coverage came from the countries with the highest number of journalists attending the event, i.e. Spain (41 reports), Poland (40 reports) and Italy (39 reports).

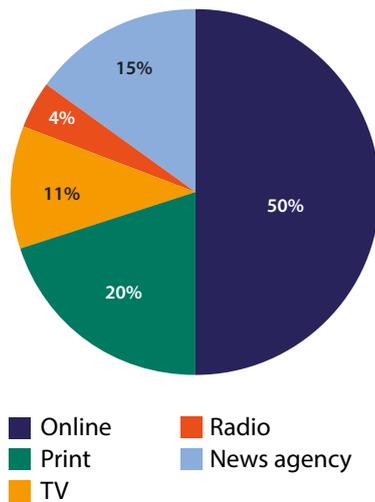
## Distribution of media coverage by country



# Media analysis



## Distribution of media coverage by media type



The trend of previous years continued, with half of the coverage collected having been published online, here including reports featured on TV and radio websites. The media in print format comprises 20% of the coverage, followed by media coverage disseminated by news agencies (15%), TV stations (11%) and radio (4%).

In contrast with the previous edition, the European Week of Regions and Cities 2016 was well covered by news agencies, with twice as many reports as compared to 2015. It is notable in particular that the articles published by the Portuguese agency Lusa were featured in other Portuguese media, such as Diário Digital, Porto Canal and RTP.

The scope of the media covering the event was mostly regional, including local media: 60% of the coverage falls into this category, similarly to previous editions; this ties in with the goal of communicating about Regional Policy more directly to the people and communities concerned.

## Qualitative analysis of media coverage

The analysis shows that the reports included in the media coverage had a neutral and informative tone in more than 90% of cases. The rest of the reports showed a positive tone, with the French, Italian and Portuguese journalists in particular adopting a positive approach to the event and the

topics discussed. This is a slight overall improvement compared with the 2015 edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities.

The event's topics attracted significant media interest. In particular ESI Funds, the simplification of the procedure and the possible upcoming changes in the allocation of the funds in the next programming period were featured in more than half of the reports analysed. The media reported on the European Structural and Investment Funds from a pronounced regional and/or national perspective, in many cases comparing the situation of the journalist's country with other Member States or focusing on the regional and local situation in terms of the use of funds. The possible suspension of ESI funding to Spain and Portugal, a hot topic at the time of the event, was among the top subjects in the reports from the two countries. The two other main themes of this year's edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities were also referred to in the media reports: the topic 'Sustained and sustainable growth' was mentioned in 27% of the reports analysed, while the 'Inclusive economic growth' theme was referred to in 22% of the coverage analysed.

The RegioStars Awards attracted significant media attention, as nearly 20% of all the reports analysed mentioned the RegioStars event or projects (a 4% increase compared to 2015). The journalists clearly situated the RegioStars within the context of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2016, as about 13% of the reports mentioned both 'RegioStars' and 'European Week of Regions and Cities' keywords. Journalists from the countries of the winners reported the most on the RegioStars Awards: 19 reports were gathered from Portugal, 13 reports came from Poland, 5 reports were published in Lithuania, one report from Denmark referred to the Copenhagen Cleantech Cluster, while one report from the United Kingdom referred to the Circular Ocean project. It is also worth noting that some of the countries with no direct relationship to the winners mentioned the initiative, such as Bulgaria and Romania (4 reports), Italy (2 reports), Cyprus, Denmark, Greece and Slovakia (1 report).

The journalists' visit to ESI Fund-supported projects in Molenbeek resulted in 19 reports from 11 different countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden). The overall content of the media coverage of the project visit can be categorised as

# Media analysis



referring to the stigmatisation of the area and its revitalisation, to which ESI Fund support contributed. Journalists took the opportunity to report on several initiatives supported by the European Regional Development Fund and put some of the projects under the spotlight, such as the social housing initiative Community Land Trust Bxl and the youth integration project ART2WORK.

Acknowledgement of the organising institutions is high, with almost half of the reports mentioning at least one of the organisers – the European Commission or the European Committee of the Regions. The personalities representing the two institutions also featured frequently in the reports, with European Commissioner Corina Crețu mentioned in 25% of the coverage and quoted in 9% of the reports analysed. Committee of the Regions President Markku Markkula was mentioned in 17 % of the reports and quoted in 6 % of the coverage analysed.

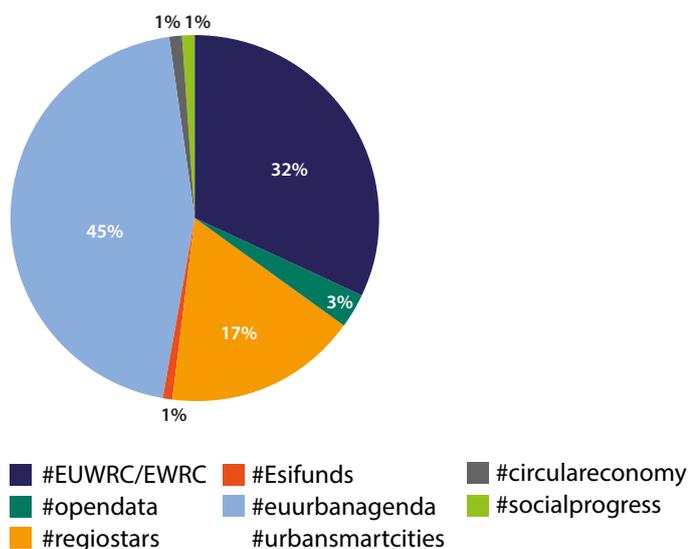
## Social media

There was a substantial increase in interest in our event (from 8 to 16 October), with over 33,500 mentions of the most relevant hashtags recorded on social media during the four days (#EUWRC and #EWRC 10,700, #regiostars 5,800, and the rest

mainly for #euurbanagenda #smartcities, #Esifunds, #circulareconomy, #socialprogress), potentially reaching over 31 million people. This is an excellent result, with an impressive increase in discussions, compared to the 7,098 mentions recorded in 2015.

Users took the opportunity of the #EUWRC to use several other hashtags, which focused attention on the whole event and its various workshops and benefitted all topics. It widened the impact of the European Week of Regions and Cities by ensuring that the event was referenced in online questions about other issues, such as open data, the EU urban agenda, cooperation, smart cities, innovation, the circular economy and social progress. We should also note an increased engagement in the different regions, and not only activities in the capital cities of EU, which was certainly due to the various local events taking place.

## EU Week Regions&Cities – total mentions



# Media analysis



This year we introduced the daily reports which attracted a total of 11,781 unique page views, in addition to Storify (wrap-up of the whole event), which received 7,131 views.

The event saw a peak in interaction with the @EU\_Regional Twitter account, as well as the addition of two hundred new followers (56,865 to 57,065 at the end of the event), a total Impressions of 1.1 million and a correct engagement with 2,000 link clicks, 2,300 retweets and 2,000 favorites.

The European Committee of the Regions' tweets, using the #EUWRC hashtag, yielded 6 million impressions. This helped the Committee gain 533 new followers during October. The Committee also gained 87 new followers on LinkedIn. There was an average 1% engagement rate on the 11 posts.

Through the 17 posts sent on Facebook promoting and during the event, 42,336 people reached and 10% engaged with the content. This led to 301 new page likes after the event.

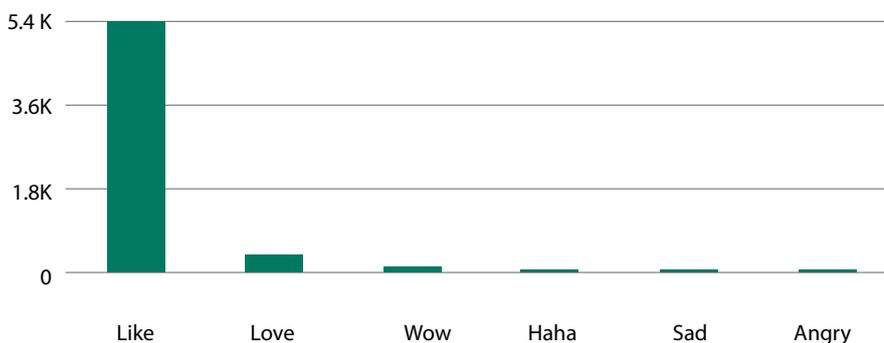
Facebook.com/EuinmyRegion saw an increase of 76 new fans (7,989 to 8,065), and we were able to reach 6,155,588 people with the different posts, with an overwhelmingly positive reaction: 6,000 likes and loves.

The post that aroused the greatest interest was the video announcement of the RegioStars ceremony, reaching over 8,000 people.



## Reactions

Likes and other ways people react to your page posts.



# Evaluation



## Evaluation of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2016

***The European Week of Regions and Cities 2016 focused on "Sustained and sustainable economic growth" (75 sessions), "Inclusive economic growth" (28 sessions) and "Making ESI Funds simpler" (25 sessions), which, together with the social events and media programme, attracted over 5.300 participants (excluding members of the European Committee of the Regions and a number of EU staff) to Brussels. The participants and speakers represented mostly EU, national, regional and local administrations, coming from 58 countries. In addition, there were 208 media and press representatives from 25 countries and some 170 session organisers, 28 Master Class students, plus RegioStars Award finalists.***

Roughly half of the participants (48%) came from local, regional, national or EU administrations, while the remainder represented associations and private sector organisations (17%), academia (12%), EU institutions (12%) or press and consultants. Most participants (53% men, 47% women) came from Belgium (34%), followed by the Netherlands, Poland, Italy, France and Spain. Two out of three participants continue to travel to Brussels to attend, a high figure compared to other EU conferences. The busiest day was the second conference day, which had the most workshops, the official reception and the RegioStars Awards Ceremony.

According to the feedback received from participants, event partners, speakers and journalists who attended the Week, the event was a success. The online satisfaction survey results can be summarised as follows:

Of the participants (293 survey replies), the majority of respondents (60%) had attended up to 4 workshops. Half of the respondents were participating in the event for the first time, and the majority (76%) would participate at the European Week of Regions and Cities again. In general, the participants appreciated the high quality of the working sessions, with the quality of presentations rated as excellent (17%) or good (71%). The chair persons were appraised very highly, as excellent (23%) or good (69%), and most participants were also very satisfied with the quality of the debate, rated as excellent (16%) or good (58%). Those respondents who had participated in the Opening Session at the European Parliament and/or in the RegioStars Awards and official reception found these events mostly good or excellent. As for the communication tools, the novel "EUWRC App" was rated as very useful (34%) or useful (25%).

The media representatives (46 replies), most of whom represented national (50%) or regional (46%) media, also evaluated the event very positively. The media programme was rated as very interesting (52%) or interesting (35%), and the roundtable with Commissioner Cretu and President Markkula as very interesting (37%) or interesting (15%). In general, media representatives found the Opening Session interesting (very interesting 43%, interesting 33%).

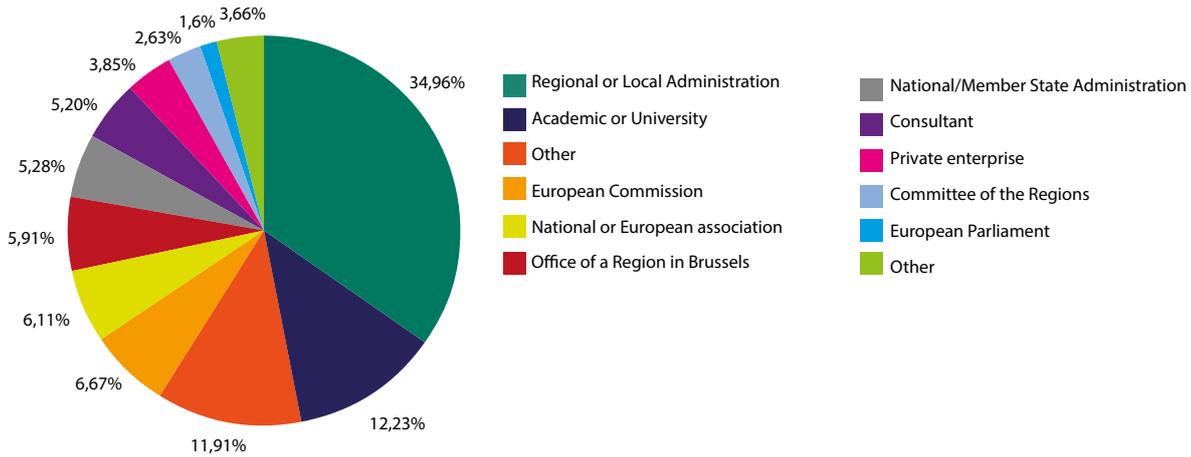
The most appreciated session in the Media Programme was the expert panel with country specialists about how EU funds deliver in different member states, which was assessed as very interesting by 61% of respondents. The majority of media representatives (76%) felt that their expectations on learning more about EU institutions, policies – and particularly about Cohesion Policy, had been met, and appreciated the opportunity to interview VIP speakers, including the Commissioner and Regional Presidents, during the event (77%). Overall, the European Week of Regions and Cities was assessed as excellent (65%) or good (33%) by the media representatives.

The event partners, such as regional partnerships, were in general very satisfied with the event's organisation and outcomes, and a majority of them were in fact returning as partner organisers. Due to the small number of replies (9) these results will not be elaborated further at this point.

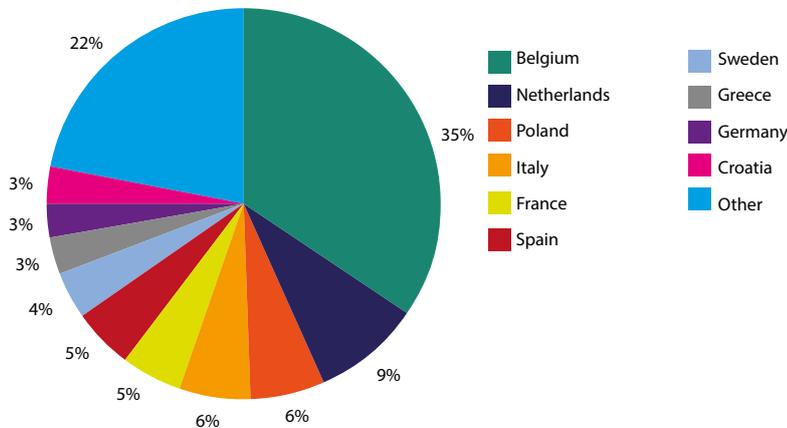


# Evaluation

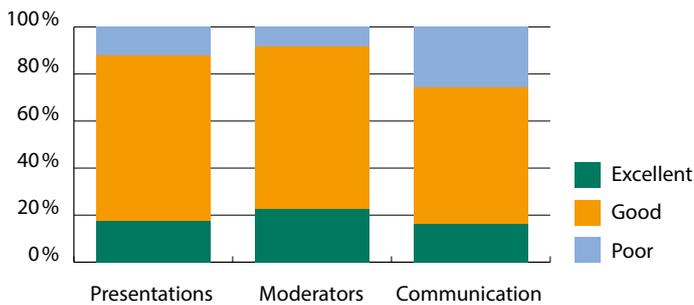
## Registered participants' profile



## Registered participants' country



## Assessment of workshops and debates



# The European Week of Regions and Cities in 2017



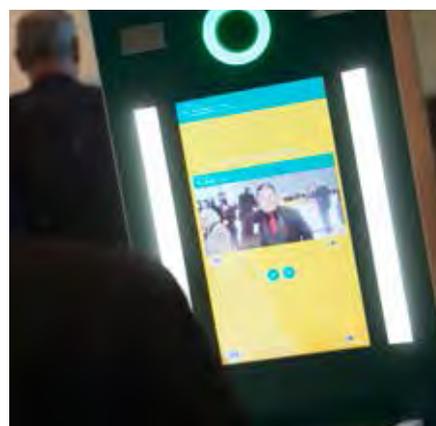
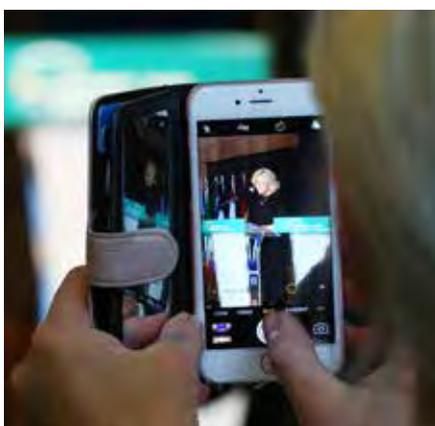
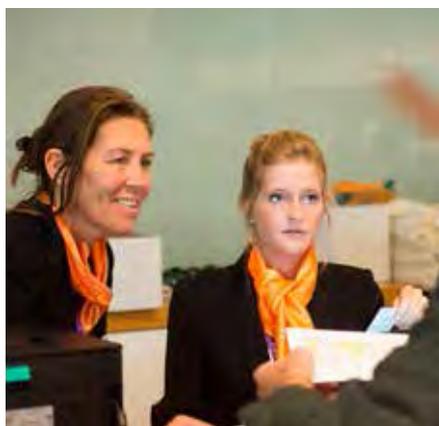
# European Week of Regions and Cities 2017

## European Week of Regions and Cities 2017

In 2017, the European Week of Regions and Cities (9-12 October, Brussels) will reach its 15th birthday. It is a moment of both looking back and looking forward, whilst tackling the challenges that the EU regional and urban policy should be addressing, both as of today, and over the coming decade.

The 15th European Week of Regions and Cities will take place just ahead of the publication of the Cohesion Report and ahead of the presentation of the EU multiannual financial framework 2020-2026. This offers the opportunity for the event to be one of the platforms where to gather and present the views of the regions and cities on both the budget and the subsequent legislative proposals, namely with regard to cohesion policy and rural development. As the debate on the cohesion policy cycle and on the EU budget post-2020 will develop, the European Week should be able to channel regional and local views and concerns and to inject them into the mainstream political discussion.

For more information on the European Week of Regions and Cities 2017, please see the event website: [www.regions-and-cities.europa.eu](http://www.regions-and-cities.europa.eu).





# Thank you to our partners



# Thank you to our partners

## Regional partnerships

### Europe of traditions

Basilicata Region (IT), Region of Galicia (ES), Region of Istria (HR), Kujawsko-Pomorskie (PL), Lazio Region (IT), Martinique (FR), Nordland (NO), North Portugal (PT), Opolskie Region (PL), Municipality of Tripolis (EL), Region Värmland (SE), Veneto Region (IT)

### Active regional co-operation in circular economy

Aalborg Municipality (DK), Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (DE), Lower Saxony (DE), Lower Silesia (PL), Northern Netherlands Provinces (NL), Schleswig-Holstein (DE), South Norway (NO), Southern England (UK), Stavanger Region (NO)

### Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion

Abruzzo Region (IT), Calabria Region (IT), Region of Crete (EL), Dubrovnik-Neretva Region (HR), Eastern Slovenia (SL), Emilia-Romagna Region (IT), Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (IT), Marche Region (IT), Molise Region (IT), Puglia Region (IT), Sicily Region (IT), Region of South East Serbia (RS), Republika Srpska (BA)

### Regions connecting territories

Alentejo (PT), Extremadura (ES), City of Ljubljana (SL), Lodzkie Region (PL), Vysočina Region (CZ)

### EUSALP: Innovation and tradition

Autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley (IT), Bavaria (DE), Carinthia (AT), Lombardy Region (IT), Piedmont Region (IT), Land Salzburg (AT), South Tyrol Alpeuregio (IT), Trentino Alpeuregio (IT), Tyrol Alpeuregio (AT), Voralberg (AT), Western Slovenia (SL)

### Entrepreneurship education for economic growth

Karlovac Region (HR), Northern Ireland (UK), Olomouc Region (CZ), Podlaskie (PL), Presov Region (SK), Swietokrzyskie (PL), Umbria (IT), Varaždin County (HR), Autonomous province of Vojvodina (RS)

### Innofest - Festival driven innovation

Aberdeen City (UK), Bremen (DE), Province of Drenthe (NL), Province of Friesland (NL), Halland (SE), North Denmark (DK)

### Regions and cities for circular economy

Çankaya Municipality (TR), Central Denmark (DK), Centro Region of Portugal (PT), City of Maribor (SL), Navarre (ES)

### Sustainable solutions in the field of circular economy regarding the Strategy of Europe 2020

City of Bielefeld (DE), Deux Sèvres Council (FR), City of Essen (DE), Gironde Department (FR), Hradec Kralové Region (CZ), Province of Liège (BE), District of Lippe (DE), Silesia Region (PL), Walloon Brabant (BE)

### Smart cities – Smart ambitions

Basque Country (ES), (Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg, Vejle, Odense) Danish 5 Pack (DK), Gdansk (PL), (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling) Scottish Cities Alliance (UK), (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku, Oulu) 6Aika (FI)

### Regions for simplification

Région Centre-Val de Loire (FR), Észak-Alföld (HU), Mazovia Region (PL), Murcia (ES), Saxony-Anhalt (DE), Sunderland (UK), Region of Valencia (ES), Wales (UK)

### Cities and regions for effective energy solutions

Province of Barcelona (ES), City of Ghent (BE), Region of Hanover (DE), Liverpool City (UK), Malmö (SE), Wielkopolska (PL)

### Smart partnerships for new skills

Principality of Asturias (ES), Ave Region (PT), Castile and León (ES), East of England (UK), Mid-Norway (NO), Nilufer Municipality (TR), Normandy (FR), Region Västra Götaland (SE), Warmia-Mazury (PL), West Norway (NO)

### Local authorities promoting synergies between ESI Funds and H2020

East Netherlands (NL), Hauts-de-France (Nord Pas de Calais-Picardie) (FR), Kent (UK), Madrid Region (ES), North-East Romania (RO), Province of West-Flanders (BE)

### Rail Baltica

Helsinki City (FI), Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (FI), Jonava City (LT), Kaunas City (LT), Riga City (LV), Tallinn City (EE)

# Thank you to our partners

## **Border Competence - Early start in the neighbouring language**

Frankfurt (Oder) (DE), Free State of Saxony (DE), Jelenia Góra County (PL), Liberec Region (CZ), Lower Austria (AT), Municipality of Stubice (PL)

## **EU urban regeneration – Sustainable cities for better future**

Aydin Metropolitan Municipality (TR), Bucharest-Ilfov (RO), City of Lodz (PL), Lubelskie Voivodeship (PL), Lubuskie Region (PL), City of Maastricht (NL), Pomorskie Region (PL), City of Rijeka (HR)

## **Innovative cities and regions for new mobility services**

Aragon (ES), Liverpool City Region (UK), Stuttgart Region (DE) Tampere Region (FI), Valletta (MT)

## **Capital cities and regions network**

City of Amsterdam (NL), Berlin-Brandenburg Capital Region (DE), Bratislava Self-Governing Region (SK), Brussels Capital Region (BE), City of Budapest (HU), Greater London (UK), Île-de-France (FR), Oslo region (NO), Capital City of Prague (CZ), Vienna (AT), City of Zagreb (HR)

## **Sustained and sustainable growth strategies in areas around major urban centres**

FrankfurtRheinMain (DE), Osijek-Baranja County (HR), South Moravian Region (CZ), Surrey (UK), Val-d'Oise (FR)

## **Sustainable Innovation in less urban areas in the North**

Highlands and Islands (UK), Jämtland-Härjedalen (SE), Lapland (FI), Norrbotten (SE), Tromsø (NO), Västerbotten (SE), Västernorrland (SE)

## **Intermediate authorities for waste to energy**

Caceres Province (ES), Castellón Province (ES), Hainaut Province (BE), León Province (ES), Luxembourg Province (BE), Orense Province (ES), Sevilla Province (ES), Staffordshire (UK), Terni Province (IT), Valencia Province (ES)

## **Other partners**

### **13 Directorates-General of the European Commission:**

Directorate-General for Climate Action (CLIMA)

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CONNECT)

Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC)

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL)

Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (HOME)

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Directorate-General for Energy (ENER)

Directorate-General for Environment (ENV)

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW)

Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (JUST)

Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD)

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

## **European Committee of the Regions (CoR)**

► European People's Party Group (EPP)

► Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group (ALDE)

► European Alliance Group (EA)

► European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)

► **Directorate B, Legislative Work 1:**  
NAT, ENVE and CIVEX Commissions

► **Directorate C, Legislative Work 2:**  
COTER, ECON and SEDEC Commissions

# Thank you to our partners

Association of European Schools of Planning  
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European Association of Development Agencies  
European Association of Research and Technology Organisations  
European Leader Association for Rural Development  
EU-Representation Office of Carinthia  
Eurochambres  
European Association of Public Banks  
European Committee of the Regions' EER initiative  
European Economic and Social Committee  
European Executive Agency for SMEs  
European GNSS Agency  
European Investment Bank (JASPERS, FI-COMPASS)  
European Long Term Investors  
European Regional Science Association  
Harghita County Council  
Interact Programme  
International Board of Entrepreneurs and Business Owners  
Interreg Europe  
JA Europe  
JADE – European Confederation of Junior Enterprises  
Krapina-Zagorje County  
LDNET  
Métropole de Lyon  
Mission opérationnelle Transfrontalière  
Regional Studies Association  
European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives  
URBACT III Programme  
Urban Innovative Actions

These proceedings are a compendium of reports of most of the 137 workshops and events held in Brussels during the 14<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities (10-13 October 2016). Jointly organised by the European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, and the European Committee of the Regions, the event brought together over 187 regions and cities from all over Europe, and more than 5000 participants and 700 speakers.

Presentations, speeches and videos can be found on the European Week of Regions and Cities website: [www.regions-and-cities.europa.eu](http://www.regions-and-cities.europa.eu)

*The European Week of Regions and Cities is a Brussels-based four-day event which gives the opportunity to all stakeholders to stir debates about good local, regional and cross-border governance and management of EU funding.*



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