



Open Days 2013

Europe's regions and cities on achieving the EU2020 strategy



Welcome to Croatia

The EU's newest regions give us the lowdown on their expectations and responsibilities



Smart specialisation

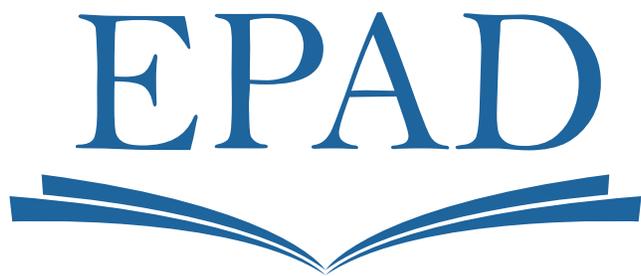
Lambert van Nistelrooij on stimulating cross-border cooperation



Knowledge exchange

Anne Glover and Jan Marco Müller on bridging the gap between business and science



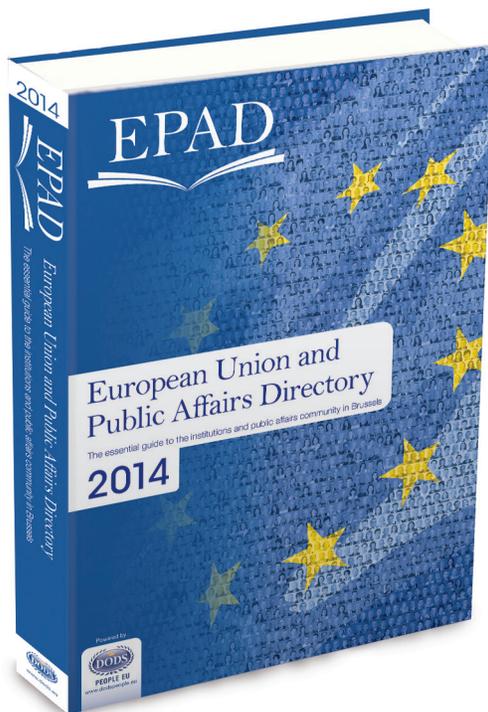


EUROPEAN UNION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORY

The essential guide to the institutions and public affairs community in Brussels

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- Brand new Policy Index introduced in our comprehensive public affairs section
- Contact information for all key representatives of new member state Croatia



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EURIS

Embracing Open Innovation in Europe

Five European regions have come together with the aim of promoting Open Innovation in EURIS (European Collaborative and Open Regional Innovation Strategies) project, co-funded by the INTERREG IVC Programme.

These regions consider that the hot topic of "Open Innovation" can be assessed from a regional perspective, contributing to the policy debates on how European Regions can enhance their innovation ecosystems leading to collaborative Research & Innovation (R&I) efforts.

The EURIS partnership is composed of the Navarra Government (Spain), the Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (Germany), Brainport Development NV (The Netherlands), the West Transdanubia Regional Development Agency (Hungary) and Lodzkie Region (Poland).

EURIS results will be presented at a final conference, jointly organised with the **European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)**.

OPEN INNOVATION 2.0. Fostering the Innovation Union through open Regional Innovation Ecosystems

Committee of the Regions (CoR), Brussels
November 28th, 2013

**EURIS Conference Programme
& registration form at**
www.euris-programme.eu

The EURIS conference is aimed at R&I policy-makers and managers, interested in policies, measures and support programmes that can strengthen and accelerate Open Innovation, both at the regional and inter-regional level.

The conference will raise awareness on the "Open Innovation 2.0" concept, as a means to contribute to the achievement of the "Innovation Union" flagship initiative and the potential role that open Regional Innovation Ecosystems can play to that end.

The main EURIS results will also be showcased:

Embracing Open Innovation in Europe: Best Practices Guide in Open Innovation Policies

A selection of policies in areas contributing to the opening up of innovation ecosystems, such as collaborative R&I, Intellectual Property management, or access to finance.

Open Innovation Toolbox

A booklet with 10 practical tools targeting companies, networks, clusters and research centres to guide them in their first steps towards open and collaborative R&I.

Embracing Open Innovation in Europe: Policy Recommendations for Opening Regional Innovation Ecosystems.

A set of 35 policy recommendations, resulting from the combined learning, good practices and new models developed by EURIS, for the promotion of regional innovation policies which can really make a difference in the embracing of Open Innovation.

***ERRIN, European Regions Research and Innovation Network**, is a network of more than 100 EU regions and their Brussels-based offices. ERRIN facilitates knowledge exchange, joint action and project partnerships with the aim of strengthening its member region's R&I capacities and enhances their success in EU programmes. ERRIN also aspires to influence EU policies in order to make them respond better to the needs of European regions.*



MINISTERUL DEZVOLTĂRII REGIONALE
ȘI ADMINISTRAȚIEI PUBLICE



REGIO - A SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA

October 9th, 2013, 9:30-17:00
5-11, Rue van Orley, Brussels

The Bucharest Ilfov and North - East Regional Development Agencies and their partners

Wish to present some success stories that illustrate the impact of the Regional Operational Program in these Romanian regions, to share good practices between local and urban communities and to set up a partnership with other regions and communities.

We are looking for interested partners to cooperate with the regions' representatives for the sustainability of this European programme in the future.

The agenda and registration can be accessed on the following websites:
www.regioadrbi.ro <http://www.regioadrbi.ro/formular-inscriere-eveniment.aspx>

For details: contact@adrbi.ro or officebruxelles@adrnordest.ro
Participation is free of charge

Romanian lunch and networking cocktail are provided
Working language: English and Romanian



MINISTERUL DEZVOLTĂRII REGIONALE
ȘI ADMINISTRAȚIEI PUBLICE



Bucharest-Ilfov Region of Romania at the Exhibition '100 EU Urban solutions' with the project "Creating a public utility park in the Ion Creanga neighborhood"

The project enhances the quality of life and creates new jobs in the area of the Ion Creanga neighborhood of District 2 from the Municipality of Bucharest, through the rehabilitation of the urban infrastructure. Other important objectives of the project are: developing and implementing of the Integrated Plan of Urban Development and increasing the surface of the modernized public areas, especially the leisure area.

The source of funding is **Regio-Regional Operation Programme**, the total amount of the project is 9.705 millions lei from which the grant is 7.331 millions lei and the project implementation was June 2011-June 2012. The responsible for the project is the District 2 of the Municipality of Bucharest.

The exhibition organized at The Committee of the Regions is a selection of best photos from 22 countries who want to share good practices of some projects of local authorities and associations in the fields of : mobility, water - waste - and space management, energy, housing, social development and inclusion, urban-rural relations and e-government.

Details:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2013/doc/Expo_selection_CoR.pdf



Asociația localităților din România

www.inforegio.ro

www.regioadrbi.ro

The Networking event of the exhibition

will be organized on Tuesday, 8 October, 18.30-20.30 at CoR, Rue Belliard 101, 5th floor.

For contacts and more info, please visit:
www.regioadrbi.ro

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Croatia's accession to the European Union heralds a time of great hope and possibility for its citizens, writes Bruno Hrančić

The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme is at its first milestone: to reap the benefits of its ended projects

I ncreasing the participation of the Adriatic youth population in the civil society, preserving the historical heritage of some important sites in the Adriatic communities, improving the exchange of information among some Adriatic ports and setting up a seaplanes landing close to some Adriatic ports and cities, enhancing social cohesion between majority and minority, promoting female social entrepreneurship as the primary way to empower women, are just only some examples of the area of intervention of the Adriatic projects financed within the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme.

Cultural heritage and environment, energy and risks prevention, economic and social inclusion, innovation and transport are the crucial themes (under the three Programme Priorities: PRIORITY 1 Economic, Social and Institutional Cooperation, PRIORITY 2 Natural and Cultural Resources and Risks Prevention, PRIORITY 3 Accessibility and networks) on

which the joint initiatives between EU and non-EU partners focused their attention in order to find solutions to common problems and contribute to improving social cohesion and competitiveness of the Adriatic area.

The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013, co-financed by the IPA (Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance) funds, involves the participation of eight Countries of which four Member States (Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Croatia), one candidate Country (Montenegro) and three potential candidate Countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Albania).

With its 115,714 km² area and with a population amounting to 15,074 million, it is the only one Basin cooperation Programme, supporting Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries in their progressive alignment with the standards and policies of the European Union, with a view to membership.

Apart from the first difficulties in harmonizing eight different legislation rules (i.e. procurement rules, state aid rules, costs eligibility, etc.), the Programme bodies and the projects' partnership took up the challenge and strongly committed to allow a solid decision-making process and implementation.

At present, the Programme is approaching the ending phase seeing the running of sixty-five (65) ordinary projects and one strategic project, and the evaluation of other strategic project proposals which are going to be financed.

It is evident the high interest shown in this Programme, at both local and regional level, by the potential beneficiaries, if we





Let's grow up together

Adriatic IPA

Cross Border Cooperation 2007-2013



consider that out of 587 project proposals have been submitted by public and private organization under the 1st and 2nd Calls. The choice made at Programme level to finance only 65 projects, for an amount of about 103.600 €, was based on the idea to prefer few projects with high impact and providing concrete benefit for people living in the cooperation area.

Of course not everything was sweetened and light, many obstacles had to be overcome. Nevertheless, the most

interesting experience learned from the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme is to see how, despite all complexity of the management and control provisions, local regional authorities and private stakeholders, on both sides of non-EU and EU borders, invest energies and resources to get as much as possible mutual advantages. This aspect outlines the need to strength cooperation in order to continue to define good neighborly relations which can for sure bring positive improvement for the population living along the Adriatic maritime border.



The Programme is co-funded by the European Union, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

For more on IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013: <http://www.adriaticpacbc.org/>
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Phone number: +39 0862 411383
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Fostering Baltic Innovation Environments

The EU Baltic Strategy

The project called “Networked cooperation of universities and enterprises on the area of the Baltic Sea” has long term targets and results. These are connected to the actors of Triple Helix environment in the Baltic Counties.

The project follows the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea as follows:

1 To exploit the research and innovation opportunities in the BSR by utilizing the versatile possibilities of PPP (university-business-policy-makers) cooperation.

2 To accomplish activities to promote entrepreneurship, SMEs competitiveness, innovation and internationalization and enhance the different sectors (PPP) to use existing human resources in cooperation, not forgetting the larger leading companies either.

3 To promote the integration of markets in such a way that the high level of development in the Baltic Sea region will be retained in Nordic and Western parts and the level of development in the region’s eastern part will be fostered and the increased opportunities utilized.

Project target and actions

The project has the target to generate a strong networked cooperation and innovation environment between Public-Private Partnership (PPP) actors by developing and activating the following elements (based on the definition given by the research of innovation environments as visualised in Figure 1).

The project activities include e.g. development of regional and trans-national innovation environments, examinations of Small Business Act implementations as well as developing PPP networks. Especially METNET cooperation (www.hamk.fi/metnet) is utilised.

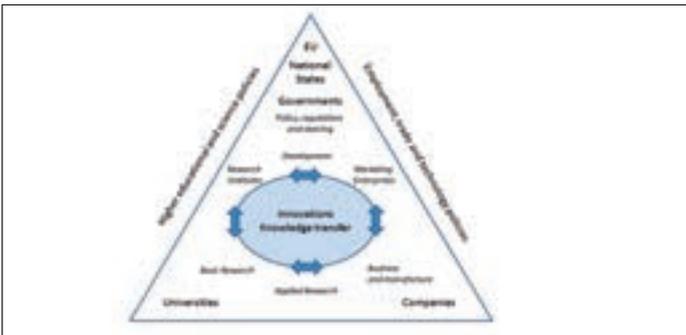


Figure 1. Triple Helix – model for PPP cooperation for innovation and knowledge transfer (Following for example, Etzkowitz, H. & Leydesdorff, L. 1995)

Quantitative Research Results

Based on one of the research accomplished in the project, the researchers have been able to describe the Baltic innovation environments in general on the Baltic level as well as the differences between the Baltic countries.

The research (n=239) covers most of the Baltic States. Five countries are represented with reasonable amount of observations. These are Belarus, Finland, Latvia, Russia and Ukraine. The questionnaire included all essential regional and international elements of innovation environments and it was based on existing published investigations in EU.

Some preliminary results of the research are the following:

On the area of all Baltic States the features of regional innovation environments can be perceived by the following four factors (the total variance explained by four factors together is 51.3%).

1. Development orientation (20.7%)
2. Self-complacency (15.4%)
3. Industry values (8.8%)
4. Research orientation (6.4%)

The factor “development orientation” is based on variables which point out the importance of developing several aspects, especially in regional cooperation between enterprises, universities and other public entities. The strongest factor values can be found in Ukraine and Russia.

The factor “self-complacency” is based on variables which measure the quantities of existing activities and accomplished previous results. The strongest factor values can be found in Finland and Ukraine.

The factor “Industry values” is based on variable which point out the importance of things which are essential for SME’s performance. The strongest factor values can be found in Latvia and Russia.

The factor “Research orientation” is based on variables which measure R&D cooperation with no intension to work with enterprises regionally nor internationally. The strongest factor values can be found in Finland, Latvia and Ukraine.

Based on the examination, Public-Private Partnership arrangements can roughly be arranged in two separate fields, R&D co-operation and practical activities.



Qualitative Research results

Calculated from all of the 237 answers, the most important technology orientations in Baltic Sea Region innovation environments is Supplier orientation (29% of all answers) and Specialised technology orientation (26%). Figure 2

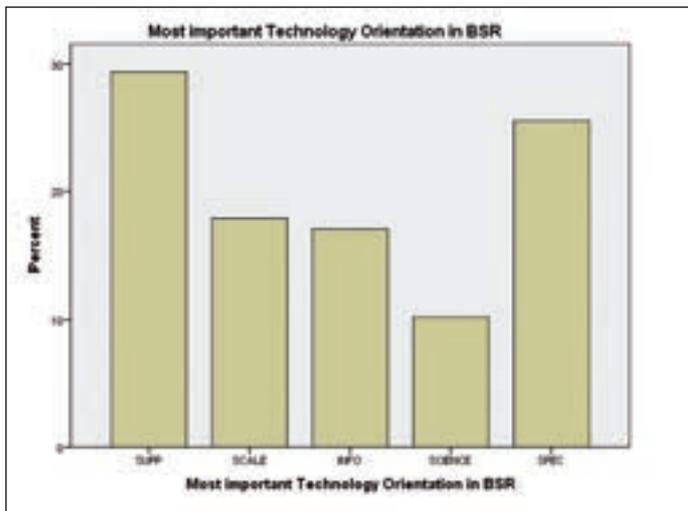


Figure 2. Types of University – Business cooperation (UBC) in Baltic Sea region.

Based on open answers in the Baltic Sea level examination the most important reasons for the cooperation between universities and enterprises are as follows:

- To support the R&D work of the enterprises
- To ensure the good know-how for the personnel of the enterprises
- To network the students to enterprises

The mutual synergy was pointed out in the answers. Also recruiting already known students seems to be important and risk avoiding from the point of view of the companies.

On the Baltic Sea region, the following kinds of university-industry cooperation models are in use in 2013 (Figure 3).

- mutual research projects (65 % of the answers)
- developing innovations (62 % of the answers)
- separate company for training and development (62 % of the answers)

However, PPP cooperation exists in facilities, purchases and export. This means that the PPP cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region is practically oriented (Figure 3).

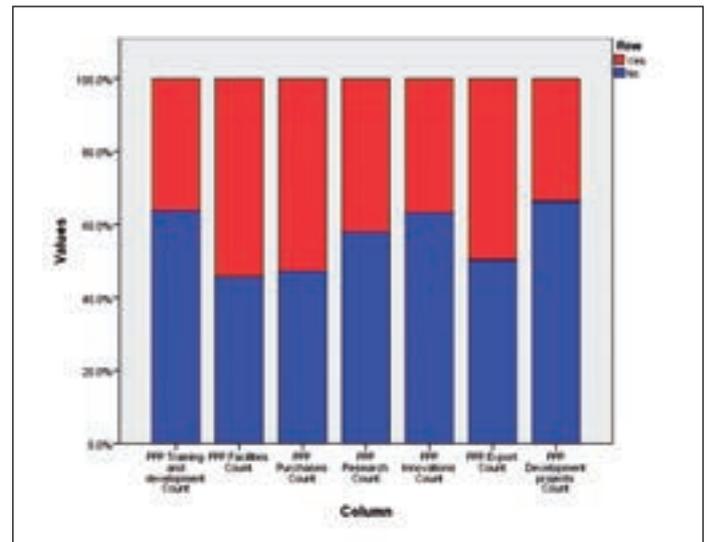


Figure 3. Proportion of co-operation activities carried out in UBC within BSR

Biggest constraints for regional cooperation are own strengths and beliefs that cooperation is useless. The answers point out e.g.

- universities are too big and bureaucratic for cooperating with smaller companies
- there is no financial resources for the cooperation, unless the projects would be separately financed
- the lack of proper people in universities is apparent

The first constraint can be decreased by adopting new cooperation oriented educational frameworks (CDIO, for example) into use in universities. This would be helpful also in solving the other two problems mentioned above.

Suggestions for improving the networked cooperation include e.g. the following:

- (1) Recruiting industry people as part-time lecturers to the universities.
- (2) Creating new and activating existing forums and networks for the cooperation.
- (3) Creating new solutions for financing the UBC.

EASTERN FINLAND LIVES SMART OFF THE FOREST

The motto “Finland lives off the forest” has been known in Finland since the 1980s. In the near future this motto may well be updated into “Eastern Finland lives smart off the forest”.

A large yellow and black Ponsse harvester is shown in a forest, processing a log. The machine has a long, articulated arm with a cutting head. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees under a blue sky with light clouds. The harvester is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with its arm extending towards the right. The ground is covered with green grass and some fallen logs.

GREEN CHEMISTRY. According to a recent investigation, the Kuopio region has enough forest resources for as many as five bio-oil refineries. The Kuopio-based company Green Fuel Nordic is building its first bio-oil refinery in Iisalmi. A pilot research and test facility for Eastern Finland biorefining is sought in Varkaus.

**Jari Sihvonen, Publicist
The Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo
Europe Direct Kuopio**

Plenifol forest resources have been and will be in the future an important natural resource, especially in Eastern Finland. Despite the strong cutbacks in the recent years, the forest industry still employs circa 48 000 persons in Finland. There are around 50 paper, cardboard and pulp factories and about 130 industrial sawmills in the country. The industry brings in about 20 per cent of the country's export income.

The Finnish forest industry is on the cusp of a new era. The traditional pulp and paper industry that has been a central element in foreign trade has to a considerable extent moved from Eastern Finland's traditional paper localities to Southern America and Asia.

Products are made where the raw materials and the consumption are.

In place of the contracting pulp and paper industry a new kind of biomass-based chemical industry has begun to be created – one could call this green chemistry.

Up until now wood has been mainly used for "low-tech" products such as pulp, paper and timber. In the biorefineries that are now being designed and built, wood-based raw materials will be refined into innovative clean-tech and high-tech products for the use in e.g. the medical, food, cosmetics and chemical industries and green energy. The future prospects are considered very promising.

ONE OF THE FINNISH BIOREFINING CENTRES WILL BE LOCATED IN VARKAUS

The Finnish Parliament's Committee for the Future published a report called

"Everything else about wood" last spring, in which sustainable procedures for the development of the wood industry in Finland is presented. The report's starting point is that the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) will be a wood university, focusing strongly on new use possibilities of wood in teaching and in research.

The goal of the University of Eastern Finland is to grow into a world-leading expert in the research of biomass in 10 to 15 years. One of the first steps was taken this autumn, when a new international wood science master's program called "Wood Materials Science" was started.

The role of the wood university suits the University of Eastern Finland well. Its campuses are located in two places, Kuopio and Joensuu. These cities are located in the middle of the richest forest resources in the boreal forest biome. In addition, the UEF works closely with

Ponsse and John Deere, the world leading forestry machine manufacturers, operating in the Kuopio and Joensuu regions.

A promising example of research is the project "Industrial applications of wood slow pyrolysis technique in biorefining". The Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo is funding the preparatory project from the European Regional Development Fund.

In this project the UEF is developing equipment for the separation and collection of the most valuable molecules of wood-based raw materials before they are turned into bioenergy.

The university research project is closely related to another project, "Use possibilities of wood", the main goal of which is to create an Eastern Finland biorefining research center and test facility in the industrial city of Varkaus. According to plans, this concentration would create new spinoff-enterprises and employ up to a thousand people by the year 2020.

BILLIONS ARE INVESTED IN THE EUROPEAN BIOECONOMY

Eastern Finland is involved in the development of the bioeconomy at the right time. The European Commission and 48 European corporations have recently set up a partnership in which a total of 3.8 billion euros will be invested in the research and innovation by the European bio-based industry. The Finnish wood and chemistry corporations that are involved in the partnership are Metsä Group, Stora Enso, UPM and Kemira.

The European Commission is funding the partnership with a share of one billion euros as part of the EU's research and innovation program Horizon 2020. The industry provides the rest 2.8 billion euros. The project creates new markets for bio-based products as well as new jobs and growth throughout Europe.



Commission gives green light to €450m Croatian cohesion policy plan

Croatia's investment plan for the €449.4m of cohesion funds has received approval from the European commission. Zagreb plans to use the funds to boost economic growth, create employment and raise competitiveness. Regional policy commissioner Johannes Hahn and employment, social affairs and inclusion commissioner László Andor welcomed the approval of the national strategic reference framework prepared by the Croatian authorities. Hahn said, "This is a crucial first step for Croatia on the path to competitiveness. Cohesion policy funds must be invested where most needed to strengthen the local economy, increase labour market participation and to capitalise on the nation's assets, such as the preservation and promotion of natural resources to boost the tourism industry and business support to help SMEs thrive".



Andor highlighted, that "The European social fund has a vital role to play to make Europe more competitive and prosperous because it helps to enhance our greatest asset: our people and in particular young people. I hope that Croatia will be able to take full advantage of the new opportunities the social fund offers to tackle the employment, educational and social inclusion challenges faced across the country".

The cohesion fund (€149.8m) investments will go towards waste and wastewater management, as well as improvement of the water supply. The ERDF (€228.4m) will be invested in business support for SMEs, research and innovation, along with more basic infrastructures, such as railway and waterways. The European social fund (€60m) will support job creation and invest in social inclusion and education projects.

'Mayors challenge' looks to promote innovative municipalities

A new competition offering cash prizes for towns developing innovative solutions to major urban challenges has been launched. The mayors challenge, an initiative of Bloomberg Philanthropies, is offering a grand prize of €5m for the winner and €1m for each of the four finalists. The aim of the prize is the promotion of innovative ideas and to cast a spotlight on promising projects from Europe's cities. Interested cities must express their desire to compete by 11 November and applications must be submitted before 31 January 2014.



The four main criteria for participation are: "Is your approach unexpected and new to your city?; To what extent will you be able to say "We are the first city to..."; Are you using talent, partners, and resources outside of city government in a meaningful way?; Will your idea generate energy and excitement among the residents in your city?"

The competition was previously contested in the US, with philanthropist and mayor of New York city Michael Bloomberg saying, "The mayors challenge has been a big success here in the United States, and now we're bringing it across the Atlantic to find a whole new set of cutting-edge ideas. On so many issues, cities are redefining the future, and the mayors challenge is intended to help accelerate that progress and spread it far and wide."

Committee of the Regions backs parliament's election campaign

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) has backed the European parliament's information campaign ahead of the bloc's elections next year. Officially launched on 10 September, the CoR plans to actively support activities at local and regional, based on a roadmap entitled 'Going local'.



CoR chief Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, said, "The European elections concern all Europeans, all EU institutions and all political parties. They matter in particular to the Committee of the Regions, the EU's assembly of regionally and locally elected representatives, because bringing Europe closer to the citizens is our core business. It is in the regions and cities where we implement Europe, its legislation and its funds. It is in the regions and cities where citizens debate about Europe. And last but not least it is in the regions and cities where they vote". Siso added that "regions matter to Europe and Europe matters to its regions. This is the reason why I am personally committed to making the Committee of the Regions a key partner of the European parliament in the run-up to the elections".

The CoR is organising 300 local events, taking place under the heading "Europe in my regions/my city", in the framework of this year's Open Days.

CoR launches consultation on EU growth

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) has launched a consultation which invites local and regional authorities to give their opinions on the impact of the EU's growth strategy. Launched during a CoR conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, the assessment will form the basis of the institutions contribution to the midterm review of the Europe 2020 strategy.



CoR president Ramon Luis Valcárcel Siso explained, "We have launched this broad consultation in order to determine whether Europe 2020 is on the right track and collect ideas from local and regional practitioners on how to improve the strategy and achieve its objectives. I urge all local and regional authorities to take part and make their voices heard".

Initial results suggest that the growth strategy "is not delivering its promises" and that there is "a lack of support for the local and regional authorities in tackling the crisis and delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth".

Michel Delebarre, mayor of Dunkirk and political coordinator of the Europe 2020 monitoring platform, said, "It is not surprising that so little progress has been made in meeting the targets. Europe 2020 and the European semester must be given a real territorial dimension, with different targets set out at regional level. Local and regional authorities must be involved at all stages of the policy process to increase ownership and really make Europe 2020 a success".

The survey runs until 11 November, and the results will be officially published in March 2014. Visit the CoR website to take part in the survey: <http://cor.europa.eu/Pages/welcome.html>

MEPs aiming to secure regional funding agreement by October

Last month, the European parliament's regional development committee held an exchange of views with parliament's rapporteurs on the ongoing inter-institutional negotiations over future European funding.

Co-rapporteur German socialist Costanze Krehl said that there has been progress during the previous dialogues expressing the view that there would be more agreements as discussions progressed. There was, she highlighted, one crucial issue which related to the SME initiative by the European commission. She commented that it was very late in the day for the European commission to put forward a completely new initiative and reiterated that most of the current issues needed to be agreed first before there was any agreement on this.

Co-rapporteur Dutch centre-right deputy Lambert van Nistelrooij reassured the committee that the negotiation team would do its best to reach a package and push things forward. He added that the negotiating team would take full advantage of its mandate.

Committee chair Danuta Hübner said that for the negotiations on the European social fund (ESF), there has been close cooperation with parliament's employment committee. Hübner said that the share of the ESF if it grows would be at the expense of other funds. She reminded MEPs that this threshold is a minimum and that there was a clear provision that it cannot go below current levels. She added that it would be a very dangerous signal if negotiations had to be restarted. She noted that the goal was to have the vote on the entire package at the second plenary session of October which would mean that the final vote in the committee would have to be held on the October 14.



Get the full Dods EU Monitoring briefings on parliament's REGI committee discussions by contacting emilie.saint-cyr@dods.eu

This article supplied by



Member states 'must do their part' for new cohesion policy

Late last month parliament's regional development committee met to consider a working document on the file "EU member states preparedness to an effective and timely start of the new cohesion policy programming period".

Rapporteur Derek Vaughan opened the discussions, presenting the issues at stake regarding EU member states' preparedness for the new cohesion policy programming period. He explained that the EU institutions had worked hard preparing the new multi-



annual financial framework (MFF) as well as the legislative package on cohesion policy, and that now EU member states had to do their part to prepare the partnerships agreements and the operational programmes. Vaughan advised national governments to use the lessons from the past and highlighted the importance of

the different economic situations in each member state, which, he said, imply different solutions in terms of the measures and the organisation to implement the programmes.

This article supplied by





2014+

Strategy Development for the **Alpine Space**

RESULTS OF AN
INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE
PROCESS

From mid 2011 to mid 2013 the Alpine Space Programme has been a pioneer in running an inclusive process for medium to long-term strategic orientation and priorities for the Alpine Space.

Looking towards 2020

Which topics call for alpine-wide co-operation? | Does the Alpine Space need an European strategy? | How can the Alpine Space Programme contribute to the development of the region?

Two years of intense exchange among a group of experts and a task force of the programme, extensive discussions with stakeholders and an online-consultation brought us significant results:

- + recommendations for policies to pursue selected strategic objectives in the Alpine Space
- + proposals for overcoming barriers to achieving those objectives
- + specific starting points for working on a macro-regional strategy

The expert report is available at:

www.alpine-space.eu/strategy2014plus



The programme is co-funded
by the European Regional
Development Fund

About | The Alpine Space Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation objective which encourages cooperation across and beyond borders. As part of the Cohesion Policy, it is funded by the European Regional Development Fund. For information, visit: www.alpine-space.eu.

Towards a macro-regional strategy?

Although the distinct territorial characteristics of the Alps present constraints, alpine cooperation has long-standing traditions. The Alpine Space Programme is only one of a wide range of alpine actors such as the Alpine Convention, CIPRA, and associations of regions like ARGE Alp. All of these actors have different understandings of the Alps and ideas on why alpine cooperation is needed. Three initiatives have been providing input for the discussion of a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine area: the Alpine Regions and the Alpine Convention initiated concomitant processes to the Alpine Space Programme towards a macro-regional strategy (see www.alpine-space.eu). The expert report suggests a stepwise approach to an Alpine macro-regional strategy:

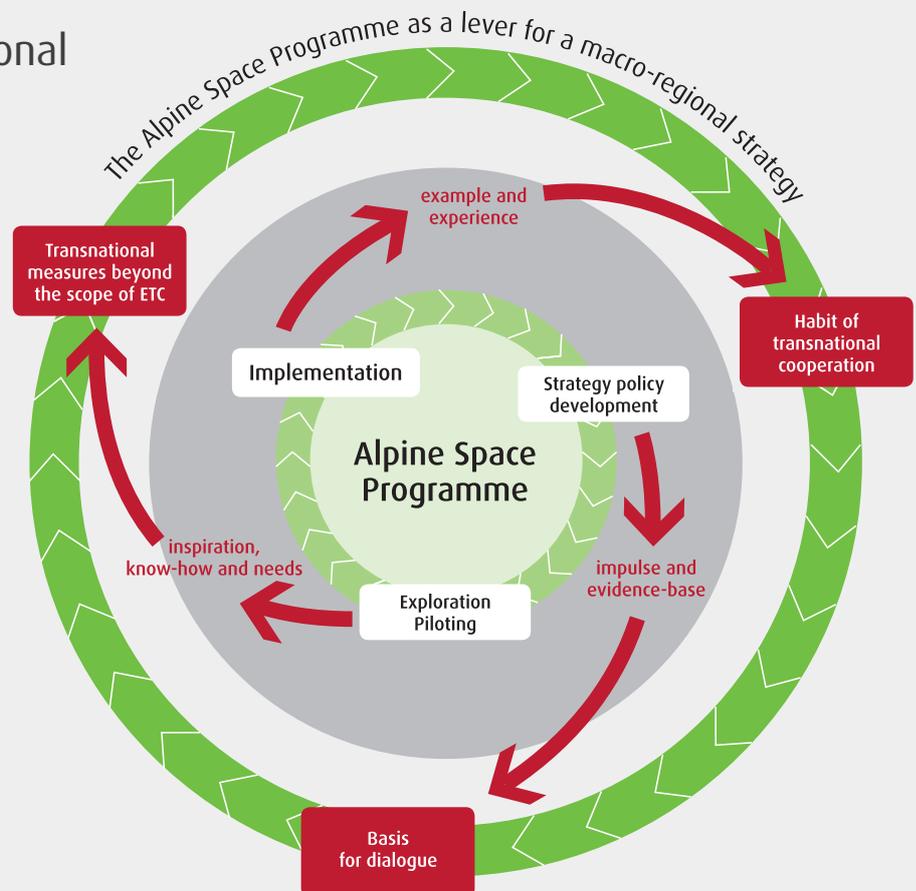
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on a limited number of issues with concrete and time-bound targets • Bring together alpine actors around selected key objectives | <p>2</p> <p>A sense of common achievement and long standing traditions of alpine cooperation can be capitalised upon when progressively constructing a broader macro-regional strategy.</p> |
|---|--|

The role of the Alpine Space Programme 2014 – 2020

- 1 Initiate and fund projects but being selective
- 2 Contribute to an overall alpine strategy by feeding comprehensive debates on long-term alpine development through a holistic approach
- 3 Promote alpine networks and dialogue and catalise improved cooperation with alpine relevant actors

A lever for a macro-regional strategy

To better understand how individual projects contribute to the overall programme objectives the concept of the so-called policy cycle was developed. It differentiates projects according to their nature, activities and impacts. The concept was further developed to reflect how the programme could be used as a lever to elaborate a macro-regional strategy. The programme is seen as a self-reinforcing cycle; the different types of effects on other alpine-related protagonists are identified (grey zone) at each step of the process. These effects can in turn contribute to establish the basis for an Alpine macro-regional strategy.



EU funds for research and development: The first Pan-European user-research infrastructure in the field of laser physics to be built in the Czech Republic

One of the main objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy is the support of research, development and innovation with the aim of achieving intelligent and sustainable growth and ensuring new jobs. Thanks to support from the Structural Funds, unique projects, such as the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI), are being developed. The ELI project is part of the European plan to build a new generation of large research facilities selected by the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) that will bring new discoveries, and, just like CERN, ELI will push the boundaries of what is possible. The preparatory phase of the project, which had originated in the scientific community as early as 2005, involved forty-one institutions from thirteen EU Member States. Its pillars are represented by several research infrastructures that are gradually being developed in the Czech Republic, Romania and Hungary.

The Czech Republic was chosen as the host country for the ELI Beamlines facility, which will be built in the town of Dolní Břežany near Prague, in a location with excellent transport links. The facility will house the strongest laser a man has ever constructed for use in experiments and research projects. This latest laser device of its kind will be developed in cooperation with the prestigious US research and development facility Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The unrivalled parameters of the future laser will cover basic research in x-ray physics, laser driven particle acceleration, plasma physics, astrophysics, high energy physics, vacuum physics and enable the development of unique short pulse sources of high-energy photon and particle beams. Future applications could include new methods within structural biology, medicine, materials science and others.

A unique site for comprehensive interdisciplinary research

The building of the research centre, founded in October 2012, will be equally unique. Special requirements are being placed in particular on high resistance to various elements and on variability, which will facilitate further development of experimental equipment into the future. The unparalleled facility will support the concept of comprehensive interdisciplinary

research in modern laboratories and will bring as yet unheard of possibilities to science as well as great opportunities for many new discoveries.

The Czech Republic has a long tradition in laser research on which to build. Nevertheless, setting of the ELI Beamlines project marks a very prestigious event, not just for the scientific community. The Czech Republic will now rank first in laser technology research, which belongs to the fastest developing high-tech industrial sector. Last but not least it also carries with it very important economic potential extending outside the region.

Attracting scientists from all over the world

Although the research centre infrastructure is yet to be built, ELI Beamlines is already an attractive platform for leading scientists from all over the world that should offer excellent job opportunities for up to 300 people. The team that also comprises local scientists from the Institute of Physics at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic includes some of the world's best scientists who are recognised experts in the field of laser technology and laser plasma. During execution of the ELI project, experience gained at the PALS Laboratories (Prague Asterix Laser System) will be applied. The PALS Laboratories have been in operation since 1998, serving both international and domestic scientific community.

Bringing technology into practice

To welcome students as well as future scientists, the ELI-CZ Consortium, which brings together 14 Czech universities and research institutions, was set up to train local scientists for the needs of this important scientific institution. The project will also enable new cooperation between the research and commercial sector, thereby supporting the transfer of knowledge and technology and faster implementation of research innovations into practice.

The project financed through the Operation Programme "Research and Development for Innovations". The total cost amounts € 278 million, of which € 236 million will be contributed by the EU funds. The aid recipient is the Institute of Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

For more information about the project, please visit www.eli-beams.eu.

Contact:

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www.strukturalni-fondy.cz
www.mapaprojektu.cz



Visualisation of the future ELI Beamlines Laser Centre



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MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ

New Directions

Value for money and flexibility are at the heart of the EU's new-look regional policy, explains **Johannes Hahn**



This year's Open Days event, "Europe's regions and cities taking off for 2020", comes at a particularly crucial time for regional policy. On the one hand, we have visible results and outputs on the policy's contribution to the EU's economic recovery over the last seven years, while on the other hand we are on the cusp of reforming the policy for the period 2014-2020 to better tackle the challenges and meet the priorities of Europe 2020. Open Days 2013 will reflect on the need for such a change before the start of the new programming period.

With the current economic downturn, I believe that regional policy is the key policy at European level to exit the crisis. Over recent years, this policy has shifted from an infrastructure oriented one towards an investment policy addressing the key challenges of tomorrow. Such investment is needed not only in the poorest EU regions, but across all Europe's regions to ensure they stay competitive. The policy is now supporting projects that help SMEs, encourage innovation, generate sustainable jobs and stimulate economic activity.

"The proposals for post-2013 are designed to ensure that the EU invests in key areas of growth to stay competitive in an ever more globalised economy"

However, we have a duty to ensure that the money is spent in an efficient way. We have to guarantee that we make the best use of those funds, invest them wisely and get the best possible return. Additionally, the policy should



be capable of great flexibility to adapt to changing needs. This is even more crucial in our current times of crisis and tight fiscal constraints.

These principles are at the heart of our new reformed policy currently being discussed in the European parliament and council. The proposals for post-2013 are designed to ensure that the EU invests in key areas of growth to stay

competitive in an ever more globalised economy. The emphasis is on an effective policy highlighting results in line with better spending.

First, resources will be concentrated on a small number of growth-enhancing investment priorities. Between 50 and 80 per cent of the budget – depending on the category of region – will be directed at measures to support research





and innovation, the digital agenda, the competitiveness of SMEs and the shift towards a low carbon economy. This thematic concentration aims to ensure maximum impact of investment to get Europe back on track to economic recovery and to stay competitive on a global scale.

Second, in the next round of regional policy, we are particularly focusing on delivering clear and tangible results. Those should be monitored, measured and integrated in all programmes. In addition to that, member states and regions have to fulfil strict conditions before they can invest. These are for example conditions to ensure that EU legislation is transposed into national legislation, or conditions to make sure that all kinds of administrative blocks are cleared. The new reforms also aim for a closer link between regional policy and economic governance to optimise the impact of investments. Finally, transparency will be increased on where and

how EU investments are used.

I am sure you will appreciate this new direction that I have steered the policy towards. It is in the interest of all taxpayers that every single euro is spent wisely to help our regions become more competitive. The reforms will equip regional policy with the right tools to tackle the EU's main obstacles to growth.

“I invite all regions and cities to use the time during this year’s Open Days event to learn more about the priorities of the next phase of the structural and investment funds, and to exchange views with each other on how to effectively target those funds”

It is now crucial to agree the last open issues of the reform package. The actual implementation is up to the regions, cities and member states of Europe. They will decide how to translate the EU priorities into concrete actions that

have a real impact on the ground.

I invite all regions and cities to use the time during this year’s Open Days event to learn more about the priorities of the next phase of the structural and investment funds, and to exchange views with each other on how to effectively target those funds. It will be the ideal opportunity to learn from each other. Let us all return to our member states and regions with new ideas of how the funds can contribute to achieving growth and jobs.

Finally, I would like to welcome the participation of the Croatian regions to Open Days. On 1 July, the Republic of Croatia joined the European Union as its 28th member state. The EU structural and investment funds available to Croatia until the end of the year amount to €450m. Some €8bn will be allocated for the period 2014-2020. This investment will support Croatia in strengthening economic, environmental and inclusive growth in its regions. ★

*Johannes Hahn is
European regional
policy commissioner*



THE MOST PICTURESQUE WAY IN EUROPE



Photo: Robert Sawicki

The waterway E70 links Western Europe, from Antwerp and Rotterdam, via the Berlin Waterway Junction through northern Poland with the Kaliningrad Region and the Neman River waterway system (via the Pregolya and Deyma to Klaipeda). In Poland the route covers 294 kilometers in total. It includes a network of ports, harbours, transshipment terminals, shipyards, tourist marines and passenger ports along the course of rivers up to the inland waters of the Vistula Lagoon and the Elbląg River.

Due to the picturesque and diverse landscape, the Polish part of the Inland Waterway E70 is foreseen as an attractive tourist destination for those who are looking for combination of leisure entertainment with education. The '3xE' model (entertainment, excitement, education) gives preferential treatment to physical activity, adventures and fun combined with cognitive and educational elements and has more and more supporters. Water tourism perfectly fits in this scenario. Hence, the five voivodeships, set in the north-west Poland, decided to create a new tourist product. Today practically undiscovered, the Polish part of IW E70 has a chance to be renewed thanks to the voivodeships' agreement on shared actions towards restoration of this valuable resource.

There is another reason behind these actions as well. Recently the congestion of roads increased time of delivery by road transport and significantly raised its cost. However the alternative means of transport should help to overcome not only the economic challenges. Although one river barge may replace hundreds of trucks and decrease time of handling the cargo, they need to fulfill the European requirements of low carbon emissions as well. The studies' results have shown substantial differences in energy consumption, environmental pollution emissions and safety between road and inland navigation transport. The inland navigation seems to fulfill all requirements of balanced development: economical effectiveness, ecological rationality and social legitimacy.

There is huge potential for transit of cargos by transport by inland navigation between Western and North East part of Europe. The navigable IW E70 would enable better communication between markets along the Polish part and - due to connection to sea ports on the east coast - enable the link with foreign markets.



This unique common project of revitalization of the Inland Waterway E70 has been created by five Polish regions: Lubuskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Pomorskie, Warminsko-Mazurskie and Wielkopolskie.



Find out more at <http://www.mdwe70.pl>

Open days 2013 exhibition

'EU solutions for cities and regions'

7-10 October 2013

Committee of the Regions
6th floor, Rue Belliardstraat 101, Brussels

Networking event on 8 October, 18.30-20.30*

*Entrance with invitation card only, available at the OPEN DAYS registration points

Discover good ideas and solutions of cities and regions all over Europe in fields ranging from innovation to the environment.

- Learn about good practices in creative industries, rural development, energy efficiency, mobility and many other fields.
- Benefit from findings about challenges and opportunities of shrinking cities.
- Find information about European Territorial cooperation projects and partners in an interactive online tool.
- Check territorial evidence from European regions and cities.

All this and much more you can do by visiting the exhibition organised by four pan-European programmes – INTERREG IVC, URBACT, ESPON and INTERACT. This exhibition is hosted by the Committee of the Regions and the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy during the OPEN DAYS 2013, as a part of the OPEN DAYS exhibition '100 EUrban solutions'.



Opening hours of the exhibition: 7 Oct: 9 am - 4 pm; 8 Oct: 8 am – 8:30 pm; 9 Oct: 8 am – 6:30 pm; 10 Oct: 8 am - 1 pm



INTERREG IVC helps regions of Europe share solutions and good practices to improve policy delivery in the fields of innovation and environment.

www.interreg4c.eu



URBACT is an European exchange and learning programme promoting integrated and sustainable urban policies in cities across Europe.

<http://urbact.eu/>



ESPON, the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion supports policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion. ESPON provides evidence, analyses, maps and tools for the development of regions, cities and larger territories.

www.espon.eu



INTERACT works to increase the effectiveness, quality, impact and awareness of Territorial Cooperation programmes. It offers advice, supports the organisation of workshops and conferences and works to promote Territorial Cooperation.

www.interact-eu.net

High expectations

Europe's social and economic actors are looking forward to the next phase of EU structural programming, argues **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**



This year's Open Days event comes at a time when regional and local authorities are focusing all their energy in finalising the 2007-2013 structural funds programming period and doing all they can to avoid delays in launching the 2014-2020 programmes. As the effects of the crisis continue to take hold, the past few years have proven just how necessary and powerful EU regional policy really is. Now more than ever many social and economic actors are looking forward to the next phase of programming with high expectations.

“Central governments, regions and cities are becoming increasingly involved in a race against time to have the new operational programmes ready for delivering in the second half of 2014”

If we count cohesion policy (€325bn), the European rural development fund (€85bn) and the European maritime and fisheries fund (€6.5bn) – more than €400bn of EU funding over the next seven years is at stake. It's a significant amount of money which holds particular importance given the grave economic situation that we face and crucial if we are to deliver the EU's growth strategy, Europe 2020. But worryingly, right now it is hard to know when these funds will be made available due to delays in the negotiations.

Thousands of local authorities, enterprises, associations, students and young professionals looking for a job, urgently need to have access to relevant opportu-

nities linked to EU co-funded projects. This is why central governments, regions and cities are becoming increasingly involved in a race against time to have the new operational programmes ready for delivering in the second half of 2014. It is not an easy task, also because the programmes are being designed in the absence of an adopted legal framework since negotiations on the cohesion policy legislative package are not over. We don't know yet, for instance, what

will be the fate of the macroeconomic conditionality and performance reserve proposed by the European commission which have been firmly opposed by the Committee of the Regions as well as the European parliament.

But one of the most worrying issues concerns the programmes' adoption procedures. New regulations will probably not be published before late November or even December this year. If we are to avoid missing a whole year we need





strong partnerships among all the actors involved, from Brussels to the local communities. It's not only a matter of time, procedures and bureaucracy. As local and regional politicians we are fully aware that despite the time constraints, we need to ensure the highest quality in the new programming and to deliver a sustainable and effective recovery strategy. We therefore need to exploit the traditional points of strength of this policy, such as its bottom-up approach involving all key players for growth, as well as its mid- and long-term vision of economic and social development that provides a stable framework to plan public and private investment.

We have to take advantage of relevant novelties linked to the cohesion policy reform shaped also with a relevant contribution by the Committee of the Regions. First of all, our fight against youth unemployment will only be effective by deploying new schemes and programmes, such as the youth guarantee. Moreover, we must count on

stronger flexibility in mobilising funds within integrated programmes, focused on clear priorities. Resources can be better allocated thanks to the introduction of the new category of “transition regions” (beside less and most developed ones) and sustainable urban development will be supported through new tools and partnerships.

“Over the coming months, the democratic debate linked to the EU funded growth strategies for the next seven years will massively contribute to the public discussion related to the 2014 elections and to the future of Europe”

In such a challenging scenario, Open Days provides a unique opportunity for networking, capacity-building, communicating and debating the main challenges being faced locally. In addition to around 100 workshops and a master class for 77 early career research-

ers in the field of regional and urban policy, over 300 local events will be organised all over Europe through until the end of November, bringing Open Days close to citizens, thanks to the commitment of the Committee of the Regions' members.

This significant mobilisation is more and more relevant given the intense EU agenda of the coming months. Cohesion policy accounts for one third of the overall EU budget. For millions of citizens this policy is the true face of the European Union. In many regions especially in the more impoverished areas, its capacity to address local challenges by valorising the potential of each community depends largely upon the trustworthiness of the EU project as a whole. This why over the coming months, the democratic debate linked to the EU funded growth strategies for the next seven years will massively contribute to the public discussion related to the 2014 elections and to the future of Europe. ★

Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso is president of the Committee of the Regions

Oulu Region



Real Added Value for Europe



are located in the arctic areas of the northern hemisphere. The role of the region in terms of transport will become even more prominent when new routes are opened in arctic sea areas. In fact, major investments have already been scheduled for the next few years and decades in order to exploit natural resources and improve accessibility. Northern areas will also play an increasingly important role in securing the self-sufficiency of Europe, thanks to their vast ore and mineral resources. The role of Northern Finland's mining industry and its subcontractors will become more prominent in future when new mining investments are introduced.

World class experience

The Oulu Region's key to success is its very high level of expertise. Compared with the GDP, the area's R&D investments are the third highest in Europe. Oulu has also been ranked in the Top Seven in the Intelligent Communities Awards programme in the last two years. The Oulu Region is one of Finland's most important telecommunications and mobile technology clusters and also enjoys a prominent role in international terms. We have many international success stories. Two billion people are using mobile technologies developed in Oulu. Oulu also seeks to diversify its hi-tech offering in electronics, software industry, medicine, biotechnology and environmental engineering by developing products, applications and services at the intersections of different industries. A crucial factor contributing to our success is fluent cooperation between education, research, production and public administration.

The Oulu Region is situated in Finland in the European High North close to northern energy and other natural resources. Its unique arctic nature, abundant natural resources and high levels of expertise make the Oulu Region one of the most fascinating areas in future from the EU's point of view.

The Oulu Region young at heart

The region is the youngest in Finland and also one of the youngest in Europe. Our major strength is young, well-educated people. Oulu, the capital of the region, is the largest urban centre in Northern Scandinavia with 200 000 inhabitants.

Gateway to Arctic areas

The Oulu Region, Northern Finland and the Barents Region as a whole make up an important element in view of developing European competitiveness, as the world's most important known energy resources

Contact information:

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Eastnorth Finland EU Office

www.eastnorth.fi

e-mail: info@eastnorth.fi



The Oulu Region has the willpower and confidence for future growth.



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Signs of recovery

Europe's industrial competitiveness can only be recovered with the strong involvement of its regions, says **Danuta Hübner**



This Autumn the citizens of the EU have received long awaited good news: the EU's economy is showing the first signs of recovery. Indeed, in the second quarter the union's economy has grown by 0.3 per cent and the economic outlook looks positive. Although this timid progress is indicating that we are heading in the right direction, we need to speed up the crucial reforms that are to be implemented to regain industrial competitiveness and engage on a positive trend of steady growth.

In order to fully recover from the crisis we need a strong innovative and sustainable growth oriented agenda, encoded in

the EU 2020 objectives. However, it can only be achieved by a long term strategy to reinvigorate our industrial base, make it more innovative and thus improve its competitiveness. The EU's regions must be placed at the heart of the industrial renaissance process.

“The EU's regions must be placed at the heart of the industrial renaissance process”

With their central role in the governance of economic growth and wealth creation, regions can help to close the EU's industry competitiveness gap. They are key players in the new European

industrial policy (to be discussed at the February 2014 council), which should be an efficient multi-level governance cooperation framework between European institutions, member states and regions. Such a renewed industrial policy should rely on a combination of strategic European priorities and a bottom-up approach based on smart specialisation strategies at the national and regional levels giving place to the necessary entrepreneurial discovery process.

Innovation and industrial dynamics have a strong regional dimension, and the crisis has had asymmetric effects on regions and sectors according to



the levels of economic diversification. Regions and localities have the knowledge as they are the home of industrial clusters, competence centres, technology parks and many other types of innovation spaces. They have the insight into their innovation systems, but also a strong capacity to mobilise regional innovation stakeholders through specific policy instruments, such as public procurement, urban and land planning and environmental protection. Regional stakeholders have a good understanding of the environmental challenges, as well as the capacities and competencies to take local action to promote environmental sustainability. In brief, regions have the expertise and capacity to effectively develop tailored strategies to effectively address both sustainability and innovation challenges.

“Accomplishing the third industrial revolution in Europe will be a complex process involving the development and implementation of a number of policy instruments and governance mechanisms”

Accomplishing the third industrial revolution in Europe will be a complex process involving the development and implementation of a number of policy instruments and governance mechanisms from the development of EU cluster and smart specialisation strategies to the coupling of flagship initiatives and roadmaps of the EU 2020 strategy with the various financial sources available. Fortunately, the future cohesion policy that we are aiming to adopt by November 2013 will be well geared to address these challenges. Any EU region that is to implement a modern industrial strategy should rely on a diversified economy with a favourable business environment and well developed infrastructure and performing services and these all are objectives of the new cohesion policy, which will represent the biggest allocation of funds in →



Innovative city brand management *beyond* the marketing approach



More and more cities in Europe are involved in one way or another in branding or re-branding their city. That is, in processes of **positioning** and re-positioning the city, trying to gain visibility in a changing economic landscape. However, such initiatives are often addressed without method, or they are merely approached as a matter of logos & campaigns, with little empathy for their own local communities. Many of those initiatives end up with circumstantial or inconsistent results.

In addition, low public spending is pushing to a radical re-thinking on how cities should promote and market themselves. And certainly, this is an opportunity to set up more effective patterns for **stakeholder involvement and management** (business community, tourist promotion boards, University and the local knowledge institutes, top urban facilities...). These should aim at both co-production of the strategy and co-delivery of the communication initiatives, including in terms of financial co-responsibility.

In this context **CityLogo** has been launched, as a three year learning experience within the URBACT program. It engages ten European cities (Zaragoza, Genoa, Aarhus, Dundee, Warsaw, Oslo, Vilnius, Coimbra and Alba Iulia) under the leadership of Utrecht and in association with the Eurocities Working Group on City Branding. The main goal of the project is to move forward the state of the art on how cities brand and market themselves in a more integrated manner.

The ambition is to run a cutting-edge project on integrated city branding in Europe, a methodological benchmark. To that end, the project roadmap covers **four main themes**: management and new

organizational models in city branding; updating city narratives and politics for city representation; channels & communication tools, with a focus on the impact of the digital shift; and new segmentation strategies around visitors, businesses, talent and local population.

CityLogo works at two levels: locally, shaping specific **platforms for stakeholder involvement** and management in each of the participating cities, with the mission to strengthen a strategy on integrated city branding. And at network level a range of transnational activities are and will be deployed, including thematic workshops, study visits, peer-reviews and reports. Initiatives at network level are also open to other interested cities and third parties at their own cost.

Actually CityLogo, the URBACT project on innovative city brand management, has been launched as a reaction to the most common gaps in the field. A sort of **city branding re-learning** as the practice is still under the influence of a conventional marketing approach. In this sense, better understanding of the urban question politics of city representation in and outside Europe.



Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information on the project:

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mrivas@grupotaso.com

For more information visit the minisite at www.urbact.eu/citylogo or join the LinkedIn-group **CityLogo-Urbact**.





support for innovation and competitiveness of enterprises.

It is a modern investment policy, which if implemented in an efficient way, has great potential to vigorously contribute to bringing back competitiveness through, while preserving its ultimate aim of reducing disparities between regions by pursuing economic, social and territorial cohesion. The challenge of coordinating the relevant policy instruments and governance processes in such a complex policy is not an easy one. The new architecture of cohesion policy foresees a number of instruments which will allow a high level of strategic programming and coordination of the funds and a genuine territorial approach, linking the place-based approach in regions to the overall objectives of European innovation and industrial policies.

The thematic menu and focus on fewer priorities in line with Europe 2020 and the common set of basic rules to all five funds should be used in an integrated way to develop a coordinated policy

approach of regional competitiveness. Europe's regions must grasp the full potential of this genuinely new approach to funding policies and programmes by establishing even stronger synergies between flagship initiatives and funding instruments and sources putting forward innovative and challenging projects.

The partnership principle at the heart **“Innovation and industrial dynamics have a strong regional dimension, and the crisis has had asymmetric effects on regions and sectors according to the levels of economic diversification”**

of the new cohesion policy will set out the commitments of partners at national and regional level with the European commission. The partnership agreements give the possibility to regional and local actors, together with member states to enshrine the goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by integrating them in coherent operational programmes.

Furthermore, the development of innovative and competitive industries is not only a question of availability of funding, but also of integrated strategies. Some regions are better equipped than others to promote path renewal or creation because they have more diversified economies which enhance their transformational capacity and facilitate smart specialisation and entrepreneurial discovery processes. Therefore, regional and local authorities have to carefully prepare their local action plans and establish territorial strategies, which will allow them to take full advantage of the new territorial development instruments foreseen in the future cohesion policy, such as community-led initiatives and the integrated territorial investment.

Finally, only a subtle combination of these policy initiatives, in the context of adequate framework conditions, can create the right environment for regions to develop innovative and competitive industries and start the third industrial revolution. ★

Danuta Hübner is chair of the European parliament's regional development committee

Perspectives of Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region

Background & Objectives

In recent years the aquaculture industry in Asia has been growing notably whereas the sector is stagnating in the EU. Meanwhile, sustainable aquaculture has a great potential to contribute to food security, sustainable fisheries and job creation and also provides great opportunities for regional development. The importance and the potentials of this sector are also highlighted by the fact that it has been defined as a focus area within the Blue Growth Communication of the EU. Moreover, in the proposed reformed Common Fishery Policy the role of the aquaculture sector will be increasing.

Since 2011 the EU-project **AQUAFIMA**, which is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the INTERREG IV B Baltic Sea Region Programme, has been disclosing the perspectives of aquaculture in the coastal regions bordering the Baltic Sea. Within different working fields the partners have engaged in:

- Analysing the prospects of restocking measures and their integration into regional coastal fisheries management
- Evaluating the sustainability of restocking measures for different Baltic Sea fish species
- Developing skills and professional education schemes for aquaculture management
- Working out strategies for integrating aquaculture into sustainable spatial development
- Analysing the potentials of aquaculture for regional development and tourism

- Raising acceptance for farmed fish products and aquaculture among Baltic Sea Region citizens.

Get involved – Save the date for upcoming seminar

The AQUAFIMA project would like to invite to a **seminar** about **"Perspectives of Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region"** on the **26th November 2013 in Brussels**.

AQUAFIMA partners will present a strategy paper that highlights the prospects of alternative management approaches (e.g. restocking) for regional coastal fisheries management. Three further projects that have dealt with aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region will then showcase their results, and together will explore the perspectives of **aquaculture** for the Baltic Sea Region in the frame of the **Blue Growth initiative** and **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**. In a subsequent panel discussion representatives from the ICES, EU Commission, a Member of the European Parliament and an aquaculture producer organization will be invited to share their views on this topic.

We are looking forward meeting you in Brussels! Please send your registration to the AQUAFIMA project manager (vollstedt@rem-consult.eu).

Who should attend?

– The seminar is addressed to policy-makers and stakeholders at the regional, national and European level in the fields of maritime affairs, aquaculture and fisheries, representatives of international environmental organisations, experts on aquaculture and aquaculture production and further interested parties.

Seminar

"Perspectives of Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region"

26th November 2013 in Brussels,
Centre of the Regions, Boulevard
Saint Michel 80

Preliminary Agenda

08.30 – 09.00: Registration and Coffee

09.00 – 09.10: Welcome

09.10 – 09.40: Opening lecture

09.40 – 10.10: Presentation of draft
strategy paper of the AQUAFIMA project

10.10 – 10.50: Presentation of Aquabest
– legal regulations of aquaculture,
Presentation of SUBMARINER roadmap,
Presentation of PartiSEApate workshop
results "Spatial Planning implications of
Aquaculture"

10.50 – 11.10: Coffee break &
Presentation of project results

11.10 – 12.15: Panel Discussion
Representatives of :

- ICES
- EU Commission
- Member of the European Parliament
- Danish Aquaculture Organisation

12.15 – 13.30: Lunch & Presentation of
project results & Networking

Landgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
mbH (Lead Partner)

Matti Skor • Email: matti.skor@lgmv.de
Phone: +49 3866 404 176

REM - Consult (Project Management)

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For more information please visit the
project website www.aquafima.eu

European Cooperation in Lithuania

Just 1 day



What would you do if you had just one day to appeal to your fellow citizens and impress them with what you do? September 2013 witnessed hundreds of spectacular events all around Europe celebrating the European Cooperation Day. Two EU-funded programmes with Lithuania's participation endeavoured demonstrating that the European Cooperation is art.

They aimed at succinctly and effectively presenting the European Territorial Cooperation and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument programmes to the general public.

The European Territorial Cooperation Cross-border Cooperation Programme Lithuania-Poland (hereinafter referred to as Lithuania-Poland Programme) and the Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus Cross-border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (hereinafter referred to as Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme) held the International Short Movie Competition "Be Part of It" and the Letter Stamping Campaign for the European Cooperation Day 2013.

Let the cinema tell the story

The European Cooperation Day always gives much food for thought to its organisers all over Europe, as they have to find the solution how to attract the attention of the public and the media for just 1 day and how to explain in short what the European Cooperation is all about. It is not easy to glue these two goals into one successful tool.

The brainstorm on the possible concept of this year's European Cooperation Day in Vilnius focused on three goals of the celebration:

- To reach as wide audience as possible;
- To explain the essence of the European Cooperation in Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Belarus to anyone interested within just 10 minutes;
- To ensure that the results of the campaign are tangible.

This led to the conclusion that cinema should be used in order to tell the stories of joint projects with participation of partners from Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, and Poland.

Moreover, the organisers of the European Cooperation Day in Lithuania decided to see the European Cooperation projects in the eyes of the strangers - of people, who have nothing in common with the applications, budgets and logical log-frames. This is how the International Short Movie Competition "Be Part of It" was brought to life.

Professional and amateur film makers from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and

Belarus were invited to accept the challenge and try to make art of the European Cooperation. They received a task of making 10-minute long fiction movies (not documentaries!) about any of the projects of the Lithuania-Poland Programme or the Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme.

13 teams of cinema lovers responded to the invitation. In order to provide the participants with certain guidance, the organisers of the movie competition invited them for a bus tour to some cross-border cooperation projects in Lithuania, Poland and Belarus (in just 1 day!). The film makers also took part in the cinema-making course by famous Lithuanian film director Inesa Kurklietytė.

- If you have nothing to say, do not make any film, - she explained. - You must raise questions and speak with the lips, eyes and movements of the others, not yourself.

On 21 September the best short movies were presented at the cinema "Pasaka" in Vilnius. Later they appeared on websites, social networks and media of the Lithuania-Poland Programme and the Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme, their project implementers and the film



The ENPI CBC Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme and the ETC CBC Lithuania-Poland Programme are co-financed by the European Union

makers themselves. This is how wide audiences in 4 countries were reached! It can be said that instead of people coming to an event or project site, the project results reached people with the help of cinema magic.

Water-listening, Life-grasping and Culture-hunting

The project FITS (LLB-2-163) was presented by Belarusian Anton Mazheika by illustrating how blind swimmers from Vilnius and Minsk train together. How they make their first attempts in the swimming pool just by listening to the sound of water. A sensitive story of a woman, fighting her cancer was told by the “European Youth Enterprise Initiative” from Belarus in the movie about the project “Breast Cancer Prevention and Early Detection” (LLB-2-090). The genre of detective comedy was chosen by the team Bildis from Latvia in order to present the museum renovation and virtualisation in Rezekne (Latvia) as part of the project “Virtual Museum” (LLB-2-269).

Some youth issues were touched upon by a young film maker from Lithuania in the movie presenting the project “Development of Cross-border Cultural Infrastructure and Cooperation in Druskininkai and Augustów” (LT-PL/095). The old legends about the Teutonic Order were revived in the story about the project “The Professional Education in the Transborder Region – the Base of the Development of the Enterprises” (LT-PL/122) created by the team from Alytus vocational training centre.

The results of the September 21st European Cooperation Day became tangible by the movies of the international short movie competition remaining available online for months and years to come.

Message for the whole world

The European Cooperation Day 2013 has also been extraordinary thanks to the Letter Stamping Campaign which was performed in cooperation with the Lithuanian Post. Every person could come to the Central Post Office of Vilnius during the week before September 21st and receive the official post stamp marking the European Cooperation Day. The stamp of the ECD was spread out in the whole world through the outgoing correspondence.

Giedrius Surplys, Ieva Junevičienė
Joint Technical Secretariat

You are welcome to see the movies and get acquainted with the projects by visiting the websites www.lietuva-polska.eu and www.enpi-cbc.eu.





Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Urban Transport Using Space and ICT Technologies:

An Exhibition of THE ISSUE Project and NEREUS Regional Best Practice
In the framework of the "100 EUrban solutions" exhibition route – Open Days 2013

Opening of the Exhibition - Networking event

Tuesday, 8 October 2013 from 18.00 to 20.00

Representation of Midi-Pyrénées Region, Avenue de Cortenbergh, 116, 1000 Brussels

Please note that registration is mandatory by sending an email to:
nereus.assistant@euroinbox.com

The exhibition will present the FP7-funded project called THE ISSUE (Traffic-Health-Environment: Intelligent Solutions Sustaining Urban Economies) as an example of using space and ICT technologies to develop innovative solutions to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, promote transport mobility and intermodality. Being part of the FP7 "Regions of knowledge" Theme, THE ISSUE project aims to create solid partnerships between different regional research clusters to bring together and coordinate existing and forthcoming research and technological development (RTD) programs. The project brings together research clusters from 4 NEREUS member regions and it is thus qualified as a NEREUS flagship project. More info:

www.theissue.eu/

The exhibition will last 3 days, from 8 to 10 October 2013.
To visit the exhibition, at the representation of Midi-Pyrénées region premises please send an email to:
Helene.BARON@midipyreneeseurope.eu.

A festive interregional networking event will open the exhibition on 8 October 2013. Welcoming speeches by NEREUS President, and a representative of Midi-Pyrénées region will be followed by the launch of the new publication by THE ISSUE and NEREUS "Space and ICT Applications supporting Smart, Green, Integrated Transport and Urban Mobility" after which NEREUS invites guests to their cocktail dinatoire. More information on the event on:

www.nereus-regions.eu/events-and-news

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Slicker cities

The active involvement of the EU's cities is vital to the future success of the Europe 2020 strategy, argues **Jan Olbrycht**



The Europe 2020 strategy is different to its predecessor, the Lisbon strategy. Building on the experience of its predecessor, it was given a far more concrete character and a defined division of competences between the European Union and member states.

The strategy's three slogans are: smart, sustainable and inclusive. They define three different dimensions. First, smart growth – aimed at developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; second, sustainable growth – aimed at promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; and finally, inclusive growth – aimed at fostering a high-employment

economy delivering economic, social and territorial cohesion.

To contribute to the above mentioned global objectives, the European Union set several targets in the fields of employment, education, research and innovation, social inclusion, poverty reduction, and energy. It also defined seven flagship initiatives.

The whole architecture of the strategy resulted in an initial tendency to divide all the European policies according to those three defined dimensions, and provoked an increased tendency for sectorisation of EU policies at the beginning. Fortunately, those attempts have been stopped and replaced by actions in

favour of looking for complementarities. As a result, single EU policies are supposed to contribute to the achievement of the EU 2020 objectives in many different fields in an integrated way. For example, the new cohesion policy for the years 2014–2020 looks at its main objective, namely working towards the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the union, with the angle of Europe 2020 strategy. Moreover, it seeks complementarities with other EU programmes, such as Horizon 2020.

Cities are the best place to demonstrate how such an intended integrated approach can work. Actions in cities must be integrated by definition. A





whole complexity of elements needs to be considered while developing a strategy for a city development. Every single practitioner knows exactly the number of different aspects that must be taken into account while taking some strategic decisions. All the elements in such fields as energy, employment or social affairs need to work together to assure growth. The development of a city must be smart, sustainable and socially inclusive.

Therefore, the increased interest in urban development was a good answer to the new EU2020 challenge. Many of the EU's policies were given a stronger urban focus. One can observe a shift towards a possible future urban policy on the European level. However, the European Union by itself cannot assure

the successful contribution of Europe's cities towards the achievement of the Europe 2020 goals without the involvement of the national, but also, and more importantly, the regional and local level. European regions define their urban policy and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. Cities across the whole of **“European regions define their urban policy and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy”**

Europe plan their urban development while using different EU instruments coming from different policies and contribute to the same goal.

It is worth mentioning that the ‘urban tendency’ in the European Union has also got a broader dimension going beyond the EU borders. It takes into account many global aspects such as urban sprawl or shrinking cities – phenomena taking place across the whole world.

The Europe 2020 strategy sets an ambitious plan for the European Union. Becoming a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy is even more demanding, but also more important, taking into consideration the difficult economic situation in most of the EU member states. Cities seem to be very suitable for addressing the issues that are at heart of the strategy. Cities are the best response to Europe 2020. ★

Jan Olbrycht is a member of the European parliament's regional development committee

The island of Fur is buzzing with green evolution

The Danish island is being transformed into a miniature model of the sustainable welfare society of the future. The innovation involved is largely a result of citizen empowerment and new partnerships



We know it already, great energy challenges lie ahead: We need to consume fewer fossil fuels and reduce CO₂ emissions. We need to use more renewable energy and lower our energy consumption.

As a society, we therefore need to rethink many of our energy habits and consumption patterns—and we will need to include various green energy technologies to a much greater degree so that we may meet the requirements and targets of the future.



A unique partnership creates innovation

Innovation Fur is a development project launched by the island of Fur, Skive municipality, and EnergiMidt. The vision is to transform Fur into a miniature model of the sustainable society of the future where we utilise modern technology to achieve a green profile.

—We have a unique partnership between a group of dedicated citizens, a municipality with green ambitions, and a private company with experts on energy and

fibre optics. All of us can make various contributions which means that all aspects are taken into account for the project. We also have a continuous dialogue with scientists, investors, and companies interested in testing new technology on Fur, explains Gitte Wad Thybo, energy project manager of Innovation Fur.

Empowering the citizens

The basis of Innovation Fur is that a green conversion with more renewable energy, energy savings and increased digitalisation requires new solutions and new ways of thinking in society. It also requires new forms of partnership. Innovation Fur got just that because of the great cooperation between the citizens, public authorities and a private company. This creates new synergies, initiatives and results.

—We hope that this project may inspire citizens, municipalities, companies and politicians all over the world to work with sustainability and new ways of energy consumption, says Christoffer Boserup Skov, communication consultant of Innovation Fur.



● Green results

The climate accounts for the Danish island of Fur are ample proof of an island undergoing a sustainable transformation: CO₂ emissions per citizen on Fur have dropped from 6.8 to 5.5 tons per citizen; an impressive 19 per cent reduction.

The total energy consumption (electricity, heating and transportation) of the citizens has dropped by 10 per cent. And electricity consumption in private homes alone has dropped by almost 18 per cent.

● About Innovation Fur

The ambitious development project Innovation Fur is currently developing and demonstrating what the sustainable and energy-friendly society of the future is going to look like. Right now a large EU project about the Smart Grid, the future power grid, is tested on Fur.



Read more at

www.innovation-fur.dk

Rethink the way you do things

C2C on business sites, improving their quality

Our resources are running out. We all know something has to change. In order to keep our planet livable. The Cradle to Cradle (C2C) philosophy aims to improve quality and good business by continuing material flows, use renewable energy and create ecological, social and economical diversity. C2C products, processes, buildings and areas are designed to add value to their surroundings.

C2C BIZZ project

In the INTERREG IVB Project C2C BIZZ, 11 Northwestern European partners collaborate with the objective of enhancing the implementation of C2C on new and existing business sites. In each country there is a pilot site where C2C is put into practice. In the UK a demonstrator is built to show the optimal reuse of secondary waste streams. In Luxembourg renewable energy will be generated and in France a diverse and resilient brownfield will be developed.

Virtual European business site

Together, the pilots comprise one complete virtual transnational C2C business site and a new form of park management. Finally, a manual will become available with all tools and pilots incorporated and also a financial tool, that will help to show that C2C makes money. In the end we will have a 'virtual' European business site with input from all European partners. The C2C BIZZ project is supported by European Union and financed by the INTERREG IVB North West Europe program.

Do the free one minute quiz!

Cradle to Cradle helps you to rethink, turn things around and create new opportunities leading to more profits for your business. Learn more about C2C on business sites and do the free one minute quiz: www.c2cbizz.com/quiz.



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Website: www.c2cbizz.com



Game changer

Stimulating cooperation between projects across Europe can lead to increased sharing of expertise and competitiveness, writes **Lambert van Nistelrooij**



The unemployment figures in the eurozone have risen sky-high. Over 19 million men and women are in search of a new job. In just a couple of months since the last Eurostat count, 65,000 jobseekers have entered the employment market. Never before have we seen this high a percentage of unemployment in the eurozone. According to Eurostat, we are now facing joblessness at 12.1 per cent of the total professional population. Europe has to foster the competitiveness of its companies and the employability of its workers.

One way forward is to stimulate investments in sectors in which regions have a competitive advantage to provide for jobs in the region. This effect will

be further strengthened if local authorities, research/education institutes and business work closely together. The European parliament advocates the smart specialisation strategy, which is a clear-cut break with previous EU strate-

“I urge the regions to keep focus on the agreed EU2020 objectives and to stay away from investments in ‘roads leading to nowhere’ or nearly empty airports”

gies. It is now a requirement to receive EU money from the European regional development fund.

This strategy will also help to stimulate cooperation between similar projects

throughout Europe. In this approach expertise will be shared and competitiveness will be fostered. In the smart specialisation strategy, research, innovation and education go hand in hand. A leading example is the Marie Curie programme. Grants paid to researchers allow them to gain experience in different European countries and working in several regional projects.

One significant aspect that makes a regional research and innovation strategy (RIS) smart is the process itself. Smart specialisation brings diversification, structural change towards knowledge, innovation and creativity-driven growth. The first drafts for these strategies were sent to Brussels during the summer. The



projects will run from 1 January 2014. No time to lose. Europe is in a hurry.

I urge the regions to keep focus on the agreed EU2020 objectives and to stay away from investments in 'roads leading to nowhere' or nearly empty airports. Moreover, if we want EU 2020 to be successful we need educated people to perform in smart partnerships. Possibly the most important message to European regions is that the RIS III strategies require a bottom up approach and participation and dedication of all actors in the field.

“As from 2014, regions in the EU can spend up to 15 per cent of their EU budgets on cross-border cooperation with their partners in the smart specialisation”

The European structural and investment funds (ESIF) deliver a major investment in times of economic crisis. The EU has €325bn available for the 28 member states to innovate, invest and combat unemployment, representing roughly one third of the EU budget. The European parliament as co-legislator has boosted the smart specialisation strategy. The member states had to be convinced for this new way of cooperation in the European Union. As from 2014, regions in the EU can spend up to 15 per cent of their EU budgets on cross-border cooperation with their partners in the smart specialisation.

The parliament managed to include several crucial aspects in the regulation. Projects that support regional R&I players to participate in Horizon 2020 (“stairways to excellence”) will be funded either through Horizon 2020 or with the ESIF funds.

For me, the main focus is to assist in the capacity building of projects in eastern Europe and linking them with centres of excellence in western Europe. Communication and cooperation between Horizon 2020 national contact points and managing authorities of the European structural and invest-



ment funds shall also be strengthened.

Joint support shall also be provided to national and regional authorities for the design and implementation of smart strategies: to identify opportunities for joint financing of R&I infrastructures of European interest, the promotion of international collaboration, methodological support through peer reviews, exchange of good practice, and training

across regions.

Regions can now unlock their potential job creation by linking emerging centres of excellence and regions in less developed, as well as low performing research, development and innovation, member states to leading counterparts elsewhere in Europe. The game changer of smart specialisation is knocking at the door. ★

Lambert van Nistelrooij is a member of the European parliament's regional development committee



BRABANT, EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURIAL REGION 2014

Brabant is an enterprising, innovative and successful region in Europe and a wonderful place to live. Brabanters appreciate the good life. Working hard, and taking time to enjoy our rich cultural life, our stunning wildlife and one another's company. Brabant is a region where high tech and high touch are inseparable!

Innovation and entrepreneurship

The close collaboration between the Brabant partners, in national and international networks, stimulates the development of innovation and entrepreneurship. Brabant has an international reputation as a European top region for innovation and knowledge with a good business climate. It has the ambition to maintain and enhance this position by making smart choices based on a sound plan for tackling the weaknesses in the economy and building on the strengths of the region. It's therefore that Brabant won the title of 'European Entrepreneurial Region 2014'. The region supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by means of the triple helix approach, whereby entrepreneurs, education and government collaborate, linking with culture and the natural environment. Brabant makes a significant contribution to EU initiatives, such as the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and employment, at the regional level.

Why is Brabant unique?

The Brabander is not your average Dutchman; finding smart solutions, a bold approach to education and business and our instinct for partnership is what distinguishes us from others. Along with the typical Burgundian lifestyle, hospitality and amiability. Rather than being a reward for success, pleasure leads to further success. Feeling good means performing better!

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- Agro Food & Nutrition**
- High Tech Systems & Materials**
- Lifesciences & Medical Technologies**
- Logistics**
- Maintenance**



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EUniverCities:

Where cities and universities cooperate



Connecting cities
Building successes



Cities face major challenges in terms of urban development, financial crisis, rising unemployment rates, energy reduction. New technologies and innovation concepts are needed to make progress in these and other fields. Universities play a crucial part in delivering solutions for all kind of urban problems and in co-creating resilient cities and regions.

How it all started

After consultations and an initial search for cities the EUniverCities Network was launched in January 2012. Shortly afterwards the City of Delft successfully filed an application under the 3rd URBACT Call for Proposals, collaborating with nine other cities in- and outside the network. The URBACT project gives a boost to learning and exchanging between cities and their universities.



The network currently comprises 15 members and observers from all over Europe: Aachen, Aalborg, Brno, Delft, Gent, Lausanne, Linköping, Lublin, Magdeburg, Norrköping, Tampere, Toulouse, Trondheim, Varna and Zaragoza.

Cooperation matters

21st century problems require 21st century solutions. Government bodies, universities, research institutes, businesses and civil society need each other to tackle societal issues. Without the right support, engagement and responsibility of relevant stakeholders plans for change remain just wishful thinking.

How we work

Within the framework of EUniverCities local authorities and their universities act as tandems. This is a prerequisite for acting

in the network and a natural outcome within the project. Tandems exchange and define their views during meetings.

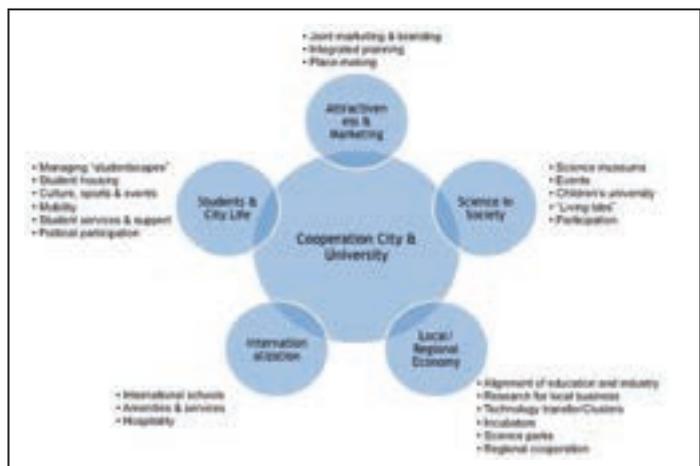
Thematically the focus lies on improving cooperation between the city institutions and the university (or universities if applicable) located within the municipal boundaries. Technology, innovation, entrepreneurship are key elements in both arenas. Other important fields are students and city life, city marketing and science in society.

Each city-university tandem hosting a meeting organizes presentations, lectures and on-site visits. They serve to expose the problems and challenges the city and its university are facing. By adopting the Peer Review methodology all visiting partners reflect, think through and formulate insights and recommendations. They should help the host city to develop new ideas and appropriate policy measures.

The added value of the URBACT Programme is the creation of a Local Support Group (ULSG). ULSGs are the main platform where relevant stakeholders discuss important project developments on a local and European level. They pave the way for the implementation of new ideas.

Expected results

In addition to an initial Baseline Study, describing every city's challenges and points of departure for improvement, the URBACT project will deliver more outputs: per city a Peer Review report with recommendations, factsheets, two case studies on the role of students and on partnership for placemaking, two Politicians' Meetings, communication items and a final report. The project should help in shaping concrete solutions and finding the necessary funding.



More information

Interested in EUniverCities? Follow the URBACT project results on <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/innovation-creativity/eunivercities/homepage/> Network developments can be found on <http://eunivercitiesnetwork.com/>

The network is open to new cities and universities. Check with us the opportunities to become involved.

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Climate for investment



The fight against climate change will require new and innovative models of financing, behaviour and policymaking, argues **Bas Verkerk**

Climate action is a key priority for the EU and funding for projects has grown significantly in recent years. Yet switching to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy requires clear and stable climate policies, targeted public finance and well-structured financial instruments to bring about a major shift of private capital investment. On the one hand, limited public funds need to be used efficiently to overcome barriers and to mobilise the power of market forces to support climate action. On the other hand, leveraging substantial amounts of private finance is required in order to meet the investment needs that the European commission has identified. According to the commission's low carbon economy roadmap, an additional €270bn on average will be needed annually over the next four decades to achieve the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

“According to the commission's low carbon economy roadmap, an additional €270bn on average will be needed annually over the next four decades to achieve the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy”

There is no question that within the next EU multiannual financial framework (MFF), climate friendly investments will continue to be on the agenda. Indeed, there are many untapped opportunities to save energy and encourage the use of renewable energy sources in Europe, but market conditions do not

always help. It is therefore anticipated that financial instruments for climate action are likely to play a big part in the next MFF, being an innovative way of delivering results and creating stronger incentives for successful projects. In

fact, the commission is building on the positive experiences gained under the 2007-2013 MFF by simplifying and expanding the use of financial instruments and thereby making it more accessible to climate-friendly projects.





Bas Verkerk is president of the Committee of the Regions' ALDE group and mayor of the city of Delft

This is also the reasoning behind the Committee of the Regions' ALDE group's Open Days workshop, which aims to address the need to maximise the relevance of financial instruments for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Integrating climate change and energy efficiency in investment decisions could generate considerable financial savings to government and society, stimulate economic activity and job creation and deliver substantial health benefits.

The green economy has long been a

priority for the wider European liberal family: the ALDE party identified 2012 as its focus year for energy transition and adopted the themed resolution 'Liberal roadmap for energy transition in the EU' during its congress. So, too, has the ALDE group in the CoR been a strong supporter of climate friendly projects and initiatives. In 2012, an ALDE delegation visited the Danish island of Bornholm where the EU's most modern experiments in the administration of different sources of renewable energy

are being conducted. The EcoGrid EU – a prototype for European smart grids – offers Europe a fast track evolution towards market-based mechanisms in the form of a full-scale real-time test. The goal is to contribute to the EU 2020 goals by demonstrating that it is possible to operate a distribution power system with more than 50 per cent of renewable energy sources using smart communication and smart market solutions. As a microcosm of the green economy, with more than 50 per cent electricity consumption from renewable energy production, Bornholm offers an alternative way to achieving energy transition.

Such initiatives show the need for sector-specific investments. However,

“Integrating climate change and energy efficiency in investment decisions could generate considerable financial savings to government and society”

insufficient regulatory frameworks may pose challenges, particularly for SMEs. Many SMEs have untapped energy savings potentials, but are dependent on external financing from banks. A lack of communication and information can prevent SMEs from identifying their saving potentials. Given the small scale of projects and the perceived risks that are involved, banks are often discouraged to lend for energy savings in SMEs. In the case of financial instruments, however, support provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB) encourages others to match the EIB's long-term investment that commercial and public lenders may not find easy to make independently. This is particularly relevant at a time of austerity.

The ALDE CoR group sees climate change as a defining challenge for the European Union. Tackling this challenge cannot be achieved merely by reducing emissions; rather it requires new modes of behaviour, creativity and innovation. ★

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European University is an internationally-accredited, multi-campus business school. With small, dynamic classes offered in English, students representing over 100 nationalities study in an international environment.

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With main locations in Geneva, Montreux, Munich and Barcelona, EU encourages students to participate in inter-campus exchanges as all four main campuses share identical curricula and textbooks. EU also has a variety of global partnerships and encourages exchanges to other countries including Spain, Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom, Russia, Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Malaysia and China.

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Ranked in the top 40 business schools in Europe by QS Top MBA and listed in the top 20 business schools in the world by China Economic Review, EU has developed innovative business education programs that deliver a high-quality educational experience.

European University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) and the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE); both organizations recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). EU also holds an International Quality Award (IQA) accreditation as awarded by the Central and East European Management Development Association (CEEMAN).



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THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONGRESS IN SZCZECIN

In June this year, the capital city of West Pomerania hosted the key meeting to gather the leading maritime industry players operating in this part of Europe. Szczecin welcomed over 500 attendees, brought together in a joint effort to discuss the current situation and the prospective development of the industry. And it proved a remarkable success! The Congress arrived at a number of specific conclusions, which were handed over to Donald Tusk, Polish Prime Minister, on 10 July.

At the 1st International Maritime Congress, expert panel discussions were held under the following four thematic categories:

- I. THE MODERN MARITIME ECONOMY OF POLAND
- II. THE INTEGRATION OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY
- III. THE UTILISATION OF MARITIME RESOURCES
- IV. THE MARITIME ECONOMY AND SCIENCE

Overall, the Congress delivered several dozen conclusions. At the official closing event, these were signed by Congress organizers and regional authorities, and then put into a bottle in a symbolic gesture. PM Donald Tusk received them in this form. The attendees of the IMC expressed their hope that the conclusions will be helpful and will actually find their application in practice. Indeed, this was the direct calling of the seamen, who in everyday life encounter Parliamentary regulations.

The Congress agenda featured a total of more than 50 presentations. The scope of the discussed topics was very wide, ranging from shipbuilding, water tourism, wind energy, and the common fishing policy to EU schemes for mariners' employment. In everyone's view, this unprecedented gathering was Szczecin and its region's success. Furthermore, the common opinion was that such a platform is highly appreciated across the maritime industry, the European economies and the Baltic Sea Region States. Therefore, using the message in a bottle, the event organizers communicated all the key conclusions of the Congress to the Polish PM. They also announced that in due time the Congress outcomes would be disseminated to all institutions and decision-makers who might have any power to influence the maritime economy.

Down-to-earth and matter-of-fact discussions on marine transport

The panel discussions at the IMC attracted a number of experts from across the country and abroad, including politicians, economists, researchers and entrepreneurs, all affiliated with the maritime industry. The Congress debate provided a complete picture of the maritime economy, viewed from different perspectives. Throughout the four panel sessions under the category entitled "The Integration of the Maritime Industry," 25 experts shared their

knowledge and experience. Their position in the field ensures that the achieved outcomes will find their application in regional, national and European policies.

The key issues addressed within this category included inland and marine navigation, harbours, transport - especially the Polish communication network in the context of European transport - TEN-T, logistics, sea security and protection, and marine-environment conservation.

The cooperation between Poland and Sweden is to be further developed under the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) for the Central European Transport Corridor (CETC-ROUTE65). What is of special importance to the West Pomerania, however, is the fact that the debates were also attended by delegates of international organisations operating in the Baltic Sea area. These included Janne Tamminen, Head of the Baltic Sea Committee in the CPRM (the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions), and Hermanni Backer, Maritime Secretary at HELCOM (the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission).

In view of the re-defined transport network (both basic and comprehensive), new investment-facilitating projects were identified within the Baltic Sea region. Future projects will draw on the experiences and outcomes achieved under projects such as EWTC II, SoNorA and SuperGreen. One of the conclusions was that "the exchange of experience in respect of the design and implementation of infrastructural projects is crucial for the establishment of an efficient and sustainable transport network." In order to ensure internal homogeneity within the EU market, also in view of its prospective development, the Baltic States should focus on upgrading, expanding and streamlining the existing networks.

On many occasions it was also pointed out that support vehicles need to be established in the new financial horizon, especially in terms of finances, to aid businesses in view of the implementation of the so-called "Sulphur Directive." EU regulations, although vital for the sustained preservation of the environment for the generations to come, might hinder the development of transport and compromise

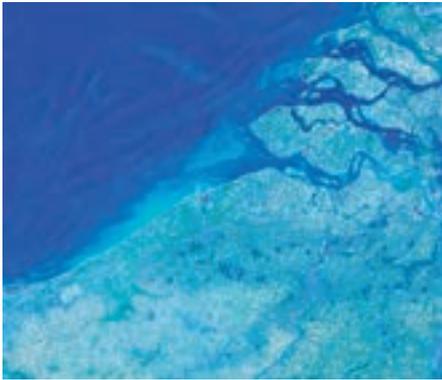


Europe as a strong competitor against the other players worldwide. Special attention was also given to EU transport-policy objectives, designed to reduce the degradation of the natural environment and to lessen the burden on land-based transport. Radical measures were advocated for the benefit of transport based on inland navigation. In view of the prospective distribution of funds available under the Connecting Europe framework, such initiatives are of special significance, particularly for the development of transport on the Oder.

Yet another subject of an intense debate between the Congress experts was the development of innovative transport systems (ITS) and its stimulation in the context of combatting congestion in European cities. Such innovations could be implemented within the industry cluster infrastructure. Europe can already boast several transport innovation clusters, the experience from which could prove useful for Poland in devising solutions adjusted to our needs.

The second day of the Congress emphasised the need for an alternative approach to specialist maritime education and work, the development of innovative solutions in the maritime economy, the increased safety of maritime navigation, the wider application of PPP's, the growth of port cities as logistic hubs, the development of the off-shore industry, and the limited pollution emissions generated by the maritime industry.





TRENDS WITHOUT BORDERS

Towards a beacon for cross-border cooperation on the labour market of the Euroregion Scheldemond.

Cross-border commuting between the Netherlands and Flanders has more than tripled in the past 20 years. The same pattern can be seen between East-Flanders and West-Flanders (BE) and Zeeland (NL), within the Euroregion Scheldemond. Although people in this cross-border region have their language in common, commuting still is restricted in practice by differences in fiscal, legal and social security regulations.

Labour market issues can better be tackled together, making good use of complementary characteristics while common difficulties can be addressed together by exchanging knowledge and best practices.

That is why the Euroregion Scheldemond has launched the **'Trends without Borders'** project in January 2013, in the framework of INTERREG IV. The aim is to develop a more competitive and economically dynamic region, which is to be achieved through different channels.

Although increasing, the number of cross-border commuters could be much higher. Citizens fear loss of rights, a high bureaucratic burden and expect problems with social security and taxation. The threshold for citizens will be lowered significantly by establishing a **cross-border commuting information point**, offering free and professional advice at two contact points in both Zeeland (already active) and Flanders. It is to be a reference point for everyone seeking advice on cross-border labour market issues.

The shortage of staff with a good technical education is a hot issue across the whole region. That is why a pilot project named **'Business + School'** is being set up in Flanders in cooperation with the Technology Centre of Zeeland. Technical education and careers will be promoted to young people with the active involvement of industry.

A new part of the project is the **Mobility Centre**, focusing on specific labour market evolutions while providing a rapid response strategy. Zeeland and Flanders for example, have respectively a surplus and a shortage of teachers, which are to increase in the years to come. As working conditions in education are strictly regulated, the Mobility Centre is to inform and coach students and teachers who want to cross the border.

At this very moment, the business plan for the information point is being finalised and structural funds are actively being sought. We look forward to present you the final project at a conference at the end of 2014.

Project leader:
Province of East-Flanders.

Project partners:
Technology Centers of Zeeland, East- and West-Flanders, VOKA Chamber of commerce East-Flanders, Dethon, Educational community Perspecto, City of Antwerp, Autonomous municipal education of the City of Antwerp, Central committee for Catholic schools of Antwerp, City education of Ghent, University of Applied sciences – Zeeland College.



Photos: www.klikdubbelklik.be

 **European Union**
European Regional Development Fund



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Joining forces

European territorial cooperation is offering opportunities for the EU's small and medium enterprises, write **Colin Wolfe** and **Axel Rød**



The European Union promotes SMEs as part of its strategy for growth and jobs in all regions of Europe. This support includes advisory services and research assistance, as well as direct grants for specific projects. Many of these measures are situated in a country specific or regional context; many are also at European level.

Clearly, the European economy is becoming more and more integrated, with better opportunities for SMEs. Traditionally catering to local, regional or national markets, SMEs may find it profitable to look beyond national borders for technical expertise, competent labour, up-to-date research, suppliers and markets.

European territorial cooperation programmes help SMEs to take advantage of opportunities from the single European market. Part of European regional policy, cooperation projects have funding of €9bn in the period between 2014 and 2020. The funds will be divided between cross border programmes – between border regions of two or more countries, transnational programmes – covering larger parts of the European Union) and interregional programmes – covering all Europe. These programmes bring unique opportunities to SMEs. They make up the major European regional policy instrument improving cooperation across national borders. Until now, they have primarily been utilised by public authorities, NGOs and research institutions. We want SMEs to be more involved. To do this successfully, we need to intensify our efforts. For example, dealing with state aid can be challenging for cooperation programmes when recipients are located in different countries. There has also been

reluctance in including private sector actors in many cooperation programmes. We must now build on examples of programmes which have engaged with the private sector, since this does indeed produce benefits for their regions.

Good examples show how this happens. The maritime value chain in the northern maritime corridor project involves harbour authorities, short sea shipping companies and logistics companies, as well as regional and national authorities. This has reinforced the maritime links from Antwerp to Kirkenes, Norway, extending across to Russia. This has led to changes in shipping routes and improved coordination of maritime and land transport connections.

“European territorial cooperation programmes help SMEs to take advantage of opportunities from the single European market”

We also have addressed the requirements of European state aid regulations. The De Minimis regulation offers one legal basis to grant small amounts of aid to an individual undertaking with less administrative burden. The recently adopted regional state aid guidelines include provisions for cooperation projects, to make European territorial cooperation more attractive for the private sector.

We have as well been made aware of the issue of intellectual property rights. Should the role as project partner prove too demanding, there is a market for subcontractors, and also as indirect beneficiaries to cooperative measures that are not discretionary in their application,



such as through joint research infrastructure established between different countries.

Overall, we encourage SMEs to make better use of territorial cooperation programmes. These can provide the bridge between the support system for SMEs in one country and that of another. In addition, we encourage countries to exploit the potential of shared facilities such as research centres, or promoting contact between business clusters in different countries.

In summary, we must recognise that what is good for the economy of neighbouring countries is good for one's own country as well. By crossing borders, businesses increase sales and save by sharing resources and knowhow, leading to greater potential for innovation. European territorial cooperation programmes support SMEs, promoting renewed growth through joining forces. ★

Colin Wolfe is head of unit for European transnational and interregional cooperation at the European commission's DG Regio

Axel Rød is programme officer for European transnational and interregional cooperation at the European commission's DG Regio



Invested interests

The European investment bank's local sustainable energy investments can give a lift to the EU's regions and cities, writes **Pé Verhoeven**

The specialist support from the European investment bank (EIB) under the European local energy assistance programme – Elena – has already helped a number of cities with their sustainable energy investments. From Bristol in the UK, to Milan in Italy, some 26 cities, regions and provinces across Europe have already signed up. Urban areas account for around 70 per cent of the energy consumption of the EU, yet the potential for sustainable energy-related investments has until now remained largely untapped. The problem is not so much availability of finance, but lack of knowhow or capacity to implement large-scale projects.

“Urban areas account for around 70 per cent of the energy consumption of the EU, yet the potential for sustainable energy-related investments has until now remained largely untapped”

The Elena technical assistance facility is a joint EIB-European commission initiative to help local authorities prepare energy efficiency or renewable energy projects, improving the chances that their plans will attract external finance. It is a good example of how limited budget money can be leveraged with loans to support EU policy objectives.

“The programme will help generate up to 1000 new jobs in the construction and environmental technologies sectors. It should also kick-start and attract much bigger investment,” says Bristol city council leader Barbara Janke. Bristol is the first local authority in the UK outside

London to receive a grant from the EIB under Elena. The €3.1m will help to meet most of the costs of developing an energy services company and investment programme. “In practical terms this will lead to cheaper bills for thousands of residents through investment in energy saving measures. It will also mean that as a city we will be generating our own energy, primarily through a major investment in solar energy generation”, Janke adds. As part of the solar schools programme, the city council is installing solar energy systems at no cost. Schools will also be installing energy efficient lighting and insulation and rolling out energy awareness activities with staff and pupils.

The Bristol investment programme will further be focused on improving the energy efficiency of over 6000 homes and public buildings, installing over 7000 renewable energy generating systems in homes and public buildings, and developing small district heating networks where several buildings are heated from a single, efficient boiler.

In the province of Milan, a large energy efficiency potential in public buildings was long held back in budget-constrained

municipalities lacking the technical capacity to develop a flow of projects. Thanks to the Elena support programme, buildings have now been chosen for energy refurbishment and preparations for the programme, such as tenders, energy audits and agreements with expert consultants are underway. Total investment in the Milan metropolitan area will amount to some €90m. “This year, we took a major step with the signing of a €13m contract, of which the lion's share is covered by a grant from the EIB,” explains Guido Podesta, president of the province of Milan. “This will allow us to go ahead with the refurbishment of 98 public buildings, mainly schools, located in 16 municipalities, and will lead to a reduction in energy costs of at least 35 per cent, which is a huge improvement for us.”

Elena funds can be used for structuring programmes, business plans and energy audits, preparing tendering procedures and contracts, and paying for project implementation units. Elena aims to encourage authorities to think ambitiously and showcase energy efficiency and renewable projects that can be replicated across the EU. ★



Pé Verhoeven is an adviser at the European investment bank's institutional affairs department

The project "Clustering Knowledge, Innovation and Design in the SEE WOOD Sector" (ID:WOOD) was approved in the 4th call for proposals of the South East Europe (SEE) Programme 2007-2013.

In most of SE Europe countries, wood based sector is rather fragmented, lacking an organic policy approach that would create the basic conditions to exploit substantial potentials given the surplus of woods resources that characterises the whole area. Wood sector is showing very low R&D investments and scarce innovation levels, however other countries, such as Austria and Italy, managed to develop their sectoral potentials reaching levels of excellence.

ID:WOOD aims to promote and foster innovation and competitiveness of SMEs in the wood sector in the SEE area by sharing and transferring technical and organizational know-how to enable local support organizations (wood clusters, wood tech centres and RDAs) to address structural deficits of SMEs and enhance innovation potentials.

ID:WOOD workplan foresees to achieve the following results: improved capacities of support organisations; transnational cooperation between support organisations, knowledge poles and productive sector; increased information flow towards SMEs; innovation, design and knowledge transferred to SMEs; sustainability of the transnational network/support system and SMEs cooperation after project end; increased knowledge of market opportunities.

Key stakeholders and target group of **ID:WOOD** project are the support organizations dealing with the wood sector - technology centres, RDAs, universities, research and design centres, the productive sector, SMEs, policy makers, chambers of industry and commerce and sector associations.

The partnership consists of 11 organisations from 6 EU Member States and 3 IPA Countries, covering main part of the South East Europe Programme area. The **ID:WOOD** project is led by the Slovenian Forestry Institute, Slovenia.

The other project partners are:

- INFORMEST, Italy;
- Wood Industry Cluster, Slovenia;
- Technological Pole of Pordenone, Italy;
- Wood Cluster Styria, Austria;
- Regional Development Agency Centru, Romania;
- Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration-ECOREGIONS, Bulgaria;
- Zala County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion, Hungary;
- Local Development Agency PINS, Croatia;
- Development Association NERDA, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry, Serbia.

Strategic partners:

- Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Central Directorate for Education, University, Research, Family, Associations and Cooperative Entrepreneurship, Service for Education, University and Research, Italy;
- Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia;
- Ministry of the Economy of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia; Tuzla Canton, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Details about the ID:WOOD project:

PROJECT CODE: SEE/D/0227/1.2/X

FUNDING PROGRAMME: South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

PRIORITY AXIS: Facilitation of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

LEAD PARTNER: Slovenian Forestry Institute

PROJECT BUDGET: 1 699 763 euro

PROJECT START DATE: 1 October 2012

PROJECT DURATION: 24 MONTHS

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES: Business support organizations, SMEs and policy makers in the wood sector

PROJECT WEBSITE: www.idwood.eu

Contact details:

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National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Co-financing Organisation

THE PROGRAMME

NOMS Co-financing Organisation (CFO) programme works with offenders aged 16+ in prison and the community. Funding is used to deliver services based on need, to prepare offenders to access mainstream ETE opportunities. Services are delivered via a prime or consortia contractor model, with specialist delivery provided by sub-contractors or partners. Prime providers sub-contract to a wide range of VCSE organisations.

The programme is managed through a central team based in Cheshire, England. Led by Mark Nickson, the team manage contract performance and relationships with the providers that include Probation Trusts along with organisations from the private and voluntary sectors.

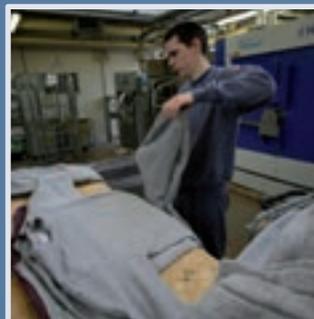
THE COHORT

NOMS CFO works predominantly with hard to reach offenders, with provision reserved for those with multiple issues and assessed as not being job-ready. Up to 80% of the offenders have been unemployed for over 6 months, 35% have problems with illegal drugs and 30% with alcohol, and 25% are from ethnic minorities. There is a focus on offenders serving less than 12 months, female and BAME offenders and offenders with disabilities.

Participants are generally unskilled, unqualified, unmotivated, with a range of barriers to the mainstream – including broken family ties, debt and housing problems.

Each area also has a focus on an extremely hard to reach group:

- North East - Offenders serving a life sentence
- North West (inc. Merseyside) - Women with low-level mental health needs
- Yorkshire & Humberside - Sex offenders
- South Yorkshire - Sex offenders
- East Midlands - Dual Diagnosis offenders / females involved in the sex industry
- West Midlands - Travellers and show people
- East of England – Vulnerable women
- South East - Offenders with dependent families
- London - Veterans, young people involved in gang activity
- South - West (inc. Cornwall) - Young offenders transitioning into the adult justice system



The focus of these sub-projects is to address issues for specific offenders who may experience particular difficulties in accessing labour market opportunities.

FUNDING

The funding model combines payment by results and service delivery, which has proved popular with providers from all sectors. Providers are paid 30% of the contract value on successful achievement of programme attachments and outcomes, with 70% paid as a flat profile.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Programme activity is captured on NOMS CFO Case Assessment and Tracking System (CATS), which providers must use to record all aspects of the case management process. The system collates all required ESF data and tracks offenders across custody into the community. CATS is an extremely robust management tool which has attracted interest from other Government departments, sectors and justice Ministries abroad.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Round 1 (Jan 2010-Dec 2011) – targets (all achieved):

- Starters - 30,000
- Employment - 3,299
- Education - 6,000
- NEETS into ETE - 253
- Soft outcomes - 125,221

Current delivery comes to an end in December 2014. Negotiations are underway regarding financial allocation and delivery for the next ESF Operational Programme (2014-2020).

Further information about NOMS CFO can be found at
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/noms/euro-social-fund.htm> and www.co-financing.org

Contact details:

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Jennie.barnes2@noms.gsi.gov.uk

National Offender
Management Service



Double dose

Europe's research clusters will soon be able to benefit from the opportunity to access a double dose of research funding mechanisms, explains **Richard Tuffs**



As the seventh framework programme draws to an end there is more and more interest in the follow-up Horizon 2020 programme which, with a budget of around €70bn, will continue the upward trend of EU spending on research and innovation. However, in the 2014-2020 period, Horizon 2020 will not be the only game in town for research and innovation funding.

The structural funds of the 2007-2013 period, now named European structural and investment funds (ESIF) for the period 2014-2020 will also provide increased funding for research and innovation. While this 'double' funding for research and innovation is to be welcomed, it is important to understand the role of each funding programme and how to find synergies between the two funds.

“The research clusters that engage in and influence smart specialisation strategies which then use structural funds to build capacity at the regional level and seek synergies with Horizon 2020 funding will not just be ahead of the game but will be strong contributors to the jobs and growth agenda”

The successful exploitation of the two funds will now depend much more on strategic thinking and this is where the regions of knowledge played a key role for regions engaged in the programme. Despite the efforts of regional networks including Errin, the regions of knowledge programme will not be



continued beyond 2013. But the programme, through the elaboration of joint action plans and strategic research agendas, enabled regions and their relevant research-driven clusters to start strategic thinking on key clusters and sectors of importance to them and pre-dates the smart specialisation strategies now being put in place by all regions or member states in Europe.

All regions now have to develop smart specialisation strategies which will inform the future ESIF spending in the region. Through the processes of smart specialisation which should involve a

bottom-up analysis of the strengths and competitive advantages of the region, regions can identify key sectors where they consider that they have specific competitive strengths. These sectors need to embrace innovation and develop critical mass to survive and thrive. But, these sectors will also rarely encompass the whole of the value chain so that they will also need to access knowledge from outside and work with other stakeholders in other regions to develop a successful value chain especially in emerging industries. So it is likely that the smart specialisation strategies will



be mainly based around successful clusters as they provide input in the design phase of the strategy and of course play a key role in the implementation of the strategy.

Research clusters should therefore be key components of any regional smart specialisation strategy which will inform the policies and actions of the operational programmes being developed by regions and member states. These operational programmes will be much more focused on the overarching Europe 2020 goals as outlined by the flagship initiatives such as innovation union.

Under the 2014-2020 operational programmes, the ESIF will be concentrated on four thematic objectives: research and innovation, business support, low carbon economy and ICT. But this funding will be more aimed at capacity building and of course linked to the regional smart specialisation strategy.

While the European structural and investment funds are aimed at capacity building and are a place-based approach with shared management at the national and regional level, Horizon 2020 is aimed at excellence at the EU level. There is more focus on individually delivered research and innovation projects that usually require many partners from different member states. Horizon 2020 has three pillars: the first concentrating on individual research grants for high-level researchers, the second pillar concentrates on industrial leadership and SME financing and the third on tackling societal challenges common to all European countries.

The crucial difference between the funds is that

while the amount of structural funds in a region can be predicted as regions are given a seven-year envelope, Horizon 2020 funding will be competitive and thus funding for projects is less certain. So while there is more funding for research and innovation in both programmes, the key for research clusters is how to maximise their access to this funding. Not surprisingly, there is now enormous attention both at EU, member state and regional level on how

to promote the synergies between the two funds.

More flexibility in the regulations for both programmes means that projects may be double funded from both funds but the funds can never be used for the same cost/expenditure item so the key is how to combine the funding streams without infringing the regulations. In a simple form, sequential funding means that structural funds can be used to build a building and then Horizon 2020 funding might then be used to win European research and innovation projects to employ a research team.

Putting the two funds together will therefore require a much more strategic approach within the regions and clusters and a much more joined-up approach between the management of the structural funds and regional research and innovation management. Hence, the emphasis on regional research and innovation ecosystems where research clusters are key building blocks and stakeholders.

However, given that Horizon 2020 funding requires international partners, regions and clusters will need to be more outward focused in order to identify the partners with whom they will wish to cooperate to build inter-regional partnerships which can also strengthen supply and value chains.

In conclusion, the research clusters that engage in and influence smart specialisation strategies which then use structural funds to build capacity at the regional level and seek synergies with Horizon 2020 funding will not just be ahead of the game but will be strong contributors to the jobs and growth agenda dear to the European commission. ★



UNMANNED VEHICLES FOR MARITIME INCIDENT RESPONSE

The NETMAR project (<http://project-netmar.eu/>) is funded by the EU Atlantic Area Transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 and concerns the demonstration, evaluation and dissemination of new robotic systems, sensors, and networking technologies in maritime incidents.

Systems and technologies

New systems and technologies enable situational awareness and intervention with unprecedented spatial-temporal resolution, provide reality checks for events generated in social networks, and motivate constructive forms of public participation in all phases of a maritime incident.

- Air, surface and subsea robotic vehicles provide new capabilities to operate in challenging marine environments, in adverse weather conditions e.g. high winds, rough seas, low visibility and dangerous situations.
- Networking technologies facilitate the coordination of existing incident response assets and of new robotic systems, sensors, and human operators.
- Command, control and visualization tools provide new capabilities for the coordination of existing assets, robotic systems, sensors and human operators.



University of Limerick LATIS Remotely Operated Vehicle; Faculty of Engineering of Porto University Light Autonomous Underwater Vehicle and Tecnalia Fulmar Unmanned Air Vehicle.



Faculty of Engineering of Porto University Light Autonomous Underwater Vehicle and X8 Unmanned Air Vehicle.

Demonstrations

The project is organized around 3 demonstrations, representative of 3 types of maritime incidents: harbour embedded in a metropolitan area, estuary, and open sea. Return on experience workshops will be targeted at transitioning tools and technologies, as well as operational procedures, to the industry and to regional, and national and EU authorities.

Estuary demonstration – exercise *Cathach*

The exercise *Cathach* (<http://www.shannonresponse.com/>) was the first demonstration of the project and was focused around a 2 day demonstration of oil spill and noxious and hazardous substance response held in the Shannon Estuary over the 17th and 18th of April 2013. *Cathach* was a Command Room Strategic Exercise with a real time interface to many external participants and interaction with live field operations. The principal entities involved in *Cathach* were SEA-PT, NETMAR, the Irish Coast Guard and the Irish Naval Service, along with many other Irish and international groups and agencies. *Cathach* had two major goals:

- Plan and execute a coordinated emergency response exercise to a simulated marine incident involving a cargo ship in distress in bad weather seeking refuge. The scenario described a vessel entering the Shannon estuary, losing steerage, hitting a rock, listing and taking on water, leaking oil (OPR fuel oil with heavy fuel oil component) and shedding cargo from its deck with the potential release of hazardous and noxious substances into the marine environment.
- Deploy and demonstrate specific capabilities of a range of emerging technology assets for detection and monitoring of pollutants and to evaluate their merits in an operational marine incident response setting.

Over the course of the exercise NETMAR deployed: the University of Limerick LATIS Remotely Operated Vehicle from the Commissioner of Irish lights' Vessel ILV Granuaile, the Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto Light Autonomous Underwater Vehicle from the INS vessel LÉ Orla and Tecnalia Fulmar Unmanned Air Vehicle from shore. Additionally, sophisticated communications technologies relaying real time streaming video and data from the robotic sensor platforms to the command centre over 15 km away were integrated and operated.

Partners

FEUP – Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto (PT)

APDL – Administração dos Portos do Douro e Leixões, SA (PT)

FUAC – Fundación Universidade da Coruña (ES)

PG - Portos de Galicia (ES)

TECNALIA – Fundación Tecnalia Research & Innovation (ES)

ENSTA, Britain – Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Techniques Avancées (FR)

UL – University of Limerick (IE)

NMCI - National Maritime College of Ireland (IE)

UKSpill – UK Spill Association (UK)

Associate partners

CINAV - Portuguese Navy (PT)

Portuguese Ports Association (PT)

Shanon-Foynes Port Company, Lda (IE)

University of Southampton (UK)

UK Maritime Coastguard Agency (UK)



ATLANTIC AREA Transnational Programme
ESPACIO ATLÁNTICO Programa Transnacional
ESPACE ATLANTIQUE Programme Transnational
ESPAÇO ATLÂNTICO Programa Transnacional



INVESTING IN OUR COMMON FUTURE

“Schritt für Schritt ins Nachbarland” “Krůček po krůčku do sousední země”



Czech and German pre-school children on a joint day out

Since 1997 Tandem, the Coordinating Centers for German-Czech youth exchange in Regensburg (Germany) and Plzeň (Czech Republic) have been working on bringing German and Czech pupils and teenagers together. Since 2006 the coordinating centers have also been supporting cooperation between German and Czech pre-school institutions. The main aspects of the pre-school activities are organizing seminars, distributing pedagogical information and giving financial support for pre-school personnel and teachers interested in cross-border cooperation between Germany and the Czech Republic.

Due to Tandem's work and effort interest in cooperation has increased on both sides of the border. This interest and the need to care about it led to the EU-funded project "Schritt für Schritt ins Nachbarland" respectively "Krůček po krůčku do sousední země" (i.e. "Step by step into the neighbouring country") which is Tandem's second EU-funded project for the very young, running from 2012 to 2014.

The project's target area covers all adjacent regions along the German-Czech border in Saxony, Bavaria and the Czech Republic. The target group involves children between three and eight, their parents and grandparents, teachers, minders and tutors in kindergartens, primary schools, crèches and youth clubs.

Within the project Tandem offers a wide range of assistance to get Czech and German children and their families closer together. A quarterly newsletter, which can be

downloaded on the project's website www.schrittfuerschritt.info, informs about all current project activities. A contact scout helps with finding appropriate partner institutions in the neighbouring country. Tandem's pedagogical staff are giving professional and methodical advice and counseling and are publishing special literature covering cross-border activities in early childhood.

The core of the project "Schritt für Schritt ins Nachbarland" is the program "Botschafter des Nachbarlandes" ("Ambassadors of the neighbouring country") with special trained pedagogues who offer their knowledge to German and Czech institutions and facilities that work with children between three and eight years of age. These offers are cut to the needs of the interested institutions and are free of charge. They range from low-threshold games or language lessons to guidance in finding partners to cooperate with or tips on how to organize a bi-national cross-border project. The 29 ambassadors are all bilingual with pedagogical backgrounds. Our target within the offer "Ambassadors of the neighbouring country" is to assign 120 institutions in Bavaria, Saxony and the Czech Republic with over 2000 children participating.

Besides pedagogical support and programs the main goal of the project is to initiate cross-border friendships at an early stage in life to overcome biased opinions and help people to develop a mutual understanding in friendly communities and regions alongside the border of Germany and the Czech Republic.

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Krůček po krůčku



Schritt für Schritt



Evropského fondu pro regionální rozvoj
Wir investieren in Ihre Zukunft / Evropský fond pro regionální rozvoj: Investice do vaší budoucnosti



First graders from Liberec (CZ)
with their "ambassador" Katharina Clauß

Knowledge exchange

Bridging the gap between science and business can provide a vital boost to innovation and competitiveness, argue **Anne Glover** and **Jan Marco Müller**



How do you get two foreign species to talk to each other? Many scientists find it difficult to talk business. They think that business just wants to exploit them commercially, will undermine their independence or are scared about the complications around assigning rights to intellectual property. Sometimes, they also simply don't understand how business works.

Perhaps not surprisingly, many people from the private sector think in the same way about scientists. They believe that scientists have no clue about the real world, don't want to share their results, can't work to business timescales and

speak a language nobody understands. Compounding these attitudes is the fact that scientists and the business world do not routinely meet each other so there is plenty of room for prejudices to be established.

Scientists need to think about what to do with the results of their research"

We are exaggerating here of course and there are luckily many examples showing that the above is not always the case. But there is a gap between science

and business and we need smart solutions to bridge it, especially at the local and regional level. If we don't manage to do this, as a society we miss out on the investment we make in research from the public purse and our business will be less competitive. This space won't allow us to go into all the arguments, but we would like to make some suggestions.

The first step is to get to know each other. There are many cases where business people – in particular from SMEs without their own R&D departments – are faced with technical problems that a scientist from a nearby university or research institute could solve. But they just don't know

who to talk to.



Why not consider an online expert register to do the matchmaking or at least a knowledge exchange office that is approachable and able to connect such requests with the existing expertise. Contacts that have been established to solve a practical problem may lead to a better understanding of each other's needs and perhaps the development of follow-up research projects.

“Many European regions have already created innovation clusters – often also geographically, on a joint campus – where science, business and the brokers in between can meet”

By the same token, scientists need to think about what to do with the results of their research. Not every scientist is a natural-born entrepreneur who will readily apply for venture capital and jump into the adventure of founding a spin-off company. But at the very least, we should expect research scientists to think about who, other than fellow scientists, would be interested in the output of what they do. Here communication skills and an attitude of mind are essential and they need to be ingrained at an early career stage. Both scientists and business must learn to communicate what they do in an easy-to-understand manner.

For the above to happen it is necessary to create an “ecosystem” in which science-business contacts can flourish and this includes wider societal acceptance of new technologies at the very local scale. The European Union is contributing to this via a new approach to research funding, bringing together SME-related innovation programmes and research funding under one roof: the new research framework programme Horizon 2020, which will offer simplified procedures for both business and research. A better alignment of the framework programme with the EU's structural funds (and vice versa) will provide further synergies. Equally important, the EU is also



fostering smart specialisation strategies at regional level to enhance competitiveness.

In this context, many European regions have already created innovation clusters – often also geographically, on

a joint campus – where science, business and the brokers in between can meet. This follows the insight that, at the end of the day, the most important instrument for knowledge exchange remains the coffee machine. ★

Anne Glover is chief scientific adviser to the president of the European commission

Jan Marco Müller is assistant to the chief scientific adviser

Technet nano:

A Network for High Technology Innovation

In the Baltic Sea Region, a mismatch is obvious between available high technology facilities and needs from small and medium-sized enterprises. Technet_nano is a network of more than ten research and development facilities with cleanrooms and numerous researchers in the Baltic Sea Region that aims to resolve this mismatch. Technet_nano has been established with financial support from the INTERREG IVB BSR programme. The network provides easy access to the facilities with competences within micro- and nanotechnology to a variety of users including small and medium-sized enterprises. This transnational "one-stop-shop" gives the necessary support for developing better high technology products in the BSR.

At the partner institutions of the network high-level experts provide services such as:

- Technology consultancy
- Analytical and processing services
- Feasibility and proof of concept studies
- Prototyping and small series production as well as R&D projects

Equipment and lab areas of the network partners are for rent and experts can give advice on funding and IPR issues.

Science2Business workshops

Technet_nano carries out a set of international thematic workshops for small and medium-sized enterprises, spreading the knowledge about state-of-the-art technology and potential areas of innovation and new product development. The workshops cover areas from energy efficiency over biological microfluidics to solar power generation.

Site visits

Enterprises are invited to visit the clean room facilities of Technet_nano network partners. That way the Technet_nano alliance demonstrates potential and opportunities of micro- and nanotechnology for product development in the Baltic Sea Region. The cleanrooms are located in

- Stockholm (Sweden)
- Sønderborg (Denmark)
- Kiel (Germany)
- Itzehoe (Germany)
- Kaunas (Lithuania)
- Riga (Latvia)
- Tartu (Estonia), with biotechnology facilities in
- Odense (Denmark) and
- Flensburg (Germany).



Above: A view into a typical cleanroom used in the Technet_nano network for semiconductor processing.

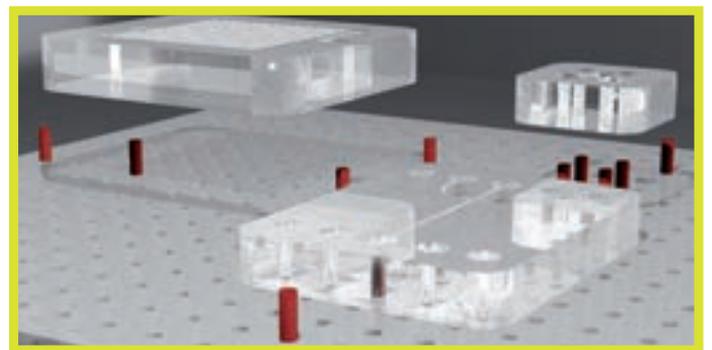


Database

In our online database interested enterprises find a viable platform to search for facilities, competencies, tools, and services of all Technet_nano partners.

Innovation Agents

Technet_nano Innovation Agents in all regions help personally to find the right persons, competences, and technical facilities for innovation activities. They collaborate intensely with the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN).



The high technology facilities of Technet_nano partners can also be used for generation of biotechnologically relevant devices, for example lab-on-chip technology.

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SUSTAINABLE USE OF ENERGY CARRIERS IN THE KASK REGION

The project is a two year Interreg IVA project, sponsored by Interreg and the following partners; Telemark County Council, Västra Götalandsregionen, Göteborg Energi, Elforsk and Preem. More details can be found at the project web page www.kask-energy.eu. The research work in the project is done by Tel-Tek and Chalmers University.

The overall target for the project is to study how the energy carriers in the Kattegat-Skagerrak (KASK) region could be optimized with regard to a sustainable development. Special focus is placed on energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions.

The project will develop an overall roadmap for the region identifying how climate and energy targets at EU, national and regional level can be met. The roadmap will indicate how short term targets can be linked with long term visions. Possible development pathways will be studied taking basis in today's energy system, to show how the energy system in the region can be Transferred towards a more sustainable system in the short (2020), medium (2030) and long term (2050).

In the first phase of the project statistics regarding energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions within the KASK-region will be collected. Based on these data, a Reference Energy System (RES) will be established, showing the flow of energy within the region for a typical year, from primary energy sources and energy carriers through transformation and distribution to final consumption by sector. Databases of

large stationary energy producers and energy consumers as well as large-scale emission sources will also be established.

More detailed studies will be carried out in three different areas:

- **IMPROVED ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN KEY INDUSTRIES**

Energy data will be collected from selected industries in the region giving an overview of the industries energy sources, energy consumption and their possible energy saving potential. The results will be used as basis to explore potential development routes and energy optimisation possibilities in the short, medium and long term with focus on sustainability for the industry.

- **IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EXISTING BUILDING STRUCTURE**

An existing database of representative buildings for the Swedish Building Stock (BS) will be used from which a corresponding representative BS for the Swedish part of the KASK-region will be derived. A bottom-up modelling methodology will be used to assess the profitability of implementation of different Energy Savings Measures (ESMs) in the building stock in the region. The aim is to apply the same methodology on the BS in the Norwegian part of the KASK region depending on data availability.



- **LARGE-SCALE INTEGRATION OF WIND AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES INTO THE EXISTING ENERGY SYSTEM.**

This work will utilize models for the European electricity system developed at Chalmers. Potential development of wind power in the region will be studied, including the optimum geographical allocation of wind power within the KASK-region and the corresponding need for new transmission capacity between 1) the countries within the region and 2) between the region and the rest of Europe.

Establishing a Reference Energy System for the region will be completed in the autumn 2013, and will be the base for starting the work on possible pathways towards a more sustainable energy system in the region.



Active participation

Creative tourism can help boost jobs and growth while highlighting the rich and diverse heritage of Europe, argues **Uno Silberg**



The tourism industry and creativity have a long-lasting connection, grounded in travellers' constant quest for ever more authentic and fulfilling experiences which move away from what was a once favourite mass tourism experience. Yet, the concept of creative tourism in itself remains some-

what unclear, which means that local and regional authorities have an opportunity to define how they can make their distinction within the field. What is certain, however, is that at the core of creative tourism there are two key issues: the active participation of travellers in the community they are visiting and the

acquisition of informal learning experiences from that exchange.

Europe is a continent of rich historical, cultural and environmental diversity and each of its regions has something characteristic and special to offer to its visitors. Engaging visitors in the activities of the local community and enabling them to experience the daily life of people who live in a certain place is something that has a strong and steady marketing potential. On the other hand,

“An important aspect of creative tourism is its sustainability. In fact, this kind of tourism stimulates small and local businesses and does not produce any negative impact on the local culture and environment”

we are witnessing a situation in which many local traditions and practices are disappearing and beautiful regions across Europe remain underdeveloped.

The logic is simple: tourists can acquire authentic and fulfilling experiences by being actively engaged in the development of the place they are visiting. Aside from humanising the relationship between visitors and locals in one of the world's largest and fastest growing industries (with a controversial record of environmental and cultural sustainability), creative tourism thus puts the tourist as a consumer in the role of a creator of historical, social, cultural and economic value.

As for the local communities, we can say that the development of creative tourism provides cities and regions with an opportunity to profile themselves and





The European Alliance group is organising a workshop during this year's Open Days event on 8 October on 'Creative tourism' to explore the development models of creative tourism and present several examples of best practices from across Europe. More information can be found here: www.ea.cor.europa.eu

Uno Silberg is president of the Committee of the Regions' European Alliance group

stand out in an increasingly saturated and competitive global market. And to do that, they only need the already existing resources, such as their cultural heritage, natural environment, knowledge and entrepreneurial spirit.

An important aspect of creative tourism is its sustainability. In fact, this kind of tourism stimulates small and local businesses and does not produce any negative impact on the local culture and environment. On the contrary, it stimulates the growth and diversification of economic activities in the region and provides opportunities for the development of cultural and creative sectors, services, industries related to the cultural heritage and environment and many other fields depending on the local context. Furthermore, it stimulates the consumption of local goods and development of businesses operated with the use of local knowledge and by local people.

One could argue that creative tourism

represents a step forward in the development of cultural tourism, adapting it to contemporary social and economic structures. Also, by promoting sustainability, creativity, cultural exchanges, smart specialisation and the development of small businesses, this type of activity complements a whole range of European policy priorities.

Nevertheless, creative tourism does **"Mass tourism will always have its own market, but creative tourism has the capability of being specialised, focussed and in tune with the local town, city or region"**

not necessarily have to be anchored in cultural heritage. Depending on the context, some cities increasingly profile themselves as creative hotspots and places of encounter for talented people with similar interests. By doing so, these places are creating a new identity for

themselves through interaction and the exchange of ideas and skills between creative visitors and the local community. Based on the experiences of several European cities, we can argue that another aspect of creative tourism is its potential to attract talent and a new creative class of people to a certain region.

The nature of tourism has changed and people want to come away with something tangible. The idea of learning the craft of pottery making in one region, photography in another, preparing regional food or running a marathon, helps us define what we can provide to an audience which appreciates such activities. Mass tourism will always have its own market, but creative tourism has the capability of being specialised, focussed and in tune with the local town, city or region. Most importantly, it creates local jobs, which is a vital need if we are to emerge from the current crisis. ★

ATRIUM



(Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the XXth century in Europe's Urban Memory):

A NEW EXPLORATION OF EUROPEAN MEMORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

A project aimed at constructing a European Cultural Route

The ATRIUM project, financed under the South East Europe Programme, which concludes in October 2013, aimed to trace a new route for cultural and economic development in accordance with European guidelines. Its starting point was the physical presence, in many cities of Europe, of architectural traces left by totalitarian regimes of both right and left in the twentieth century. This heritage often combines high architectural quality, emerging out of major international currents such as rationalism, eclecticism and futurism, with a significant impact on urban structure and an uncomfortable relation to regimes rejected by the democratic order of the second half of the twentieth century. The end point and objective of the project was to construct a European Cultural Route around this theme in order to promote a critical historical reflection on these regimes and on the rejection of totalitarianism which constitutes both historically and politically the foundation stone of the European project, an appreciation of the architectural heritage left by these regimes, and the development of a sustainable cultural tourism.

The project was submitted and subsequently managed by the City of Forlì, itself characterised,

along with the nearby towns and cities of Romagna, by notable urban development and architecture dating from the Fascist period (Mussolini was born in nearby Predappio) and included a wide partnership of 18 different members from South East Europe (local authorities, universities and research centres, tourist agencies and national heritage institutes from 11 different countries (Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania, Greece, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia). Its outputs included a Manual of Wise Management of this cultural heritage (restoration and subsequent use), a Transnational Survey of 71 case studies, involving a careful mapping of this architectural heritage (maps, projects, photographs, analyses), a digital catalogue of material and immaterial heritage associated with these buildings and three pilot events reflecting on totalitarian regimes and promoting this architectural heritage to potential tourists and citizens in Forlì (Italy), Dimitrovgrad (Bulgaria) and Gyor (Hungary). It concluded with the constitution of a transnational association which will govern the route, and the handing in of a dossier of candidature as a European Cultural Route to the European Council in September 2013.



Main objects of the ATRIUM Association

- disseminating knowledge and protecting and promoting the European heritage - both tangible and intangible - associated with the architecture and history of the 20th century, with special focus on periods marked by dictatorial and totalitarian regimes in Europe;
- coordinating the local European itineraries of the Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century within the framework of a single ATRIUM transnational route;
- carrying out activities aimed at fostering the study, knowledge and enhancement of the cultural and architectural sites and itineraries in cooperation with

universities and research centres and encouraging young Europeans, especially in schools, to study the theme of the European route and promote cultural and educational exchange on this theme;

- organising and promoting initiatives aimed at raising awareness among citizens of their history, by considering local identities within the framework of a consolidated common European identity;
- ensuring the development of sustainable and ethical tourism, by supporting and fostering the construction of suitable facilities and infrastructure by local authorities, as well as improving the accessibility of the itineraries.



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FILM OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Screen is the government backed lead agency for the film, television and digital content industry. As a fully integrated agency, we are committed to maximising the economic, cultural and educational value of the screen industries for the benefit of Northern Ireland. This goal is pursued through our mission to accelerate the development of a dynamic and sustainable screen industry and culture in Northern Ireland.

Probably the most high-profile part of our work is the large-scale incoming international productions which we have attracted to film here. Through consistent marketing of our key strengths - our strong crew base, stunning locations, studio facilities and financial incentives - Northern Ireland is becoming one of the most sought after filming locations for both film and television productions.

The main lever for the financial incentives offered by Northern Ireland Screen is The Screen Fund, supported by Invest NI and part funded by the European Regional Development Fund. This fund, which receives 50% EU funding from the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for NI 2007-2013, has enabled Northern Ireland Screen to invest significantly in production funding during recent years and in this regard has helped put us in prime position as the most successful screen agency outside of London.

Over the past six years since 2007, when Northern Ireland Screen attracted its first high-profile US studio project feature film *City of Ember* from Tom Hanks' production

outfit, inward investment in the industry has shown significant growth. In 2009 US studio Universal Pictures brought feature film *Your Highness* to Northern Ireland. For an investment of £1.15m, the production returned £11.76 million to the Northern Ireland economy.

August saw the start of principal photography on *Dracula*, the second feature film from Universal Pictures to film in Northern Ireland. The film received £1.7m production funding and the return to the Northern Ireland economy is estimated to be in the region of £15 million.

Undoubtedly the production which has brought the most value to Northern Ireland and continues to do so is HBO's returning television series *Game of Thrones*.

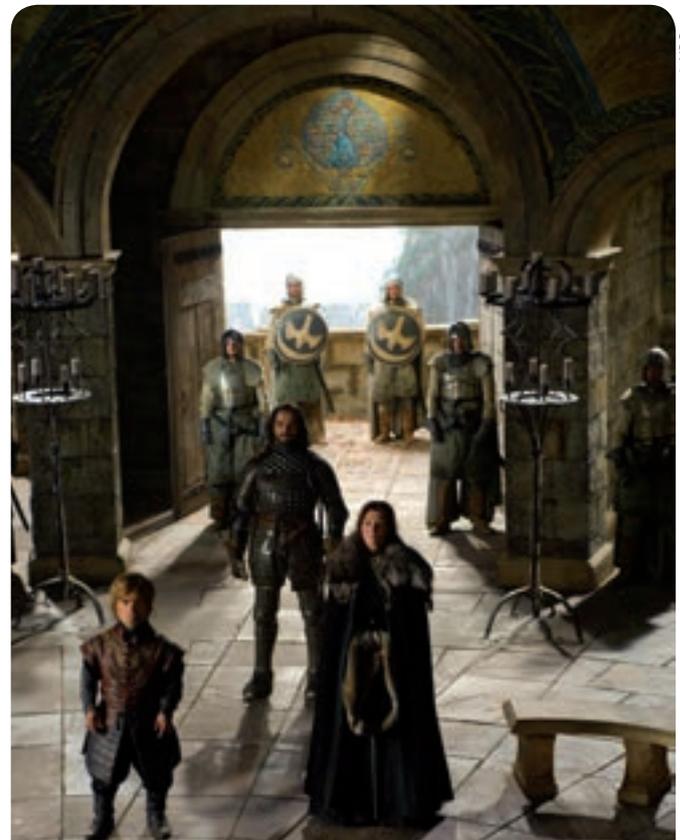
In 2009 Northern Ireland Screen funded the pilot, in the full knowledge that if HBO went to series, then our chances of getting a returnable television drama were greatly augmented. *Game of Thrones* has returned each subsequent year, basing production in Belfast and utilising various locations across Northern Ireland.

The fourth season just started principal photography in early July and will remain until November. *Game of Thrones* is now HBO's most successful current

on air show, having overtaken *True Blood* in audience figures and is second only to *The Sopranos*.

The economic benefit to Northern Ireland from this production alone is enormous; across the pilot and 3 series so far, expenditure on Northern Ireland goods and services is £65.5 million, against a total investment of £9.25 million; a further expenditure of £20m from the fourth series is estimated.

Overall, the benefits to Northern Ireland from international productions filming here are manifold. As well as bringing



© HBO

GAME OF THRONES:
set build in the Paint Hall, part of Titanic Studios, Belfast.
Foreground: Peter Dinklage and Michelle Fairley.



© HBO

GAME OF THRONES:
Alfie Allen – on location –
Ballintoy Harbour, Co. Antrim.

economic benefits in terms of expenditure on Northern Ireland goods and services; they hire a large number of crew, offering employment opportunities and helping develop careers; they accept trainees and run apprenticeship schemes, assisting us to fulfil our skills development remit; and they offer film and television tourism potential, showcasing Northern Ireland locations on the big and small screen and helping drive the relatively new “set jetting” phenomenon. Recent evidence in this regard has been the partnership between Northern Ireland Screen and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board who jointly hosted the *Game of Thrones* Exhibition in Belfast in June which attracted nigh on 18,000 visitors and helped further cement Northern Ireland’s reputation as “the real Westeros.”

Importantly, incoming projects of size and scale have also helped spark fresh investment in infrastructure expansion, with two new sound stages being built in the Titanic Quarter in Belfast.

There is no doubt that there are game changing shifts in the Northern Ireland landscape; government remains hugely supportive, prioritising the screen and creative industries and continuing to channel considerable funding through Northern Ireland Screen.

Our first strategy “BUILDING ON SUCCESS” was for the 3 years 2007-2010. The final evaluation from this strategy shows:

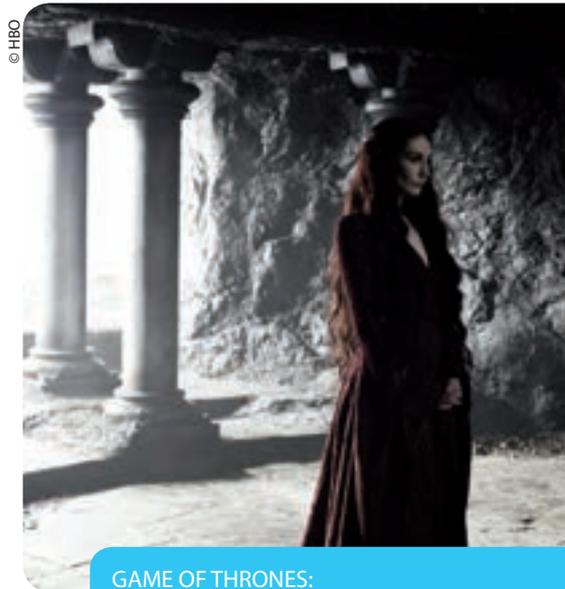
- The total production funding into the Northern Ireland film, television & digital content production sector through the Screen Fund in this 3 year period (07-10) = £10.8m (£5.4m ERDF);
- The total Northern Ireland expenditure from this was £54.7m, of which £24.9m was on employment on 28 productions;

- The expenditure to investment ratio is 5.08:1 (so £5.08 came back into the NI economy for every £1 we invested);
- A total of 2914 cast and crew jobs have been supported. This is equivalent to a total of 130,238 work days or 732 gross equivalent FTE NI based job years; and
- The total value of productions which we have funded in the period 2007-10 was £166m.

Northern Ireland Screen’s latest strategy “DRIVING GLOBAL GROWTH” is for 4 years 1st April 2010- 31st March 2014. Based on productions already completed in Northern Ireland and on predictions to the end of this period, Northern Ireland Screen estimates as follows:

- Total production funding into the sector through the Screen Fund for the period is predicted to be £20,210,888 (£10.1m ERDF);
- The total NI expenditure from this investment is predicted at £120,794,077 with an estimate of £54m on employment;
- This is showing an estimated ratio of just under 6:1 (just under £6 would come back into the NI economy for every £1 we invested); and
- Total value of productions made in Northern Ireland predicted to be £293,992,413.

The Northern Ireland Screen Fund has supported productions which have brought A-list talent to the region and garnered a multitude of awards: Colin Farrell and Oscar®-nominee Jessica Chastain in feature film *Miss Julie*; Liam Neeson and James Nesbitt in *Five Minutes of Heaven* which picked up prestigious awards at the



© HBO

GAME OF THRONES:
Carice van Houten – set build –
Linen Mill Studios, Banbridge, Co. Down.

Sundance Film Festival; multiple Emmys for *Game of Thrones* including Northern Ireland crew – sound mixers Ronan Hill and Mervyn Moore; BAFTAs for Steve McQueen’s *Hunger*; international Emmy and BAFTAs for *Mo* starring Julie Walters; the BAFTA Audience Award for *Game of Thrones*; returning TV series *Blandings* with award-winners Jennifer Saunders and Timothy Spall; and of course, the most prestigious of all – an Oscar® for *The Shore* for Belfast’s Terry George and Oorlagh George.

* figures updated and predicted as of 20 June 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/sections/3/locations.aspx

Sonderborg still thinking big

Sonderborg's harbour is being developed according to a master plan by Frank Gehry. The tall building is a hotel designed by Henning Larsen Architects

Image: Montage

A vision to become CO₂ neutral, an innovative harbour project by Frank Gehry and strong business clusters in technology and green energy. In addition, a partner of Europe's first cross-border cultural region and a high level of cultural activity.

Sure, Sonderborg lacks neither vision nor ability to act.

Even if the rather small municipality with 76,000 inhabitants, 30 km north of the Danish -German border, is located in an outskirt area.

And even if Sonderborg and the border region in 2012 was beaten at the finish line in the run for the title European Capital of Culture 2017 by Denmark's second largest city, Aarhus. Each wheel that the candidature consisted of is still rolling. It is stated that cooperation creates synergy.

To break new ground is crucial: Population is declining - young people disappear into big cities, jobs in traditional industries close down, and centralization at national level sucks skills out of the region.

Sonderborg maintains culture as a tool for innovation and growth - intertwined with other efforts to create a sustainable future. A central vision is to become a Zero Carbon Sonderborg by 2029.

In 2007 the public-private partnership ProjectZero was formed to inspire and drive the conversion, based on improved energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. House owners, private companies, shops and public institutions have in five years reduced carbon by 16.2 percent and app. 800 green jobs have been created. The target for 2015 is a carbon reduction of 25 percent.

Visitors from many countries come to learn about this. The City of Baoding, China and Sonderborg announced in 2011 a Friendship City Relationship to start a Comprehensive Partnership focused on climate. In 2012 ProjectZero was accepted to join the global C40 Climate Positive Development Program in partnership with The Clinton Climate Initiative.

The Mechatronics Cluster in Sonderborg is one of Denmark's strongest clusters in advanced technology, intelligent control

and innovative solutions. And more than half of Sonderborgs' industries deal with green energy solutions. Sonderborg has a blooming Lean Energy Cluster - a national, business-driven cooperation between companies, research units and universities.

The former industrial harbour of Sonderborg is a showcase for the city's green responsibility, as it is transformed by world architect Frank Gehry's master plan. Buildings for innovative companies, a library and culture centre, an international art centre and a hotel with waterpark are being raised.

These new venues amplify Sonderborg's position as an ambitious and vibrant city. The ambition is to evolve as a Countryside Metropolis - an attractive area in which you live scenic in quiet surroundings combined with the pulse of creativity and culture that is normally associated with big cities.

This spring Sonderborg took part of the establishment of Europe's first cross-border cultural agreement, Cultural Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig. The objectives are to develop a common cultural space and to promote cultural competence.

In 2014 Sonderborg will be in focus, as it is 150 years since the city was the crucial battleground of the Schleswig War in 1864. Denmark lost a third of its territory, and the southern part of Jutland became German until 1920.

The events include a Danish - German business symposium, and young people from both sides of the border gather in a summer camp to form a youth parliament.

It is about the past, present and future - in the border region.



Through the House of Science programme in Sonderborg kids and students are involved in the vision to create a Zero Carbon Sonderborg by 2029



Young people are involved in the memorial events next year marking the 150 years for the crucial battle in Sonderborg in the Schleswig War in 1864.



This spring Europe's first cross border cultural agreement - Cultural Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig - was signed by the Minister for Justice, Culture and European Affairs in the state government of Schleswig-Holstein Anke Spoorendonk, and the Danish Minister of Culture Marianne Jelved.



Sønderborg



Making the connection

Employment policies across Europe must look to incorporate the local perspective if they are to achieve wide success, says **John Gourd**



As chair of the Hertfordshire local enterprise partnership, I understand the importance of having the right national policies to ensure businesses can thrive and I also recognise that when the EU framework conditions are in place, and local investment is well directed, then some of the barriers to economic growth can be lifted.

It is for this reason that I agreed to chair the two debates organised by the group ‘Smart partnerships for jobs and growth’ which will be looking at the EU’s industrial and youth employment policies from a local perspective. These two separate, but linked debates bring speakers from Norway, Croatia, Denmark, Poland, Spain, Turkey and Portugal together to analyse what the EU’s policies can mean in reality at a local level.

As a businessman I know that if my company cannot recruit the right blend of skilled personnel, then the competitiveness of the business will be compromised. Equally, as a chair of a local enterprise partnership with responsibility for steering European social fund investments for the next seven years I know the consequences on the social fabric of Hertfordshire if we fail to support our young people who are not in employment, education or training. But without the right framework conditions in place for the EU to be a strong global player in manufacturing, then there will not be high quality jobs for our young people in the future.

The two debates on 8 October at Open Days bring together speakers from more developed, transitional and less



developed regions from the north, south, east and west of the EU, as well as an EU candidate country. Speakers at these two debates will share their experiences of implementing policies and projects on the ground which are delivering concrete results. I really appreciate engaging in such debates as I know there will be transferable models presented for the boosting of youth employment and the implementation of the EU’s ‘new indus-

trial policy’. Because the subjects of both debates have relevance to each other, my job as chair of this event is to ‘make the connections’.

I value Open Days as it brings local players who are confronting local challenges to growth and jobs together with the policy-makers and EU programme architects. Hertfordshire is a driver for the British and therefore the EU’s economy, with strong sectors that



are helping the EU to be competitive globally. The county is home to some leading edge knowledge-based businesses. Specifically, GlaxoSmithKline has a significant Hertfordshire presence (pharmaceuticals), as does EADS Astrium (satellites and space), Imagination Technologies (multimedia and communication technologies) and Johnson Matthey (speciality chemicals). More generally, over 50 per cent of Hertfordshire's businesses are "knowledge intensive" – a figure that is 10 percentage points higher than the UK average.

We have put in place our growth strategy for tackling the challenges facing Hertfordshire, not only today and tomorrow but over the next 10 to 20 years. We have been resilient to the recent challenges but know that if we do not make smart investment decisions now then our future competitiveness will be compromised. Hertfordshire local enterprise partnership will shortly finalise its EU structural and investment fund strategy, and there-

fore I am particularly interested to learn how other regions and cities have used and are planning to use EU funding and financial instruments to boost jobs and growth.

“Without the right framework conditions in place for the EU to be a strong global player in manufacturing, then there will not be high quality jobs for our young people in the future”

But we recognise that it is not our investment decisions alone that will determine whether we remain a leading EU knowledge region. We contributed to the commission's consultation on its new industrial strategy last year. We highlighted that there are four key areas of concern. First, the future development of ICT and high-speed broadband; Second, better access to Finance and business support for SMEs; Third, improved energy infrastructure and green growth; and finally, the improvement of

work place skills and education training.

While many of our concerns were taken on board there is still room for improvement. When I look at my own business area, I agree that the bio-based products market should be amongst the commission's list of six "fast-growing areas for priority action" which can contribute to economic recovery in the short and medium term. It is also positive to see that the commission is breaking down its silos and DG enterprise is proposing measures to address employability and workplace skills as part of its industrial strategy.

The event organised by the 'Smart partnerships for jobs and growth' group is fully booked out and has not only a great line-up of speakers from the regions and cities of this partnership, but also a very diverse audience from across the EU. Registered participants are coming from various backgrounds and perspectives, and will be called upon by me to contribute to what will be a very interactive debate. ★



John Gourd is chair of Hertfordshire's local enterprise partnership

'Green gold': turning algae into energy

With fossil energy resources declining and climate change becoming of increasing concern, it is vital that renewable and sustainable energy alternatives are developed. **Algae could offer part of a solution.** They do not compete directly for agricultural land, can adapt to a range of diverse marine and freshwater environments, and can be easily manipulated to produce a wide range of products, from fuels to pharmaceuticals. Importantly, by absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere, algae can help to mitigate climate change.

Microalgae

Microalgae essentially act as single-celled bioreactors, using sunlight and CO₂ to produce a range of valuable products. Many species have high oil contents, which can be extracted and converted to biodiesel. Microalgae can also be used to produce other biofuels such as butanol, hydrogen, methane, ethanol, vegetable oil and aviation fuels. Moreover, these organisms can be utilised to manufacture additional high value products such as Omega-3 oils which can sell for up to €120 per kilogram. There even lies the potential for microalgae to produce anti-cancer drugs and medicines for malaria.

Macroalgae

Macroalgae (seaweeds) can be used as a valuable source of heat and power and are especially suited to use in anaerobic digestion. Globally, around 15 million wet tonnes are produced each year, principally for food, with activity largely limited to Eastern Asia. Many species native to Europe, such as giant kelp, grow very quickly when compared to plants and can be wild harvested or farmed to produce biomass for energy and a wide range of other bio-products. Because they prefer to be grown at sea, macroalgae do not compete with food crops for agricultural land and freshwater, nor do they require the addition of inorganic nutrients (e.g. nitrates and phosphates).

EnAlgae: sustainable pathways for algal bioenergy in NW Europe

The potential of using algae for harvesting energy is huge, yet in Europe this potential has long been overlooked. The Energetic Algae project ('EnAlgae') has been established to develop sustainable technologies for algal biomass production and accelerate the algae to energy market in NW Europe.

Funded by the INTERREG IVB NWE programme and local co-sponsors, the EnAlgae project brings together 19 organisations across seven EU member states. Project partners are sharing knowledge and good practice across a network of nine pilot sites, which are growing algae using waste heat, CO₂ and liquid nutrients from agricultural and industrial processes. Technical and economic feasibility analysis are being undertaken to determine if algae use can be of added value in NW Europe. And data are being delivered to an online tool that will support stakeholder decision-making in how best to utilise microalgae and macroalgae species as part of our future energy mix.



Regular events and demonstrations are held throughout the pilot network. Please see www.enalgae.eu for further information.



AN OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS SIDE EVENT

'From biomass to bioenergy, materials and products: boosting the EU's bio-based economy through cross-border collaboration'

**Thursday 10 October 2013,
9am-1.30pm**

Welsh Higher Education Brussels,
Wales House, Rond-Point
Schuman 11, 1040 Brussels

Featuring the following projects of the INTERREG IVB North West Europe programme:

EnAlgae
BioenNW
Arbor
Biobase North West Europe

For further information and to register: www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7606680787

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Cell: +44 7962 319987

Email: info@enalgae.eu

EnAlgae project website: www.enalgae.eu

European Union and Russia - we build future together

ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programmes



Barents Mediasphere
www.barentsinfo.org/Mediasphere



AQUAREL
www.culmentor.com/aquarel/



Ecologically Friendly Port
<http://ecoport.rshu.ru/>



Nordic and Russian journalists enjoyed sharing experiences in Murmansk region

“You can read about what is happening in Russia or Finland on the internet, but in the end it is meeting and spending time together and sharing different stories, that strengthens cross-border co-operation,” says freelance journalist Trine Hamran from Vadsø, Norway. Hamran is one of the journalists who participated in the journalist course in Russia in the end of April 2013. Besides networking, the course exchanged knowledge about what kind of circumstances the media institutions operate in. Russian and Nordic journalists in turn will visit Finland and Finnish news rooms in 2014 under the “Barents Mediasphere” project.



In the Karelia ENPI CBC Programme six regionally important themes were selected

and the calls for proposals were based on these themes. This allowed launching of broad entities which are composed of several mutually supporting projects. The “AQUAREL” project, implemented under a theme concentrating on sustainable energy solutions, is a collaborative initiative of 3 Finnish and 5 Russian organisations. It focuses on developing energy production from fish waste and aquatic biomaterials, thus reducing the load on the ecosystem and providing novel possibilities for creating energy and additional income for fish farms and fish processors in the Republic of Karelia and in Finland.



One of the South-East Finland-Russia ENPI CBC

Programme’s objective is to bring up environmental issues that need focusing in the programme area. Ecological situation of coastal zone and requisites to develop ecologically sustainable business and cooperation between key actors are the aims of the project called “Ecologically Friendly Port”. In collaboration of 5 Finnish and 3 Russian organisations aim is to establish close bilateral cooperation between citizens and authorities on the bases of green values. Action contain expert views from the business, research and governmental aspects and it aims for very concrete results like decreasing of air emissions and noise harms.

Kolarctic ENPI CBC

Total financial frame 70,0 Meur
 Eligible areas in Finland: Lapland, in Sweden: Norrbotten county, in Norway: Nordland, Troms and Finnmark counties, in Russia: the regions of Murmansk and Archangelsk and the Nenets autonomous district.

Joint Managing Authority
 Regional Council of Lapland
 Hallituskatu 20 B, FIN-96100 Rovaniemi
www.kolarcticenpi.info
twitter.com/KolarcticENPI

Karelia ENPI CBC

Total financial frame 46,4 Meur
 Eligible areas in Finland: Kainuu, North Karelia, Oulu Region (adjoining: Lapland and North Savo), in Russia: the Republic of Karelia (adjoining: St Petersburg and areas of Leningrad, Murmansk and Archangel).

Joint Managing Authority
 Council of Oulu Region
 Sepänkatu 20, FIN-90100 Oulu
www.kareliaenpi.eu
twitter.com/kareliaenpicbc
kareliaenpi.blogspot.fi

South-East Finland-Russia ENPI CBC

Total financial frame 72,4 Meur
 Eligible areas in Finland: South Karelia, Kymenlaakso and South-Savo (adjoining: Uusimaa, Päijät-Häme, North-Savo), in Russia: St.Petersburg, Leningrad Region (adjoining: Republic of Karelia).

Joint Managing Authority
 Regional Council of South Karelia
 Kauppakatu 40 D, FIN-53100 Lappeenranta
www.southeastfinrusnpi.fi
twitter.com/sefinrusenpi



GreenMan
<http://greenmanproject.org/>



Museums over the borders
www.mob.elblag.pl



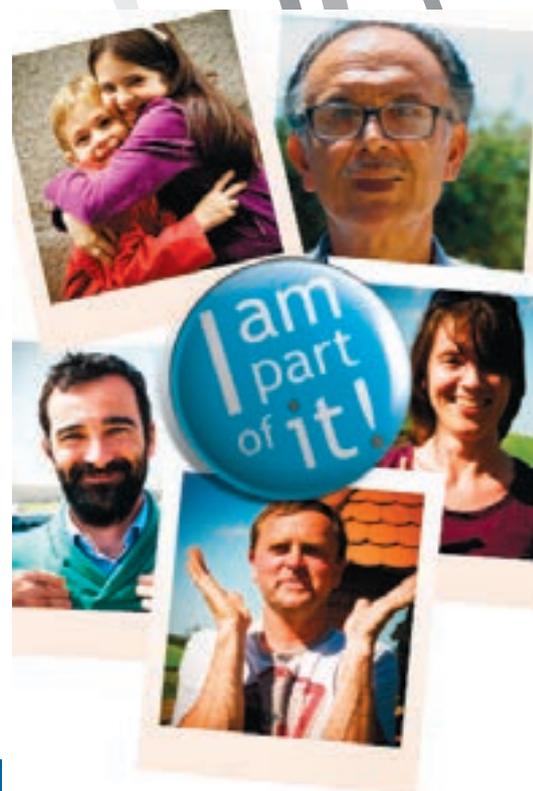
Project "Tartu, Rezekne, Pskov: Green Management for Urban Development & Planning in

Estonia-Latvia-Russia Border Capitals / Green Man" contributes to increasing the attractiveness and integration of the cross border region on the local level by means of boosting the development of effective management system of urban green areas in these cities. The project establishes a practical, dynamic and sustainable dialogue between the partner border regions to exchange best practices in green management and to use the scientific and research potential of the unique consortium of 10 institutions fitting the 'triple helix' (university - profile NGO - government) of innovative partnership model for each participating country.



Programme is co-financed by the European Union

"Museums over the borders" is an example of a cross-border project pursuing development of tourism on both sides of the EU and Russia border under Lithuania-Poland-Russia ENPI CBC 2007-2013 Programme. The project is based on joint cultural heritage of two cities: Elblag (Poland) and Kaliningrad (the Russian Federation). Restoration of premises of two partner museums, improved public facilities and elaborated rules for storage of museum pieces are the main results of the project. A lot of joint events, educational programs and information services are also planned. The project will influence on reactivation of the natural relations between residents of both cities.



Estonia-Latvia-Russia ENPI CBC

Total financial frame 65,3 Meur
 Eligible areas in Latvia: Latgale, Vidzeme (adjoining: Riga City and Pieriga), in Estonia: Kirde-Eesti, Lõuna-Eesti, Kesk-Eesti (adjoining: Põhja-Eesti), in Russia: Leningrad and Pskov regions, St.Petersburg.

Joint Managing Authority
 Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
 Peldu Street 25, LV-1494, Riga
Joint Technical Secretariat – Main Office
 Ausekļa Street 14-3, LV-1010, Riga
www.estlatrus.eu
twitter.com/ESTLATRUS_ENPI

Lithuania-Poland-Russia ENPI CBC

Total financial frame 145,9 Meur
 Eligible areas in Lithuania: Klaipėda, Marijampolė, Tauragė counties (adjoining: Alytus, Kaunas, Telšiai, Šiauliai counties), in Russia: Kaliningrad Oblast, in Poland: Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot, Gdański, Elbląski, Olsztyński, Elcki, Białostocko-Suwalski sub-regions (adjoining: Słupski, Bydgoski, Toruńsko-Włocławski, Łomżyński, Ciechanowsko-Płocki, Ostrołęcko-Siedlecki).

Joint Managing Authority
 Ministry of Regional Development
 2/4 Wspólna Street, PL-00-926 Warsaw
Joint Technical Secretariat
 Center of European Projects
 39a Domaniewska St. PL-02-672 Warsaw
www.lt-pl-ru.eu



21.09.2013
www.ecday.eu

Central Baltic region

a region with a strong web of cooperation

Oak of the beggar woman, one of the cult sites in Central Baltic region

Photo by A. Grinbergs

The Central Baltic Interreg IVA programme 2007-2013 brings neighbors from four countries together in cooperating on common challenges. The common challenges and opportunities for the region are many, ranging from the sea connecting the countries, youth-culture, elderly in rural areas, utilisation of clean tech businesses and enhancing the region's business with the Asian markets to mention a few examples.

The Central Baltic region is a small region in the context of European Union with 5% of the area and 2% of the population in the EU. Still the region stands out for its well-developed business community with multinational firms, R&D centers and a highly educated and skilled workforce. An identified challenge is, however, the lack of labour mobility in the area. The project **BTP** worked with matchmaking between students and host-companies in another country in order to provide cross border internships. By this action labour mobility and entrepreneurial development for foreign markets were improved.

The sea traffic in the central Baltic Sea is increasing, bringing benefits for the economic development but increasing the risk of pollution and oil spill. Authorities responsible for shoreline and archipelago oil spill response recognized that the readiness to act was not on an adequate level. By international workshops, oiled wildlife rehabilitation trainings and joint oil spill exercises the sixteen partners from the project **ENSACO OILSPILL** increased the capacity to react on oil spill accidents in the area.

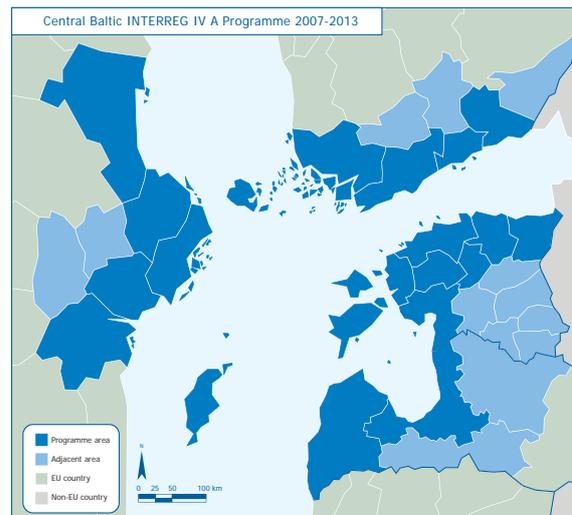
The programme has worked for increased economic progress and a prosperous future in the region on the one hand but has also dealt with preservation of the past. All regions in the programme area have ancient cult sites, also referred to as sacred sites, from the pre-Christian times. It is a part of the programme areas common history and a part of the identity joining people. The project **CULT IDENTITY** has worked with a joint strategy for management of the sites to ensure their preservation. Awareness raising and making the sites know to inhabitants has also been an important part of the project.

The linkages in the programme area go like a spider web involving all parts of society and a big variety of themes. From vocational education via oil spills to cult sites is just to mention a few threads of the web. The work will continue in 2014-2020 and strengthen the already made connections in the web and in some cases starting on new threads in the Central Baltic spider web.

Mērsrags Devil's Stone, Kurzeme Region, Latvia



Oilspill prevention vessels in the Baltic Sea (Kotka Maritime Research Centre)



www.centralbaltic.eu

www.baltictrainingprogramme.eu • www.ensaco.fi • www.ancientsites.eu

The Managing Authority of the programme is the Regional Council of Southwest Finland www.varsinais-suomi.fi

Taking the lead

Ilmar Reepalu is calling for local governments to take the lead in transforming Europe's urban areas into smart cities

The smart cities and communities partnership (SCC) was announced by the commission last year. Work and organisation is now up and running. Ambitious and challenging goals are set to deliver at least 20 ground-breaking innovative technical solutions in cities by 2020 that combine energy, transport and ICT technologies. European cities are at the heart of the initiative and it's now crucial that local and regional authorities actively take the lead role in the work.

The SCC has from the start gained wide support from local and regional authorities, industry and EU institutions. The reasons are obvious, but also urgent. Cities around Europe have a crucial role to play in achieving

the Europe 2020 strategy. Three quarters of Europeans will soon live in cities and consume 70 per cent of the EU's energy. Infrastructure and transport systems in many cities and regions have rapidly reached their capacity limits which cause enormous costs for congestion and environmental pollution.

“Cities around Europe have a crucial role to play in achieving the Europe 2020 strategy”

Against that background, the SCC aims to boost the development of smart technologies in cities by pooling research resources from energy, transport and ICT and focusing them on a limited

number of integrated demonstration projects which will be implemented in partnerships with the industry and cities. Examples of key innovation areas are zero-energy buildings, smart grid systems, smart organisation of traffic flows and public procurement for smart cities. I would particularly stress the importance of ICT as a basic precondition for the development of cost-effective and user-friendly eServices within all areas covered by the SCC.

The partnership cities will constitute test beds and innovative technical solutions are to be replicated and disseminated to other cities in the EU sharing the same needs. Funding will be available mainly from Horizon 2020, but other funding, such as the structural funds, will also be available.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) unanimously adopted its opinion on SCC in July this year. As rapporteur of the work I thought it was essential that leading representatives of local and regional authorities should send a strong and clear message to the commission on the core role of local and regional authorities in the planning and management of the projects.

The CoR strongly supports the SCC. We share the commission's view that developing the EU's cities into smart and sustainable environments is one of Europe's biggest challenges. At the same time it's necessary to stress that cities are closely linked – economically, socially and environmentally – to rural areas, and these links must be recognised in order to attain a balanced and sustainable development of both urban and





rural areas.

It's of great importance for the success of smart cities that projects are selected based on concrete and well-defined citizen needs for which there is real evidence. Therefore, one of the main messages from the CoR is that local and regional authorities – both individually and in groups – must be given a central role in the strategies and projects developed. Local authorities have close relations to the citizens and play a decisive role in identifying and highlighting the needs and expectations of local stakeholders, such as business, academia, civil society and local residents.

A key task for the industry is to develop technical specifications and solutions that can be replicated and disseminated to cities around the EU. It's

important though, that those technical solutions are being developed to meet the concrete needs of the city and its inhabitants, otherwise there will not be sufficient market potential but instead a waste of resources.

“Developing the EU's cities into smart and sustainable environments is one of Europe's biggest challenges”

Smart urban technologies will provide a decisive contribution to the sustainable development of European cities and to the increased quality of life for city dwellers. I believe that local governments' strong commitment in smart cities is a key feature to create truly sustainable urban areas. Cities should strive to be forerunners in a broader EU

context and think smart, build successful partnerships with an innovative industry, and last but not least, work closely with the citizens.

Finally, it's essential now that all information about the smart cities strategies, action plans and organisation is effectively communicated and made available to all relevant stakeholders so as to make it easier for pioneering project ideas to be gathered, discussed and used as the basis for projects. The commission has an essential role in this case but local authorities' own efforts will be extremely valuable, not least because they are most familiar with the local economy, industry and citizens. Let us take the leading responsibility in the work of changing Europe's cities to smart cities. ★

Ilmar Reepalu is mayor of the city of Malmö



NovaMedTech - A catalyst for the launch of new products and services

An ambitious cluster and networking project in the field of medical technology has led to the creation of around 70 new jobs in the region of mid-Sweden.

The aim of the NovaMedTech project is to boost entrepreneurship and innovation for bio-medical engineering and technology products by bringing together healthcare professional, academics and businesses. The project also aims to improve the quality of healthcare through the adoption of innovative technology and to increase knowledge in the field of bio-medical engineering. The highly successful project has brought over a dozen new products to market and has led to the creation new companies as well as lot of dynamic effects, etc.

The programme works by a new unique working model to identifying innovative product-ideas with commercial potential. Those are then supported in the transition from idea to reality through coaching, networking and the provision of capital grants.

So far, the programme has helped bring a wide range of new products into being such as advanced technology in hospital care (in the fields of brain surgery, magnetic resonance technology and radiology), aids for the care of the elderly (such as home equipment and bathroom aids) and information technology solutions (for example, journal systems and web services).

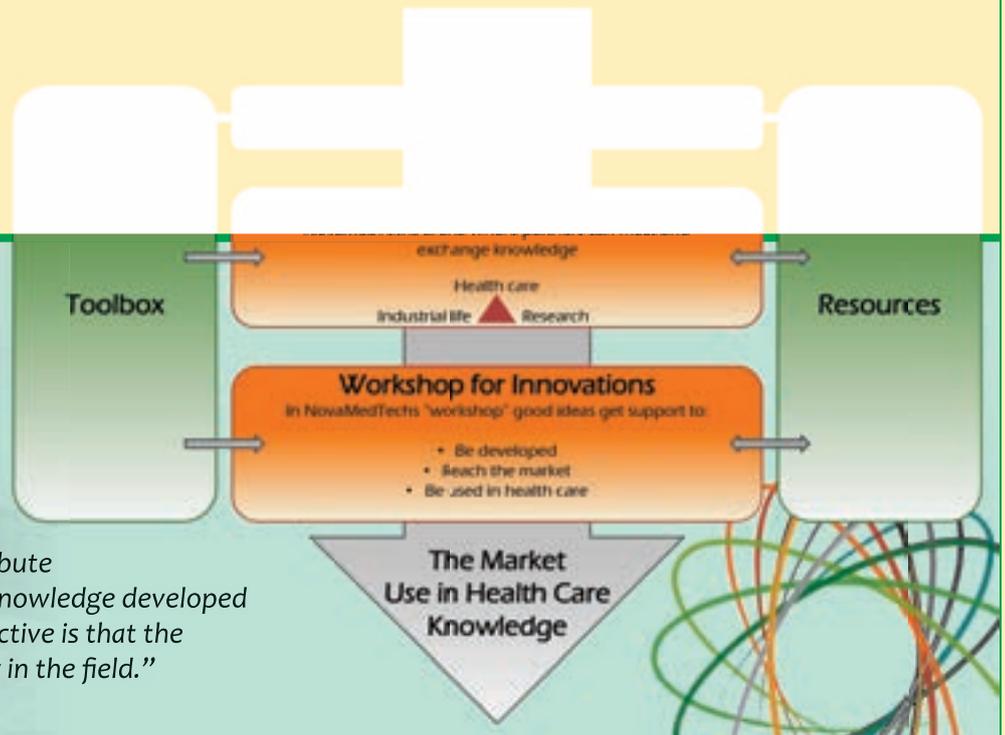
Making the region a centre of research excellence

The project has undoubtedly contributed to the medical technology field of knowledge developed in Eastern Central Sweden and one of the programme's objectives is that the region should become a national leader in this field. Before the programme comes to an end, NovaMedTech aims to have created 25 new companies, have identified 60 new innovations and strengthened around 60 companies in some form or other. The support could be in the field of raising skill and competence levels in a company, finding new customers or in some other respect.

Partners in industry, academia and the healthcare sector are, as part of the programme, encouraged to interact, co-operate and to share knowledge and best practice. The NovaMedTech cluster network includes a large number of international contacts in several countries.

The programme organises conferences and seminars on subjects such as prototype development and market preparation. The programme also aims to identify knowledge gaps among partners and educational, training and other activities are arranged to raise competence levels.

“NovaMedTech focuses on entrepreneurship in healthcare, academia and business. The project identifies and supports ideas with commercial potential by including coaching and access to networks in order to create new products and services. The project will contribute to the medical technology field of knowledge developed in Eastern Central Sweden. The objective is that the region should be the national leader in the field.”





New technologies for old buildings

Triggering initiatives to convert buildings to energy efficiency in the countries of Mediterranean Europe is the objectives of the EMILIE.



Keywords: energy efficiency in buildings. Goal: retrofitting, innovating, and inventing solutions to make existing buildings “greener”. This is the framework for the European project EMILIE (Enhancing Mediterranean Initiatives Leading SMEs to innovation in building energy efficiency technologies), a European project funded by the “Mediterranean” transnational cooperation program. EMILIE supports the growth potential and capacity for innovation of SMEs in the field of buildings energy efficiency in the service sector in the Mediterranean. On the one hand, it supports innovation through the identification, testing, and dissemination of new products and technologies, and on the other the development of a plurality of activities to support SMEs.

The project involves five countries (Spain, France, Slovenia, Croatia, and Italy), and six partners: AREA Science Park (coordinator) I; IAT- Andalusian Institute of Technology ES; CIRCE – Research Centre for Energy

Resources and Consumption – Zaragoza ES; Capenergies Energy Cluster F; Jožef Štefan Research Institute SI; Regional Energy Agency Kvarner (Rijeka) HR.

EMILIE will organize technical workshops for the presentation of new technologies that have been mapped at the European and global levels, and tested in regional and local administrations in charge of managing public buildings. Pilot actions are also envisaged, one for each project partner: demonstrative pilot plants and installations open to private firms. In particular, a solar cooling plant will be built in Italy and in Croatia – a technology that combines solar thermal panels with a refrigerating machine to produce cold, in the form of refrigerated water or air conditioning. HVAC technology Lab for office buildings will be tested in Andalusia – Spain, a technology able to improve the air conditioning system concerning insulation of all distribution facilities of this installation and actions involved with COP improvement. A specific energy measurements platform for school buildings will be tested instead in France. The goal is the setting up of a standard-based (EU ETSI M2M) multi-applications platform for schools enabling information dashboards, and education application. In Slovenia, the pilot action will be developed on the concept ‘Sun as infrastructure’ which is based on elaboration of models of infrastructural solar heating and cooling. A combination of evacuated tube collectors

and adsorption chiller, supplemented with waste heat recovery system, offer an excellent setup in which various technologies will be tested. In Zaragoza – Spain, a Zero Emissions demonstrative building will be equipped with a number of Phase Change Material windows (PCM) and tested in a specific cabin to be constructed beside the building, where different position/orientation for the PCM windows will be analyzed and compared to standard windows.

www.emilieproject.eu

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34149 Trieste
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Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen de Développement Régional (FERD)
Project cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



Vehicle for change

Integrated, low emission, cross-border transport systems can make a major contribution to promoting green growth in Europe, says **José Palma Andres**



Cohesion policy has historically been a major source of finance for improved transport in regions across the EU. Under cohesion policy for 2014-2020 this will continue as regions concentrate their support on a limited number of objectives in line with Europe 2020, the EU's strategy to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The EU is helping improve citizens' quality of life and strengthen the economy by promoting sustainable urban mobility and increased use of clean and energy efficient vehicles. This can be done through a mix of measures, such as early deployment of grid infrastructures of electrical mobility and intelligent traffic management. Another example is the reduction of CO2 emissions for road vehicles including the launch of a major European "green" car initiative. This will help promote new technologies, including electric and hybrid cars, through a mix of research, common standards setting and development of necessary infrastructure support.

European territorial cooperation works to support these goals by facilitating regions and cities from different EU member states to work together and learn from each other through joint programmes, projects and networks. Cross-border cooperation programmes reduce the negative effects of borders as administrative, legal and physical barriers, tackle common problems and exploit untapped potential.

Transport systems in Europe have traditionally developed along national lines. However, while European cities and regions are very different, they do

have similar needs. Developing integrated solutions through cross-border cooperation allow the regions and the industry to deliver what the citizens need. There are several examples of successful cross-border cooperation projects in this domain.

In Sweden and Norway, local and regional authorities, together with companies and entrepreneurs, are working to create the world's first 'green highway'. The aim is a fossil-free transport corridor across mid-Scandinavia by 2020. Another project, Infragreen, aims at promoting the use of biogas fuel and to catalyse the development of an infrastructure for electronic vehicle charging stations in the cross-border area between southern Sweden and Norway.

In Spain and Portugal, project MOBI2GRID aims at developing and implementing an integrated and inter-

operative cross-border mobility system with the development of a pilot test with electric vehicles in the Vigo-Porto corridor of electric mobility. Project MOBI.Europe, which is funded by the competitiveness and innovation framework programme, works synergistically with MOBI2GRID. It is an integration project based on ICT systems that aims to guarantee interoperability of electromobility services across countries.

This example shows that there are opportunities for complementarity between different funding instruments in a number of different circumstances. For the programming period 2014-2020, separate but related activities or parts of a project can be funded by the European structural and investment funds, Horizon 2020 or the programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs.

The new programming period 2014-2020 will also include the connecting Europe facility, which is designed to enhance cross-border projects in energy, transport and information technology. Focussing on less polluting transport modes will constitute an incentive for the European transport system to become more sustainable. It will also give consumers more choices on how to travel.

Looking to the future, Europe needs to create the conditions for greener growth thanks to a more competitive, integrated and cross-border transport system providing increased mobility, lower emissions, reduced dependence on fossil fuel, and improved infrastructure. Certainly, transportation modes of tomorrow will be different from what we have today. ★



José Palma Andres is director of territorial cooperation, macro-regions and north-west Europe at the European commission's DG Regio

CREATION OF A ROUTE DEDICATED TO BIKES FROM BAYONNE TO PAMPLONA



It has been several years now that, on both sides of the western Franco-Spanish border, the General Council of Pyrénées-Atlantiques and the Government of Navarre, have engaged themselves in a concrete, voluntarist, formalized and operational cross-border policy acting on many thematic projects. Thanks to its natural features - from the sea up to the mountains- such a non-motorized traffic project was de facto a very unifying project.

The development project of the first Pyrenean cross-border axis dedicated to non-motorized traffic was therefore born from this political willingness. And this is with a major concern marked with sustainable development that the partners decided to invest themselves in a more comfortable living environment and responsible tourism.

If the social demand is more and more pushing in that direction, one needs to build a global consistent and adapted offer to be able to answer it.

Thus, the General Council of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques took the initiative to build a partnership gathering 8 actors from this territory - from the French bask coast down to the Bidasoa valley in Navarre - aiming at developing and valuing 60 km of dedicated bikes' paths. Located between the twinned cities of Bayonne and Pamplona, this path

is mainly made of greenways, opened to all non-motorized traveling kinds, and bike paths reserved to only cyclists.

With around 150,000 inhabitants, this cross-border area includes both urban and rural areas, whose stakes are at the same time different and complementary. Well reputed, this area knows a significant tourist traffic, and bases part of its economy from a wide variety of wealth.

On the one hand, the coastline experiences periods of very high traffic, especially during the summer, that causes asphyxiation of roads, whose well-known consequences are damaging the entire territory in all of its aspects (quality of living environment, welcoming / hosting quality, and environmental quality).

On the other hand, less frequented natural surroundings offer the quietness of mountain valleys and rivers. Developing exchanges between these two areas - from the coastline to the inland territories - is also a source of local economic development.

On top of that, Bayonne and Pamplona are both located on the route of Euroveloroute No.1, connecting the North Cape in Sagres to the South of Portugal. With a length of 8200 km, this Eurovelo along the Atlantic coast of Europe is listed in the European scheme of EUROVELO. And the cross-border project is thus part of a European dynamic, being a real tourist and cultural opportunity.

Thus, partners were willing to improve the situation of cross-border living space through this collaborative project by:

- the implementation of a new environmentally friendly recreational activity allowing tourists to discover territories by using other ways of locomotion than their own cars;
- the creation of an offer available to the greatest number, including disabled people;
- the opportunity for the tourists, more numerous on the coast, to discover the pleasant surroundings of these inland territories. This should allow to extend the zone of influence of its tourist attraction from coastal to rural areas;
- the development of a tourist economy in the rural areas;
- the extension of the tourist season. It is indeed proven that people having cycling stays, should they be traveling ones or not, are taking their holidays preferentially in the spring or autumn period;
- the development of local heritage (cultural, historical and natural);
- the integration of the project in an initiative held at the European level, the Euroveloroute No. 1;

- the introduction of a new mode of locomotion in response to the request of residents and tourists.

The action plan set up thanks to the contribution of the FEDER in the frame of the POCTEFA (France / Spain / Andorra cross-border cooperation programme) has been implemented through the following steps:

- Development of the public road network dedicated only to non motorized people, should they be cyclists, skaters, hikers or disabled people. In urban areas, public spaces by the roads have been refitted in the frame of a common urban consideration. On a small part of it, the path will be developed on a little traffic road
- Implementation of an homogeneous signage allowing its continuity
- Development of the cross-border center at Bidosoa, aiming at welcoming and informing cyclists that will be situated in a former customs building. This refitting project has necessitated a urban amendment study
- Creation of a common visual identity, web site, and informative booklet
- Organization of a campaign to raise territorial tourist actors awareness
- Organization of cross-border cycling promenade for the general public to help them discovering this product and what stands behind non-motorized traffic.

The building of this project was held through a very collaborative approach, with lots of constructive discussions and through the creation of common tools, such as a common signage guide, a unique tourist database, an cross-border cycling itinerary...



With a global amount of 8 millions € excluding VAT, this project has benefited of FEDER funds up to 65% of the global costs, i.e. 5,2 millions €. Such an innovative project for this territory, within a thematic that was seen up to now secondary and held with projects supervisors having different working methods, could not have been implemented without this financial contribution.

For all these reasons, the cross-border cycling event has naturally got its place within the International Day of the Cooperation. The chances of pursuing this project will be much more wider if we manage to federate the different actors of the Eurovelo 1 on a shared tourist development project...



Food2Market helps innovative agro-food SMEs in neighboring markets

Food2Market is a transnational partnership of five food network organizations from Germany, Flanders and the Netherlands. Together, they have developed practical tools and services that support SMEs in their product, process or market innovations.

Since 2010, Food2Market has helped agro-food SMEs turn their innovative ideas into new business. The partnership provides market and consumer insights, relevant data for the border regions of Germany, Flanders and the Netherlands, and connects companies with technology providers and consumers. Its cross-border network puts SMEs in contact with experts who can meet their needs. Food2Market organizes training sessions and workshops so entrepreneurs can learn from their peers and specialized advisors. In short, Food2Market creates a head start for SME innovation and business without borders.

Innovation support

Food2Market's practical services cover the entire innovation process, from the moment an idea is born until the resulting product is brought to market. Two activities that have sparked great enthusiasm are the Masterclasses on Distribution Channels and the Open Innovation & Co-creation sessions. It was an Open Innovation session that enabled Kompany, a Dutch cucumber growers' sales organization, to find contacts in retail. Kompany's operational director Huub Welles says: "One session was enough to point us in the right direction: branding, short distribution channels and new products."



After a producer/consumer Co-creation session that sparked ideas for healthy snacks for young adults, participants called the session "very inspiring" and the direct interaction with consumers "extremely valuable". Piet Nell, marketing director at participating SME Veggiefiber, called the session "good for more than just a new idea; we also found a new business partner with whom we are now co-developing other new products."

More tools

Food2Market's other tools and services for SMEs include:

- an online quick scan to identify a company's growth opportunities and innovation capacity;
- overviews of market trends & developments;
- hands-on technological and marketing advice from experts;
- facility sharing, a website connecting supply with demand for facilities and food processing equipment; and
- an online platform where the general public can contribute ideas about the future of food.

Upcoming events

On October 24, Food2Market presents traditional Dutch products re-designed by students for the German and Flemish markets at the Food Valley Expo, an annual one-day event focusing on trends and developments in the international agro-food industry. Other upcoming events organized by Food2Market are listed on the website.

Transnational innovation in the EU

Food2Market offers its services free of charge; it is co-funded by the EU's INTERREG IWB NWE program and various regional governments. The program contributes to a more cohesive EU society as it fosters cooperation between people from different countries working on common issues affecting the lives of EU citizens. With its tools and services designed to assist agro-food SMEs with both R&D and product launches, Food2Market is spearheading Horizon 2020. This EU framework program focusing on innovation, scientific excellence, competitiveness and sustainability goes into effect in January 2014.



For more information,
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Buying green

Green public spending is a cheaper long-term option that allows government authorities to actively pursue climate and efficiency targets, writes **Carina Vopel**



More than 20 years ago a number of innovative public authorities in Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden started paying more attention to environmental aspects in their procurement procedures. The trend is now more widespread and almost all member states have set up national plans to encourage what has become known as green public procurement.

Today it's widely acknowledged that public spending should take better account of environmental imperatives, and the EU has set the target that 50 per cent of public spending should meet green criteria. The new seventh European environmental action programme and the recommendations of the European resource efficiency platform both highlight this need to widen the use of green public procurement.

It's a powerful tool, as almost 20 per cent of the EU's GDP comes from public procurement. National, regional and local authorities have environmental objectives, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution, or increasing energy and resource efficiency. Public authorities can use their purchasing choices to achieve these targets, choosing low-energy buildings, for example, buying energy-efficient IT equipment, low-emission vehicles and opting for supplies or food from sustain-

able sources.

The 50 per cent target is still some way distant – the current level is less than 30 per cent according to the latest survey – so why are public authorities not using this tool more widely, given their leading role in tackling the environmental challenges we face? One argument commonly put forward against buying green is the concern about cost. This is not negligible, especially in times of economic crisis, but the argument is only partially true. While some green products do cost more than

“Public spending should take better account of environmental imperatives, and the EU has set the target that 50 per cent of public spending should meet green criteria”

conventional alternatives at the time of purchase, they are often cheaper over their whole life-cycle, because their energy consumption in the use-phase is often lower. Moreover, costs and environmental impacts can sometimes be reduced by rethinking overall procurement needs: how often do offices really need cleaning? Which plants in public parks need less water and pest control? Do we need company cars? How to encourage the use of public transport and promote cycling?

Another objection raised against green

public procurement is that the process is overly complicated. Public procurement is complex, not green public procurement per se. And procurers need to be well trained in any case. Several tools have been developed in recent years to ease the implementation of green procurement. The European commission has published criteria for 20 product groups and a wealth of other hands-on guidance documents. Many member states have support structures for public authorities in place, based on national green procurement priorities. And all this does serve a useful purpose, as citizens expect public authorities to be role models for environmental protection. According to a 2012 EU-wide survey, an overwhelming 87 per cent of citizens consider that public authorities are right to opt for a more expensive procurement tender, if it respects higher environmental standards.

With the Open Days workshop on 8 October, we want to show how green public procurement can work in practice. Vienna, Ghent and Koprivnica will illustrate how they have successfully tackled the challenge, with real-world examples. Greening spending is a fundamental tool to make our use of common natural resources more efficient, and we hope that this workshop will provide some inspiration to other public authorities to engage on a greener path. ★

For more information visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>



Why is a strategy for building energy renovation necessary in the Mediterranean?

Mr. Xavier Marti I Ragué, MARIE Coordinator
Housing and Urban Improvement Secretary, Government of Catalonia



MARIE, ELIH MED and PROFORBIOMED partners in Ljubljana, September 19th, 2013



Map with the ENPI regions and partners



The Government of Catalonia has awarded the improvement of energy efficiency of High Performance Centre in Sant Cugat to an Energy Service Company.

EU energy efficiency of buildings European Directives (2002, 2010 and 2012) are a complete and clear EU policy framework to understand why it is important to prepare and to implement a shared strategy amongst professionals, business, society and public administrations at all Governance levels.

The MED strategic project MARIE (Mediterranean Building Rethinking for Energy Efficiency Improvement) has been working since May 2011 to prepare a Transnational Strategic Framework (TSF) for the Mediterranean Member States, Regional and Local Governments. The TSF aims to promote building's energy efficiency in the EU-MED area, it will be based on 14 strategic measures organized in 4 main products; tools to be executed through a common, public and private Cooperation HUB. The results will be presented during the World Sustainable Building Conference in Barcelona, October 2014.

Considering the recommendation of Program MED, MARIE also has been working in close cooperation with two MED Strategic projects: ELIH MED (Energy Efficiency in

Low Income Housing) and PROFORBIOMED (Promoting bioenergy) and one ENI project: RELS (Energy Renovation of Social Housing). This capitalization effort is constructing the basis of the Mediterranean multi-level Governance Model to facilitate an effective implementation of EU Directives related to energy renovation of buildings (ERB).

But, why is strategy important?

Several strategic benefits have been identified for all related actors to invest in ERB: job creation, comfort and health improvements, climate change impacts reduction, huge energy and economic savings, increase the value of buildings and activate economy.

But how can we realize the benefits, when the current market situation shows us that the annual ERB rates range from 0.12 % to 0.20%. This shows there is a significant energy and economic savings potential which remains unexploited.

MARIE, ELIH MED, PROFORBIOMED and RELS partners (gathering more than 64 partners of 11th Mediterranean countries) are convinced that the answer relies on the implementation of a TSF where Member

States, Regional and Local Governments can use the same standards, models and tools and where best business and professional initiatives could easily and quickly reach end-users and building owners.

The transnational strategic framework in preparation has three key components:

- o An Action Plan : based on the Interventions FACTORY that integrates a permanent involvement and training CAMPAIGN and an Innovation LAB
- o A Road Map (2014-2020) defining indicators, objectives scheduled and organizing implementations
- o A Governance Model : structured around the Cooperation HUB

In Ljubljana 19th September 2013, these projects agreed on a Declaration draft to call on European and MED decision makers to join efforts. At the same time, the Catalan Government is experiencing all these components to build their own public-private strategy to be approved on the 19th November 2013.



Project management

Major projects represent a substantial share of cohesion policy spending and are of strategic importance for the EU, writes **Mikel Landabaso**



Major projects are “ambassadors” of operational programmes, as they arrive at the European commission for approval and are carefully verified from all possible angles; whether they respond to the ambitions set out jointly by the commission and the member states in the programmes and whether they comply with European law and policies. To portray their scale, it is worth mentioning that in the current programming period 2007-2013 the commission received 750 major projects with a total cost of €64bn. For a country like Poland, the major projects account for more than a third of their cohesion policy budget (€67.9bn in total), and are the backbone of strategies in the transport and environment sectors.

The process of preparation, appraisal and implementation of these major projects is an extremely challenging task for public authorities. For that purpose, the legislative proposals for the next cohesion policy 2014-2020 foresee a number of improvements.

“The process of preparation, appraisal and implementation of these major projects is an extremely challenging task for public authorities”

First there is the compulsory list of major projects in the operational programmes. In order to better frame major projects into the strengthened cornerstones of the new cohesion policy (result orientation, integrated programming, thematic concentration, ex ante

conditionalities), major projects will be verified before their inclusion in the operational programmes to test if they constitute the best response to the identified needs of the given territory or sector. The list of major projects will be compulsory, and a major project needs to be included in the operational programmes in order to be financed. To date, the list was rather indicative and not discussed in detail during the programmes’ approval. In that sense, in the future the commission will strengthen the strategic control over the proposed major projects.

Second, a stronger role for independent experts. The commission may endorse independent experts to decide on its behalf about the quality of any project. The projects that receive a positive





Mikel Landabaso is head of unit at the competence centre for smart and sustainable growth within the European commission's DG Regio

opinion from the independent quality review do not require the commission's decision (it is approved via tacit agreement in three months). This solution is based on quite positive experiences in 2007–2013 with the Jaspers initiative that largely contributed to improving the quality of projects, and shortened the time of their approval. So the commission delegates its power to the bodies that are closer to the beneficiaries and can advise them on the projects at the

earliest possible stage, such as by proposing the best technical option or advising on tariff policy. However, member states still have the freedom to choose if they want to use independent experts; otherwise the approval procedure continues to be similar to the current period (the whole project documentation is sent to the commission for a detailed verification).

The third improvement foreseen is that of fewer major projects. The thresh-

olds for considering major projects has been changed to total eligible costs compared to total costs; and is set at €75m for a transport/energy project (within thematic objective seven: promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures) and €50m for projects in other sectors. This will result in fewer major projects, allowing more focus on the most financially important projects consuming the largest contribution of EU funds.

Fourth, is a stronger focus on the realisation of major projects. The commission's approval of major projects will be conditional on the start of works within three years from the commission's approval. This will limit the problem of "ghost projects" that have great difficulties getting off the ground and can bring positive benefits to society.

"The commission will continue its efforts in ensuring that the EU's cohesion policy responds to the demands of European taxpayers for more effective and efficient spending"

Finally, simplified rules for financial and economic analyses are vital. In order to reduce the administrative burden for public authorities, the legislative proposals introduced so called "flat rates" for major projects in specific sectors, as an alternative method for calculating the funding gap. In addition, the commission will update the cost benefit analysis guide to make it more operational and simplified for project promoters.

High quality public investment is one of three conditions aimed at restoring the European economy – next to healthy public finances, and structural reforms. For that purpose, the commission will continue its efforts in ensuring that the EU's cohesion policy responds to the demands of European taxpayers for more effective and efficient spending. We will work in full partnership with member states to make sure that major projects are rightly considered as flagship development policies. ★



Energy system integration

Since energy is a cross-border issue, countries and regions have to cooperate. To create an integrated system, research and innovation is vital. Many research institutes focus on the subject of energy transition. Therefore ENSEA decided to bundle their expertise and initiate additional integrated research on cross-border issues such as balancing energy, energy infrastructure, technology and innovation and employment.

European North Sea Energy Alliance

The European North Sea Energy Alliance (ENSEA) is a partnership of four regions situated around the North Sea which aims to develop and share knowledge on the transition to a sustainable and secure energy system. The regions bring their own expertise:

- Northern Netherlands (The Netherlands)
- Scotland (United Kingdom)
- Wachstumsregion Ems-Achse e.V. (Germany)
- Rogaland (Norway)

By creating this strategic network the regions will bring together energy know-how and align various research programmes. The network focuses on integrating sustainable, renewable energy into existing energy systems. ENSEA is part of the European FP7 programme: the seventh framework programme for research and technological development.

Goals

The ENSEA project goals include:

- Identifying strengths and weaknesses in each of the regions in relation to research and innovation, driven by industrial demand, in energy system integration and demand management.
- Identifying opportunities for strengthening the relationships within and between the regions through a Joint Action Plan supported by the regional stakeholders.
- Developing joint demand-driven research proposals within regional, national and European (e.g. Horizon 2020) Research and Technical Development funding programmes.



More information on www.ensea.biz

Perspectives of Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020

Expectations after Croatian Accession and the European Projects Awards 2013



European Projects Association (EPA) will be hosting a conference entitled "Perspectives of Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020 – Expectations after Croatian Accession" at the European Parliament on October 7th 2013. It is organized under the patronage of a Croatian MEP, Marino Baldini, Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and a representative of the political Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, as well as in partnership with the Region of Istria and the Polish Region of Lodzkie and a long list of private and public collaborators and partners.

Participants at the round table include representatives of EU institutions and regional governments. Debate will focus on news in policy and the EU programmes foreseen for the following seven year period and the perspectives the local governments have in terms of territorial cooperation in connection with the instruments provided by the EU.

The 3rd European Projects Awards 2013 will conclude the conference. Reaching yet another peak of the two-years campaign 'What are you doing... for a better society?', EPA will reward projects financed by the EU that had an outstanding impact on a specific community, territory or sector in the period 2007-2013 that were financed with the Instrument for Pre-Accession.

EPA will also present the "Distinguishment in Regional and Local Development of the EU" Award.

For more information on these events, please visit www.europeanprojects.org



FRANCE-GERMANY-SWITZERLAND: GENUINE, ON-GOING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN FIRE-FIGHTERS



The beginnings of new-found co-operation between firefighters

As the foremost commercial waterway within the European Union, the Rhine overall carries approx. 300 MI.T of goods per year, accounting for 2/3 of river traffic in western Europe. The annual tonnage of the ports along the Upper Rhine totals some 35 MI. The ports of Karlsruhe, Strasbourg, Mulhouse and Basle together handle an annual total of approx. 28 MI.T.

Against this background, cross-border co-operation between firefighters in the Upper Rhine space (Bade-Wurtemberg, Rhénanie-Palatinat, Bas-Rhin (67), Haut-Rhin (68) and the border cantons of Switzerland) has expanded considerably since 2001, particularly within the Upper Rhine Conference, a body created under the Bonn Interstate Agreement of 1975, signed between the German, Swiss and French governments.

A number of trinational working groups have been set up, particularly to handle such issues as mutual assistance in the event of a disaster, chemical risks and to draw up specialised rescue plans.

When preparing its «Schéma Départemental d'Analyse et de Couverture des Risques (SDACR)» - Departmental Risk Analysis and Cover Outline Plan, a document which, in France, identifies risks at Department level and proposes how these may be covered, the Bas-Rhin (67) Fire and Rescue Department, highlighted the following considerations :

- the existence of significant risks on both banks of the Rhine (the presence of numerous, including some SEVESO-classified, petrochemical and chemical facilities);
- the significant growth in river traffic, the transportation of often dangerous goods frequently taking place side-by-side with cruises involving large-capacity passenger vessels;
- shortfalls in terms of rescue resources intended to contain a possible accident on the river;
- the existence of a large number of locks involving a height difference of almost 75 m.

A European partnership in support of the first cross-border fireboat

The SDIS 67 [the Bas-Rhin Fire & Rescue Department] then approached the German fire brigades in the Bade-Wurtemberg region in order to alert the local authorities (the Prefect of the Bas-Rhin region and the President of Freiburg «Regierungspräsidium» [Regional Council]) with a view to taking this issue up as far as the Upper Rhine Conference. The Conference tasked a group of fire officers from the 3 countries to draw up a list of the various possible accident scenarios: collisions, explosions, fires, drownings, pollution incidents, etc., and prepare a defence strategy. Based on complementary resources on the ground and on the water, the strategy involved, in particular, the introduction of a fireboat stationed in Strasbourg. In the wake of this, a dossier defining the features of the fireboat, the composition and level of qualification of the crews and the call-out procedures to be followed was prepared and submitted to the French Ministry of the Interior and Regional Planning for validation.

Implementation of the fireboat project, the total cost of which came to 2.5 MI.€, prompted the creation of a partnership, both political and financial in nature, on both banks of the Rhine. Furthermore, the European Union has authorised aid to the quite decisive tune of 1 MI.€ as part of the INTERREG IIIA Upper Rhine programme.

This is how the fireboat named EUROPA 1, with a mixed French-German crew, has been operational since 1st January 2008. It marks the successful completion of the first collaborative venture between the 3 countries. When the vessel was commissioned, its management was entrusted to a local, cross-border collaboration group bringing together the General Council of the Bas-Rhin region, the SDIS 67 [the Bas-Rhin Fire & Rescue Department] and the Ortenaukreis district.

Principal features of the EUROPA 1:

-Length: 23 m, Width: 6.20 m, Weight: 50 Tonnes, Power: 2,300 CV, 2 water cannons, 3 pumps totalling 15,000 L/min, water output: 0.90 m, 3,200 L on-board emulsifier.





Better training means greater efficiency

With a view to implementing the second collaborative venture, while at the same time improving firefighting techniques, given the type of risks described, in 2010, the SDIS 67 put forward a proposal to its German and Haut-rhin partners to set up a jointly-operated training centre named «Centre Rhénan d'Entraînement à la maîtrise des Risques Fluviaux (CRERF)» [Rhine River Risk control Training Centre]. The Centre is to be installed on a 100 m long by 9 m wide tanker-berge which will circulate between 3 Rhine port locations: Mannheim, Strasbourg (its home port) and Mulhouse.

Objectives

The «CRERF» is by way of being a pilot scheme in the river navigation sector and will help to raise the level of safety along the Rhine by the initial and continuous training of 3,200 Swiss, French and German firefighters per year, under whatever conditions most closely mirror the reality of the risks encountered.

Specialised as well as general training will be offered, using on-board simulators. The training will essentially cover:

- the chemical risk present not only on board ships (toxic and corrosive product leakage) but also in permanent and temporary port installations: the plugging of chemical product leaks on board ships in the liquid, gaseous and indeed diphasic phase;
- the fight against damage (hull breaches);
- intervention on unstable containers with contents ;
- real (propane gas-fuelled) fire exercises,
- the insulating breathing apparatus (IBA) port practice run adapted to the vessel;
- the risk of falling in the water for firefighters wearing an IBA

and Individual Protection Equipment;
- water rescue.

Anticipated results

Actual improvement of operational tactics and intervention techniques is anticipated on site, which, by the same token, should mean that the consequences of accidents for the public, rescue teams and the environment alike, could be contained.

Firefighting personnel will be able to learn and train in new intervention methods and optimise existing methods through this exchange of experience aimed at strengthening co-operation. Over and above these objectives, it is expected that the on-going exchange of practices, methodologies and intervention techniques between Swiss, French and German firefighters will prove to be mutually rewarding.

Lastly, on a more personal level, these two projects constitute actual examples of mutual enrichment going way beyond the strict framework of their realisation. In terms of human exchange, these collaborative experiences could be exported to other European frontier regions.

Estimated cost of the work

For the work involved in transforming the barge, the SDIS 67, as the owner, has been assisted by a firm of consultants specialising in river-based construction. The pre-tax cost of this investment project over the period 2012 – 2015 has been estimated at € 2 994 000. A € 1 336 538 share of the project is also being jointly financed by the European Union via the INTERREG IV Upper Rhine programme, the differential being jointly financed by France and Germany.



INVOLVE



Involving the private sector in Mobility Management: exchange of experience and transfer of good practices

INVOLVE is a three-year project (2012-2014) co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and made possible by the INTERREG IVC programme. Its central issue is how local and regional authorities can increase co-operation with the private sector to extend the use of mobility management. The project aims to improve sustainable transport policies through the exchange of experience and the transfer of good practices between the 11 partners. This will be achieved mainly through a number of study visits and import workshops on the one hand and through four pilot projects on the other hand.

The phase of study visits has been completed successfully. From October 2012 to May 2013 32 study visits between the partners took place and an impressive amount of knowledge has been exchanged:

- 46 different good practices have been studied.
- More than 170 local stakeholders have been involved. More than 70 amongst them belong to non-partner organisations.
- 83 key decision makers have participated in the study visits. Among them five mayors, two vice mayors, four deputy mayors, nine councillors, five politicians and 32 directors of units or departments.
- Madrid, Centro (Birmingham), Reggio Emilia, Roermond (NL) and Erasmus University Rotterdam attracted the most visits.

The good practices observed all focus on the involvement of the private sector in mobility management projects. They range from co-financing schemes of public transport by private companies to the promotion of travel plans for enterprises and from public transport in industrial areas to cycling and walking in commercial areas.

The next step will be to import selected good practices to the own region. This comprises a couple of actions: First partners will select the good practices they want to transfer to their own region. Then all regions will hold an import workshop where experts from the export-region will assist the regional stakeholders to import their good practices. Finally the findings of the import workshop will be documented in a Regional Implementation Plan for each region. In this plan partners commit to introduce the selected good practices in their own regions.

In parallel with the adoption of good practices, four pilot projects will run. They will serve as laboratories to test the transferability of selected good practices. The following pilot projects are planned:

- Madrid will develop a vocational training for mobility managers.
- Reggio Emilia will share information for home-work travel plans.
- Podravje will introduce mobility management in the business zone Cona Tezno in Maribor.
- Centro will engage “new enterprise zones” in mobility management programmes.

To learn more about INVOLVE and its partners, the good practices and the presentations held during the study visits please visit the project website: www.involve-project.eu



Up to the challenge?

Mutual understanding and cooperation between China and Europe can help the two partners face the challenge of urban development, explains **Ronald Hall**



The eighth EU-China high-level seminar on regional and urban policy is the latest in a series of cooperative actions in this field which began, in formal terms, on 15 May 2006 with the signature of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two sides. The partners to the agreement are the national development and reform commission of China (NDRC) and the directorate general for regional and urban policy of the European commission. Regional and urban policy cooperation between the EU and China, as well as EU cooperation in this field with many other countries, has been strongly supported by the European parliament which has voted resources in five consecutive years, 2009-2013, resources which have played a key role in maintaining a dynamic and fruitful policy dialogue.

In implementing the MoU, the NDRC and the commission have sought to promote mutual understanding and bilateral coop-

eration in the field of regional policy and to strengthen the exchange of information on the role of regional and urban policy in promoting sustainable and inclusive growth. The MoU provides a basis for sharing EU experiences in the conception and implementation of regional policy, including with regard to matters of good governance and the formation of partnerships among key actors.

Since 2010, supported actions have included regular training courses organised in the European Union for Chinese officials (the 'Cetregio' project). This has allowed more than 120 Chinese decision makers from national and all 31 provincial-level regions to exchange experiences and best practices in more than 40 regions in 12 EU member states and to come into direct contact with the many of Europe's world class providers of

goods and services for regional and urban development, in both the public and private sectors. The direct contact between regional and urban authorities in the EU and China is helping to foster a self-sustaining, decentralised process of cooperation, bringing with it longer-term commercial opportunities.

The Cetregio programme for 2013 has focused on themes such as regional innovation, legislative and financial aspects of regional policy, as well as rural-urban relations. These themes will be central to the agenda at the eighth high-level seminar on 9 October, during Open Days 2013. The seminar will be preceded by a visit to EU regions under the Cetregio programme and this experience will feed into the Open Days discussion itself.





More generally, the theme of urban development is rapidly emerging as a major issue of mutual concern. The unprecedented pace of urbanisation in China is well known and by 2025, China is expected to have 221 cities with more than one million inhabitants (there are only 35 cities of that size in Europe today). Meanwhile, in the European Union, urban issues have continued to advance to the top of the policy agenda: Johannes Hahn, the commissioner for regional and urban policy has noted that, “The development of our cities will determine the future of Europe”.

It should be recalled that cooperation on regional and urban policy was first mooted in the seventh EU-China summit of December 2004. It is therefore fitting that in 2013, in the framework of

the sixteenth EU-China summit of 21-22 November, for the first time regional and urban policy will form part of the priority issues under discussion. Urban policy, in particular, will be the central

“Direct contact between regional and urban authorities in the EU and China is helping to foster a self-sustaining, decentralised process of cooperation, bringing with it longer-term commercial opportunities”

focus of discussion with the holding of an EU-China urbanisation forum, which will attract 800 participants. A sub-forum on “green cities” will feature on the programme, jointly organised by the ministry of housing and urban-rural

development in China and the commission’s directorate general for regional and urban policy. An addition, the key event will take the form of a seminar organised jointly by the Committee of the Regions of the EU in cooperation with the DG Regio and Eurocities, the network of major European cities, bringing together EU and Chinese mayors, local decision makers, city planners, business and NGOs to share experience on urban development.

Open Days is therefore the first occasion in an intensive autumn programme of cooperation between the EU and China, covering what is perhaps the greatest challenge of the age, that of developing an urban model that is sustainable and inclusive, and improves the quality of life of citizens. ★

Ronald Hall is principal adviser on Open Days at the European commission’s DG Regio

URBACT is the European exchange and learning programme promoting integrated and sustainable urban policies in cities across Europe.

52 projects
7000 active participants
500 cities
29 countries

About URBACT

Acknowledging that cities have a key role to play in innovation, growth and social cohesion, the European Commission, along with the 27 EU Member States, as well as Norway and Switzerland, have assigned URBACT a challenging mission to foster sustainable integrated urban development. By means of thematic exchange and learning networks, URBACT enables cities to work together. They develop sustainable pragmatic solutions that tackle economic, social and environmental dimensions of urban development. URBACT enables cities to share good practices and draw lessons from their experience, in order to disseminate them to urban practitioners and policy-makers across Europe.

The 'URBACT Method'

URBACT is aiming to ensure that transnational exchange and learning activities lead to:

1. Improved urban policies in partner cities, and
2. The capitalisation and dissemination of practical knowledge on how to deal with urban challenges that could be of use to policy-makers across Europe.

In this perspective, the programme has developed what is known as 'the URBACT Method'. This method implies various obligations at different levels. First, at partner level; for example, partners

commit to produce an integrated local action plan built on the transnational exchange and learning and they involve key stakeholders in action-planning. Second, a high level of support to projects is needed, by means of expert support, training and capacity-building dedicated to beneficiaries. Third, it requires working with networks at programme level, to consolidate and disseminate knowledge on cross-cutting issues concerning several networks.

Project Results Available to All Cities in Europe

Since 2007, URBACT has supported 52 transnational networks, implicating about 500 cities in Europe and over 7000 stakeholders, involved in the production of integrated action plans at local level.

So far, 37 projects have completed their activities and delivered a series of thematic outputs, good practices and policy recommendations on various issues, ranging from the active inclusion of young people (My Generation network) or Roma people (Roma-Net network), to the promotion of Electric Vehicles (EVUE network) or the development of sustainable and affordable energy efficient housing (CASH network). Partners involved in these networks have produced integrated Local Action Plans, some of which are currently being

implemented with the support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or the European Social Fund (ESF).

All results are available on the URBACT website (www.urbact.eu), as well as information on ongoing networks. 15 other networks are currently in their last stage and about to deliver another series of outputs.

Capitalisation Results "Cities of Tomorrow: Action Today"

Shrinking cities, motivating mobility mindsets, more jobs, supporting young people through social innovation, building energy efficiency, against divided cities in Europe.

You want to learn more on these main urban challenges? Do not miss the final results and findings of the 6 URBACT thematic capitalisation workstreams in the series of URBACT Thematic Reports "Cities of Tomorrow – Action Today". Prefaced by the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, these publications provide evidence of sustainable urban development strategies pulling together the environmental, social and economic pillars of the Europe2020, while also adopting an integrated and participative approach. This work brings together evidence from URBACT projects but also from a wide range of stakeholders from all around Europe.



DISCOVER OUR **PROGRAMME AND PROJECTS**

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Purely academic?

In an increasingly global and digitised world, Europe must harness the potential of its successful higher education institutions, says **Markku Markkula**

Digitalisation drives change in all global business, and convergence towards digital services is speeding up. This phenomenon has already had a huge impact on education systems. To tackle these and other grand challenges smart specialisation is the European strategic approach in promoting activities for economic development through targeted support to research and innovation.

Higher education institutions have a crucial role in achieving the Europe 2020 objectives. For this, they all need to change – some more, some less. We need strong research-based universities with a mind-set towards academic entrepreneurship. We need also a broad spectrum

of higher education institutions focusing on practical applications to real life changes and with a culture of learning by development.

In this global digital age, potential trendsetters are more and more often those universities who succeed, because they pave the way and set the ground rules for action. It is not necessary to be a leader in every sphere; what matters is the state of mind of focusing on defined targets based on smart specialisation. Europe needs pioneers to open the avenues.

Today's university operations are generally characterised by fragmentation. Universities must be determined in developing their academic culture,

as well as operational processes and structures. They must be able to let go of the traditional methods based on sectorisation and silos. Instead, they ought to create a culture of networks and co-creation. New significance can only be created, first and foremost, by drawing on using the latest global knowledge and on multi-disciplinary

research.

Smart specialisation refers not only to regional policy, it needs to have a strong role in activities throughout higher education and public-private collaboration. Universities should become the real platforms for open innovation. For this, universities, with all their stakeholders, should thoroughly explore regional innovation ecosystems and the role, spatial solutions and success enablers of communities and institutions that spur new and dynamic innovation activity in such ecosystems. They should focus on the new mind-set and environment required for user-centric design, co-creation and rapid piloting.

The recent development has led throughout the world to new operational units with flexible entities characterised by a strong collaborative approach in all their activities. As the Committee of the Regions defined in its opinion 'Closing the innovation divide', the examples include: incubators and accelerators, living labs, entrepreneurial hubs, development labs, social innovation labs, fab labs, societal innovation learning camps and future centres. They usually operate as associated collaborative entities of universities, municipalities and businesses. They combine new and open operating practices, use of social media, new intellectual property rights and funding practices, a broad stakeholder network and entrepreneurship. ★

Markku Markkula heads the Committee of the Regions' EPP group taskforce on Europe 2020 and chairs the Espoo city planning board

Digitisation and globalisation drive change, and convergence towards digital services is speeding up. For regions and cities together this means new kind of collaboration with universities and industry to create new innovation ecosystems based on the following:

Innovation communities operate as ecosystems through systemic value networking in a world without borders

Innovation processes are strongly based on demand and user orientation and customers are crucial players in innovations

Innovation strategies focus on catalysing open innovation and encouraging individuals and communities towards an entrepreneurial discovery and effective use of digitalised services

Innovation is often based on experimenting and implementing demonstration projects by partnerships, using the best international knowledge and creating new innovative concepts



Universities are the drivers of change. The regional information model integrates existing building information with different spatial information systems. This creates a novel platform for urban planning, where designers, civil engineers, city officials and inhabitants will be able to interact, exchange thoughts and study the evolving urban environment in a visual way with the help of accurate spatial data. This enables working in parallel on physical and virtual worlds.

Local Councils' Association (Malta)

The Local Councils' Association (LCA) is the single public authority that represents all 5 regions and 68 local councils in Malta and Gozo. The

Association was established in 1994 through the issue of specific Regulations entitled: Local Government (Association) Regulations, 1994 with the aims of protecting and promoting the common interests of Local Councils as well as offering consultancy services.

Since 2007, the Local Councils Association has set up a special unit to participate in EU funded projects and has successfully participated in over 20 projects under MED, INTERREG, IEE, LIFE, ITALIA-MALTA, ENPI CBC MED, CIP-ICT PSP and CITIZENSHIP Programmes.

Below is a list of EU funded projects that have kick started in 2013:

- **SMILEGOV** - IEE Programme – Promotes smart, multi level governance for enhancing implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) among European islands.
- **SCOW** - ENPI CBCMED Programme – Selective collection of the organic waste from tourist areas and setting up of pilot composting plants.
- **E2STORMED** – MED Programme - Improvement of energy efficiency in the water cycle by the use of innovative storm water management in smart Mediterranean cities.
- **MY EUROPE** – Citizenship EACEA programme – Promotes a well structured dialogue among twinned or keen-to-cooperate towns, with specific reference to active participation in political life of specific target groups mainly women, youngsters and immigrants.
- **PIM ENERGETHICA** – Italia-Malta Programme – Promotion of transnational cooperation aimed to the adoption, diffusion and capitalization of innovative waste products management in order to transform the cost of waste disposal into economic income through biomass energy production.
- **EFFIVET** – Life Long Learning Programme – The project aims to cover the priority 3.2.1 of the Leonardo Program: “Encouragement of cooperation between VET and world of work” based on the encouragement of the cooperation between training companies and the labour market.
- **Promotion of Policies for Equality in Euro-Med Region** – Europe Aid Programme – The aims of the project are the contribution to the promotion of an empowered and inclusive society in the Euro-Mediterranean Countries and the promotion of policies in relation to equality in Euro-Med local Governments.

LCA - EUROPE DIRECT INFORMATION CENTER – CENTRAL REGION

Since 1st January 2013, the LCA has been selected by the European Commission and the EC Representation Office in Malta to serve as one of the three Europe Direct Information Centers (EDICs) in Malta for the next five years.

The EDICs form part of the Europe Direct Information Network, a free information service on the EU. It complements the role of the European Commission and EU Representations in disseminating information and serving as a bridge between the EU institutions and the public.

EDIC Central Region Malta aims at keeping the society informed about various EU related topics and inform the citizens about their rights.

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INNOVATION IS KEY TO BUSINESS GROWTH



*Conference on innovation in small businesses
September 2012 - Caen, Lower Normandy*



Use of a digitally controlled machine tool in a stone-cutting company

The New Deal for Innovation project is based on two observations: the first is familiar to Chambers of Trade and Crafts, Innovation Centres and British support organisations: innovation in a small business is rarely breakthrough innovation involving research and development processes.

The introduction and improvement of a production process, the commercial policy, a product or a service are the most common innovative projects to be found in small businesses. The tools required to support these are therefore very specific. While some tools already exist in different project partners, other methods used or created by and for larger businesses may be of interest and worth adapting.

Furthermore, a company that is keen to innovate does not have unique access to a collection of tools or documentary or information resources. The information it needs is spread between different organisations supporting businesses. Frequently, the company does not know that this information exists.

Are French and British small businesses really so different?

There are a large number of similarities between small businesses in these two countries, micro-businesses representing a large proportion of businesses working in both countries. In the two countries, the importance of very small, small and medium-sized businesses as local employers is significant and, in these times of economic crisis, maintaining or increasing employment is a key factor in supporting businesses.

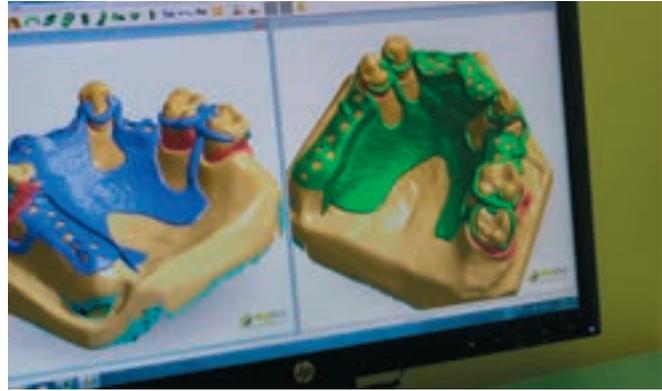
The New Deal for Innovation (NDI) project involves creating an Innovator's Toolkit for small businesses. This "innovator's kit" will offer small businesses practical and methodological tools, as well as advice to help them innovate.

The 6 French and British partners have taken the following measures:

- A study looking at the innovation process in small businesses: - "Innovation in small French and British businesses – Process and tools" (published in June 2013). The study is available on www.ndi-innovation.com
- A survey of 500 British and French businesses on how they innovate and what stands in the way of their innovation. The results of this survey will be published in autumn 2013.
- Development of the "innovator's kit" and experiments by small businesses starting in autumn 2013.



Innovative embossed tiling, a result of a partnership between ARTESINA and FAUVEL



Example of the use of digital design software for dentures

The study also helps to define the types of businesses that are more likely to launch an innovative process (use of professional networks, sharing best practices etc.), to emphasise the provisions needed to embark on innovative projects (capacity to absorb external innovation, skills to develop internally etc.). The personality of the boss and the way the company is organised also have a significant influence.

British and French small businesses on the subject of their innovation processes.

(Data selected from the NDI study)

The way French and British small businesses think about innovation is very similar. For the majority, innovation is about adapting or improving a process for an existing product or service. They also feel it is necessary to improve employees' skills.

The main costs associated with innovation in a very small business are time (mainly that of the company manager) and investment in new machines, more in France than in the United Kingdom (66%). Investment in new skills seems to be more important for British companies than French ones (50%). Lastly, companies in both countries feel that it is necessary to invest in order to communicate about their innovation, with 44% of innovative companies spending considerable sums on this area.

Nearly 60% of businesses in both countries who have completed an innovative project have seen their turnover remain steady or increase. These companies also feel that their projects have improved their profile and their customer satisfaction.

The main difficulty mentioned by 70% of British businesses and 65% of French businesses is the lack of financial resources. The lack of skills is also highlighted.

Companies organise a wide range of activities within the context of their innovative project, and the research work carried out for the innovative idea is seen by many business leaders as an important stage in the development process. However, for a lot of companies, innovation is motivated by more pragmatic needs. Business in both countries underline the need to improve their sales and commercial approach, while also organising their project efficiently. Many of them think that they could have benefited from additional support in terms of finance, sales and marketing, research into the innovative idea and access to technical expertise. A large number of company managers feel that this could be resolved with more comprehensive training for employees to develop these skills internally and thanks to greater cooperation with other company managers.

Lastly, 60% of businesses that have innovated recently already have other innovative projects in the pipeline.



Video presenting the NDI project



ATLANTIC POWER CLUSTER, A TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGY ON MARINE ENERGY SOURCES FOR THE ATLANTIC ARC



Driven by the Atlantic Arc Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, the aim of the APC project is to put together a transnational strategy on marine energy sources, based on regional complementarities.

Regional benchmarking : the undertaking of a comparative study of the present situation of partner regions and future prospects in matters of marine energy sources. As the foundation for all activities under the umbrella of this project, the study is covering the strategic and political aspects of the stakeholders involved, the various legal frameworks, sources of financial support as well as future development strategies.

Social acceptability: the creation and implementation of methodologies intended to enhance the social acceptability of marine energy sources. The issue here is to understand the constraints upon the various players with regard to marine energy sources and provide sufficient information aimed at explaining the advantages of using the sea's energy sources to the principal stakeholders: fishing communities, coastal region residents, tourists, environmental organisations and other sea and coastal users.

Sector structuring and industrial development: identification of current and future market opportunities in the marine renewables sector. How can the Atlantic Space regions co-operate and benefit from the new opportunities in this sector? Taking a detailed study of the state of the art, including the technological development and industrial capacity of partner regions, as its starting point, the project must answer the question which is key to business expansion within the Atlantic Space.

Adaptation of labour to marine renewables sector requirements: the expansion of the renewables sector opens up a number of significant prospects in terms of job creation. In order to anticipate and exploit these opportunities, existing skills need to be up-dated and new specific qualifications developed. The content and format of training courses leading to what could be internationally recognised qualifications, are to be proposed, based on an analysis of the skills and qualifications required on the job market.

Creation of a marine cluster energy source marine on the Atlantic Arc: Prior identification of regional strengths and weaknesses, as well as research into the complementarities and resources available, will open the way to formalising a cluster on the scale of the Atlantic Space. The collaborative structures proposed as part of such a cluster would rely on existing resources and focus on technological development, the development of joint projects and the promotion of cohesive, shared regional policies.



Region Aquitaine's involvement in marine energy :

The Aquitaine Region's involvement as partner of APC project, in marine energy: LAGRAVE Renaud, President of GIP Littoral Aquitaine, gave Alain Rousset, President of the Aquitaine Region and Monique DE MARCO, delegate Vice President to the environment and climate change, the findings of the study on the potentials of the region in marine energy. This work funded by the Region and led by the GIP will serve as a basis for the definition of a regional strategy for the development of RME.

<http://atlantic-power-cluster.eu/>



The whole package

Eleni Marianou explains the vital importance of cohesion policy and structural and investment funds in the current economic climate



Two years on from the publication of the 2014-2020 cohesion policy package, the negotiations are about to come to a close. Now is the right time to assess how the commission's original ambition has moved on, and more crucially, whether the €325bn package will deliver against the expectations of peripheral and maritime regions.

From the outset, the conference of peripheral maritime regions (CPMR) supported the European commission package for the future of cohesion policy, published in October 2011, and welcomed the fact that many of its proposals had been taken into account. In particular, the reinforced provisions on partnership and multilevel governance and the overall strategic approach to link

European funds under a common strategic framework bears a close resemblance to the CPMR proposal for territorial pacts.

The package as the European commission proposed it was subject to intense negotiations, and, unsurprisingly, the budgetary aspects were the first to be looked at. Throughout the negotiations between the council and the European parliament, the CPMR played a key role

“With a reduction of four per cent, the final agreement on the budget for cohesion policy falls short of the commission’s original proposal, though the policy architecture, and in particular the transition regions category, has been preserved”

in defending the added value of cohesion policy as an investment policy in Europe's territories, and not only in its less developed regions. With a reduction of four per cent, the final agreement on the budget for cohesion policy falls short of the commission's original proposal, though the policy architecture, and in particular the transition regions category, has been preserved.

The CPMR had proposed several amendments to water down the overly prescriptive nature of thematic concentration of funds and had asked for a greater account of specific territorial needs. More developed regions should be able to use the European regional development fund to fund infrastructure projects, which is a very positive development in that respect. Regions in the transition category are expected to have

more leeway in terms of the selection of thematic priorities compared to the commission's original proposal.

Cohesion policy and the European structural and investment funds are all the more vital in our current difficult economic times. This is why the CPMR had proposed a review clause of the structural funds allocations in 2017, to ensure that regions most affected by the effects of the crisis could be compensated half way through the life of the programmes. We therefore particularly welcome the agreement between the council and the European parliament on the creation of a review clause mechanism, along similar lines as what the CPMR had suggested.

Looking at the future, one of the immediate concerns of the CPMR regards the link between cohesion policy and the European monetary union and economic governance, which the commission has termed 'macroeconomic conditionality'. Alongside monitoring the real involvement of regions in the structural funds programmes in the next programming period, this will constitute a key area of work for the CPMR in years to come.

The CPMR celebrated its 40th anniversary in Saint Malo (Britanny) on 25 – 27 September, which was an opportunity to debate the future of the European project and the place of its regions. On the eve of the next European parliament elections and the appointment of a new European commission in 2014, Europe should avoid misconceptions. The CPMR will continue to fight for the interests of peripheral and maritime regions in these times of change. ★

Eleni Marianou is secretary general of the conference of peripheral maritime regions





A bright idea

Regions should be afforded more autonomy to act within the field of innovation policies, argue **Klaus Detterbeck** and **Wolfgang Renzsch**

The European Union defines ‘Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth’ as the top objective for the Europe 2020 strategy. However, the European Union cannot achieve these goals by itself. Within the European system of multi-level governance this task is primarily a task of the member states, and its implementation often lays in the hands of sub-national authorities; the regions, cities and municipalities.

The objective of innovation policies is to increase the competitiveness of the member states of the EU and to reach, due to that, high rates of employment. Competitiveness and growth should be driven by education, research and development (smart), should include the ecological dimension by climate and resource friendly strategies (sustainable), and address the issues of unemployment and poverty (inclusive).

“The success of the regions depends on their ability to participate in EU policies”

The member states of the EU have agreed to develop national programmes with respect to the specific challenges of the individual countries. Within these strategies the commitment of the regions will be of vital importance. Therefore the Committee of Regions entertains a Europe 2020 monitoring platform which provides online information about the activities of more than 150 regions, cities and municipalities.

Innovation has become the comprehensive key issue of the Europe 2020

strategy: technological and economic modernisation, as well as the improvement of social conditions like education, health and environment. Emphasis is laid on the interplay of profit-driven technological change and social innovation aiming at the improvement of general welfare. In the view of the European commission such a broad, comprehensive understanding of innovation is indispensable for the activities at all political and administrative levels of the EU. The regional level, defined in the Nuts standards for delivering EU funds, is considered by the commission as the important agent for implement-

ing the Europe 2020 strategy. In many of the EU member states the public authority (at least in administrative terms) for research and development, public infrastructure, labour market, education and poverty is vested at the regional or local level. Therefore, they need to be integrated into European multi-level coordination.

The second reason for the relevance of the regional level can be found in the innovation divide. Currently, we see significant regional differences in particular in research and development policies. During the financial crisis disparities among the regions tended to



grow instead of to decline. Innovation is territorial, not only nationally, but also regionally determined.

The proposed research project takes up the current political and academic debates. We assume that economic and social innovation strategies need an environment in which an intensive exchange among actors of different parts of society takes place. We will also look at the institutional context of innovation, stress however the strategic role of actor or entrepreneurs within the public realm, on markets and within civil society. We ask for the political, juridical, economic and societal conditions and frameworks which may or may not enable innovation policies. What are the prerequisites, the conditions for successful innovation policies?

Looking at the political and legal frameworks we see that the different potentials of the regions depend on their constitutional rights within their national state, their economic resources, and with an own political-cultural

identity. The strong regions in these terms are much more able to pursue their interests on national as well as on European level than those which miss these resources. But weaker regions are also able to pursue successful European policies. They concentrate their limited resources on selected policy areas to which priorities have been assigned.

“In many of the EU member states the public authority (at least in administrative terms) for research and development, public infrastructure, labour market, education and poverty is vested at the regional or local level”

The gain of expertise by cooperation with European institutions, mutual support in trans-regional objectives and the development of interregional networks with economic, as well as civil society actors, might compensate the given weaknesses. Such strategies which focus on niches and partnerships

may considerably enhance the position of the smaller and weaker regions: when strength is lacking at home the assistance of partners will be especially valuable in Brussels.

The success of the regions depends on their ability to participate in EU policies on national as well as European level, their ability to act strategically and their “framework” in terms of their legal or constitutional position, their material resources and the degree of cooperation among the different actors at home.

The proposed project addresses the degree of ability for regions to act within the field of innovation policies. In order to determine this ability we focus firstly on the institutional framework of the regions, their legislative, administrative and fiscal powers. Secondly, we will look at actors and their strategies at home and at European level. We hope to be able to determine institutional circumstances as well as political strategies which support (or do not support) innovation policies. ★



Klaus Detterbeck and Wolfgang Renzsch are professors at the political science department of Otto-von-Guericke university

WIDER

Growing old in safety
and in the comfort
of green homes

Ageing trend in Europe presents various social changes and challenges for which adequate solutions need to be found. Project WIDER addresses this issue through an **innovative approach**: identification and strengthening of innovation capacities, knowledge management and networking of Mediterranean **SMEs** in order to reinforce their position and increase their potential on the international market all along the supply chain of **eco smart housing** for active and independent living of the **ageing generation**.

All companies interested in innovations in this field are welcomed to participate to the:

- **WIDER Innovation Fair**, which will take place in **Barcelona** on **November 20-21**. The first day dedicated to seminars and B2B, and the second day attending the Smart City Expo World Congress.
- **WIDER Innovation Voucher Scheme** (launched on February 2014). The aim is to create a cultural shift in the small business community's attitude to innovation and enhance user-centred approach for innovation.

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Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen de Développement Régional (FEDER)
Project cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

For more information please visit **WIDER website** www.wider-project.eu, where you can register to the Fair and find document to apply for voucher.

Ditching the divide

Promoting deeper cooperation between urban and rural areas allows policymakers to harness each of their unique strengths, writes **Paul Bevan**



Across Europe, the urban-rural divide is less clearly defined than before. Cities and their surrounding areas depend increasingly on one another to address important strategic challenges, including transport, energy, the environment, housing markets or economic development.

Cities are our economic drivers, the hubs that attract investment, trade and visitors. They are centres of commerce, innovation, research and education, culture and, of course, jobs. They provide essential services – hospitals, waste and water management, and connections to strategic transport systems. But their surrounding areas contribute to achieving sustainable economic development across the wider metropolitan territory, providing, for example, housing, green space, local agriculture, energy, and logistics infrastructure.

On many issues, we can no longer plan or provide services effectively within the confines of administrative boundaries. Many larger European cities already have partnerships for collaborating with their surrounding areas. As hub cities, they take lead responsibility for developing and strengthening metropolitan partnerships and collaboration.

Warsaw, for example, is working with the Mazovia region and five of the surrounding municipalities to prepare an integrated development plan for the partly rural metropolitan area. The investments planned will benefit both the hub city and its surrounding areas. Implementation will be supported by the joint European regional develop-

ment fund (ERDF) and European social fund (ESF) money through an integrated territorial investment (ITI), one of the new structural funds instruments.

The city of Rennes is another example. It works together with 38 (soon to be 43) surrounding municipalities to promote balanced polycentric and sustainable development for all its communities. The aim is to provide essential services to residents, to connect the metropolitan area with transport, and to preserve green and agricultural space. By pooling resources, the metropolitan area can pursue more efficient policies and prevent counter-productive competition between local authorities. And the role of Rennes as the driver of economic growth benefits the wider region.

The new structural funds are designed to support more variable geographies like this. New instruments such as ITIs are a positive step forward. They will help Europe keep up with the reality of urban growth on the ground by supporting cities and their surrounding areas in achieving integrated, and more effective, development solutions.

Only time will tell if these new approaches offer enough to transcend urban-rural divisions. In the meantime, we in Eurocities are working to provide better evidence on how cities can lead collaboration with their →





surrounding areas.

So far we have drawn three conclusions. First, there is no one-size-fits-all for urban-rural collaboration. Our evidence shows that approaches and issues vary from country to country, as well as from region to region within the same country. In some places formal political institutions have been created for urban-rural cooperation, such as in France and Germany. In other places, such as Italy, collaboration is progressing within a more flexible network. In Poland there is no national requirement for collaboration between cities and their regions, but some have developed their own approaches by pooling resources and coordinating policies. In the UK, Manchester was the first of several cities to set up a 'combined authority' with its neighbours in order to work together strategically across the

metropolitan area.

Second, urban-rural partnerships do not happen overnight. Experience shows the need for a long-term approach in developing joint governance structures

"There is every reason to expect that the role of functional metropolitan areas will continue to increase across Europe"

and producing common strategies and programmes. Key factors for success are trust between partners and a shared recognition of the needs of the territory as a whole. The advantage of thinking long-term is that it can produce robust and coherent results which lead to real change where it is needed.

Finally, the hub cities have a responsibility to show leadership. Not only do they drive economic development, they

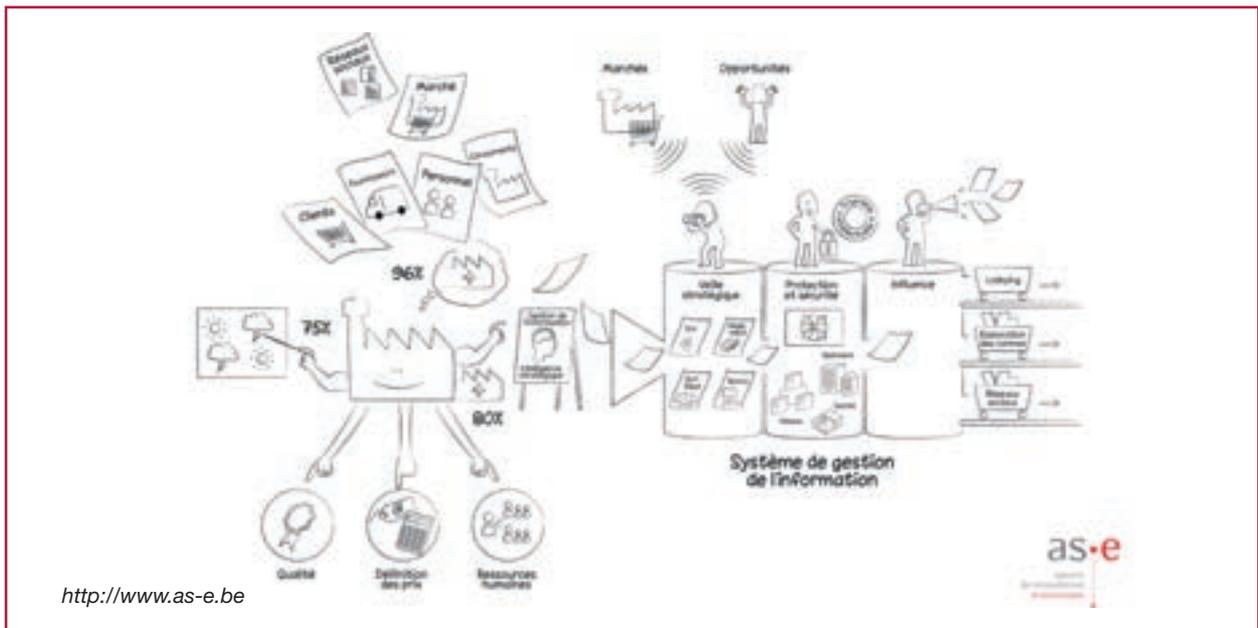
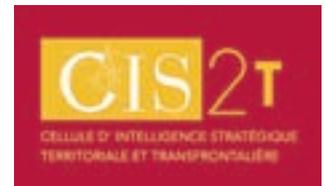
also have the political legitimacy and practical capacity to instigate, manage, support – and respect – the wider partnership with their neighbouring authorities.

There is every reason to expect that the role of functional metropolitan areas will continue to increase across Europe, as all levels of public administration are seeking to find better and more effective solutions to policy challenges.

By working together, we can strengthen our capacity to contribute to Europe's global competitiveness. Partnerships between cities and their surrounding areas can benefit all of those involved. Better collaboration can create a more balanced territorial development across the EU. And it can help us achieve a smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive Europe, in line with Europe 2020 goals. ★

Paul Bevan is secretary general of Eurocities

CIS2T: A EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE PROJECT TO HELP BUSINESSES AND REGIONS



The INTERREG IV A “C.I.S.2.T.” (Cellule d’Intelligence Stratégique et Territoriale Transfrontalière – cross-border strategic and territorial intelligence unit) project was launched in July 2012, for a period of 30 months. Co-funded by the ERDF, its goal is to help very small, small and medium-sized businesses in their economic intelligence projects in Aisne (France), Nord (France) and Wallonia (Belgium) in order to boost their competitive edge. It is also designed to help these areas consolidate their economic and social development across borders, thanks to territorial intelligence.

- 5 priority industries were targeted: food, logistics & transport (embedded systems), waste recovery, technical textiles/new materials and information & communications technology.
- 3 partner organisations are involved in the project: IDETA (an economic development agency active in Wallonie picarde) leads the way, supported by the CCIR Nord-de-France and the Aisne CCI in Picardy..
- 2 complementary initiatives have been implemented based on transferring experiences:

Strategic intelligence is designed to help very small, small and medium-sized businesses incorporate the main principles of strategic intelligence; the major challenge

of this initiative is to raise awareness among businesses just starting out in the field and to convince them to implement and develop the reflex to look for the economic information needed to clarify their strategy. A number of initiatives have been launched, including awareness-raising meetings, cross-border coaching groups and the creation of customised solutions.

Territorial intelligence, whose aim is to help the areas involved improve local skills and expertise while also encouraging innovation and new projects. This includes detecting the emergence of flourishing strategic activities within the cross-border area and uniting them around a collective approach to monitoring that might take the form of newsletters or maps. As a region’s energy relies on the quality of the information gathered about the development of its economic fabric, the 2nd initiative of the CIS2T project is also designed to establish a monitoring policy for businesses that provide the structure for each of the areas involved. This is a powerful decision-making tool to help economic and political decision makers.

By incorporating these micro- and macroeconomic initiatives, the large cross-border region of the north of France and Wallonia will be able to boost its performance and appeal.

<http://cis2t.eu>



Benatur

Round table

Better management of Natura 2000 sites: challenges and chances for the future

12th November
Rue Montoyer 21
Brussels

Info:
www.benatur.it
Province of Ravenna
smelchiorri@mail.provincia.ra.it

Lead partner NIMFEA
fidloczky.zsuzsa@nimfea.hu



jointly for our common future



Renovate Europe Day 2013: 9th October 2013

energy efficient renovation to benefit Europe's Regions

Finance remains the main obstacle to unlocking the vast economic, environmental and societal benefits in Europe's buildings, particularly at the local/regional level. REDay2013, organised by the Renovate Europe Campaign, will highlight best practice examples that demonstrate the economic viability of energy-efficient renovation projects and their positive impact on the local economy.

Existing buildings represent Europe's biggest single source of energy demand, accounting for 40% of its energy consumption and 36% of its energy-

related CO₂ emissions. Over 90% of the EUs existing building stock will still be standing and occupied in 2050. Improving the efficiency of existing buildings through renovation is the most effective way to solve Europe's energy challenges and meet the EUs energy and climate targets. Energy efficient retrofitting will cut energy costs, improve energy security and create millions of jobs - whilst improving health, quality of life and productivity.

The **Renovate Europe Campaign** is an initiative of the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EuroACE). It calls for an ambitious roadmap to be drawn up on

how to triple the annual renovation rate of the EU building stock from 1% to 3% by 2020 and ensure that the aggregate result of those renovations leads to an 80% reduction of the energy demand of the building stock by 2050 compared to 2005. The renovate Europe campaign is open to all stakeholders: join us on

www.renovate-europe.eu



Unity of purpose

The EU must make the swift planning and payment of European-funded projects a key priority, argues **Michael Schneider**



Open Days takes place against the backdrop of the ongoing preparations for the new programming period 2014-2020. The negotiations on partnership agreements and operational programmes need to be swiftly concluded so that we, local and regional politicians, can make the necessary investments for citizens living in our regions and cities. We cannot allow any unjustified delays in the planning and payments of various projects financed through this EU money. This will be my key message at this year's European week of regions and cities.

I have long argued that local and regional authorities must be treated as equal partners in the planning, managing and supervising of EU funds. This must of course be done according to the specific division of powers of each EU member state. We are pleased that our

“The ability to move from one region or country to another is crucial for solving one of Europe’s biggest problems: unemployment”

friends in the European parliament agree with most of our views and we hope that the council will continue along the same path. Moreover, we have to remember that the annual EU budget is also of direct concern to local and regional authorities since they are the main beneficiaries and directly participate in the management of structural funds, rural development funds, and maritime and fisheries funds. It is therefore appropriate that the Committee of the Regions will present its first opinion on the annual budget during this plenary session.

As commission president José Manuel Barroso said in his state of the European Union address, “Europe must focus on where it can add most value. It needs to be big on big things and smaller on smaller things”. In this regard, we are convinced that subsidiarity has to be applied concretely and on a daily basis for the implementation of EU policies. The future legislation on structural funds will make the involvement of local and regional authorities compulsory in the design of the partnership agreements between the commission and member states, including through a future EU code of conduct on partnership. This collaboration needs to be developed in partnership and I hope that Open Days

will provide a forum for this debate to take place.

Every European region and city is facing challenges that it finds hard to deal with on its own. Open Days is an important opportunity for practitioners to exchange good practices and share experiences in many fields, including economic development, cross-border cooperation, public-private partnerships, regional innovation and community-led local development. This cooperation can lead to solutions that can make a real difference to people's quality of life.

The ability to move from one region or country to another is crucial for solving one of Europe's biggest





*Michael Schneider
is the Committee of
Regions' EPP group
president*

problems: unemployment. However, mobility requires not only readiness on the side of workers, but also adapted social security schemes, dedicated training and responsible employers. The mobility of workers and businesses across EU borders is the subject of the EPP group workshop, which takes place on 9 October.

The Europe 2020 strategy calls for the promotion of labour mobility across Europe. Creating a genuine EU labour market is also one of the main objectives of the European commission's employment package, which calls for improved labour mobility and better ways to match jobs with jobseekers. In the next multiannual financial framework, member states can fund national activities and services concerning EURES and intra-EU labour mobility through the European social fund (ESF). I am pleased that the ESF is to keep its particular character of a structural fund and that it will be a firmly entrenched element of EU cohesion policy. I am therefore looking forward to hosting this timely discussion of how to use EU resources to break down barriers.

Finally, we must not forget that 2014 is an election year. In less than nine months, 500 million Europeans will be tasked with choosing their representatives in the European parliament and defining the political direction of the union. Under the proposals, the allocation of regional policy funds will be linked to the Europe 2020 objectives. These objectives include raising the employment rate, tackling poverty, improving access to education, investing more money in research and technology, using energy more efficiently and promoting clean technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The citizens in our regions and cities demand that Europe acts to support them in moving Europe forward. For the sake of these citizens, I hope that Open Days will give us further ammunition to lead a positive debate on the future direction of the European Union. ★

INTEGRATED CROSSBORDER PLAN (ICP)



Since 2010, the «Plan Intégré Transfrontalier (PIT)» [Integrated Crossborder Plan (icp)] of the Mont-Blanc Space has involved the 3 countries bordering Mont-Blanc, a total of 35 municipalities with a budget of € 12 million, € 9 million of which being European funding.

The partners have worked hard to realise this ambitious sustainable development project. It has been a complex undertaking which has enabled a number of significant advances to be made. This truly territorial project, covering an area of 2 800 km² and involving over 100 000 inhabitants, has brought together some thirty or so public and private entities across the entire Mont-Blanc Space. The bottom line has proved to be that all the players involved are agreed on the number of objectives achieved and the satisfaction derived from having worked together.

■ RESULTS

50 activities completed, 128 initiatives, 60 calls to tender, 21 public services, 95 jobs, ...

6 projects and a co-ordination plan for project monitoring/support and integration:

Base Camp

A better overview of the territory through the development of such tools as the Scientific Atlas of the massif, the Mont Blanc Observatory and the Future Strategy for the Mont-Blanc massif.

Mont-Blanc Sustainable Villages

the development of innovative energy planning tools and a detailed knowledge of what strategies to employ in order to optimise energy use and reduce emissions.

Around Mont-Blanc

This project has brought together all the players in the area surrounding Mont-Blanc. Web sites promoting the sector have been set up and themed itineraries created, harmonised signage of the «Tour du Mont-Blanc» trek route

and the installation of electrically-powered «joelettes» [carts] and a wheelchair adapted for use on mountain paths for the disabled...

Environmental Education

Under the umbrella of this project it has been possible to set up a crossborder scientific network, design roadshows and create animated filmshows to raise awareness about the environment and to schedule crossborder residential school trips ...

Sustainable Mobility

This initiative, aimed at promoting local common crossborder transport links, has meant that a list has been drawn up of the locations served by the existing offering which has now been upgraded and shuttle buses introduced.

Mountain Flavours

The most ambitious food-orientated of the projects has seen the structuring of short meat and cereal supply chains, the creation of player networks, a weekly farmers' market and work on the Customs regulations in force in the area.

■ LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The players involved offer us an opportunity to pause for thought about this area and to look into its future, proposing fresh perspectives so that we can continue to pursue this adventure.

«The future strategy for the Mont-Blanc massif» provides an operational framework for the coming years, with over 100 initiatives to be successfully completed, based on such themes as: global warming, natural spaces, footfall management, land strategy, air space and socio-economic perspectives.

In conclusion, all the players wish to capitalise on this incomparable 3-nation collaborative experience in order to continue their involvement and enable the voice of the region to be heard.

To know more: <http://pit.espace-mont-blanc.com/>



web

STRASBOURG-KEHL CONURBATION: A CROSS-BORDER TRAMWAY PROJECT FOR A 360° METROPOLIS AT THE HEART OF THE LOWER RHINE

THE TRAMWAY - DRIVING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CROSS-BORDER URBAN PROJECT

In transport projects the creation or extension of a tram line usually arrives in an area that is already densely built-up. The innovation of the tramway's D line to reach the German town of Kehl just across the border lies in the fact that the tramway will act as a catalyst for future urbanisation.

From the «Deux Rives (Two Banks) metropolis» project...

Launched in 2011, the «Deux Rives metropolis» urban development project between Strasbourg and Kehl extends over more than 5 km, covering a surface of over 250 ha. The project largely concerns the renovation of the area's port wastelands. It aims at establishing a cross-border conurbation extending from the cities of Strasbourg and Kehl on either side of the Rhine and to form a strategic link between the urban districts of the East sector and the historic city centre of Strasbourg, as well as the rest of the conurbation.

The project also involves the construction of apartments, shops, offices, hotels, a park, sports, cultural and educational facilities and a medical centre along its axis.

To date, the urban development has mainly been carried out to the west of this sector near to Strasbourg's city centre, whereas the sector situated further to the east has not seen any significant project apart from the "Deux Rives Gardens" initiative.

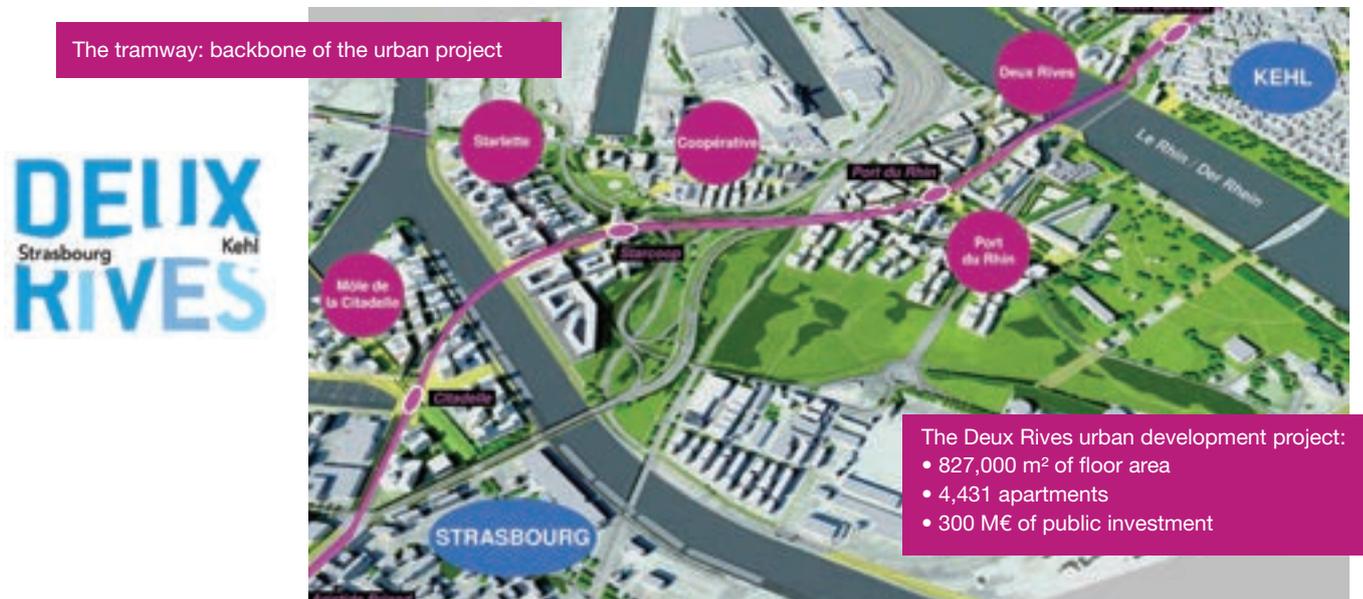
...to the «Deux Rives Urban Master Plan»

A cross-border planning and development plan (the Deux Rives Urban Development Plan) has been drawn up in a strategic sector within the context of developing a cross-border conurbation, in order to give in-depth consideration to the wide array of urban aspects along the entire axis and to effectively tackle the considerable challenges involved in this major development and transformation project.

The Deux Rives Urban Development Plan, jointly managed by the Urban Community of Strasbourg (CUS) and the Strasbourg Port Authority, in partnership with the town of Kehl, was drawn up and coordinated in 2010 and after approved by the CUS in 2011 and presented to the joint Strasbourg-Kehl city council.

The development plan sets out an ambitious programme comprising three implementation phases (2014-2020, 2020-2030, 2030 and after) and which envisages more than 800,000 m² of completed floor area, with the extended tramway forming the backbone.

The project represents a major challenge in terms of local improvement and cross-border development. Beyond the single issue of the sector's development, the project may also be seen as the linchpin of the Strasbourg-Kehl cross-border conurbation and the «Strasbourg-Ortenau» Eurodistrict, giving a feeling of belonging and urban continuity between both sides of the Rhine. It is also one of the major projects of the «EcoCité» and «Strasbourg Eco 2020» initiatives.



A TRAMWAY FOR THOSE LIVING IN THE STRASBOURG- KEHL CONURBATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

Ambitious targets

Having taken the decision to extend the tramway's D line across the Rhine, the Urban Community of Strasbourg and the town of Kehl have set a number of targets, including the following :

- To structure the districts to be developed by creating a major axis along the tramway, via reorganization of the bus network, more efficient and streamlined automobile traffic and by developing eco-friendly modes of transport,

- To encourage social cohesion by connecting areas undergoing renovation and development with the rest of the city and by increasing mobility via public transport, the latter being an essential element in economic and social advancement,

- To meet the challenges of the Grenelle Environment Forum and issues of sustainable development via reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and air and noise pollution caused by automobile traffic.

Artist's impression of the future Port du Rhin tram station



Artist's impression of the future temporary tram terminus opposite Kehl's train station



A route designed to be closer to tram users

Extending over 2.7 km, the future tramway infrastructure will have four new stations, two of which will be built later as the urban development project for the sector progresses. By 2016 the future «Port du Rhin» and «Gare de Kehl» tram stations will be completed. service.

Artist's impression of the «Vauban» docklands crossing



Two new bridges for the docklands area and the Rhine

Two major constructions will be built to support the tramway infrastructures: the first spanning 160m with an operational width of 13m will cross the Vauban docklands; the second, crossing the Rhine river will have a length of 320m with two shaped arches.

The two bridges (each costing 10M€ and 24.3M€ respectively) will be reserved exclusively for the use of trams, pedestrians and cyclists.

Franchissement du Rhin



Tramway project key facts and figures :

- 2.7 km of new infrastructure
- 4 new tram stations
- Operating frequency : 8 to 12 minutes
- Potential number of users : 30,000 persons
- 1 new park-and-ride car park at the «Gare de Kehl» terminus
- Provisional construction costs : 73.49 M€ (up to provisional «Gare de Kehl» terminus)
- Financial support provided by the INTERREG IV "Upper Rhine" European Regional Fund : 2.25 M€

Key stages of the project :

- Initial engineering feasibility studies : 2008-2009
- Consultations and pre-project engineering studies : 2009-2012
- Signature of draft agreement between the CUS and town of Kehl : 2012
- Public enquiry : 2013
- Start of construction work : end 2013
- Implementation of provisional «Gare de Kehl» terminus: 2016
- Implementation of «Mairie de Kehl» terminus : 2017
- **Contracting authority:** Communauté urbaine de Strasbourg – Direction de la Mobilité et des Transports et les Ville de Kehl
- **Delegated project management:** Compagnie des Transports Strasbourgeois
- **General contractor:** GETAS-PETER Group

Film 3D on the extension of the tram line:



in French
<http://bit.ly/14IHtIP>



In German
<http://bit.ly/15OLYrj>



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VIROVITICA- PODRAVINA COUNTY

A TRUE HIDDEN JEWEL IN CROATIA



Tomislav Tolušić
Virovitica-Podravina
County's Prefect



When mentioning Croatia, to most European citizens the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik, Plitvice lakes, Split or Zagreb are the first things that come to mind. They are actually right. Although, in Croatia's inland a true jewel is hidden – Virovitica-Podravina County.

This is a County that is characterized by the river Drava, Nature park Papuk with the only geological park in Croatia, fertile plains suitable for organic production of fruits, vegetables and grains. The County that has its own EDEN tourism destination from 2011, that has the best development agency from 2011, that is in his second mandate on recently finished elections being led by the youngest, and this year according to FORBES journalist the best County Prefect in Croatia, Tomislav Tolušić.

Virovitica-Podravina County, with its diversity, is a blend of power and unity of Podravina and Slavonia. By gathering a team of people around him, who love their County and are willing to work more for the well being of their region, the County Prefect Tolušić is right when saying that "only the sky is the limit in terms of further development". Aware that knowledge is a competitive advantage of accelerated development, the County administration has established the Faculty of management in tourism and informatics, which is for the sixth year educating students in informatics, entrepreneurship and rural tourism.

The County is a rural area, neglected for years by the central government. And for that reason, the county administration is dedicated for the last 5 years to renovate and construct 24 elementary and high schools, and 5 large sports halls. Currently, a student restaurant is in construction, while the project for construction of a student home/hostel in applied to IPA Programme for Croatia. This is a County that takes care of human resources by giving out scholarships to students, co finances interest rates for loans for doctors in the County hospital.

By recognizing the possibilities provided by EU funds, the County has started its own regional development agency VIDRA

in 2008 which has quickly emerged as an Agency of the highest quality in Croatian terms, and has in 2011, by the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship for its continuous efforts to improve the County's entrepreneurship climate as well as for 14 out of 15 approved projects applied to the IPA CBC HU HR Programme in which they participated, been given an award for the best development agency in Croatia. In 5 years of working, the Development Agency VIDRA has implemented more than 30 different IPA projects, aimed towards the development of entrepreneurship climate, sewage construction, human resources development, boosting agricultural production and other.

By tending to encourage a positive entrepreneurship and investment climate, the County has just start up an entrepreneurship incubator, with working premises for 15 entrepreneurs. Aware of the need for development of projects with a higher added value, it has designed and applied to EU funds a Technology Innovation Centre. The documentation for the construction of a mini cheese factory – centre for innovative milk products and for a glasshouse agricultural incubator is in preparation.

By not allowing the decay of cultural-historic heritage, Virovitica-Podravina County has acquired 2 castles, it is preparing documentation in order to apply the for financing through ERDF in touristic-educational purposes. The third, completely demolished castle will be renewed for the need of a regional hospice.

Faced with a high unemployment rate, especially youth, Virovitica-Podravina County is preparing a special programme for start up entrepreneurs modeled after European Countries.

"By taking into account entrepreneurs, young and old, Virovitica-Podravina County is in cooperation with its 16 mayors, trying to speed up its development in order to as soon as possible catch up to EU standards, and results so far are telling us that we are on the right way to accomplishing it", says Tomislav Tolušić, Virovitica-Podravina County's Prefect.

Joining the family

Croatia's regions can use their new-found EU presence to take new strategic positions within the Mediterranean and central Europe, writes **Vojko Obersnel**



On a personal level and as mayor of the city of Rijeka membership of the EU is without any doubt the most important political event for Croatia in the 21st century and represents the conclusion of an almost 11-year-long process of adjustment and preparation for this new environment. Membership of the European family will give us the opportunity to actively participate in decision making in contemporary European affairs, and grant access to new communications and transit routes. Rijeka is a port city and is very interested in becoming the entry point for goods transported by sea and intended for the markets of central Europe. In order



Vojko Obersnel (r) shakes hands with Committee of the Regions president **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**



to achieve this strategic position within the Mediterranean and central European region, we must be able to find reliable partners and to ensure adequate financial prospects. The European Union allows these prerequisites to be met. For the citizens of Croatia, the EU represents the opportunity for freedom of movement – be it in the search for better jobs or higher education, a Europe without borders is a new concept for many of us. Given Rijeka's history as a multicultural city, we welcome this new dynamic area of people and ideas with arms wide open.

Membership of the Committee of the Regions allows us to directly participate in the work of the most important advisory body for European bodies of local and regional government. Two-thirds of the *acquis* is applied at a local level, and so it is extremely important for cities and

regions to be informed in good time of the political agenda and discussions coming from Brussels. Although it continues to be limited in its ambition to have more influence on EU legislation, the influence and authority of the Committee of the Regions have increased over the last 20 years of its existence, and we expect this trend to continue in the future. As in the past, strong regions and urban metropolises will be the basis for the future development of Europe, and this demands the granting of additional authorities to cities and regions and the strengthening of their fiscal sustainability. The Committee of the Regions has a role here, and is working on and promoting local interests to expand the existing boundaries of subsidiarity and cooperation between the levels of national and local authorities.

As the newest member of the EU, our political priority is regional positioning

“Membership of the European family will give us the opportunity to actively participate in decision making in contemporary European affairs”

in order to strengthen our role as a bridge and partner for future enlargement of the EU. The efforts invested in strengthening stability in south-eastern Europe to date have given good results and we intend to continue to build good relations with our neighbours. The transfer of our pre-accession experience to other EU candidate countries is an essential part of this endeavour.

The planned strengthening of cross-border cooperation at regional level is another aspect of this. An excellent example is the development of a strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region, whose working group in the Committee of the Regions includes Croatian members. The Mediterranean area is extremely important and interesting to us, as can be expected from our history and tradition as a maritime nation. →

Vukovar-Srijem County

Vukovar-Srijem County occupies a part of Slavonija and Srijem, geographic regions on the east of Croatia, and it is as such Croatia's easternmost county. Given that the County borders two countries, the Republic of Serbia on the east and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the south, it has an important geostrategic position for the Republic of Croatia.

The favourable geographic position of the County, which represents a significant traffic transversal route in the east-west and north-south direction and very well developed road, railway and river traffic, are a significant advantage of this area when it comes to opening towards the east-European markets.

Vukovar-Srijem County has huge potential in agriculture and forestry and its geographic location makes it an excellent stakeholder in logistics and all types of transport of people, goods and services. It is open to new opportunities and investment, and it bases its economy on high-quality and skilled workforce and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and very high level of social inclusion.

- **Qualified work force** – represents one of the main resources of the Vukovar-Srijem County. A part from

the necessary investments in capital, the future economic development of the county will rely primarily on highly skilled and highly educated workforce.

- **Easy access to markets** – due to its geographic location, and thanks to the availability of natural resources, it is important to invest in the implementation of modern technologies and knowledge in „know-how“, which will bring added value and represent another competitive advantage of Vukovar-Srijem County economy.

- **Strategic location** – Vukovar-Srijem County has an excellent geographic position representing an important traffic route in the direction of east-west and north-south. Road, rail and river traffic is also very well developed which simplifies the access to east European markets, and is therefore another advantage of our County.

- **Infrastructure** – there are 9 business zones available with all the necessary infrastructure and are ready for investors.

- **Quality of life** - is manifested in rich exhibitions in museums, theaters, musical events, restaurants, wine cellars, hunter's houses, agricultural tourism facilities.



VUKOVAR-SRIJEM COUNTY

Area:

2.448 km²

Administrative centre:

Vukovar (26.716)

Population (2011):

180.117

Info:

Web: www.vusz.hr

E-mail: vsz-zupan@vu.t-com.hr

Tel: +385 32 454 444



HRAST

Vukovar-Srijem County
Development
Agency **Hrast** Ltd

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One of our strategic goals is also to increase the utilisation of money from European funds and so we are very interested in the future financial prospects and the development of operational programmes. We will pay particular attention to adherence to the principle of partnership in drawing up these policies. Croatia has little experience and a short history of relationships between the central government and local authorities, and we would like to see more developed cooperation in this regard. Continued strengthening of the capacity of local bodies to implement the acquis is also an important goal.

Considering the theme of this year's Open Days conference, I would like to see some concrete proposals for

measures to strengthen European industry and to solve the problem of employment, particularly of the young. I think that the new 2014-2020 financial framework should certainly move towards meeting these goals. Although

“As in the past, strong regions and urban metropolises will be the basis for the future development of Europe”

recent economic indicators lead to the conclusion that the eurozone is emerging from recession, I do not think the austerity measures taken have given satisfactory results in production and employment. I also believe that reducing the gulf between the rich north and poor south is one of the most important

goals and should be clearly reflected in the efforts to improve regional cooperation and synergy within the EU.

Additionally, considering the number and themes of the workshops, I expect to see at the conference presentations of successful examples of innovative practices of cities and regions in areas of vital interest to us: utilities management, social welfare, urban planning, energy efficiency, internet and communications technology. These practices allow us to set standards for the operations of local authorities and bring us closer to achieving so-called smart cities where the greatest creative and innovative forces of future generations of European citizens will be concentrated. ★

Vojko Obersnel is head of Croatia's delegation to the Committee of the Regions and mayor of the city of Rijeka

Pay it forward

Zagreb is taking its experience as capital city of an EU candidate country and passing it on to its regional contemporaries, says **Jelena Pavičić Vukičević**

The city of Zagreb has travelled the long journey from being the capital city of an EU candidate country to a regional leader. During the last decade, Zagreb has renewed old, and established new, relationships with the capital cities of neighbouring European Union countries – Vienna, Budapest, Ljubljana, Berlin, Rome, Warsaw – and other capital cities, gaining the experience of a lifetime in the great European community. As well as in exchanging programmes, ideas and experience, Zagreb has been involved in ‘quiet diplomacy’ to promote the interests of Croatia in the EU. At the same time, Zagreb has intensified cooperation with capital cities in the region: Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Skopje (FYR Macedonia), Pristina (Kosovo), Tirana

(Albania), in the desire to pass on the extensive knowledge we gained from friendly cities. Zagreb has established a city office for European funds as a separate administrative body whose task

“We believe that Zagreb's knowledge will be of assistance to other cities and countries in the region which currently have the status of candidate countries or are striving to obtain that status”

is to maintain complete information of all EU projects within the city of Zagreb and to encourage other administrative bodies, institutions and NGOs to apply for various programmes and to offer material and logistical help in pre-

paring them. We believe that Zagreb's knowledge will be of assistance to other cities and countries in the region which currently have the status of candidate countries or are striving to obtain that status.

The celebration of the accession of Croatia to the European Union was held on the main square of Zagreb, a 900-year-old central European city which had been living for this event for months. Many tourists and visitors to Zagreb came together with the people of Zagreb that day and night of 30 June and 1 July to enjoy a rich programme, organised on many beautiful street and park locations, featuring performances by distinguished Croatian artists and a large fireworks display on the stroke of midnight. ★

Jelena Pavičić Vukičević is deputy mayor of Zagreb

The County of Karlovac in the European Union



The beauty of our rivers, forested mountains, our transit position and rich historical heritage are everlasting values underlying economic livelihood and quality of life in our County. Since ancient history, Karlovac County has been the most important transit area on Croatian territory, which combines natural diversity of Alpine, Pannonian and Karst areas. It is also a junction of major roads connecting Europe with the Adriatic coast.

The traditional image of Karlovac County as the economic and social pioneer, slowly reanimates in present, with the help of the EU. Karlovac County intends on regaining its deserved importance with its history, culture and nature.

The tourism in the County is proved to be one of the successful projects ongoing, The Civil War Museum in Turanj, the proximity to the National Park Plitvice Lakes are key factors for this.

The "Kaquarium" project is designed so that it will display ecosystems

of Croatian rivers, with examples of freshwater fish and other living organisms. For its biodiversity, Croatia and Karlovac (*Kupa, Korana, Mrežnica and Dobra* rivers) are one of the richest countries in Europe.

"Ivana's fairy house" in Ogulin is a multimedia and interdisciplinary center for visitors, offering exhibitions of Ivana Brlić Mažuranić's work, as well as of other world recognized fairy tale writers.

Concerning education there are commendable initiatives: The building of "Nikola Tesla's house", a low energy, passive house, planned to produce additional electricity for its needs. A meeting place for students, innovators, tourists who are interested in Tesla's work.

With the projects "Mechatronics" and "INTREPID – Karlovac", the Associate-degree college Karlovac intends to create a logistics support for SMEs in the field of technology, by renovating and equipping the laboratory. These efforts will ultimately increase the competitiveness of Karlovac County and the wider region.

In our County, the protection of nature and energy efficiency are priorities, where most important projects in the field of biomass, small hydro-power plants are implemented and there is also a significant geothermal potential. Karlovac County actively supports ecological projects in this area and has implemented several, in Ozalj, the IPA cross-border cooperation with Slovenia, "Waste is not garbage" (ONS) and several cross-border projects in this area with the Una-Sana Canton (BiH).

Manufacturing economy based on innovation and export-orientation are the main determinants of the future economic development of Karlovac County. Traditionally oriented to foreign markets (metal industry, wood processing and food industry, increasingly organic production of homemade cheese, honey and meat) the region is a reliable business partner to domestic and foreign companies. The implementation of IPA project "Development of investment environment" certified Karlovac County as "investment friendly" region.



Prefect Mr Ivan Vučić

For more info, please visit www.kazup.hr

LIKA-SENJ COUNTY

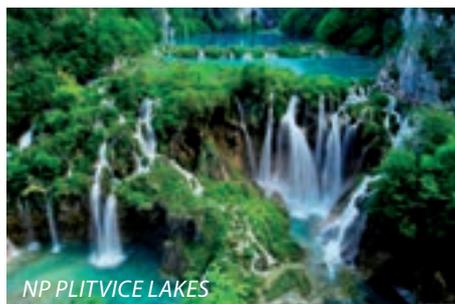


Lika - Senj County belongs to the Adriatic region. It mostly extends across the continental region but also occupies the coastal area of the Republic of Croatia. It extends across an area of 5,350 square kilometres with population of 51,000 inhabitants. It is the largest and the most beautiful county in Republic of Croatia since it covers almost 10% of the national territory.

NATURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE

The specifics of the county include its large forest areas, rich drinking water sources, hydro power potential, aquaculture potential and extensive agricultural area, which has allowed **local industry to focus on the wood industry, food industry, logistics and renewable energy sources**. In addition, **the region also has a great tourist potential** since 58% of all national parks and nature parks in Croatia are located in the County region. So Lika-Senj County is an area of exceptional ecological sensitivity.

National Park Plitvice Lakes is the oldest national park in Croatia, and one of the most famous parks in Europe. The Lakes were placed on UNESCO's List of world heritage in 1979, and are visited by 1 million of tourists each year. There are two more national parks in the County (Paklenica and Northern Velebit) and one Nature Park (Velebit).



NP PLITVICE LAKES

Velebit is the longest and most prominent Croatian mountain range, which separates the area of the County in two areas: coastal and continental.

Lika-Senj County boasts extremely appealing rivers such as Gacka, Lika, and Una famous for its fishing and rafting opportunities, mills and waterfalls.

Why invest in Lika-Senj County?

There are several reasons for investing in Lika-Senj County:

- *DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE (SOCIAL, TRANSPORT, BUSINESS AND TELECOM);*
- *EXCELLENT GEOSTRATEGIC LOCATION (CROSSING BETWEEN THREE MAJOR CENTRES IN CROATIA – ZAGREB, RIJEKA AND SPLIT;*
- *VICINITY OF EU AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE MARKETS (BORDERING BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA);*
- *INVESTOR READY BUSINESS ZONES;*
- *HIGHLY MOTIVATED WORKFORCE;*
- *EXISTING STATE/REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES;*
- *EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE!*

The potential of the county has been recognised by a large number of investors who operate in the business zones today.

There is significant increase of all relevant economic indicators (especially of tourism growth) recorded in the County recently.

Excellent transport infrastructure in the County (which includes highway, railway and ports nearby) provide excellent conditions for the **development of logistics as a new economic branch in the County**. It is evidenced by the recent investment of LIDL who built its logistics distribution centre for the southern Croatian region in the business zone Konjsko Brdo, Perušić (central part of the County).

REGIONAL BUSINESS FAIR

In order to present the production potential of the County and adjacent regions and to encourage the exchange of goods in this area, since 1998 LIRA and Lika-Senj County traditionally organize the biggest economic international annual event in the County, called **"Autumn in Lika"**. It presents to the public products of small farms, small businesses and all those who produce a variety of homemade food and other products while preserving the tradition of Lika - Senj region. "Autumn in Lika" is traditionally being held in the seat of Lika-Senj County - the City of Gospić on first weekend in October.



BUSINESS ZONE GOSPIĆ

BUSINESS ZONE PERUŠIĆ



THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

There are few very interesting tourism projects in preparation in the County as follows:

- CENTRE OF MOUNTAIN TOURISM (CMT) "SVETO BRDO" IN LOVINAC AND
- GEOSCIENTIFIC EDUCATIONAL CENTRE (GEC) IN PERUŠIĆ

Centre of mountain tourism »Sveto Brdo« in Lovinac is a touristic development project designed and implemented by two Croatian counties Lika-Senj and Zadar County. The goal of the project is to create the Sveto Brdo Mountain Tourism Resort. This Resort will offer a number of sport tourism facilities (hiking, biking, skiing). One of the main features will be construction of a cable car, connecting countryside and the seaside, over Velebit Mountain.

So we expect investors from Country and abroad to invest in tourism facilities in CMT Sveto Brdo region.

Another one interesting scientific project in the County is The **Geoscientific Education Centre (GEC) in Perušić**. It is an educational tourism infrastructure project with an emphasis on popularizing geosciences. It is envisioned as a future reference point for various scientific research activities related to karst exploration and as a source of information to educational and scientific institutions, local inhabitants and tourists through various professional and educational conferences.

Main goals of this project are:

- Development of public infrastructure for Karst research laboratory,
- Development of the public infrastructure for scientific presentations and training,

- Development of active tourism (expansion of private investments in tourism).

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Due to our position in centre of South-Eastern Europe, we are open for cooperation on joint cross-border projects with institutions from other countries in the region.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO INVESTORS AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Development Agency of Lika-Senj County - LIRA acts as "ONE STOP SERVICE CENTRE" for any investor in County and provides:

- ASSISTANCE AT EVERY STAGE OF THE PROCESS FROM INITIAL ENQUIRY TO THE SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPANY,
- ONGOING SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE,
- GUIDANCE THROUGH THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING PERMITS AND LICENSES IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY PROCEDURES AND ACCELERATE THE PROCESS.

Also, LIRA serves as contact point for potential project partners on EU funded projects.

LIKA – SENJ COUNTY YOUR OPPORTUNITY – RIGHT IN THE HEART OF EUROPE.

CONTACT:

Development Agency of Lika – Senj County – LIRA

Budačka 12, 53000 Gospić, Croatia

Contact person:

Andrija Brkljačić, assistant director

T: 385/53/658-006

F: 385/53/658-010

andrija@licko-senjska.hr

www.lsz-lira.hr

Business: monday - friday 7:00 - 15:00

Useful link: www.licko-senjska.hr





PANORA

REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
POŽEŠKO-SLAVONSKE ŽUPANIJE



Požega-Slavonia County

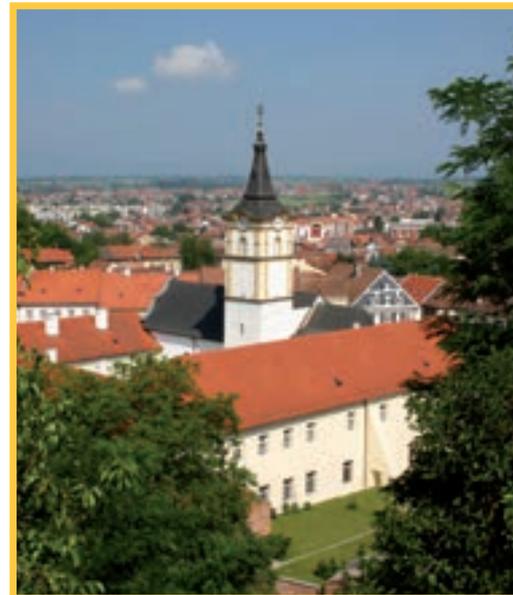
Požega-Slavonia County is one of 20 Croatian counties, settled in western Slavonia, where fertile, flat plains are surrounded by highlands. The County has a population of 78.034, a surface area of 1.815,24 km², and a population density of 42,9/km². The capitol of the County is Požega. Požega and the County are well connected with main transport routes: the Zagreb-Lipovac motorway (30 km), Hungary (80 km), and Bosnia and Hercegovina (30 km). Furthermore, the County is connected to all relevant international routes by railway. Agricultural lands (89.489 ha or 49,29% of arable land) and forests (82.153 ha or 45,26% of the County's surface area) dominate the surface area. Water resources, which constitute 27,538 km² or 1,52% of the surface area, represent a significant potential.

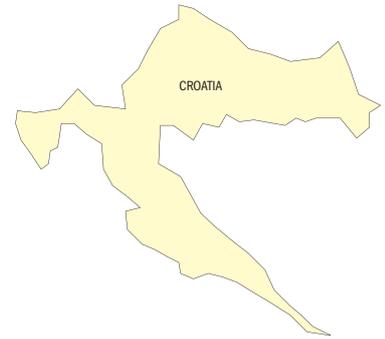
Taking into account natural characteristics, a great potential for development, cooperation, direct investments, and business ventures can be recognized within the agriculture, food-processing, and wood industry. These industries have, thus far, significantly contributed to the County's GDP, and great efforts will continue to be invested toward the development of these industries. Furthermore, due to the clean, preserved environment, the tourism industry is also significant, with a focus toward **health and cultural tourism, enotourism, and on various other selective tourism types.**

Human resources represent the foundation for the development of these industries, and can attend one of three higher education institutions in the County. The minors that students can choose from include: Pomology, Viticulture and Enology; Food Technology; Accounting; Administrative Law; Trade; Trade and Business; Tourism Management; Physiotherapy.

15 projects aimed at improving the quality of human resources have, thus far, been **funded by the EU**, demonstrating continuous work on the mobility and flexibility of the workforce. In addition, the European Commission has cofinanced five business and tourism infrastructure projects in the County. This confirms the capacity of the County's stakeholders to attract and implement major infrastructure projects in the field of entrepreneurship, tourism, and general infrastructure.

The Regional Development Agency of Požega-Slavonia County is certified by the ministries as the component authority for regional development and as the County's pivotal coordinator for FDI, and supports business ventures in the County. The Agency also provides services of the so-called One Stop Service Center to foreign and domestic investors who wish to establish or expand their business to this region. The Agency's contact information is available on the official website: www.panora.hr.





New endeavours

Croatia's accession to the EU has proved to be an important move, bringing challenges as well as benefits, says **Tonino Picula**

Croatian regions have long established the importance of the European Union with the region of Istria opening its successful office in Brussels in 2005, long before Croatian accession to full EU membership. Two years later a joint Croatian regions office was opened representing several Croatian regions, cities and regional development agencies aiming at bringing themselves closer to the union's capital, as well as bringing Europe closer to Croatian citizens. Today, most of the Croatian regions can be found among over 300 European regions with offices spread throughout Brussels.

In addition to this formal recog-

“The benefits stemming from the Croatian regions’ interest in the EU’s pre-accession assistance are many”

ognition of the importance of the EU, Croatian regions have provided some substance as well. In order to gain access to around €150m of funds made available to Croatia per year through the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), Croatian regions – a total of 20 of them plus the city of Zagreb – founded regional development agencies in order to increase their capacity to successfully apply for the EU funding. Up until 2010, over 40 per cent of the total contracted value from the pre-accession assistance was granted to Croatian regions, their development agencies, cities and counties, as well as public companies in their ownership.

The benefits stemming from the Croatian regions’ interest in the EU’s pre-accession assistance are many. It

provided a valuable experience and practice with EU funding procedures. It provided an incentive for establishing lasting cooperation with cross-border regions – an invaluable result for a post-conflict society on its way to rebuilding weakened regional relations. It gave Croatian regions a much needed financial supplement to their otherwise weak budgetary capacities, but it also allowed them to glimpse and better prepare for the day of full Croatian EU membership when EU funds would become one of the main sources for financing development projects.

As of July 1 2013, the ‘carrot’ has become sensibly larger and more appealing. A transition from €150m yearly from IPA to over →





€1bn from the structural and cohesive funds now available is a dramatic one. It calls for an equally dramatic increase in national, regional and local capacity to successfully withdraw these funds for the benefit of Croatian, and now also for European, taxpayers.

This provides a unique chance for regions in highly centralised member states, such as Croatia, to initiate their own and actively participate in already ongoing development projects with other relevant stakeholders. It is quite an endeavour seeking a vision before having the capacity to carry it out.

Besides the financial benefit of full membership in the EU, one more advantage strikes me as equally, if not more, relevant: strategic planning. Strategic planning with a clearly set vision, defined goals and detailed work plans set in an elaborated time frame and

financial framework has brought a new and more efficient principle of managing local communities and their develop-

“Before efficiently using newly available European funds, Croatian regions are faced with a challenging task of recognising and appreciating their own resources, as well as deciding how they want to develop them”

ment. Contrary to the existing Croatian principle of ‘to solve it as we go’, this new approach contributes to better assessing actual needs and problems and coming up with lasting and meaningful solutions. It encourages us to go beyond what concerns us today towards deliberating and defining where we want to get tomorrow.

The amount of available funds is important, no doubt about it. Being able to use it in the best possible way for the benefit of the widest possible range of people is, however, much more important. Croatian regions fortunately have incredible development potential thanks to its geographical and biological diversity, as well as a rich historical and cultural heritage. Before efficiently using newly available European funds, Croatian regions are faced with a challenging task of recognising and appreciating their own resources, as well as deciding how they want to develop them.

Full membership in the European Union has clearly articulated this challenge for Croatian regions and has brought a welcome change in their modus operandi. The illusion that ‘all will be magically solved once we are in’ was abandoned long before 1 July. ★

Tonino Picula is head of Croatia's S&D delegation to the European parliament

ZADAR COUNTY



Zadar County is comprised of 34 municipalities, surrounded by 5 national parks (Plitvice Lakes, Paklenica, North Velebit, Krka, Kornati) and 3 nature parks (Telašica, Velebit, Vrana Lake). Natura 2000 covers 36% of the area of Zadar County and the National Ecological Network covers 44%.

Its excellent geostrategic position on the Mediterranean, developed social infrastructure, skilled workforce and business zones with developed infrastructure are just some of the comparative advantages of investing in Zadar County. Zadar County's development is led by the tourism, fishing and mariculture, and transport and communications sectors. Agriculture, generation of electricity and heat from renewable sources, and the metal and food processing industries also have significant development and investment potential.

Institutionally, Zadar County was founded as a body of regional government in 1992. It employs 126 people in 12 departments and is the founder, owner and/or co-owner of 65 public institutions.

Zadar County has been involved in the implementation of projects co-financed by EU funds since the CARDS 2002 programme



was founded, and together with the Zadra Development Agency has participated as lead partner, partner or associate in the implementation of 41 projects in the areas of infrastructure, entrepreneurship, rural development, tourism, environmental protection, etc. The total value of these projects is around €76 million; 22 projects have been completed, 13 are in the implementation phase, and 6 are in the contracting phase.



Currently, a project idea named the **Crnopac Speleological Park (SPARC)** is being developed, the main goal of which is the protection, maintenance and sustainable management of the area of north-east Velebit. The European and global values of Crnopac are the geomorphic, faunal, hydrological and paleontological qualities of its karst relief and underground. It is the longest cave system of the Dinaric karst, containing 250 investigated speleological objects rich in active water courses, as well as in cave and endemic fauna. Zadar County invites all potential stakeholders, partners and investors to participate in this project.

Paklenica was proclaimed a national park in 1949. It is the largest forested expanse in Dalmatia, stretching over an area of 95 km² of the southern slopes of the Velebit mountain range. Its unique natural quality is based on its exceptional geomorphic forms and the diversity of its flora (it has been a UNESCO biosphere reserve since 1978) and fauna, especially cave flora and fauna. In order to minimise the consequences of climate changes, Paklenica National Park promotes sustainable development, species monitoring, adaptive management and visitor education. It implemented a European project under the CARDS 2002 programme, remaking an old house into a traditional house with a small ethnological museum, and building an educational and bicycle trail. A project called "Improving Paklenica National Park's Visitor Services" is being prepared



with the goal of improving visitor infrastructure and raising awareness of the need to preserve biological diversity.

Zadar County is an area of genuine natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. At the same time, it is also a very interesting county for investors.



Regional empowerment

Brod-Posavina is a Croatian county with strong development potential, writes new CoR member **Danijel Marušić**

Brod-Posavina county, as a part of the Croatian delegation in the Committee of the Regions, fully supports the objectives of a united Europe, and strives for a democratic, transparent and efficient EU that is close to its citizens. Being a member of such a team significantly helps us with opportunities to develop partnerships with other regions, and empowers us in an equal partnership with economically and socially more developed parts of Europe.

The development potential of Brod-Posavina county is significant. I would like to emphasise several strengths which highlight the development potential of the county, such as skilled and competitive workers, developed entrepreneurship and economic infrastructure, as well as its outstanding position at the crossroads of major trade routes. Brod-Posavina county has excellent traffic links to other parts of Croatia, as well as to neighbouring European countries and the rest of Europe. It also has important natural resources, including fertile agricultural land, an abundance of water, significant forestry resources and developed business zones. Such resources underpin the potential for development of our agriculture and processing industries based on natural resources.

A strong industrial tradition and assets in the county don't just enhance the possibilities of exploiting these natural resources, but are also conducive to the development of other industrial sectors. The key manufacturing sectors are metal and wood processing, furniture manufacture, the chemical industry sector and food processing.

We strongly support regional and cross-border cooperation and are working to attract funds from foreign investors across several projects in our county. Currently we have 102 approved programmes in implementation. Their total value is about €60m, of which the EU accounts for about 75 per cent. At this moment we are running a project in Brod-Posavina county focusing on biotechnology research and development.

“We strongly support regional and cross-border cooperation and are working to attract funds from foreign investors across several projects”

This project is valued at around €1.5m, and about 68 per cent of it is financed from funds through pre-accession assistance regional development funding. This project will construct and equip laboratories and greenhouses used for

the production of virus free planting material, while farmers will also get the comprehensive assistance they need to develop and enhance their businesses in the area of management skills and innovative principles of dynamic production.

At this moment Brod-Posavina county has 11 major developmental projects; the Pannonian green industrial park in Nova Gradiška; the centre of excellence for renewable energy in Slavonski Brod; the university of applied sciences in Slavonski Brod; the Pannonian development and logistics centre for eco fruits and vegetables; a theme park inspired by fairytales written by Ivan Mažuranić, a Croatian poet, linguist and politician, in Brod fortress; a camp in the sports recreational centre Poloj; a hotel and a congress hall in the Brod fortress.

The development of port infrastructure and the construction of a terminal for dangerous cargoes in the port area of Slavonski Brod, as well as an agricultural rice field incubator in Brodski Stupnik, and the upgrading of the regional technological centre have all been nominated for different EU funds.

We are also very aware of the necessity for sustainable development and environmental protection. Problems with waste are similar in most countries, but the degree of effective care depends largely on the economic power of a country and the socioeconomic level of development. At this moment we are trying to find an investor for a regional waste management centre that would solve the problem of waste management in this area and would bring us up to the high and uniform environmental standards that prevail across Europe. ★



Danijel Marušić is prefect of Croatia's Brod-Posavina county, and an EPP member of the Committee of the Regions

Brod-Posavina County

Brod-Posavina County is located in the southern part of the Slavonian plains. It covers an area of 2,034 km² and can be divided into three relief units: mountain, plain and lowland. According to the census of 2011th Brod-Posavina County counts 158.559 inhabitants. Brod-Posavina County is placed at the crossroads of European transport corridors X and Vc. Towards data of September 2012th, processing industry with 46,28 % is a main industrial branch by income. 64,47 % of total products are exported to EU countries. Metal processing industry with 69,5 % leads in export of products. Most of the goods are exported to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

INDUSTRIAL PARK NOVA GRADIŠKA

Skilled, educated and motivated workforce with specialized knowledge and skills, developed high-quality basic and advanced services for investors, highly competitive package of incentives and benefits for investment, and outstanding location, make the Industrial Park an excellent place for investment in economic projects. With the aim to promote investment in economic projects, depending on the value of investments and the number of new employees, the city of Nova Gradiška will provide the following incentives and benefits to investors: lease, giving the right of construction, selling or giving for use real



property or other infrastructure facilities owned by the City of Nova Gradiška. Business innovation support center (BISC) has been developed within the Industrial park and present an internationally recognized supporting center for the development of innovative businesses, based on knowledge and new technologies. Pannonian green industrial park (PGIP) as next step in development of Industrial park has this objective: "development of entrepreneurship and investment attraction based on innovation, knowledge and advanced technologies".



PORT AUTHORITY SLAVONSKI BROD

This public institution is responsible for the supervision and development of ports on the Sava River from river kilometer (rkm) 207 to rkm 469. The port area and port Slavonski Brod are located in the border area with Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the X corridor, near the junction X and Vc Corridor. Port Slavonski Brod with established port area 800.000m² is located on the left bank of the Sava river in the 363 kilometer, about 4 km southeast of the city Slavonski Brod.

1. Construction of infrastructure in the port area of port Slavonski Brod

Estimated value of investments: 15 mil €. Building of port infrastructure is a prerequisite for the development of the port area. Port development plan is based on building a port with port facilities required for transshipment, and on development of the port area with



economic content that will transport raw materials and finished products mainly by river.

2. Building of dangerous cargo terminal in the port Slavonski Brod

Estimated value of investments: 4 mil €. In the port area, construction of a vertical quay wall for waste reception and bunkering ships is planned, with equipment for reception and tanks for storage of cargo-related waste and waste water (deriving from the cargo) and other waste resulting from the operation of the vessel.

3. Liquid cargo terminal

Building area approximately 83.000 m². Estimated value of investment: 11 mil €. The terminal will serve for reception, storage and distribution of liquid oil products which will be transported to Slavonski Brod by ships and later transported by roads or railroads.

Annual cargo traffic is estimated around 2-2,5 million tons.



EUROPEAN FUNDS COMMITTED IN THE HAUTE-SAVOIE REGION

A department which is open in international terms, bordering on Switzerland and Italy, Haute-Savoie is benefitting from European regional policy and Rural Development funding: numerous projects have been financed in various areas such as mountain rescue services, transport, economy, environment, energy etc. Thus, from 2007 to 2012, this has covered 355 projects totalling 73 million Euros (FEADER, FEDER, FSE).

The General Council is co-financing many European projects. But it is also a partner and at the forefront of certain projects in particular within the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation initiative. Here are some examples.

■ **ARCHAEOLOGY: “AVER, mountains and châteaux”**

FEDER Interreg France-Italy ALCOTRA

This project was structured around three focal points for three years: the production of an archaeological and historical inventory accompanied by a report on the condition of the sites of châteaux, experimental research at pilot sites (Château-Vieux at Allinges in France, and the châteaux of Saint-Marcel and Graines in Italy), as well as networking about experiences which was then transformed into a guide on methodology produced for the proprietors of châteaux, the aim of which is to facilitate the realisation of their restoration and improvement.

■■■ Project budget:

Total project cost : 1 874 491 €
FEDER subsidy : 1 109 699 € (58.7 %)
General Council of Haute-Savoie : 607 491 €
Of which 359 635 € from FEDER (that is 59.2 %)



■ **ETHNOLOGICAL HERITAGE : “Current Traditions”**

FEDER Interreg France-Italy ALCOTRA

Confronted with the gradual disappearance of local skills and knowledge and of a culture common to both Savoie and the Vallée d'Aoste, the Italian and French partners came together and worked on the production of a methodology which aims to conserve, enhance and communicate this Alpine heritage. By means of this action they have contributed in particular to raising awareness amongst the local population of the value of this heritage which is shared along both borders, which can then thus be preserved.

■■■ Project budget:

Total project cost: 1 875 000 €
FEDER subsidy : 1 109 999 € (59.2 %)
General Council of Haute-Savoie :
517 688 € of which 306 471 € from FEDER (that is 59.2 %)



■ NATURAL RISKS : “Protective Forests”

FEDER Interreg France-Switzerland

Over all of the mountain areas forests with a protective function play an important part with regard to natural risks (avalanches, rock falls, landslides and even earthquakes) as well as certain technological risks.

This project which lasted for three and a half years has brought together elected representatives, collective organisations based in the mountains, institutions in charge of protection, scientist and territory and infrastructure management bodies, with the aim of identifying technical, political, legal or financial means of developing long-term management of the services provided by the forests

■■■ Project budget:

Total project cost : 2 044 000 €

FEDER subsidy : 1 210 481 € (that is 58.9 %)

General Council of Haute-Savoie :

88 097 € of which 18 241 € from FEDER (that is 21 %)



■ EDUCATION : “Education and Training Centre of Excellence”

FEDER Interreg France-Italy ALCOTRA

The strategic PEEF project had as its fundamental aim to use cross-border dynamism to increase knowledge, improve skills and enhance the integration of populations via mobility, exchanges and reciprocity.

■■■ Project budget:

Total project cost : 9 477 962 €

FEDER subsidy : 6 312 181 €

General Council of Haute-Savoie :

845 687 € of which 563 227 € from FEDER (that is 66.6 %)



■ ENERGY EFFICIENCY : “EnercitEE”

FEDER Interreg IV C

EnercitEE aims to improve local and regional policies and to provide assistance in the transfer of knowledge linked to energy efficiency and to sustainable transport.

■■■ Project budget:

Total project cost : 5 116 696 €

FEDER subsidy : 3 965 732 €

General Council of Haute-Savoie :

730 196 € of which 547 647 € from FEDER (that is 75 %)



For more detailed information please visit the Europe website of the General Council of Haute-Savoie : <http://www.europe74.cg74.fr>



Living the dream

Croatia's accession to the European Union heralds a time of great hope and possibility for its citizens, writes **Bruno Hrančić**

The trauma caused by the break-up of Yugoslavia and the atrocities of the homeland war have left an indelible mark on all aspects of Croatia's social, economic and political life. For many Croats, the last two decades of the past century were beyond painful.

In the first decade of the new century, lost jobs, malpractice, failure to adapt to new democratic relations and the market economy, a poorly conducted transition and privatisation of state-owned and socially-owned enterprises saw most Croats turn from elation and optimism, fuelled by national romanticism and enthusiasm about the creation of the independent state in the 1990s, to hopelessness and lack of trust in the

future. Employment declined and successful companies, capable of responding to the demands of the free and competitive western European market, were all but non-existent. Members of the young generation, myself among them, were the worst affected. It is therefore

“Our dreams will only become reality if we take the first step, seize the opportunities and take advantage of the benefits offered to us through our membership in the EU”

no surprise that, in the 1990s, they began eagerly contemplating the idea of Croatia joining the European Union. Their dreams of life in a community of peoples living by the standards of a free

and democratic society grew with every passing day.

In the 1990s, having defended the country from the greater Serbian aggression and created a state, young Croatian people dreamed of a life in a society where people, goods, ideas and education moved freely, a society of equal opportunities and possibilities, of knowledge, understanding and tolerance. Following the painstaking, and often disappointing, accession negotiations on 1 July 2013, European stars lit up the Croatian skies. Ahead of us lies a life in the great European family which has inherited, and is now guarding and promoting, the traditional Christian values of understanding and solidarity, and of mutual respect and care. Croats are happy to return to the fold of the family that is creating and promoting a society of equal opportunities where no one person or group is privileged or favoured.

When Croatia joined the EU, its great dreams became reality. It is therefore very important for all of us as Croats, and especially for politicians, public workers and the young, to work diligently every day on the development of the democratic society and its institutions, adhering to western European political and cultural principles, so that our dreams don't turn to dust. Croatian history abounds with examples of great hopes and expectations turning, almost overnight, into great disillusion. I am convinced that, this time, it will not happen. We have to learn from the experience of past generations.

Although Croatian society has achieved a high level of democratisation, we must all of us, young people



especially, continue to work hard on strengthening the European Union's democratic principles and values. We are aware that our dreams will only become reality if we take the first step, seize the opportunities and take advantage of the benefits offered to us through our membership in the EU. Croatian products, ideas, wishes and partnerships will communicate the idea of Croats and Croatia and testify that we can live successfully in this great community of European nations. Indeed, we know it

“Croatian products, ideas, wishes and partnerships will communicate the idea of Croats and Croatia and testify that we can live successfully in this great community of European nations”

is far from easy to succeed on this great market of products and ideas, but we are also convinced that we have both the material and the scientific potential to achieve our goal. This will not be easy as some Croats are still deeply “blocked”, sceptical, even disheartened, and we will need time to learn how to live in the EU. In order to succeed, we must work on ourselves, keep learning all the time, change and adapt to new relations. That, however, does not mean that we should forget our national values which are an integral part of the European system of economic, historical, cultural and political values.

My role as a member of the Committee of Regions (CoR) will undoubtedly be of great importance for my region because I am at the source of information telling me which direction the development of Europe is going to take. It is particularly important for me to have the opportunity to establish direct contacts with my colleagues from other European regions so that we can carry out common projects of mutual interest.

I believe that most of our entrepreneurs and farmers were prepared for entering the EU market. They had used the accession funds to ensure better conditions of production by acquiring the



technologies they needed to put them on an equal footing with other European producers.

I am also particularly interested in environmental protection because of Croatia's many green areas, drinking water resources, national parks and its Adriatic coast. All these need to be preserved and the development of our entrepreneurial sector and our economy should be harmonised to that end. This

is why I have become a member of the environmental protection forum at the ministry of environmental and nature protection and the environment, climate change and energy policy commission at the CoR.

It is essential that steps be taken in Croatia to decentralise the state, not only in terms of increasing the powers of local authorities, but also in terms of fiscal decentralisation. ★

Bruno Hranić is mayor of the municipality of Vidovec

Bikeemotion | Rethinking urban mobility



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tice.pt

The issue of mobility has been considered a priority in the European economic and social policies - the European economy annually loses 1% of the

GDP of the European Union due to mobility problems – and the National Portuguese ICT Cluster-TICE.PT elects the cross sectional area “MOBILITY” as one of its key areas of action. The National Portuguese ICT Cluster-TICE.PT aims to promote and leverage network strategies for the sector. Network between companies and R & D centers, in order to induce a renewal active in national economic context, producing positive effects on national offering, enhanced by innovation and knowledge, creating export capacity and value creation in domestic products. The Project Bike Emotion is part of a larger scale where it is clear the network effect, where the academic and business world gathered for their development.

Bikeemotion as an investment of € 700,000 supported by the ERDF and aims to provide a 4th generation public bike sharing system to local governments, local communities such as universities, schools and hotels among others. It's a smart

system that learns from use, adapts to user's needs and adjusts to the city. Currently, many of existing 3rd generation bike sharing systems requires high investments in implementation of fixed stations and kiosk which occupy the significant part of public space. Furthermore, the frequent problem of station based systems is the impossibility of parking or renting bikes when the stations are totally full or empty which requires additional costs with customer complaints services.

Bikeemotion is a new bike sharing product and a managerial system based on a device with GPS recognition attached to a bicycle that shuns the need for docking stations. The device can be unlocked, upon registration, by smart card or by smartphone, allowing bicycles locking and unlocking in identified places. The bikeemotion mobile application and the web portal allow users to locate, in real time, all available bicycles, to suggest points of interest, check and record travel habits, share and communicate the

experience in social networks. The user has also access to information about the nearest bike available and also about the shortest path to get there. The system administrator is able to manage bike fleets, routes, zones and user accounts, control systems profits and expenditures, among other advantages.

Our systems' costs are lower than existing bike sharing programs in approximately 75%. In essence, bikeemotion aims to decrease the investments costs, overcome the immovability of fixed stations in large public spaces, solve the redistribution problems and reduce the carbon footprint.

Bikeemotion was nominated to represent Portugal in the next round of the 2013 [World Summit Award \(WSA\)](#) in e-Culture & Tourism category.

MÁ COMPETE
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REGIO SEMINAR 'EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE BUCHAREST ILFOV REGION' October 14th, 2013, 9:30-14:00 Bruxelles

The Bucharest Ilfov Development Agency

Would like to present some success stories that illustrate the impact of the Regional Operational Programme on the Bucharest Ilfov region, to share good practices between local and urban communities and to set up a partnership with other regions and communities.

We are looking for interested partners to support the sustainability of this European programme for the next programming period.

The agenda and registration can be found on www.regioadrbi.ro

For details: contact@adrbi.ro

Participation is free of charge

Romanian lunch is provided

Working language: English



REGIO in the Bucharest Ilfov REGION, Romania

Along with Romania's accession to the European Union the chances of transforming the Romanian society, in a society balanced on all levels, increased in a considerable manner due to the use of the 2007-2013 Regional Operational Program, REGIO.

This Program promotes, at the level of the Bucharest Ilfov region an integrated approach based on combining public investments in the following directions: sustainable development of cities, improving the accessibility of the local transportation infrastructure, rehabilitation and modernization of the education and health infrastructure, strengthening the business support structures, capitalization of the tourism, cultural and natural patrimony potential.

The indicative allocation for the Bucharest Ilfov region is of approximately 350 million Euro, representing about 8.86% of the total amount granted to Romania through REGIO.

Until September 2013, a number of 745 investment projects have been submitted to the Bucharest Ilfov RDA for all the fields listed above. A number of 280 investment projects are already contracted requiring 342 million EURO.

Payments of more than 95 million EURO have been reimbursed by the REGIO Management Authority. The rate of absorption for REGIO in the Bucharest Ilfov region is of about 27% and it is growing fast.

For this region the social infrastructure had the highest interest, 300% in submitted projects!

For contacts and more information,
please visit: www.regioadrbi.ro



Inițiativă locală. Dezvoltare regională.



ARBOR

Improving sustainable biomass utilisation in North West Europe (NWE)

With increasing dependency on fossil fuels, **biomass** is key to meeting the European Union's renewable targets for both heat and electricity in 2020. A significant majority of the biomass required can be produced within the EU. Based on the Renewable Energy Action Plans for NWE Member States in 2010, it is estimated that biomass production for energy in NWE could increase by 69% to 2020, but only if significant improvements to the supply chain are made, e.g. through the energetic use of currently disposed waste streams or the sustainable production of biomass on non-agricultural land.

The **ARBOR Interreg IVB NWE** project tackles the many challenges that ensue from this transition. The project is cofunded by local authorities from the **United Kingdom, Flanders, Saarland, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, and Ireland.**

ARBOR activities
ARBOR is unique in that it is looking at the **whole biomass energy supply chain** from sourcing to energy production, including the involved regulatory, economic and sustainability aspects. 13 partners from 6 European regions work together in a large number of activities including:

- A state of the art analysis of biomass for bioenergy initiatives and projects in North West Europe
- Pilot and demonstration actions on a more optimal use of agro-industrial side streams, low-impact energy crops like short rotation coppice and biomass from marginal land
- The establishment of closed loop organic residue valorisation systems by local authorities including the use of woody biomass from municipalities for heat and electricity and the delocalised digestion of e.g. grass from verges and injection of the biogas into a dedicated biogas pipeline

- Closing the circle by looking at the in-field application of different techniques for nutrient recovery from digestates
- A market analysis of biomass equipment providers, manufacturers and investors in North West Europe
- An up-to-date inventory and technology watch on biomass conversion technologies and side stream valorisation options
- An analysis of the political and legal framework conditions on bioenergy utilisation in North West Europe
- An environmental and economic assessment of the developed ARBOR bioenergy implementation schemes
- A strategy development for the ARBOR pilot regions

The ARBOR project will provide intelligence where **transnational co-operation** may help address local biomass supply and demand issues.

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