

# ERRIN Work programme 2010

## ***Developing high quality projects***

**ERRIN is a facilitator and stimulator of European level cooperation between regions and regional actors in the field of innovation and research. Capitalising on the knowledge and expertise within the network, 2010 will see ERRIN strengthening efforts to help our members engage in and deliver high quality European projects.**

At the mid-point in the 2007-13 programming period, 2010 is a time to build on the expertise developed so far to gain maximum benefit from the funding opportunities for members, whether through the Commission-run (e.g. FP7, CIP) or the decentralised programmes (INTERREG).

ERRIN has a goal of developing at least one strategic project per thematic working group and to achieve this will work to strengthen the thematic knowledge exchange and project development methodology of each group.

ERRIN will continue to capitalise on strategic project opportunities which arise. This may be by becoming a partner to project submissions, if it fits into the strategic direction and resource limitations of the network; or by facilitating the identification and involvement of ERRIN regions.

## ***Shaping future innovation policy***

**With a new European Commission in place, decisions on the future of the Lisbon Strategy and new budgetary period ahead, 2010 is expected to be a high profile year for innovation and research. ERRIN will work to engage in strategic policy influencing to ensure the role of regions in research and innovation is high on the agenda.**

In particular, the development of effective place-based policies to stimulate regional research and innovation will be on the agenda of the Spanish and Belgian EU presidencies.

Important policy debates will be launched or continued, such as:

- the post-Lisbon strategy and the new European Innovation Act
- the mid-term review of the current EU spending programmes
- and the next multi-annual financial framework

ERRIN will work to ensure the regional dimension of the EU's present and future policies will be further strengthened and that funding will continue to flow towards meaningful research and innovation projects in the regions. ERRIN will support the policy-related work groups (e.g. FP8 working group) to meet this challenge and the management board will be committed to driving forward the interaction between the network and EU decision makers.

## ***Developing the ERRIN network and brand***

**ERRIN is the only Brussels based network, which brings regions together on the agenda of research, development and innovation. It has a strong membership base and an important message to share. 2010 is about building on the recent rebranding of ERRIN, to ensure that network and its messages are noticed in the EU's research and policy community.**

Involvement in key R&D and innovation-related events and initiatives; improvement of internal structures and communication; improved knowledge management and reinforced online presence; promoting the expertise of members; improving services to members... are just some of the plans for 2010.



## Objectives and activities

### 1. Increasing and strengthening policy output

<b>Policy output</b>	Policy priorities will include the European Innovation Act and the post-Lisbon strategy, as well as the future of FP8. Joint positions and statements of ERRIN members, ongoing engagements with officials on key issues and constant high-level exchange of information and intelligence will form part of the strategies. The thematic Working Groups are also encouraged to react on thematic policy opportunities, such as public consultations, and will coordinate related activities with the ERRIN Management Board. Key policy briefings and events on key policy issues will be organised with members.
<b>Engaging EU institutions in debate</b>	All ERRIN policy influencing efforts will be based upon action/dissemination strategies. This may include statements, briefings and/or events targeting important stakeholders and interlocutors from the EU institutions. With regard to targeting the European Parliament on key policy issues, ERRIN will mainly aim to cooperate with other networks.

### 2. Continuing to deliver project opportunities

<b>Intelligence on funding opportunities</b>	ERRIN will continue to provide early intelligence on EU funding opportunities. The Secretariat will regularly update call-specific information (website and e-alert) and compile and provide call fact sheets. A particular focus will be on providing early information on the 2011 FP7 work programmes. The Working Groups will organise regular call briefings and the ERRIN call calendar will be improved.
<b>Thematic networking</b>	ERRIN's thematic Working Groups elaborate detailed activity plans, specifying in particular areas of project development. The Working Group leaders report on their activities and achievements to the Management Board. Success stories will be presented regularly at the AGM.
<b>Practitioner involvement and project development</b>	To meet project development needs and interests of regional practitioners, ERRIN Working Groups will organise initiatives such as project market places or project development sessions. Working Groups also focus on identifying and pursuing opportunities for strategic project development and submission. Partner Searches of members will be published online and disseminated through the e-alert. ERRIN will organise a series of project development seminars focusing on horizontal issues and meeting training needs of Brussels ERRIN members and practitioners.

### 3. Strengthening the ERRIN network and brand

<b>ERRIN events</b>	Two half-day public events will be organised in Brussels: one in spring/early summer and the second linked to the AGM in autumn. In addition, the Secretariat plans to organise two public policy briefings on the EU presidencies' R&I priorities. The Secretariat will also try to coordinate its members for a stronger ERRIN presence at the Open Days 2011. ERRIN will continue to capitalize on opportunities to present ERRIN and selected ERRIN member profiles/good practices at relevant EU-wide events/exhibitions.
<b>ERRIN website</b>	In cooperation with the Working Groups, the Secretariat will make sure that all key network activities, particularly at Working Group level, are documented on the ERRIN website and in the weekly e-alert. The ERRIN events calendar will be updated regularly. The ERRIN website will be upgraded to showcase ERRIN member profiles.
<b>Regional Profiles</b>	ERRIN will collect and make available regional research and innovation profiles for each interested member, highlighting innovation governance, main areas of expertise, good practices and key actors.
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	ERRIN is committed to continuing improvement of the network and therefore will consult its members for annual evaluation questionnaire. The result of this consultation will help to further improve the work of the association and Secretariat and will inform the drafting of the 2011 work programme.

## **ERRIN Working Groups**

### **– key themes and planned activities for 2010\***

#### **Biotechnology**

The Biotech group, led by Lombardy Chamber of Commerce, will mainly focus on the FP7 KBBE work programme, and, in particular, its coordination support actions. With regard to the 2011 WP the group will facilitate project development, as soon as first reliable funding indications are available. Concerning the 2012 programme the group will seek to identify issues of common interest and seek to lobby for their introduction in the WP. Additional project focus will be on Research for SMEs and opportunities with transnational cooperation programmes. The group will also seek to establish closer cooperation with the Food for Life Technology Platform and plans an event in cooperation with the CEBR, presenting, among others an update on the implementation of their joint CIP project.

#### **Design**

In 2010, the design Working group will continue to closely follow the developments at EU level concerning the new European Innovation Act, with a view to ensure that design, as a driver for innovation, is included in an appropriate way. Furthermore, the group will initiate project development work in the context of the European Commissions Life long Learning (ERASMUS) and INTERREG programmes.

#### **Energy and Climate Change**

The Energy and Climate Change group, led by Tuscany and West Midlands, will focus on the forthcoming Intelligent Energy Europe call with a view to developing projects for submission and get at least one project ready. Other energy and climate change funding streams such as LIFE+ and Eco-Innovation will also be considered. Another focus for the group will be to raise its profile during the 2010 European Sustainable Energy Week by organising a high profile event where individual regions will show case their best examples in this field. The group sees as an ongoing part of their day-to-day work the promotion of cooperation between members as well as early intelligence in policy and funding information from the Commission.

#### **FP 8**

The FP8 group, led by Scotland, will continue with the organization of training seminars for ERRIN members. It will further organize targeted seminars/meetings with Commission officials with specific focus on sectors/themes to be agreed by the group. Meetings with the ITRE committee and IGLO are also planned. It will further organize a workshop on ERA-Nets. To provide targeted policy input the group will work on a paper in the form of key recommendation from stakeholders on future EU R&D policy.

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\* WG priorities are indicative and may be subject to change. Depending on opportunity and critical mass of members interested, new issues may be emerging and/or new subgroups or new working groups may be formed to deal with them.

## **Health**

The Health working group, led by South Denmark and Flanders, will focus on 1) Healthy Ageing (West Midlands), 2) Cancer (Basse Normandie) and 3) Health Technologies (South Denmark). The group will also organize an event on the "hospital of the future" with the goal of a possible project development. It will cooperate with the Biotech and ICT groups on issues of common interest such as e-health.

## **Innovation Funding**

The Innovation Group, led by Welsh Higher Education, will continue working on and strengthen its focus on equipping businesses with higher-level skills. At a policy level the group is seeking to pitch the regional dimension as a theme for the next EU University Business Forum in March 2010. The group will further focus on facilitating project development, in particular in the area of entrepreneurship, and for the interregional and transnational cooperation programmes that offer internationalisation opportunities to regional innovation actors.

## **Information and Communication Technologies**

The ICT group, led jointly by West Midlands and South Denmark, will continue to look at Broadband, ICT clusters and infrastructure and the future of the Internet. Project-related activities will include the CIP, with a first briefing planned already for December 2009 and a focus on how to get SMEs involved in projects. Further attention will go towards the Eurostars and Ambient Assistant Living programmes. Other issues will be on Health and ICT and on mobility technologies, with a focus on Living Labs.

## **Science in Society**

The Science and Society group, led by Piemonte, will mainly focus on the implementation of the PLACES project, led by ECSITE, the European Network of Science Centers and Museums. The project will build a science communication platform for science communicators at city/regional level, support local administrators, promote cooperation, define and experiment with new activities and define a model for a European City of Science.

## **Transport**

The Transport group, led by Valencia, will focus on the 2010 ROK call with the goal of building one successful project submission on research-intensive clusters in the field of transport while continuing to follow project opportunities arising from the FP7 WP on Transport. Another priority will be the EU's Urban Mobility Action Plan and related project development. With regard to the latter synergies and cooperation with the energy/climate change group and the ICT group will be explored (e.g. mobility living labs).