

ERRIN Innovation Funding Group – planned focus of activities 2010

<p>Aim of the Working Group/ Main areas of interest</p>	<p><i>The Innovation Funding group has a horizontal, non-thematic focus. It covers a range of issues connected to the development of research and innovation-related development in the regions, such as Clusters, SMEs, entrepreneurship, Technology transfer and skills development, and access to finance for innovation projects and innovative companies. It highlights related EU policy and project opportunities for regions, monitors the development of EU funding programmes/initiatives and how to best deliver synergies between the different instruments and it showcases regional expertise and good practice in boosting regional competitiveness in the knowledge economy. Its activities are complimentary to and are developed in cooperation with the thematic ERRIN WGs and ERRINs policy-related work. It promotes knowledge exchange, intelligence on key EU policy and project opportunities, joint project development, sharpening and promotion of regional profiles and access to the EU institutions.</i></p>
<p>Structure (Chair/Co-Chair, subgroups, if applicable)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader: Wales focus on Skills/Higher Education • Co-leader Cantabria focus on clusters, SME entrepreneurship • Subgroups/Task leaders: SWUK (University/Business), Valencia (Finance), CC Paris (creative clusters, skills), Eindhoven/Brainport-Fontys University (skills)
<p>Strategic context 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future European Innovation Act. To be his new innovation strategy is likely to be published before summer 2010. • Lisbon Strategy evaluation document and the presentation of the EU 2020. The Commission intends to present a formal proposal for the EU 2020 strategy early 2010, with a view to the EU's Heads of State and government adopting the strategy at their spring 2010 meeting. • New skills for new jobs initiative
<p>Planned focus and form of acti 2010. What are the WG plans in terms of project develop- ment?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Innovation Act/EU 2020 - > Update on the future Innovation Strategy for the EU. What is the regional dimension/how will regions benefit, how will this affect future funding programmes? – Briefing/seminar.</i> 2. <i>EIB funding for regional innovation projects-> How does it work in practice? What are the application procedures? What are successful initiatives done by regions with the support of EIB/EIF funding schemes, such as Jeremy, Jaspers, Jessica, Elena or the</i>

Risk-sharing Finance Facility. What about future developments, e.g. the idea of a European Innovation Fund? – Briefing/seminar.

3. *Access to Venture Capital and Risk capital -> How can regions cooperate with BAs/VCs to improve access to finance for innovative companies and start-ups. How do regions involve/talk to venture capitalists? (Possible cooperation with European networks of Risk Capital and Business Angels) – Briefing/event, possibility for INTERREG project*
4. *EIT/KIC -> Information/update on the planned work of the approved KICs. How can regions/regional actors could be involved in these KICS. – Briefing/seminar.*
5. *Green paper on Creative Industries/Cultural industries and Structural Funds-> How to best exploit the potential of cultural and creative industries for regional innovation, incl. design? How to support related cluster development? – Briefing/seminar.*
6. *Skills for innovation -> How to develop innovation skills? How to integrate an innovation dimension into skills development? How to improve skills-related cooperation between education and industry at regional level? The focus her is mainly on project development. - Two practitioner events, one for vocational training, the other for life long learning, are planned. One call briefing on entrepreneurship education (CIP). Possibility for INTERREG project.*
7. *Clusters -> Follow-up on ERRIN's participation in the European Cluster Alliance. How to align EU support for world class clusters with the need to support regional clusters that may not be world class. How to use SF and other programmes for cluster development/internationalisation of regional clusters. – possibly a briefing/seminar, participation in cluster alliance activities*
8. *University – Business cooperation -> What can be done, what has been done at regional level to foster this cooperation, what are good models, what can be realistically achieved and how long does it take to build a working Ubc? – continue cooperation with DG EAC, lobby the new Commission on regional dimension of European University-Business Forum or do a separate event in cooperation with EC.*

Numbers

Number of regular participants at WG meetings	
Planned number of TWG meetings	
Planned number of conferences with external participants	
Planned number of policy or call briefings with EU COM	
Planned number of training seminars held, if applicable	
Planned number of projects raised from the co-operation within the TWG	
Closer co-operation with other health related networks and / or observatories	3