



<p>Aim of the Working Group/ Main areas of interest</p>	<p>The Innovation Funding group has decided to focus on the two main themes of the Innovation Union flagship initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the knowledge base – education, lifelong learning, skills, university business collaboration</li> <li>• Getting ideas to market – cluster policies and funding, venture capital, loans and revolving funds</li> </ul> <p>The aims of the working group are to highlight related EU policy and project opportunities for regions, monitor the development of EU funding programmes/initiatives and how to best deliver synergies between the different instruments and showcase regional expertise and good practice in boosting regional competitiveness in the knowledge economy.</p>
<p>Structure (Chair/Co-Chair, subgroups, if applicable)</p>	<p>Chair – Welsh Higher Education Brussels – Strengthening the knowledge base</p> <p>Co-Chair – Cantabria EU office – Getting Ideas to Market</p>
<p>Strategic context 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Innovation Union is the key strategic initiative which will provide the main focus for the work programme</li> <li>• Other strategic documents include the recent Communication on Regional Policy contributing to smart growth in Europe 2020, the 'New Skills for New Jobs' initiative</li> </ul>
<p>Planned focus and form of activities 2010/11. What are the WG plans in terms of project development?</p>	<p><u>Strengthening the Knowledge Base:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>LLL info day</b> is organized by the Commission on 15 November in the Charlemagne building. As a fringe networking event, the West Midlands European Service will hold a drinks reception for colleagues from ERRIN regions who are attending the Info Day. The reception will take place subject to the rate of response from the regions.</li> <li>• The last call of the <b>Interreg IV C programme</b> will be launched in December with open calls, budget available for the proposals is €100 million. Mar Martin will analyze the already funded projects in order to identify potentially interesting topics to apply for that have not or not sufficiently been covered by earlier proposals. On 16 December the WG will organize a brokerage event. On Monday (8 November) an e-mail will be sent out to members with a</li> </ul>



deadline of 2 weeks to verify if their region is interested in the event. A minimum number of 10 project ideas should be communicated to the brokerage event organizer steering group in order to be able to give green lights for the organization. The Interreg JT Secretariat will be invited to deliver a presentation on the content of the call.

- A delegation lead by South West UK met Commissioner Vassiliou in summer this year to explore how and at what point ERRIN could feed input in order to improve the **University-Business Forum** in the coming years. The next Forum will be organized in February-March 2011. WG Leaders will meet Peter Baur, DG EAC Deputy Head of Unit to design an implementation map for this ERRIN action. A University Business thematic forum is planned for June 2011 to take place in Cornwall, UK.
- **Entrepreneurship and skills:** DG ENTR will launch a call in early 2011, thus members supported the organization of a briefing-seminar combined with a brokerage event. Further information will be needed about the publication of the call.
- Other planned events include a roundtable on **higher level skills** to include an exchange of best practice on the use of ESF to support skills development e.g. through work based learning. The working group is also planning a seminar to examine the **education dimension of the SET-Plan and EIT/KIC** in collaboration with the Energy working group.

#### Getting Ideas to Market

##### Clusters

- A **briefing** will be organized with Nikos Pantalos on the content of the calls including a call on internationalisation of cluster, followed by **brokerage events for both calls**.
- In the framework of research-driven clusters, the WG will cooperate with the Energy WG on the **RoK 2012 brokerage event**, whose thematic focus will be on renewable energies.
- Potential topics that the WG might want to pick up in accordance with the the members' support are **creativity and design**. These topics are cross-cutting issues with a would-be design WG and the SiS WG. A call on creative industries will be launched by DG ENTR in early next year.



**ERRIN** European Regions  
Research and Innovation Network

### 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	