

ERRIN e-alert 38/2009, 14 – 18 September

News update

Commission staff working documents published: Assessing Community innovation policies in the period 2005-2009

Following up on the Communication “Reviewing Community innovation policy in a changing world” DG Enterprise has just published a range of staff working documents assessing the impact and success of the EU’s innovation policy initiatives between 2005 and 2009. The documents provide a good overview on the broad range of activities undertaken by DG ENT and other DGs to foster innovation:

- [Assessing Community innovation policies in the period 2005-2009](#)
- [Challenges for EU support to innovation in services – Fostering new markets and jobs through innovation](#)
- [Financing Innovation and SMEs](#)
- [Making public support for innovation in the EU more effective: Lessons learned from a public consultation for action at Community level](#)
- [Lead Market Initiative for Europe - Mid-term progress report](#)

For downloads click on the document title or point your browser to:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/documents/index_en.htm

See the Director’s blog for a new post on “Sun and bytes kill coal and steel: A transformation agenda for Europe” at <http://iblog.blogactiv.eu/>

Secretariat Announcements

ERRIN Management Board Elections – Post your candidatures now!

A call for candidatures to the ERRIN Management Board elections has been opened on 8 September (by email to ERRIN member mailing list). All regions interested, including those MB members, whose seats are up are encouraged to post their candidatures in written (email to communication@errin.eu) to the ERRIN Secretariat by 18 September 2009. Elections will take place on 1st October 2009 by common suffrage of all ERRIN members. More detailed information on this procedure will be circulated on 21st September.

The ERRIN Management Board consists of 15 ERRIN members and is responsible for managing and steering the association. Five seats will become available at this year’s election. Management Members pay higher membership fee (€ 5283 instead of € 2113 in 2009), but enjoy a number of benefits, inter alia:

- They can be elected Chair or Vice-Chair (both positions will become vacant in October 2009)
- They can shape and exert oversight over the association’s daily affairs, planned activities, strategic outlook and workprogramme
- They can profile their organisation/region vis-à-vis the European Institutions and other stakeholders
- They receive premium information on all the most recent developments, strategic project and policy opportunities within ERRIN

REMINDER: Upgrade your staff communication skills by signing up for the ERRIN/Pinnacle Public Relations Training

Improve your skills to maintain and develop websites as an effective tool for communicating activities and opportunities. Due to the excellent feedback of our members on the last training organised in cooperation with Pinnacle PR Training, the ERRIN Secretariat promotes a follow-up training course.

The training will take place on **29 September 2009, 9.30 – 16.30, at Rue Ducale 83, 1000 Brussels**. Benefits of this training course are 1) to increase awareness of participants to techniques of news writing, 2) to provide your staff with practice and feedback on their writing skills and 3) to train your staff on how to effectively edit and format information into a format appealing to your audience.

The one-day training will achieve these objectives by two modules:

1) Fundamental news writing and 2) News editing. Pinnacle offers a promotional offer of € 475 (+21% VAT unless exempt) per person.

For a detailed programme and registration, please contact Andrew Manasseh at Pinnacle Public Relations at andrew.manasseh@pinnaclepr.net (subject space: ERRIN PR Training). The training course is limited to a maximum of 10 participants.

REMINDER: ERRIN Network Evaluation – only 18 feed-backs received so far – much more needed!

On 18 August ERRIN has sent an evaluation questionnaire to learn more about the satisfaction of our members with the work of ERRIN and receive their suggestions for further improvements. Both are conducive to compile the ERRIN 2010 work programme. We would like to thank those 18 members that have already taken the time and sent back their answers and suggestions. However, we are still expecting feed-back from many more members. We have, thus, once again prolonged the deadline until 23 September.

Albeit extending the deadline, your comments and suggestions will still be included into the draft of our work programme 2010, which will be presented and discussed at the next Management Board meeting on 28 Sept. This is your network! You want to make sure it delivers according to your interests and priorities. Let us know about it! Please click here to download the [ERRIN Evaluation questionnaire](#).

Funding Area

EU Gateway seeks companies for business mission to Japan

Funded and managed by the European Commission, the EU Gateway Programme organizes business missions in six high technology and design sectors aimed at penetrating the Japanese and Korean market. Missions accommodate up to 40 EU Companies for Japan and 30 EU Companies for Korea in the following sectors: Construction and Building Technologies, Healthcare and Medical Technologies, Environment and Energy-related Technologies, Information and Communication Technologies, Fashion Design, Interior Design.

EU Gateway is currently still looking for EU companies to participate in business missions to Japan. Deadline for applications is 25 September 2009. Participating companies will benefit from professional and financial support during their mission. This support includes accommodation, meeting facilitation, pre-arranged contacts with local companies as well as tailor-made strategic assistance. The business mission further includes a 2-day business exhibition where EU companies have the opportunity to introduce their products to potential business partners and learn about the local business culture. More information and past participants' success stories are available on the EU Gateway website at: <http://www.eu-gateway.eu/>

Contact: Clemence Mayali, EU Gateway Project Officer, cmayali@eu-gateway.eu

ERRIN Event Preview

REMINDER: Sign up for ERRIN/DG REGIO Open Days seminar on “Capitalization and Knowledge Management for effective European Territorial Cooperation”

A frequently voiced concern in discussions on regional development is the lack of systematic knowledge management including better capitalization and dissemination of results to avoid overlap and duplication, in particular with regards to EU projects.

The ETC programmes (INTERREG) can and should play an important role in addressing this lack of knowledge management and increasing synergies and learning between the myriad of regional, national and EU initiatives. The workshop will present and discuss challenges and current initiatives in this field and related opportunities.

In case you have any good practice examples of regional knowledge management in the field of Research and Innovation and EU projects (synergies, coordination, etc.), please contact the ERRIN Secretariat as we would like to include some examples in our presentation and forward them to the EU Commission.

A more detailed programme description is currently being elaborated and will be circulated soon. Interested ERRIN members should sign up through the Open Days website (see link below) and inform the ERRIN Secretariat so we can provide DG REGIO with a list of ERRIN members for approval of participation in this workshop. Please contact the ERRIN Secretariat at communication@errin.eu until 10 September, if you are interested in joining this workshop.

Date and venue: Tuesday, 6 October, 14.30 – 16.00, Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels

Registration: Through [Open Days website](#) (WS 06C13)

ERRIN Member Events Feature

2009 Education at a Glance – Indicators and evidence for policy debate

Mr. Andreas Schleicher, Head of the Indicators and Analysis Division of the OECD (Directorate for Education), will give a presentation about the "2009 edition of Education at a glance: With employment markets still weak, now is a good time to invest in education".

The 2009 edition of the OECD's Education at a Glance, published on 8 September, focuses, among other things, on the economic returns and social outcomes of education. This is particularly relevant as economies emerge from the crisis. An annual compendium of comparable statistics on topics ranging from how long students spend in the classroom to how many drop out of secondary education, Education at a Glance provides valuable underpinning for policy debate and decisions by national education authorities.

To register send an e-mail (prior to the 18th of September) to Winneburg Verhaeghe (winneburg.verhaeghe@vlewa.be).

Date and venue: 21 September, 12.00 (Sandwich lunch offered), Office of the Liaison Agency Flanders Europe, Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Brussel.

Water Framework Directive: Clear Solutions

In 2000 a European Framework was developed that would streamline EU water policy. Its objectives were simple; that "good status" be achieved for all European waters by 2015 and that sustainable water use be ensured throughout Europe. To reach these goals and in the wider context of our climate change adaptation aspirations, we have to innovate, share our knowledge and work out what is working well in varying geographical locations.

At this event we will hear from the Commission, EU regions and the innovators. In particular we will focus on the opportunities offered by technological advances, share our views on best practice and talk about potential future research and development ideas. We hope to identify potential solutions to the challenges facing our water environment. We invite all of those involved in the process to attend and contribute to these discussions.

To register, email Scotland.house@scotent.co.uk

Date and venue: 28 September 2009, 10.30-15.00, Scotland House, Rond Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels

European Design as an expression of Creativity & Innovation

The Liaison Agency Flanders Europe invites to an Open Days fringe event on "European Design as an expression of Creativity & Innovation".

The event consists of two workshops:

Workshop 1– Design Policy and Management

Design as a tool for innovation has developed rapidly in recent years, resulting notably in concepts such as strategic design, design management and design thinking. Design as a driver and enabler of innovation complements more traditional innovation activities such as research. Companies that invest in design tend to be more innovative, more profitable and grow faster than those who do not. The Design sector is an emerging business sector with large potential and added value for the local-regional economies.

The Design Policy and the recent commission staff working document on *Design as a driver of user-centred innovation* provides an analysis of the rationale for making design an integral part of European innovation policy. At a macro-economic level, there is a strong positive correlation between the use of design and national as well as regional competitiveness. Members of the European Institutions will give background into the strategic research agenda's of different DG's that focus on the topic of the Design Policy and Management.

Workshop 2 – Design in SMEs and industries

This workshop explores design as a strategic tool for innovation in SMEs and industries. Design promotion centres have often been driven in the past by a traditional craftsmanship culture that entails a strategy focused mainly on product design and on the performance of products in the market place. While at the same time the design profession was fundamentally changing with styling & packaging design, branding & corporate design and web, interface & communication design as driving forces.

The economic and managerial context of “design added value” is bestowed by regional or national design promotion centres, acting as centres of resources for integrating design into SMEs. Designers themselves are often SMEs. SMEs are a very interesting target for design promotion centres, who can help in improving an SMEs competitive edge and performance.

The consortium organising this Open Days fringe event consists of the following cities and regional partners: Flanders (BE), Eindhoven region (NL), Lodz region (PL), city of Helsinki (FI), Région de l'Île-de-France (FR), Unioncamere Lombardia (IT), Oficina del Gobierno de Cantabria (ES), South West UK (UK) and West Midlands (UK).

Date and venue: 6 October 2009, 13.30 – 18.30, Liaison Agency Flanders Europe, Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Brussels (event followed by reception)

More info: <http://www.vleva.eu/content/4302> , registration: Email to design@vleva.eu with message Participation Design Workshop 1 and/or 2

Towards a Creative Regional Economy

The Brussels Representation of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen invites you to an event about the cities' creative industry strategies. Presentations and a discussion will be followed by a reception.

Date and venue: 23 September, 18.30, Bremen EU Office, Avenue Palmerston 22, 1000 Brussels
Registration: By fax or email to +32 2 230 36 58 or vertretung@bremen.be by **16 September**

Partner Searches

FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2010-1 – University of Staffordshire

Links between science education and S&T careers

[Download Partner Search](#)

The ERRIN e-alert is published weekly and disseminated to all member contacts on the ERRIN mailing list. It is also available [online](#).

To be add as a contact to our ERRIN mailing list, please check with the official ERRIN representative for your region/organisation (see the ERRIN website/About us/ERRIN members) or contact the ERRIN Secretariat.

To be added as a contact to the Working Group Mailing lists, please contact the leaders of the relevant ERRIN Working Groups and Task Forces.

If you wish to share any information or announce your events to other ERRIN members through our weekly e-alert, do not hesitate to contact the ERRIN Secretariat.

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