



## SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ERRIN Briefing on the Swedish Presidency's Research and Innovation Priorities**  
**22 April 2009, 09.30-13.30, House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions**  
**Square de Meeûs 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room "Luxemburg", 1000 Brussels**

On July 1, Sweden is taking over the presidency of the EU. The upcoming presidency has an ambitious agenda. At the core of their programme are the process of ratifying the Lisbon Treaty, climate change, the EU budget, the Lisbon strategy and the Union's response to globalisation. Several of these topics touch upon research and innovation issues. Adding to this, the Swedish Presidency has two specific priorities in the areas of research and innovation: bringing the European Research Area forward and creating a European Innovation Plan. The latter involves facilitating the use of Structural Funds for research purposes.

To provide ERRIN members with early intelligence on these forthcoming issues, the South Sweden European Office in cooperation with ERRIN is organising a briefing session on the Swedish Presidency R&I priorities, which will also look into the issue of promoting more synergies between the EU's Research, Innovation and Cohesion Policies.

**RSVP before April 8** to Madeleine Koskull, South Sweden European Office:  
E-mail: [madeleine.koskull@sydsam.be](mailto:madeleine.koskull@sydsam.be) ; Phone: 02-235 26 60  
[Invitation and Programme](#)

**SAVE THE DATE: 11 June 2009**  
**ERRIN Spring Annual Event: Regions as catalysts of Open Innovation**  
**Résidence Palace, rue de la Loi 155, Brussels**

Innovation is a vital component of regional competitiveness and a key driver to help regions escape the current economic crisis. Innovative regions are also a key factor in attracting companies to locate in the EU.

All the more reason for ERRIN to explore new thinking on improving innovation processes and discuss how Open Innovation can strengthen regional research and innovation capacities.

Apart from presenting the state of the art of Open Innovation initiatives in ERRIN regions, the conference will highlight current and future steps towards a European Innovation Plan and possible regional input.

Open Innovation is clearly more than hype or re-branding of longstanding innovation policies. It is a game-changer not only in the way companies manage their R&D but also in the way government and public policy approaches innovation support. However to date, it remains a mystery to many EU companies, particularly SMEs, and to policy-makers, who are keen to learn more about how it can be harnessed to improve regional competitiveness:

- Which opportunities/challenges does OI present for regions?
- How can regions provide added value to OI?
- Are there good practices in regional policy making and support?
- How does OI figure in the work towards an EU Innovation Plan?
- What could be policy recommendations from the regions?

This ERRIN conference will bring together EC officials, regional policy officers and policy-makers and open innovation experts. It will enable you to learn from leading regions driving forward the OI agenda and will present an excellent opportunity for networking with ERRIN members and leading representatives of the Brussels-based research and innovation policy community.

## ERRIN Workshop on the Conference Research Connection 2009 on 8 May 2009, 14.30-15.15

We are pleased to announce that the ERRIN application to organise a workshop at Research Connection 2009 on 7-8 May 2009 was successful. After evaluation, the network has been selected by DG Research to organise a Forum which will take place on 8 May 2008 from 14:30 to 15:15.

The workshop will provide a forum to discuss common issues on how to involve regional stakeholders in European research and innovation programmes, but also to compare differing regional level triple helix research models.

Panel participants (from old and new member states) will exchange experience on R&D and Innovation strategies and the links with regional development objectives as well as views on current issues related to EU growth and jobs at the regional level.

The workshop is targeted at regional actors (representatives of SMES, policy makers, research institutions, universities, science centers and communicators ...) and interested stakeholders.

ERRIN members who applied for participation and will organise the seminar are:

- Unioncamere Piemonte
- ADEuropa Foundation
- West Midlands in Europe
- Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Lodz EU Regional Office
- INNOVA Eszak-Alfold Regional Development and Innovation Agency

If you have questions, please contact Farha Brahmi at [farha.brahmi@errin.eu](mailto:farha.brahmi@errin.eu) or Anna Sibilla at [anna.sibilla@unioncamerapiemonte.be](mailto:anna.sibilla@unioncamerapiemonte.be)



**RAPIDE discussion forum: the impact of the financial crisis on regional innovation policies  
20 April 14.00-16.00; South West UK EU Office, 11 Rond Point Schuman, 1040 Brussels**

The RAPIDE network, which is led by ERRIN member South-West UK, is holding an informal discussion event to discuss the impact of the financial crisis on regional innovation policies.

Regional representatives interested in participating are kindly asked to register with Benjamin Kuscher at the South West UK Brussels office ([bkuscher-rapide@southwestuk.be](mailto:bkuscher-rapide@southwestuk.be) or +32 2 737 70 92/22) latest on 15 April 2009.

To focus the discussion participants are kindly asked to prepare the following questions:

- What are the impacts of the current financial crises on your region?
- Is the innovation capacity of companies in your region already affected by the crisis?
- Is the public sector using the structural and financial support of innovation as a measure against the crisis?
  - o If yes how?
- What are the main regional methods to recover after the crisis?
  - o Is the support of innovation one of these measures?
- Do you plan a special support scheme for innovative SMEs which fail during this crisis to start again?
  - o Second Chance Initiative!

[Downloadable programme](#)

## REMINDERS

### Submit your regional initiatives/good practices on Open innovation

The forthcoming ERRIN AGM on June 11 will be focusing on Open Innovation. The Secretariat is collecting examples from ERRIN members of strategies/initiatives/practices designed to stimulate and facilitate OI in the regions such as:

- Regions providing enabling environments/"eco-systems" for open innovation, in which firms operate, triple helix actors interact, and citizens/users get involved (e.g. living labs),
- setting new parameters for education (e.g. breadth vs. depth)
- promoting culture change to support open innovation, promoting collaboration and networks
- leading by example with regard to stimulating innovative public services and public procurement,
- linking SMEs up to larger corporate players such as Multi-National Enterprises (MNEs), through science and innovation parks
- creating IPR pools, creating the trust base for SME –MNE interactions
- scouting and identifying promising technology and unused patents, promoting a global orientation, nurturing spin-outs and spin-offs.

A limited number of these regional good practices will be presented at the event, subject to selection by the ERRIN Secretariat and Management Board. For the rest and depending on feed-back, we are planning to publish these regional examples in a brochure to be made available as background material to the event. For background information and downloading a template for submission [please click here](#)

**Please send your contribution before 23 April 2009 at [communication@errin.eu](mailto:communication@errin.eu)**

**Send us your project examples to be promoted at the "Research Connection 2009" (Prague, 7-8 May) and, depending on their quality, possibly also included in a forthcoming Commission publication on how to make best use of synergies between EU programmes.**

The Commission has contacted the ERRIN Secretariat in their search for examples of projects, where different EU funding instruments have been successfully used/combined to deliver different parts of one project or different phases of a longer-term project. They would like ERRIN to present such projects (if existing) at the Workshop on "Synergies between

Research and Regional Policy" within the framework of the "Research Connection 2009" event.

Background: The Commission's DGs have recently published a funding guide, which includes (fictional) scenarios for complementary financing, such as projects funded by SF first, followed by FP7 or CIP or the other way round. This guide is available at (see p.13ff for the scenarios):

[http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html)

ERRIN has long demanded that synergies between the different programmes should be improved. We have, for instance, highlighted this in the [ERRIN Discussion Paper on Synergies between the Structural Funds and the Framework Programmes](#) in September 2007. However, the best starting point to work for more synergies is to find practical examples of projects that have successfully combined different funding streams. Likewise negative experiences with trying to do this are also instructive to better identify the existing barriers and possible solutions to overcome these.

**As it turns out, it is really difficult to find such projects. We have only had 2 regions coming back with such examples. If you want to contribute to better synergies between future programmes and you are aware of any such positive or negative examples in your region please contact the Secretariat by Friday 10 April 2009, so we can follow up with you and include your contribution in the presentation and forward them to DG Research and DG Regio.**

### ERRIN Partnership with SERI, the European Research and Innovation Exhibition, 3-5 June 2009

ERRIN and SERI have signed a partnership agreement, which offers the following opportunities for ERRIN members at a preferential rate:

- An individual exhibition stand
- A joint exhibition stand with other ERRIN regions
- A 1.40 hour slot for a conference/workshop

The ERRIN logo and a short description of the network will be included on all communications issued by the SERI.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities and the associated preferential stand fees for the exhibition, do not hesitate to contact the ERRIN secretariat at [farha.brahmi@errin.eu](mailto:farha.brahmi@errin.eu).



## This week's events

### Mediterranean Digital Conference

Date: 7 April 2009

Time: 11.30-13.00

Venue: Lazio Region EU Office, Rond Point Schuman 14, 1040 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

## OTHER EVENTS

### caENTI Final Dissemination Seminar

Date: 16 April 2009

Time: 9.45-12.00

Venue: Bourgogne-Franche Comte EU office, 55 Rue Arlon, 1040 Brussels

[Information, agenda and registration](#)

### Eco-Innovation European Info Day

**Date: 20 April 2009**

Time: 8.30-12.45

Venue: Charlemagne Building, Room S3, Rue de la Loi 170, 1040 Brussels

[Information, agenda and registration](#)

### RAPIDE discussion forum

Date: 20 April 2009

Time: 14.00-16.00

Venue: Brussels office of the South West UK, 11 Rond Point Schuman, 1040 Brussels

[Information, agenda and registration](#)

### Europe's Creative Regions and Cities

Date: 20-21 April 2009

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Bâtiment Jacques Delors, 99-101 Rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels

[Information, agenda and registration](#)

### 2nd Central & Eastern EU ICT Cluster conference

Date: 21 April 2009

Time: 9.30-18.00

Venue: Kölcsey Convention Center, Debrecen, Hungary

[Information, agenda and registration](#)

**Please see our Event Calendar for more forthcoming events.**

## PARTNER SEARCHES

### FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IEF/IIF – National Centre Product Design and Development Research

User Centric Design in User Product Interactions

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

### FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IEF/IIF – National Centre Product Design and Development Research

The development of a new generation of tools and procedures for prototyping and development in design technology management

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

### FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IEF/IIF – National Centre Product Design and Development Research

Design Management and Technological Innovation within the European SME Sector

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

### FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IEF/IIF – National Centre Product Design and Development Research

The digital design & fabrication of patient-specific medical devices & further applications in telemedicine

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

### ERASMUS for young entrepreneurs – The Walloon Export and Foreign Investment Agency

Transnational Project

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

### Call for interest about the GPPNET project

The SDI Group is contacting interested local authorities in order to:

- create regional networks on GPP in the framework of a GPPinfoNET project
- collect information at European level on GPP best practices.

For more information please contact:

[l.mazza@ecosistemi-srl.it](mailto:l.mazza@ecosistemi-srl.it)

**If you wish to post your partner searches on the ERRIN website, please fill in the [online template](#) and email it to [communication@errin.eu](mailto:communication@errin.eu)**



## NEWS

### European Union Economic Recovery plan focus on Research and Innovation

The EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, and high-level representatives of the automotive, construction and manufacturing sectors recently agreed that smart investments in clean technologies should be made within the framework of a public-private partnership. They issued a joint statement that recognises the importance of research and innovation investments.

In this regard, Community funding instruments such as the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) are key and already flexible enough to allow the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPP), for instance on 'Factories of the Future', 'Energy-efficient Buildings' and 'Green Cars', as included in the European Economic Recovery Plan (November 2008). Related joint cross-thematic calls for research projects, funded in the context of FP7, are expected to be published for these partnerships by the end of July 2009.

Related Links:

[Joint Statement 'European Economic Recovery Plan 2010-2013: Public Private Partnerships in Research Activities'](#)

**If you wish to circulate any information about your events or partner searches in the next E-Alert, do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.**

**For more news on Research and Innovation, please visit our Director's [i-blog](#)**