



SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member of staff at the ERRIN Secretariat

Martin Wegele is the new Research and Communication officer of the ERRIN network. He is on placement by Aston University. Martin is 29 years old, comes from Munich and graduated in European Business Studies from the University of Bamberg. He wrote his master thesis on the contribution of multinational corporations to regional innovation networks. Martin also studied at the Norwegian School of Management in Oslo (Norway), and he spent two years in Aix-en-Provence on a civilian service assignment. In his free time Martin is an enthusiastic runner and after several semi-marathons is still heading for running a real marathon. You want to join him?

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Research and Communication Officer

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E-Alert New Feature: The Working Group Corner

The E-alert will now include a part in which members will be updated on Working Group past and future activities. A Working Group will occasionally be featured to give more detailed information about their work.

WORKING GROUP CORNER

Energy and Climate Change

++++**The Energy working group has changed its name to Energy and Climate Change, which reflects the extension of its activities to cover additional issues relating to Climate Change and the Environment.** The group is currently collecting input from its members on these issues through an informal consultation++++

++++**The group is planning its 3rd practitioner event (in 2009), which** will focus on project development and project ideas for the Eco-Innovation, LIFE+ and IEE programmes. Originally planned for 20 April, it has been postponed until the end of May. The final date will be confirmed after the meeting of its Steering Group, which will be held at West Midlands in Europe on Friday 24th April. ++++

++++**Next topics of interest for the group include:** Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) and Service contracting, EU-Africa Energy Facility and the EC consultation on ICT for a Low Carbon Society. ++++

Innovation Funding

++++**SAVE THE DATE – 4 May 2009 – Briefing with Roger O’Keefe:** Mr O’Keefe will inform the membership on the European Year of Creativity and Innovation’s past, present and future activities with a territorial, cultural, educational and research aspect. This meeting will also be the opportunity to discuss possible best practices from ERRIN regions, and give input regarding the next forums that the Commission will be organizing in the framework of the EYCI, i.e.: Early July 2009: Third flagship event, entitled 'The territorial dimension of creativity and innovation'; Sept 2009: Fourth flagship event: European Cultural Forum (Brussels); Oct. 2009: Fifth flagship event: 'Creativity at work: The triangle of knowledge' (Brussels). More information will follow soon++++

++++**SAVE THE DATE – 14 May – European Commission briefing on FP7 Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential and Research Infrastructures:** This meeting is being arranged by sub-group 1 (Innovation under EU research and regional policy). Agenda and registration information will follow next week. More information will soon follow++++

++++**SAVE THE DATE – Early July - Conference on the regional dimension (cities and regions) of Creativity and Innovation:** If you would have specific regional initiatives to highlight in 2009 the Innovation Funding group would like to hear from you or your partners. This meeting will also invite people from the ERRIN innovation funding Group and regional representatives working in the area. More information will follow soon++++

Transport

++++ **Project Building – IEE CALL 2009 – STEER sub-programme:** Working group members have been asked to check their priorities and interest. After their feedback, a meeting/project corner will be organized during the first half of May.

++++ **A series of meetings aiming at fostering collaboration between local practitioners at European Level is planned:** The first meeting should take place in June and will be related to logistics; the group counts on the attendance of ITENE (Logistics Institute of Valencia)++++



Feature: Biotech Working Group Update

CIP – Europe Innova Cluster IP call

The ERRIN Biotech Working Group held a very successful project platform meeting on 26 November in collaboration with CEBR. 35 people from around 20 regions in Europe attended the event.

After a day of hard work in Brussels, the meeting concluded on a consortium creation which submitted a proposal to DG Enterprise under the CIP programme, the Europe Innova Cluster IP call. This particular call aims to develop and validate new services to support biotech SMEs, bringing together the strengths of the best bio-communities in Europe to develop services for use everywhere.

ABCD Europe is a significant project that brought ERRIN & CEBR Members to work together. The consortium headed by Milan CCIAA (Lombardy - IT) includes:

- ERBI (Cambridge – East of England - UK)
- Heidelberg (Baden Wurttemberg - DE)
- Bio-M (Munic - DE)
- BioTOP (Berlin – DE)
- BioCAT (Cataluña – ESP)
- GENOPOLE (Ile de France – FR)
- BioIndustry Park (Piedmont - IT)
- BioWIN (Wallonia – BE)
- Eszak-Alfold (Hungary)
- Biovalley (Alsace – FR)
- Matimop (Israel)
- MVA (Stockholm)

If the project is successful (total budget of almost €4.8 M Euros - grant €3 million) Enterprise Europe Network, ERRIN and CEBR will be used as platforms to invite all actors interested to test new services. We now keep finger crossed and wait for the result of the evaluation!

Bringing in ERRIN & CEBR networks - Talent management and Incubation processes as part of the BioCT project

ERRIN members are invited to participate to CEBR event organized by Biocat, BioTOP and Genopole in the framework of a new EC project that aims to accelerate the transfer of technologies into biotechnology companies. Creation of a team of the right scientists and managers is a central part of this activity lead by Biocat. The project gives the whole network an excellent opportunity to help develop activities on Talent Management (contact Monserrat Vendrell - Biocat).

In the framework of the same project ERRIN members are invited to participate to the Incubation processes on 3 June 2009 in Brussels.

Taking a hard look at all the processes involved in bringing innovative technologies into young companies, this meeting brings together people from all steps in the chain; technology transfer professionals, incubation managers and experts involved in creating and sustaining new companies.

The BioCT project will be working through the meeting to launch technology maturation and transfer activities and we welcome all clusters interested in being part of this. The meeting is open to all cluster managers and drivers interested in technology maturation and company incubation plus the development of practical common tools for clusters across Europe.

Places are limited to 25 and will be open to people who play an active role in the development and support of early stage biotech. [Click here to register](#)

Next BIOTECH WG Meeting

Next meeting will be held mid May. Topics of the meeting: 1-KBBE WP 2009 (early results & next calls) 2-Brief introduction to KBBE WP 2010

3- International Cooperation in 7FP with a focus on Food and Biotech WP. The date will be announced soon.

FUNDING NEWS

EIT-KICS-2009 - Knowledge and Innovation Communities

The first call of the European Institute of Technology has been launched.

The deadline for proposal submission **27th August 2009**.

[Download the full call text](#)

CIP-IEE-2009 – Intelligent Energy - Europe II (IEE) 2009 work programme of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

A new call for proposals was recently launched.

The deadline to submit proposals is **25th June 2009**.

[Download the full call text](#)



ERRIN News & Events

ERRIN Briefing on the Swedish Presidency's Research and Innovation Priorities, Representation of Sweden to the EU, Square de Meeûs 30, 1000 Bruxelles on 22 April 2009

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 co-operation 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; Phone: 02-235 26 60

[Please visit the Event Calendar to download the agenda and registration form.](#)

Regional Strategies for the Internationalisation of SMEs and Clusters: An Exchange Event, South Denmark EU Office, Avenue Palmerston 3, 1000 Brussels on 12 May 2009

Organized by ADEuropa Foundation – Regional Government of Castilla y León, the representation office of Basse-Normandie and England's Northwest in Brussels, on behalf of the ERRIN (European Regions Research and Innovation Network) Innovation Funding Working Group.

This event which will take place during the 1st European SME week is aimed at bringing together regions that have an interest, and are active in, getting businesses and clusters within their territories to cooperate and trade on a European, international and global stage. It is targeted specifically at experts in charge of internationalization activities of both SMEs and clusters, and participation will be prioritized for these individuals who have lots to contribute to the debate. Due to limited seating there numbers will be capped at 50.

Participants will learn about what tools and activities are happening within a wide variety of regions across the EU and have the opportunity to exchange on what is taking place within their areas.

[Please visit the Event Calendar to download the agenda and registration form.](#)

ERRIN Spring Annual Event: Regions as catalysts of Open Innovation will take place at the Résidence Palace, rue de la Loi 155, Brussels on 11 June 2009

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.

[Please visit the event calendar to download the agenda and the registration form.](#)



RAPIDE discussion forum:

The impact of the financial crisis on regional innovation policies

20 April 14.00-16.00

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

This informal DISCUSSION FORUM will make use of the strong linkages between the Fast Track network and the Commission to engage directly with Commission representatives discussing burning issues such as the impact of the financial crisis on the regional innovation policies.

To guarantee a useful discussion for all of us we would ask you to think about following questions already in advance. We assume that not all questions are clearly to answer but they should help to focus our discussion.

- 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!

In the expectation of a fruitful discussion we are looking forward welcoming you.

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PARTNER SEARCHES

CIP-IEE-2009- ADEuropa Foundation – Regional Government of Castilla y Leon

Promotion of forest biomass for thermal installations at local and municipal scale

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

FP7-SST-2010.7.5. Advanced electric vehicle concepts - ADEuropa Foundation – Regional Government of Castilla y Leon

Advanced Structural Light Weight Integral Chassis for Electric/Hybrid Urban Vehicles (E-LIGHT project)

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

Interreg IV B Atlantic Areas- South West Regional Authority (Ireland)

Water – Assessment of Threats to environmental health in regions

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

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



ERRIN EVENTS

ERRIN Management Board Meeting

Date: 21 April 2009

Time: 14.00-17.00

Venue: This is a Management Board members meeting only, for more information contact the secretariat.

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

OTHER EVENTS

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

[More 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

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

EEL Innovative Thinking project

Date: 22 April 2009

Time: 11.00-18.00

Venue: In MCE-Building, rue de l'Aqueduc, 1050 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

The Energy Policy for Europe

Date: 23 April 2009

Time: 12.45-15.00

Venue: Flanders Europe Liaison Office, Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

EuroNanoMed ERANET initiative

Date: 23 April 2009

Time: 11.30-13.00

Venue: Veneto Region Office – 67, Av. De Tervueren, 1040 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

Industrial PhDs and Employment and PhDs

Date: 23 April 2009

Time: 10.00-13.00

Venue: Liaison Agency Flanders Europe, Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

Please see our [Event Calendar](#) for more forthcoming events.

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](#)