



SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

New office location for ERRIN Secretariat

The ERRIN Secretariat has found a new office location in **Avenue Palmerston 23, 1000 Brussels**. We are going to move there during the **next week**. We will take all necessary precautions but apologize already for any inconveniences in contacting us during that period. We will keep our mobile phone numbers and email addresses. Only our fixed phone line will change. We will inform you asap about the new number and hope you will visit us soon in our new offices.

Regions as Catalysts of Open Innovation R sidence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, Brussels REGISTER NOW

Innovation is a vital component of regional competitiveness and it is a crucial driver to help regions escape the current economic crisis. The economic downturn forces companies to rethink their Research & Development (R&D) strategies. As a result, more and more companies open up their internal R&D to outside forces, sharing risks, costs and opportunities and becoming more fluid and open. Open Innovation is clearly more than hype or a 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.

This ERRIN conference will bring together EC officials, regional policy officers, policy-makers and experts to explore this new concept, discussing, among others:

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

Speakers include:

- Peter Dr ll, European Commission, DG Enterprise, Head of Unit, Innovation Policy Development
- Koenraad Debackere, Managing Director, K.U. Leuven R&D, Director of IWT Flanders
- Leopold Demiddeleer, Solvay's Director of Future Businesses, EIRMA President
- Michael West, Executive Dean of Aston Business School (Moderator)

The conference will also discuss and present good practice examples of Open Innovation initiatives in ERRIN regions

[Click here to download the full programme](#)

To register, please return the [registration form](#) to communication@errin.eu **before June 4th**

- ◆ Please see our [Event Calendar](#) for more forthcoming events.
- ◆ 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
- ◆ For more news on Research and Innovation, please visit our Director's [i-blog](#)

PARTNER SEARCHES

FP7 Social Sciences and Humanities and Life Long Learning - Cardiff School of Education

Multicompetence and a linguistic continuum: Researching Bilingual and Welsh medium education settings in Wales

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)

FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IEF – University of Verona

Social Capital and Information Communication technologies (ICTs): resources for social innovation and cultural development. A comparison among European countries

[Downloadable Partner Search](#)



REMINDER: ERRIN Design Working Group First Exploratory Meeting, hosted by Eindhoven Brainport, House of Dutch Provinces, 27 May 2009, 10.00, 71-75 Rue des Aduatiques, 1040 Brussels

Following the expressed interest of [our members](#) in an ERRIN Design Working Group, a first exploratory meeting will take place on 27 May 2009.

You can download the agenda and a rationale on the mission and objectives of the newly launched ERRIN Design Working Group by following the links below:

[Agenda](#)

[Draft Rationale](#)

If interested in attending this meeting, [members can register through the online ERRIN calendar](#), where the meeting has been posted. A design working group section is also under construction.

Please register online by Monday 25th May at the latest.

For all additional questions, please contact:

Anthony van de Ven

anthony.vd.ven@eindhoven.nl; +31 6 53706769

[More information and registration](#)

ERRIN Copenhagen Climate Change Briefing, 29 May 2009, 9.00-10.00 at Scotland House Europa, Rond Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels

ERRIN invites interested members to join a briefing on an ERRIN contribution to the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. A planned ERRIN policy statement should be accompanied by a number of good practice examples showing R&D projects within our regions and demonstrating how we are engaging internationally and how this benefits regional skills, jobs, health, etc. This short meeting will explain the background of this ERRIN initiative and the call for projects.

[More information and registration](#)

The ERRIN North West Europe Interreg Group: A Project Development Workshop for the next Interreg IVB Call, 17 June, Brussels

This event will provide ERRIN members based in the North West Europe section of the Interreg IVB programme the opportunity to brainstorm potential projects and find partners for the next call September 2009.

The NWE priorities are listed below but this workshop is primarily interested in innovation. Innovation projects should aim to produce trans-national partnerships which can enhance the region's capacity to innovate and facilitate the development of knowledge-based activities. Preference will be given to projects which can develop cross-sectoral synergies and facilitate the creation, demonstration and above all, the application of knowledge.

Project activities should be clearly linked to territorial development and not solely focus on networking within the specific scientific/business sector, for which, the interregional cooperation strand is more appropriate. The Programme will not support research and development or academic networking which is not linked to actions or demonstration projects.

Capitalising on innovation.

Environmental challenges

Connectivity

Strong and prosperous communities

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

Post 2010 Lisbon Strategy: Focus on Innovation and Clusters! A (joint) Network event of the Lisbon Regions Network and ERRIN, 18 June 2009, BIP (Brussels Info Point – www.biponline.be), Rue Royale 2-4, 1000 Brussels

In 2009, the current Lisbon Strategy will end its 10 year-run, in the midst of the most severe economic slump the European Union has witnessed since its foundation in 1957. The European Commission will present a new strategy at the end of 2009. This new strategy will have to face up to the challenges of severe economic restructuring and job losses. Investment in economic clusters combining innovation, education and research are key elements to bring Europe's knowledge-based economy back on track and should feature prominently in the new strategy. Such investment should be accompanied by regional innovation strategies that enhance competitiveness through upgrading innovation policies, infrastructure and the regional talent pool.

This seminar will contribute to thinking on the future Lisbon Strategy and promote an opportunity to members of the two networks to both understand and shape future EU policy in this area. Two high-level EU policy experts will share current thinking on research and innovation challenges and discuss the role of regions in developing better innovation strategies. The seminar will also showcase two good practice examples of regional innovation highlighting the 'triple helix' roles of companies, universities and research institutes and public administrations. The seminar will be followed by a networking reception providing an opportunity for members of both networks to meet and discuss.

[More information and registration](#)

Better approaches to commercialisation of R&D - How to make more of your regional R&D investments? 25 June 2009, West Midlands in Europe, Avenue d'Auderghem 22-28, B-1040 Brussels

It is widely recognised that too few projects initiated under both national as well as EU funded research projects are commercially exploited. This is particularly true for environmental and clean energy technologies, which involve above-average public funding and where the R&D-base is highly fragmented. Yet, regions and the EU at large can only benefit from research results if these are transferred from laboratories to the market as licensed technologies or newly created technology-based companies.

This ERRIN seminar, organised in cooperation with Greenovate! Europe, will inform ERRIN members about FP7 project opportunities for environmental technologies and familiarise ERRIN members with tested commercialisation methodologies. It will also enable ERRIN practitioners to discuss opportunities for their projects with commercialisation experts in moderated roundtable sessions.

[More information and registration](#)



FUNDING AREA

ERRIN Briefing on Green Public Procurement, Co-organised by the SDI Group and ERRIN, 11 May 2009, Brussels

By spending around 16% of the European Union's gross domestic product, public authorities can potentially influence the market supply side towards 'greener' goods and services. But only a small minority of public organisations systematically considers environmental criteria when selecting suppliers, service providers and contractors. A lack of awareness about the role that Green Public Procurement (GPP) can play and a lack of information on the possibility to include environmental requirements into tendering procedures are some of the barriers of a wide-spread use of GPP.

This ERRIN Briefing, in cooperation with SDI Europe presented "GPPinfoNET", the Green Public Procurement Information Network, and informed ERRIN members about the role of GPP in regional economic development and innovation policies. Participants learnt about:

- The role of GPP within the European strategy for sustainable consumption and production
- How GPP can stimulate regional innovation and competitiveness
- The contribution of regional networks to the diffusion of GPP

[Presentations available here](#)

Some references:

[EC - Green Public Procurement](#)

[GPPnet Network website](#)

[International Forum of Green Procurement](#)

Regional Strategies for the Internationalisation of SMEs and Clusters: An Exchange Event, 12 May 2009, Brussels Organised by: ADEuropa Foundation – Regional Government of Castilla y León, the representation office of Basse-Normandie and England's Northwest in Brussels

This event, which took place during the 1st European SME week in Brussels, brought together regions with an interest and active in getting businesses and clusters within their territories to cooperate and trade at a European and international level. This exchange event was targeted specifically at experts in charge of internationalisation activities of both SMEs and clusters. The attendance learnt about what tools and activities are implemented within a wide variety of regions across the EU.

[Presentations available here](#)

ERRIN Briefing on Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential and Research Infrastructure, 14 May 2009, Brussels

This briefing provided information on past and future calls within the Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential and Research Infrastructure strands of FP7. Mr. Ciaran Dearle and Mr. Christos Profilis, from DG RTD, presented preliminary results of the recently closed calls and inform ERRIN members about the priorities of the future calls for Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential and Research Infrastructure, expected to be published after the summer.

[Presentations available here](#)

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[Presentations available here](#)

ERRIN EVENTS

Fostering EU-Russia Cooperation

Date: 2 June 2009

Time: 8.30-14.00

Venue: Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union, 100 rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

European Regional Economic Forum 2009

Date: 8-9 June 2009

Venue: Nova Gorica, Slovenia

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

New Zealand science policy, capability&interests

Date: 3 June 2009

Time: 15.00-17.00

Venue: New Zealand Mission to the EU - 1st floor – Luxembourg room, 1 Square de Meeûs, 1000 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

Futur en Seine

Date: 29 May - 7 June 2009

[More information, agenda and registration](#)



WORKING GROUP CORNER

Science in Society Working Group

Gender and Research: Idea for an Application

The Last SiS Working Group meeting was the occasion to discuss an idea for an Application on Gender and Research proposed by the Free Hanseatic city of Bremen EU Office (Martin Hilger) following the interest of the decision-making body of Bremen University in broadening and deepening the efforts to reach the goal of a gender-balanced University. A representative of the European Platform of Woman Scientists (EPWS) was also present as it wishes to participate in such a bid together with ERRIN members.

The SiS call is expected to be published in 30 July 2009, a draft work programme is already available on the ERRIN intranet ([under the Science in Society Working Group Section](#)), and the provisional budget for Gender: change in research organisations/universities (**Coordination and Support Action**) is of **4, 5 million euros**. The aim of the project was not defined during the Working Group meeting; however, according the draft work programme, **the involvement of university decision makers will be essential**.

Several ERRIN members present at the meeting expressed their interest in the Project idea. The SiS Working Group will circulate documents within the next 2 weeks in order to assess the interest of other ERRIN members in such a bid, and organise a **SiS Practitioner's meeting by September 2009 to build a project proposal**.

If you wish to know more about this project idea, you can already contact the ERRIN Secretariat at farha.brahmi@errin.eu.

ICT / Energy Working Group

The ICT and Energy Joint Working Group Meeting, Energy Efficiency Communication and Consultation, 20 May Brussels

This joint ERRIN Working Group briefing was welcoming Colette Maloney, DG INFSO, sketching the specific role of member states, regional and local authorities in multiplying initiatives, providing opportunities for synergies and increasing the visibility of ICT for Energy efficiency.

Katrina Destrée from GeSI presented 'the ICT Industry's Commitment to reduce CO2 Emissions' by referring to the recently published Smart 2020 report. The report highlights the potential for ICT-driven decrease of global emissions by 8.3 Gt CO₂, equivalent to 15 %, on the 2020 time horizon. A practical best practice example from Bristol City, presented by Michele Corbetta, South West UK Brussels Office was complementing the event.

[More information and presentations available online](#)