



**Secretariat Announcement**

**The ERRIN North West Europe Interreg Group, 17 June 2009, Brussels**

An INTERREG IVB project development workshop took place on 17th June 2009 involving a small group of ERRIN members from the NWE programme area. The aim of this project development workshop was to brainstorm on strategic project ideas for the 5th INTERREG IVB call due on 7th October 2009 and to facilitate the building of core consortia for developing these ideas into project submissions. A follow-up event on strategic project development including also INTERREG IVB CE, MED, Baltic Sea is planned for 18th September. An invitation will soon be send.

**Pinnacle Seminars for EU Funded Projects**

Great communication is the key to professional success. Professional communication skills are becoming ever more important in the Brussels arena as well as in EU-funded projects. Earlier this year the ERRIN Secretariat had organised a joint staff training media-writing together with interested Brussels offices of ERRIN members. Our partner for this training was Pinnacle Public Relations. As a follow-up, we are making available Pinnacle's regular PR training schedule, which we hope will be useful for helping our member's training needs. If there is sufficient interest ERRIN is ready to coordinate the organisation of joint training. Please contact the Secretariat for more information at [communication@errin.eu](mailto:communication@errin.eu)

**European Voice Innovation Summit 2009, 7 October 2009, Brussels**

**European Voice is currently organizing its first Innovation Summit scheduled for 7 October 2009. The event will bring together national and EU policymakers, business executives, investors, researchers and academics to discuss what contribution innovation can make to bringing Europe out of its economic crisis.**

The ERRIN Secretariat is already in contact with European Voice and is now looking into facilitating an ERRIN stand at the Innovation Summit in Brussels. Following the same principle as for the ERRIN Joint Stand organized for Research Connection in Prague (May 2009), ERRIN members would cooperate to share the costs as well as benefits of such a joint stand: **Benefits to all ERRIN exhibitors will be the following:**

- Exhibitors will be listed on the dedicated section of [www.europeanvoice.com](http://www.europeanvoice.com).
- Supporter's logo/name on conference page of [www.europeanvoice.com](http://www.europeanvoice.com) with links to company website
- Extensive advertising of event in European Voice and media partner titles
- Invitation to VIP Cocktail the night prior to the event
- Networking opportunities
- Exhibitors logo and location of stand to be included in the conference documentation
- Association with European Voice and The Economist Group brands

**Costs to share amongst participating members:**

- either 10 000 Euro to divide amongst participants sharing a Stand Prestige of 9m2
- or 5 000 Euro for a Regular Stand of 6m2

Should there be a critical mass within the network the costs could get relatively low for each interested member. Please, express your interest by contacting the ERRIN Secretariat at [communication@errin.eu](mailto:communication@errin.eu) by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July!

**ERRIN Office Warming, Friday 17 July, Av. Palmerston 23, 1000 Brussels**

The ERRIN Secretariat invites you to a drink at its new office location on Friday 17th July starting at 16.00 (until about 19.00).

Please confirm your attendance before Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July at [communication@errin.eu](mailto:communication@errin.eu).

**ERRIN Spring Annual Event: "Regions as catalysts of Open Innovation", 11 June 2009, Brussels**

This ERRIN conference moderated by Prof. Michael West, Executive Dean of Aston Business School, brought together EC officials, regional policy officers and policy-makers and open innovation experts to explore this new concept, discussing, among others:

Which opportunities/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?

The presentations are now available on the ERRIN website:

Public session: Regions as catalysts of Open Innovation

[Future Business and Open Innovation, Léopold Demiddeleer](#)

[Towards a European Innovation Plan, Peter Droell](#)

[Regions as catalysts for open innovation, Koenraad Debackere](#)

Examples from ERRIN regions: Open Innovation in action

[Tampere, Demola innovation services](#)

[West Midlands, Innovation Xchange](#)

[Ile de France Region, Moveo](#)

A summary of this event is also available on [the ERRIN Director's blog](#).



**ERRIN EVENTS REMINDERS: LAST CALL**

**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, 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](#)

**Lisbon in Practice - Regional Attractiveness for R&I Investment, 8 July 2009, West Midlands in Europe, Av. Auderghem 22-28, 1040 Brussels**

The 2009 Ernst & Young survey of European attractiveness ranked 'making innovation easier and supporting R&D investments' in third place for FDI decisions. In line with these findings, policy actors are increasingly aware that regions need to be much more aware of their research and innovation environments and offers in a competitive global economy.

**To open up a debate on how exactly regions can both develop and promote their R&D and innovation competences to retain and attract investment, ERRIN has invited a group of leading thinkers in this field to present their findings and new initiatives and exchange their views on this topic:**

**1. European attractiveness survey:**

**Marc Lhermitte of Ernst & Young** will present the main results of their recently published 2009 survey, highlighting in particular the role of countries'/regions' research and innovation capacities for investor's decisions.

**2. Regional Growth Project:**

**Ben Gardiner of Cambridge Econometrics** will present the milestones of the first year of this 4-year project, which aims to identify the best and worst-performing regions in Europe (<http://www.euregionalgrowth.eu/>).

**3. Lessons from FP6:**

**Vincent Duchêne and Geert Steurs of Idea Consult** will present lessons from their ex-post evaluation of FP6 with a particular focus on lessons learned for promoting regional innovation.

**4. A new innovation strategy for regions:**

**Andrew Davies of the OECD** will present this new OECD/European Commission project, which is to take stock of the different approaches to supporting innovation at regional level and aims to help improve the effectiveness of innovation policy and innovation-related spending at regional level.

[More information, agenda and registration](#)



## WORKING GROUP CORNER

### Feature: Science in Society Working Group

#### Gender and Research: Idea for an Application

At their last meeting the SiS Working Group discussed an idea for an application on Gender and Research proposed by the Free Hanseatic city of Bremen EU Office (Martina Hilger). 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](#)). The provisional budget for Gender: change in research organisations/universities (**Coordination and Support Action**) is of **€ 4,5 million**. The aim of the project was not defined during the Working Group meeting; however, according to 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 two weeks in order to assess the interest of other ERRIN members in such a bid, and will 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](mailto:farha.brahmi@errin.eu).

++++**Energy Working Group**: ERRIN Energy Working Group Practitioners Event, 24 June 2009, 14.00-18.00, West Sweden's Brussels Office, Sweden House, Rue de Luxembourg 3, 1000 Brussels. Remember to let your practitioners know that they can participate virtually, using skype or video conference (we still need registration forms in this case). Please remember, that this event is for regional practitioners, and that Brussels representatives should participate only if accompanying a practitioner. For more information and registration, please contact Jessica Huntingford at [huntingford@regioncentroitalia.org](mailto:huntingford@regioncentroitalia.org). +++++

++++**Biotech Working Group**: ERRIN Biotech Working Group Meeting, 29 June 2009, 14.00-16.00, Lombardy Region, 2 Place du Champ de Mars, 1050 Brussels.

The meeting will be focused on the preparation of next ERRIN CEBR joint meeting on Region of knowledge. As you might know, next ROK call for proposal will be published on July 30th. Health will be the topic for 2010 Work Programme. Considered that the final draft Work programme is already available it is important to start building the consortia in order to build strong proposals mobilizing the 3 components of our research driven clusters. The consortium building session involving regional practitioners will take place on July 10th (and not on July 14th as originally announced) so I recommend you to announce this date to your people back home to guarantee the participation of your practitioners. Please confirm your participation to the meeting sending an e-mail to [pinna@lom.camcom.it](mailto:pinna@lom.camcom.it). +++++

## OTHER EVENTS

#### **Innovation at the service of regions and cities**

Date: 22-23 June 2009

Venue: The Hague, Netherlands

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

#### **Key Driver for Customer Orientated Design**

Date: 2 July 2009

Time: 14.30-17.30

Venue: Wales House, 11 Rond-Point Schuman, 1040 Brussels

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

#### **Renewable Energy & Clean-Tech - Tools for Regions**

Date: 20-21 July 2009

Venue: Östersund, Sweden

[More information, agenda and registration](#)

#### **Conference on Container Security Date: 10 September 2009**

Time: 14.00-19.00

Venue: Town Hall of Bremen, Germany

[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:**

[Public procurement – a lifeline for death valley?](#)

[Open Innovation: From fragmented in the region to leading in Europe](#)