

EUROPEAN REGIONS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION NETWORK (ERRIN)

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



SETTING THE SCENE

The European Regions Research and Innovation Network - <u>ERRIN</u>, is a well-known Brussels-based association that gathers around 120 regional organisations from more than 20 European countries. Established in 2001, ERRIN supports members to enhance their regional and local research and innovation capacities and further develop their R&I ecosystems. The network maintains a long-standing relationship with the EU institutions and other organisations to strengthen the regional and local dimension in EU Research and Innovation policy and programmes.

ERRIN offers a platform for knowledge exchange and supports its members by enhancing regional collaboration and facilitating access to EU funding through project development activities. ERRIN members collaborate through 13 Working Groups and 2 Task Forces, covering both overarching policy issues and thematic areas based on members' priorities and on current funding opportunities. Working Group and Task Forces meetings are at the heart of ERRIN's activities, as this is where our members meet regularly to exchange information, present regional examples, build new partnerships, develop joint projects, network and much more.

The main objectives of the network are to

- bring the place-based perspective to EU research and innovation policy and funding, and position regional interest in the R&I landscape by creating a lasting dialogue with European institutions and especially the European Commission;
- create partnerships between members and help them tap into project opportunities through various project facilitation activities.

ERRIN currently has two network-wide priorities: shaping and supporting engagement in the EU Missions and Widening and deepening engagement in research and innovation with the goal of achieving a more inclusive ecosystem approach in R&I across Europe. Both priorities are followed up by the Management Board and embedded into the activities of ERRIN Working Groups and Task Forces.

ERRIN has been actively engaged in the development and implementation of the EU Missions since the start of their development process through various <u>activities</u>.



TAKING STOCK OF THE YEAR



What a year we had in 2023! In a vibrant network with some 120 members, 13 Working Groups and 2 Task Forces led by 66 Brussels-based colleagues from over 40 member organisations driving the work forward, summarising our achievements with a few lines is somewhat challenging. Together, we have accomplished so much. Nevertheless, we have made an attempt to collect some highlights for our end-of-the-year reception in December, which are available here.

2023 kicked off with intensive work on assessing Horizon Europe and responding to the public consultation on the Horizon programmes. Developed with the support of a dedicated Task Force, <u>ERRIN's contribution</u> was structured around four main areas based on the network's priorities: EU Missions, European Partnerships and funding synergies, widening and ecosystem approach.

Initiatives boosting collaboration between regional innovation ecosystems created a lot of enthusiasm last year. Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) pilot gathered more than 45 ERRIN members around this initiative to help tackle transformative change within regions. The Regional Innovation Valleys (RIV) raised the interest of a large majority of members with a clear aim to bring regional innovation ecosystems together around a key challenge, with a pivotal role for regional governments as facilitators of the collaboration between the innovation actors. Finally, our work on Hydrogen Valleys provides a thematic example of such an ecosystem approach focusing on energy transition.

In 2023, ERRIN maintained a strong focus on EU Missions. As one of the important network priorities, ERRIN actively participated in advancing the implementation of the five Missions through diverse activities. The network engaged in policy dialogues with the European Commission throughout the year to ensure the ongoing progress of EU Missions. Additionally, the ERRIN project portfolio was strongly strengthened by several new EU Mission-related projects. These projects have injected further energy into ERRIN's work and are providing more opportunities and increased expertise in the network's work.

ERRIN MEMBERSHIP

ERRIN members are at the centre of the network – and it is their active engagement that moves us forward. Driven by Brussels-based regional delegations, we connect and empower regional and local R&I actors across Europe to enhance their innovation ecosystems. Fostering diversity and a place-based approach, our network brings together members who aim to get the most out of research and innovation instruments and funding opportunities. Meet all our current members here.

What is the membership about? Having an outlook on regionally relevant R&I policy priorities, tapping into funding and project opportunities with unparalleled possibilities for networking, mutual learning and collaboration.

We always welcome new members who wish to join our network. Check how to become a member here.





ERRIN WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

ERRIN work is driven bottom-up by members through the Working Groups (WG) and Task Forces (TF). Each WG and TF is led by 3 to 6 members, who play an important role in ERRIN to help define the network's thematic priorities in collaboration with the wider membership, and develop annual plans, keeping in mind the EU-level policies and strategies Being a leader is a great opportunity to get more visibility as a region, to represent ERRIN in external events, and to amplify joint ERRIN inputs.

In 2023, ERRIN leaders were invited to some 10 Missions-related events to represent both their regions/cities and ERRIN. They also hold various expert and advisory roles in different groups, such as the expert group on the Interregional Innovation Investment (I3) or the European Commission's expert group on the cultural heritage.



ERRIN Working Groups and Task Forces' leaders

MANAGEMENT BOARD

ERRIN Management Board steers the work of the network. It oversees the execution of the ERRIN's Annual Work Programme and ensures it aligns with the budget. The Board collaborates with the ERRIN Secretariat and the Working Group and Task Force leaders to coordinate ERRIN activities. ERRIN Management Board welcomed four <u>new members</u> in the <u>ERRIN Management Board</u> in 2023.

In 2023, the Board launched a discussion on further engaging the Directors of the Brussels Offices and Delegations in the activities of ERRIN. In April, ERRIN organised a networking event exclusively for heads of offices of member organisations for the first time. Marc Lemaître, following his new appointment as Director-General of DG for Research and Innovation at the European Commission in February, joined the event as a keynote speaker, which also allowed for mutual introduction with ERRIN in an informal setting.





INFLUENCING R&I POLICY

Horizon consultation response

ERRIN kicked off 2023 with intensive work on responding to the largest public consultation on the past, present and future of the Horizon programmes 2014-2027. ERRIN's contribution was structured around four main areas based on the network's priorities: EU Missions, European Partnerships and funding synergies, widening, and ecosystem approach. The document was co-created by a dedicated drafting group composed of a number of representatives from the network's membership following several meetings and exchanges throughout January and February 2023. This work also paved the way for launching targeted reflections towards the next European Framework Programme for R&I (FP10) later in the year.

Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) and Regional Innovation Valleys (RIV)

2023 was strongly focused on two initiatives boosting collaboration between regional innovation ecosystems— PRI and the RIV. The network followed the PRI developments closely, supporting members in the implementation of the initiative, organising discussions (e.g. on "Steering PRI - expectations and future directions"), and exchanging with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions as bodies leading the initiative. We also joined two highlevel events: "From Playbook to implementation" in Brussels in March and "From Pilot to practice" in Dalarna, Sweden, in May, which served to conclude the one-year PRI Pilot Action, where more than 45 ERRIN members were involved. ERRIN also developed structured activities for members to facilitate building successful consortia for the first Regional Innovation Valleys calls for proposals on the basis of continuous dialogue with the European Commission. These included first-hand updates and responses to FAQs, an interest mapping survey, a matchmaking session with over 50 regions engaged, collaborative matchmaking online, and a dedicated meeting on cofunding requirements with over 75 regions present. ERRIN was also invited to comment on the initiative during several EU-level events, such as the EC's matchmaking event and the Knowledge Exchange Platform seminar in September.



ERRIN INPUT TO

CONSULTATION

PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE

EUROPEAN RESEARCH &

INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES

2014-2027

8808

ERRIN







EU MISSIONS STILL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In 2023, ERRIN's efforts were maintained on the EU Missions through five Working Groups and Task Forces, each dedicated to a specific Mission. ERRIN WGs and TFs aimed to advance the implementation of the five Missions at the regional and local levels through diverse activities and policy dialogues. ERRIN's <u>Horizon 2014-2027 consultation</u> response offered a general reflection as well as detailed insights concerning the future of the EU Missions. A high-level policy debate on the role of regions and regional ecosystems in the five EU Missions was also organised during the <u>ERRIN Spring Annual General Meeting</u> in June 2023. In addition to the WGs and TFs, a dedicated member of the ERRIN management board follows the work of the missions to allow for a cross -cutting approach.

In two years, the EU Missions have already delivered interesting results, such as increased collaboration between local and regional stakeholders, an enhanced innovation dimension in thematic policies, and increased multi-level collaboration. ERRIN also highlighted key aspects that need to be strengthened to effectively achieve the objectives of the Missions, such as a clear and effective governance system, robust coordination between the Missions and stronger links between the Missions and other EU, national and local initiatives. Ensuring ownership at all levels was identified as a fundamental component for successful implementation. These key messages were reinforced thanks to the collaboration with the <u>TRAMI project</u>, which aims to improve cooperation and coordination between EU, national, regional and local actions in support of EU Missions. This collaboration played an important role in bridging the gap between policy objectives and practical implementation and encouraged cross-sectoral cooperation and knowledge exchange. In this context, ERRIN co-organised a Mutual Learning Event on the Triple-helix collaboration in 2023, exploring how to further increase collaboration and remove barriers among industry, academia and the public sector to drive innovation for EU Missions.

To enhance the ecosystem approach and collaboration among stakeholders, ERRIN assisted members in developing successful EU Mission proposals for the Horizon Europe 2023-2024 work programme. By mapping relevant calls and conducting a survey that garnered over 45 expressions of interest, ERRIN identified key roles for members. Subsequently, project facilitation sessions were organised, attracting over 55 participants and serving as platforms for members to discuss and promote consortia for regional R&I ecosystems. This reflects ERRIN's commitment to fostering collaborative initiatives within the Horizon Europe framework.

100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES BY 2030 (CITIES MISSION)

The Cities Mission remained a priority for ERRIN's <u>Smart Cities WG</u> in 2023. The Working Group leaders continued the well-established dialogue with the Mission Secretariat and held a meeting with the Mission Manager in June to present ERRIN's input to the Horizon 2014-2027 consultation.

In October, ERRIN was pleased to see that the ten first cities to be awarded the <u>EU Mission Label</u> by the European Commission were located in ERRIN member regions. The ten cities submitted their Climate City Contracts as part of the first cohort in spring 2023, and two of them – Cluj-Napoca and Vitoria Gasteiz, shared their experiences and lessons learned with the Smart Cities Working Group in a <u>meeting</u> in April.

In addition, ERRIN's two Cities Mission projects – NetZeroCities and MOSAIC— provided support to the Mission implementation. ERRIN's role within the <u>NetZeroCities</u> project has evolved in the past year and is now centred around some key activities that are of strategic importance to the network. ERRIN is leading the work on establishing partnerships between NetZeroCities and existing initiatives, projects and other EU Missions to maximise synergies, collaboration and support to cities. Since the beginning of the project, ERRIN has led the work around multi-level governance in the Cities Mission, focusing on sharing best practices on innovative governance approaches and instruments and facilitating dialogues between the different levels of government. Finally, ERRIN is supporting cities in the development of their Climate City Contracts through its two City Advisors while also contributing to the project's policy innovation and citizen and stakeholder engagement efforts.

ERRIN has also actively supported Mission Cities in their citizen and stakeholder engagement work through the <u>MOSAIC</u> project. Gothenburg and Milan, the two MOSAIC pilot cities, have worked together for over one year with a large variety of local stakeholders on the identification and prototyping of innovative solutions aligned with their Climate City Contracts. To further support the uptake of these initiatives, ERRIN has produced the <u>MOSAIC</u> Cookbook - a hands-on tool describing the MOSAIC methodology to support cities in boosting participatory processes in the EU Missions.



OCEANS AND WATERS CANCER

EU MISSION: RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS BY 2030 (OCEAN AND WATERS MISSION)

Throughout the year, ERRIN's <u>Blue Economy WG</u> engaged in several discussions with the Mission Secretariat of the Ocean and Waters Mission to raise the profile of regions in the Mission. One such occasion was the <u>meeting</u> organised together with the Mission Secretariat in March. The meeting provided an opportunity for four ERRIN member regions to present the challenges they experience in the implementation of the Mission and to discuss regions' support needs with representatives of the Mission Secretariat. This work was further amplified through ERRIN's involvement in the Mission Ocean Implementation Support Platform (MIP Ocean), which was launched in 2023. Through MIP Ocean, ERRIN organised a <u>focus group meeting</u> bringing together regional authorities to discuss the Charter of the Ocean and Waters Mission. The discussion focused on identifying the support needs of regional stakeholders and exploring how these needs could be effectively addressed through practical offers provided by MIP Ocean. In May, ERRIN facilitated collaboration and partnership-building among its members and external actors for the Mission Ocean and Waters calls for 2023. Read more <u>here</u>.

EU MISSION: CANCER

In 2023, ERRIN continued advocating for the important role that regions could take in the Cancer Mission. In June, together with EUREGHA, ERRIN's <u>Health WG</u> leaders met with the Mission Cancer Secretariat to discuss how regions can engage further in the Mission. This initial dialogue will be taken forwards into 2024 to sustain the relationship and to explore the opportunities for the members. Further to this, during the European Week of Regions and Cities, ERRIN attended meetings with the Mission Secretariat and the newly created ECHoS project, which will implement the Mission activities in Member States. Read more about it <u>here</u>.







SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

The Mission Soil is a key priority of ERRIN's <u>Bioeconomy WG</u>, which has established a relationship with the Mission Soil Secretariat. ERRIN continued the policy dialogue with the secretariat and successfully launched the <u>Mission Soil Manifesto</u>, an important milestone aiming at mobilising regions, municipalities, organisations, businesses and citizens to take action for soil health and restoration. On this occasion, ERRIN was also the first stakeholder to sign the Manifesto. In April, ERRIN announced its participation in the <u>SOILL-Startup</u> project that, from January 2024, will speed up the implementation of the Mission Soil by supporting the network of 100 Soil Mission Living Labs and Lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils across Europe by 2030.

In May, ERRIN organised a project development session on the Mission Soil calls 2023, facilitating an informal exchange to foster potential consortia development. In November, ERRIN coorganised the <u>EU Soil Day</u> together with the Region of Murcia and the Spanish Council Presidency. Hosted by the European Committee of the Regions, it was an important occasion to foster a dialogue on the regional dimension of soil health. Following the event, the Bioeconomy WG leaders actively participated in the European Mission Soil Week in Madrid, bringing the voice of local and regional authorities and highlighting the crucial role of regions in connecting stakeholders, engaging citizens and fostering dialogue on soil health.





ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Adaptation to climate change has been one of the main areas of work for ERRIN in 2023. At the beginning of the year, ERRIN launched a new <u>Task Force on Adaptation to Climate Change</u> and two new EU Mission Adaptation projects, <u>RESIST</u> and <u>Pathways2Resilience</u>, kicked off. In addition to positioning ERRIN as an important stakeholder for the Mission and strengthening the dialogue with the Mission Secretariat, the TF has been able to explore the opportunities provided by ERRIN's two Mission projects. A <u>project development session</u> on the Mission calls 2023 facilitated an informal exchange to foster potential consortia development.

The RESIST project supports 12 regions across the EU in their efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change with three front-runner territories from the ERRIN membership: Southwest Finland, Central Denmark and Catalonia. The front-runners plan to test adaptation solutions to five key climate challenges: floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and soil erosion while working closely with various stakeholders from their regional ecosystems. During the first year, the project focused its activities on setting the stage for innovation, enabling quintuple-helix collaborative approaches to climate and social challenges. ERRIN has supported the regions in assessing the local needs and co-creating, discussing and developing innovative experiments. Through the RESIST Community of Practice, the project has provided a platform for the regions to exchange challenges and needs and to compare with each other, allowing them to improve their plans and processes through mutual learning. In 2024, a wider Community of Interest will be launched and will engage additional front-runners and less experienced regions.

The Pathways2Resilience project supports regions and communities in the formulation of regional and local resilience pathways and innovation agendas through cascade funding, support services and capacity-building activities. This is a flagship project under the Mission as it supports regions and communities in developing the strategic framework for achieving climate resilience through a systemic and transformative approach adapted to regions' needs and capacities. ERRIN is leading in the efforts to mobilise actors and promote the offerings of the programme to public authorities. The launch event for the <u>first Pathways2Resilience call for applicants</u> provided an opportunity for ERRIN members (Extremadura, South Moravia and regions from Finland) to bring forward their views on the Mission and present their climate adaptation work. The call was also presented in an Adaptation TF meeting in December, alongside other <u>opportunities for regions to receive support</u> for the Mission Adaptation.



ENHANCED ACTIVITIES: CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS TASK FORCE

In January 2023, ERRIN launched a Task Force on New European Bauhaus (NEB). The Task Force aims to closely follow the policy developments and opportunities provided by the initiative. During the first year, the Task Force collected and showcased local examples of NEB projects and initiatives and organised a <u>meeting in October</u> to discuss the local approaches to the NEB Initiative. The event was also used to collect views on the consultation on the future of the NEB. The members' views were collected in an ERRIN input paper that focused on future objectives, focus, implementation and financing of the NEB initiative on local and regional levels, including the involvement and support of local authorities. The Task Force will continue shaping the ERRIN recommendations on the future of NEB based on the local and regional needs and will further tighten its collaboration with the NEB Unit of JRC, as well as provide further project opportunities on Horizon Europe calls.

ERRIN's Working Groups and Task Forces are clustered to mirror the Horizon Europe programme to support project development activities. In September, following a <u>survey</u>, the <u>Cultural Heritage & Tourism WG</u>, alongside the <u>New</u> <u>European Bauhaus (NEB) Task Force</u> and the <u>Design & Creativity WG</u>, organised a project development session on Horizon Europe calls focusing on culture, creativity and cross-cutting areas such as tourism, circular economy and design. With over 50 expressions of interest across six selected calls, ERRIN was able to plan and facilitate a project development session tailored to the members' needs, supporting new collaborations in the culture and creativity sectors. Read more about it <u>here</u>.

CULTURE & CREATIVITY CLUSTER MATCHMAKING

ERRIN's Working Groups and Task Forces are clustered to mirror the Horizon Europe's Pillar 2: *Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness*, to support project development activities. In September, following a <u>survey</u>, the <u>Cultural Heritage & Tourism WG</u>, alongside the <u>New European Bauhaus (NEB) Task Force</u> and the <u>Design & Creativity WG</u>, organised a project development session on Horizon Europe calls focusing on culture, creativity and cross-cutting areas such as tourism, circular economy and design. With over 50 expressions of interest across six selected calls, ERRIN was able to plan and facilitate a project development session tailored to the members' needs, supporting new collaborations in the culture and creativity sectors. Read more about it <u>here</u>.



2023 - THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS

In early 2023, the <u>Science and Education for Society WG</u> kicked off the EU Year of Skills in the ERRIN network with a meeting dedicated to the state of play of the <u>Pact for Skills</u> and its regional dimension. Various ERRIN WGs then tackled skills from a sector-specific perspective, such as the Transport WG together with Polis on the <u>future of the transport workforce</u>, whereas digital and cybersecurity skills were addressed by <u>ERRIN's ICT</u> <u>WG</u>. ERRIN also supported many members to showcase their regional practices during the European Week of Regions and Cities for example at <u>the Young brains</u>, regional gains! event, <u>skills for Green Infrastructure</u>, and <u>inclusive skills for tomorrow</u>. The last SEFS Working Group meeting of 2023 offered a unique opportunity to learn about good regional, interregional and European practices in <u>skills forecasting and skills anticipation</u> from an ecosystem perspective.

As the EU Year of Skills will officially run until May 2024, the SEFS Working Group will continue its work in 2024 to support regions on how to build and strengthen their skills ecosystems and share the learnings about the heritage skills ecosystems carried out by five ERRIN members in the <u>CHARTER</u> European Skills Alliance for Cultural Heritage.





NEW AREAS OF WORK

EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL (EIC)

In 2023, the <u>Innovation and Investment WG</u> explored the work of the European Innovation Council (EIC). In June, ERRIN facilitated a meeting between the WG leaders and Michiel Scheffer, the newly elected EIC Board President. This meeting led to an open exchange and a dialogue with regional stakeholders and the President of the EIC later in the year. Also, in 2023, ERRIN joined the EIC Forum and two of its Working Groups on Policy and Innovation Procurement. This has been an opportunity for ERRIN to join discussions related to the New European Innovation Agenda alongside Member State representatives.

In 2024, ERRIN plans to build on those activities to tighten collaboration with the European Commission and to explore how to benefit further from the programme. More information about the activity can be found <u>here</u>.







HYDROGEN VALLEYS

In 2023, the <u>Energy and Climate Change WG</u> focused on hydrogen as a topic that was raising increasing interest among the ERRIN members. The year was kicked off with a meeting dedicated to <u>further</u> <u>developments in Hydrogen policy</u>. During this meeting, the European Commission announced an upcoming European Roadmap on Hydrogen Valleys. After several exchanges with the European Commission and the publication of the <u>call for evidence in July 2023</u>, a dedicated input paper on Hydrogen Valleys was developed. A survey was launched to gather inputs from ERRIN members, and answers from 25 regional and local governments were received. The input outlines how local and regional governments are addressing hydrogen -related challenges, by building on their existing local strategies and/or roadmaps. Consulting our members allowed us to gather and present 18 of those roadmaps and strategies, highlighting Hydrogen Valleys as important place-based innovation ecosystems and bringing together key stakeholders. In 2024, with the planned publication of the Roadmap in March, the Working Group will continue its work to advocate for the role of local and regional governments in the creation, development and implementation of Hydrogen Valleys. You can access the input paper here.

ERRIN PROJECTS

In 2023, ERRIN was successfully involved as a key partner in a total of 13 EU-funded projects. ERRIN's overarching objective is to secure involvement in strategic projects that can support the organisation's missions.

Over the last twelve months, ERRIN has been able to support and bring forward local and regional perspectives via numerous European policy instruments and initiatives such as EU Missions and the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI). ERRIN has also been able to strengthen expertise in stakeholder engagement as well as deepened knowledge on methods related to mutual-learning, which has and will continue to benefit members going forward.

ERRIN has also worked on European projects to demonstrate the value added and impact that an ecosystem approach can bring. In doing so, ERRIN has been able to secure additional visibility and a prominent platform for its members at EU level with concrete opportunities to showcase members' strengths and expertise in strategic areas such as skills development and energy transition. In several projects, pilot and twinning regions, and their innovation ecosystems, are collaborating with peers across Europe, and through increased connections creating stronger а European R&I ecosystem.



Pilot and twinning regions involved in ERRIN projects

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Last year was a pivotal period for ERRIN's project development, with an impressive number of project development activities organised. Drawing insights from our members and incorporating feedback from these events, the ERRIN team has developed an innovative in-house project development tool. This tool represents a major step forward in improving project opportunities for our members. It is designed to enable users to indicate their interest in specific calls for proposals. It is a game changer for members in the early stages of project development, offering a streamlined way to express interest and seek collaborations.

The tool will offer insights into emerging trends and high-interest areas within the ERRIN community, shaping project ideas to align with broader network interests. It stands as a central hub for disseminating project-related information, fostering deeper member engagement and efficiently matching project ideas with potential partners. Moreover, the website allows users to upload partner searches, tag specific topics, and display project ideas, ensuring a tailored approach to finding the right collaborators.

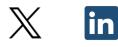
ERRIN's commitment to facilitating these connections does not stop online. ERRIN's Working Groups and Task Forces will use the insights gathered from the tool to more effectively respond to members' needs and organise brokerage events and informal meetings. These events will be pivotal in matchmaking and advancing project development.



Finally, ERRIN's Daily Update email, an essential communication from ERRIN, will now feature a dedicated section titled "Funding Updates". This section is designed to offer a comprehensive overview of the latest funding insights and a summary of expressions of interest. By including this in the daily briefing, members will have access to an up-to-date snapshot of funding landscapes and member-driven interests, enhancing their ability to stay informed and strategically aligned with emerging opportunities.

ERRIN COMMUNICATIONS

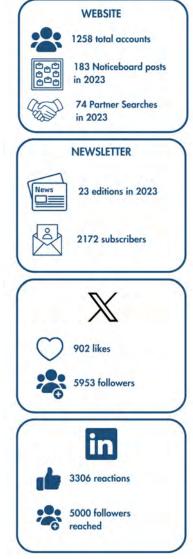
ERRIN has a number of ways to keep its members and an external audience up to date with the network's activities. A great success of 2023 is that ERRIN continues to grow its social media presence, reaching almost 6000 followers on X and 5000 followers on LinkedIn. To keep up to date with all of ERRIN's latest news, follow us here:



Members and non-members alike can follow all of ERRIN's news by <u>subscribing to our newsletter</u>. Issues are published every 2 weeks, with 23 editions in 2023 reaching 2172 subscribers each time. The newsletter is one of the primary ways that we can showcase member initiatives. ERRIN members can get daily or weekly updates directly to their inboxes. To join the 1258 users on our website, please apply for an account here: <u>Create new account | ERRIN Website</u>.

Also, via the ERRIN website, members can access our noticeboard to publish their news and opportunities and publish partner searches to find partners for project opportunities. Both tools were well used in 2023, with 183 noticeboard posts and 74 partner searches published.





2024 will undoubtedly be another exciting year. With the upcoming European elections, the new European Commission and ongoing evaluations of current policy frameworks, this year will be crucial for shaping the next Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF). The year also started with the Belgian Council Presidency, which is an opportunity to take an active role in events that will take place in our "home" country.

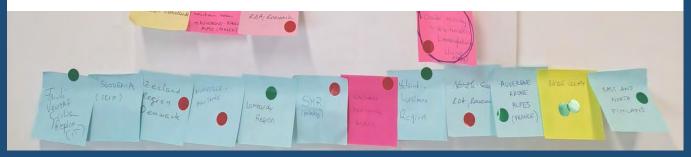
ERRIN's reflection on the next Framework Programme (FP10) and a debate on strengthening the research and innovation dimension in the Cohesion Policy post-2027 began last year. With the Commission proposal on the FP10 expected in mid-2025, this year will be key for setting the tone for further work on the topic and actively engaging in discussion. Therefore, FP10 will be a continuous work stream for ERRIN Working Groups and Task Forces this year, with several activities throughout the year.

In the Member survey at the end of 2023, the two top areas highlighted by members were influencing the future Framework Programme and providing project opportunities for regional stakeholders to take part in Horizon Europe projects. Following this request, the year will also be full of opportunities from a project development perspective as we will launch a new project development tool, which will offer a streamlined way of expressing interest in calls for proposals and enhancing collaboration. The tool will not only add to our online offering but will provide insights for us to respond to members' needs more effectively and help to organise more targeted brokerage events and informal match-making meetings.

Looking forward to another exciting year full of innovation!

Pirita Lindholm,

ERRIN Director









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