

## **Expression of interest to become a candidate for the Management Board of ERRIN**

ADRNE is a resilient, proficient and ambitious organization. In Romania we are known for being the pioneers on many levels. On one hand, as intermediary bodies, we have managed the Regional Operational Programs in excellent way (we are the champions on absorption rate), on the other hand, we are the only RDA in Romania that has diversified its activities towards innovation and entrepreneurship. In that sense, NERDA had funded, financed and launched one of the most known incubator/co-working spaces in North-East Romania. In Brussels, we are present for almost 9 years and we are the only regional representation from Romania. We have very good connections, a very diverse portfolio of projects and initiatives and the ambition to go beyond. Soon we will start with the first 2 cooperation projects with Latin American countries (Colombia and Brazil). Last but not least, NERDA, can, wants and is ready to contribute on many topics: 1. Innovation: regions have to learn how to keep value where it is created (something that bothers both good and modest innovators, capitals and provinces); 2. Cohesion: how to create a convergence within regions from North to South, East and West, but also within the same territory; 3. Finance: How to create and operationalize common pots for pan-European investments and how to be as agile as private finance.

The main reasons why we want to take part of the board are: - we want to influence the present and the future by cooperating with, coordinating and representing other regions interested in innovation and development; - we want to bring new ideas from different setups; - we want to prove that a CEE region can be a reliable front runner; - we want to position ourselves as the most active and resilient organization of our type in CEE and not only.

I, Bogdan Chelariu, am an enthusiastic policy practitioner with a background in political science. I have been attending graduate and postgraduate courses at universities of Iasi, Bergen, Oslo, Haifa and Berkeley. In the past 9 years I have been working in local and regional administrations in Romania and in Brussels, while dedicating some extra time to research, community and cultural projects. I'm interested in being part of the board because I am a person with initiative, I'm a good connector, I like building trust and being the glue of other people. In addition, I'm interested in most of the instruments ERRIN is dealing with. I would like to contribute with my knowledge and enthusiasm, bringing new views, ideas and proposals.

As for my experience in boards and steering groups, since last year we are part of the board of directors of the EURADA. We have actively contributed to the agenda of the association and to many initiatives. We deeply understand the financial envelope of an association, but also what keeps people together. Another example is The Mirror Group of Smart Specialization, co-chaired by ERRIN and EURADA, is one of the most interesting instruments of reviewing and keeping accountable, by independent bodies outside the European institutions, the Smart Specialization policy and rules. As the head of the Brussels office of ADRNE, I have participated in the last years Mirror Group on behalf of EURADA. We, NERDA, have contributed to the debate and eventually send a written opinion to DG Regio, with critical aspects regarding the COM on S3.

Last but not least, 2 years ago, NE Romania and the N Netherlands launched a pilot project concerning regional cooperation based on S3, testing new methods of multi-regional Entrepreneurial Discovery, while enabling multi-national quadruple-helix dialogue. Our work was documented and lot of attention was given by the EC, JRC, researchers, experts, or acclaimed regional studies expert like Kevin Morgan. Apart from the concept and the practice, an intensive work was done in chancelleries, offices and steering groups to promote and to finance our idea. In only one year, I, together with our Dutch partners, got into plenty of meetings and steering committees, with people like Mikel Landabaso, Marc Lemaitre, Slawomir Tokarski, all of them directors of the EC. We think that our experience was interesting and enriching and that many lessons were learned.

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