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Application to ERRIN Management Board

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As the Head of Office of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region in Brussels, I would like to apply in the name of my Region and for myself, to stay in the Management Board of ERRIN.

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is a leading French Region in terms of industry, innovation and digitalisation and boasts a very dynamic ecosystem. 1st French region in terms of R&D investments (2500 PhD /year, 40 000 researchers, 550 research labs, 2600 patents / year...), with world leading labs and more than 30 incubators and accelerators but also dynamic clusters, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes implements an ambitious innovation strategy based on 8 domains of smart specialisation, all very relevant for ERRIN working groups: industry of the future; energy, building and public works; agriculture and agri-food; health; smart mobility; digital; sport, mountain and tourism. As a Managing Authority of European funding (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, INTERREG), our Region has given a strong priority to innovation, investment and economic development.

Our Region is also an active member of various European cooperation and networks in Brussels and locally (4 Motors for Europe, Alpine Macroregion, Vanguard Initiative...and of course ERRIN) and is part of regional initiatives like the S3 platforms (leader of Medtech, member of 4 others thematic partnership). Together with our regional innovation agency, we are working to support an active participation of our regional stakeholders to European projects and initiatives (for example EIT-KIC, Digital Innovation Hubs, Horizon 2020...).

At a more personal level, I have joined management board a year ago, when starting my new position as the Head of Office of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes office in Brussels and it has been a very interesting experience. I have noticed a real effort from the board and the secretariat - together with all members- to better focus the activities of the network on strategic missions and core business, for a better visibility and efficiency of the network in Brussels. With the negotiation of next MFF and the growing role of regional and local levels on innovation, the momentum for this renewed approach is there. On my side, I would like to be better involved in the MB but also in one the strategic working group. From my previous background working in a Region on innovation and European policies, I could contribute to various topics but especially: smart specialisation/cohesion fund/ synergies/INTERREG ; regional innovation ecosystems; investments and financial instruments. If needed, I could also contribute to continue the existing exchanges with the Vanguard Initiative network. In all the cases, I would be pleased to have the opportunity to contribute – better and increasingly – to this dynamic , nice and professional group of people for the MB.

Thanks a lot in advance for all attention given to my application

Hortense LUTZ-HERMELLIN

