

28.9.2018

Dear Pirita,

South Norway is a region aspiring to increase its European cooperation. As the region's "extended arm" to the EU environment, I wish to stand for election for ERRIN's Management Board to offer the knowledge and experience of potential partners from our region, and contribute to ERRIN's further development. My longstanding experience with the EU includes having worked on the inside as a national- and senior expert for the European Commission, as well as a consultant to the Commission and now through the perspective of a regional office from an associate country. Furthermore, I have worked in the private sector. This has given me a rich knowledge base and understanding of the thought process and inner workings of the EU and its important link to European regions and their innovation potential.

South Norway is a diverse region with a blend of rural and urban challenges. Through four clusters we work actively with growth projects, such as the Interreg North Sea Periscope-project which I head with the active participation of partners from Scotland, South Holland, Northern Netherlands, Västra Götaland, South Denmark, Hamburg and Berlin. It demonstrates our capability of working on cross-regional innovation actions.

The South Norway region has developed an innovative and new-thinking identity. Close quadruple helix cooperation, and inter-sectorial cluster cooperations are among the driving forces in the region's work on core ERRIN areas such as Blue Growth, Circular Economy, Digitalization and e-Health. The strong research and innovation environments within these areas are experts within their fields and bring forth relevant approaches to drive the European and global development.

I see the set-up of South Norway European Office, with myself working both in Kristiansand and Brussels, as a bridge crucial for the development of ideas, projects and partnerships.

South Norway European Office holds a position as co-lead in the Blue Growth Working group through my colleague Kristine Lunde-Tellefsen, which states our genuine interest and commitment to the work of ERRIN. Being part of the Management Board and its work on ERRIN policy statements and deciding on ERRIN's involvement in strategic projects are two of my main motivation factors. South Norway European Office has benefitted greatly from our membership in ERRIN, and I believe it is due time for us to contribute to the further development of the network. This believe will prove to be mutual beneficial.

Kind regards,



Stig MARTHINSEN  
Managing Director