

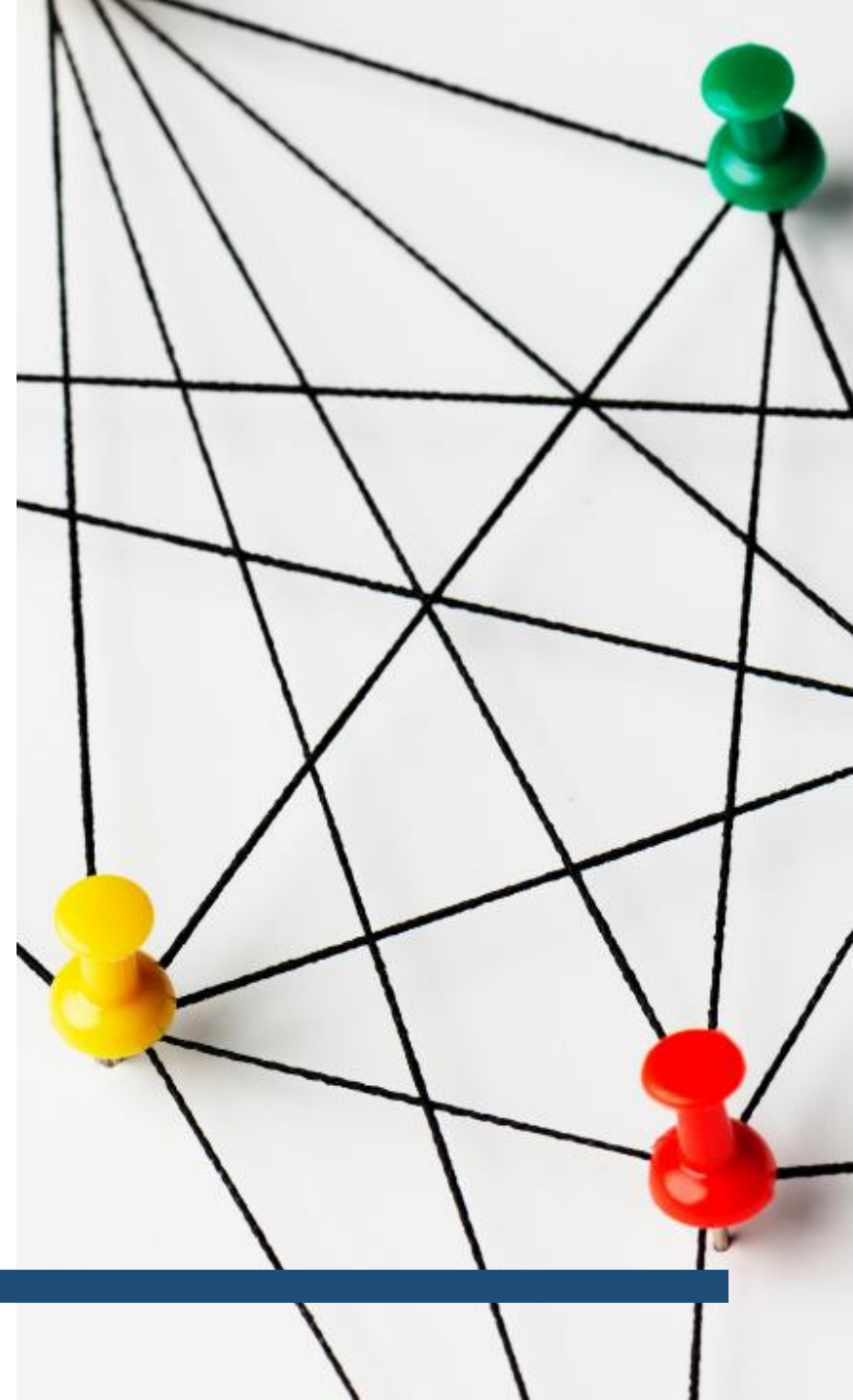
ERRIN event

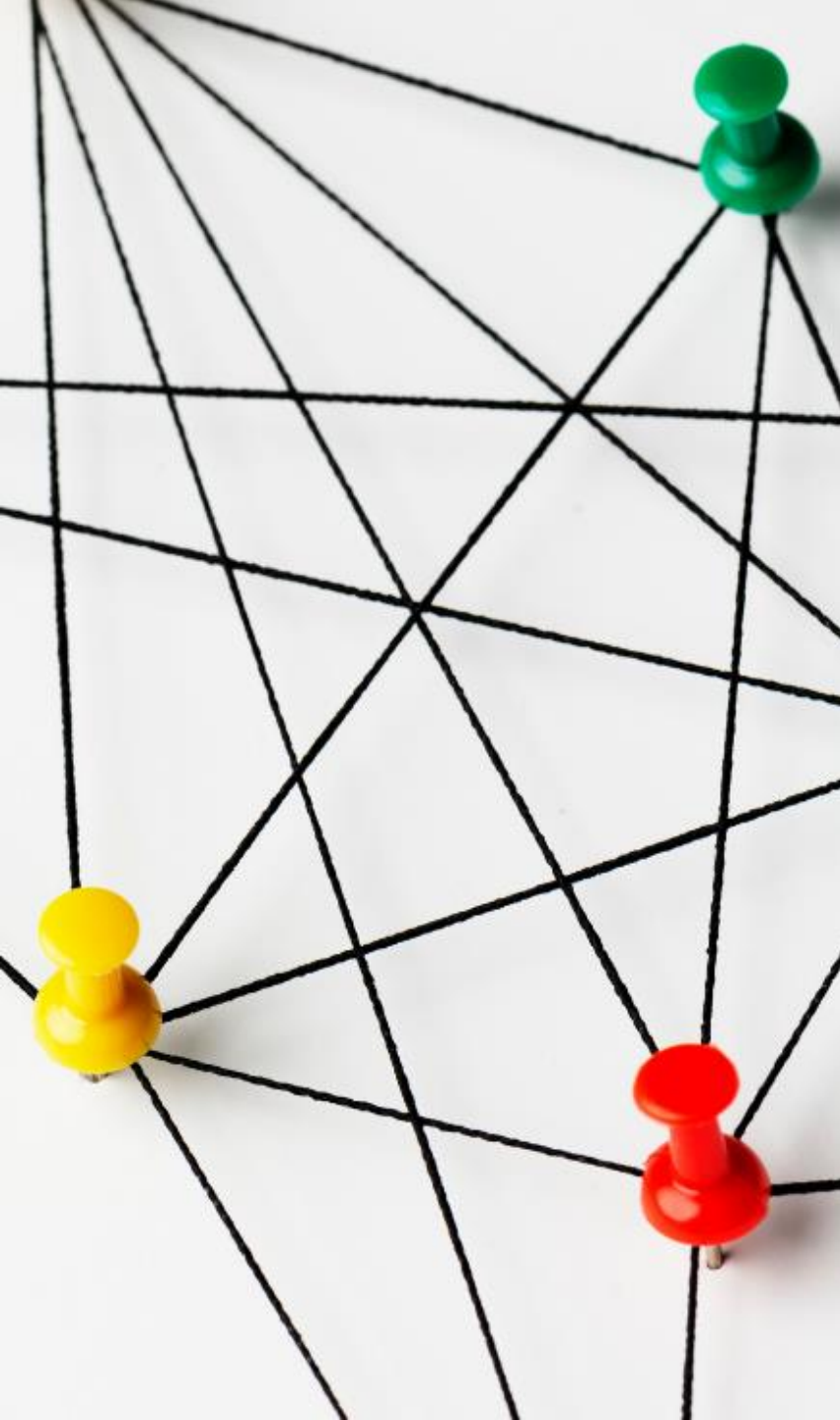
Organising a regional innovation ecosystem

4 October | 14:00-16:00



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Agenda

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|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:00 | Welcome Bogdan Chelariu, ERRIN Vice-Chair, North-East Romania Regional Development Agency |
| 14:05 | Developing a regional innovation ecosystem – brief context Ewa Chomicz, ERRIN Policy and Engagement Manager |
| 14:10 | Regional innovation ecosystem development journeys – examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Moravia, Czech Republic – Vendula Nováčková, Representation of the South Moravian Region to the EU• North-East Romania – Bogdan Chelariu, North-East Romania Regional Development Agency• Wielkopolska, Poland – Joanna Kubiak, Wielkopolska Region Brussels Office• Lapland, Finland – Harri Malinen, University of Lapland• Central Denmark – Xenia Ramirez Lauritsen, Central Denmark EU Office• Central Sweden – Rasmus Bergander, Central Sweden European Office |
| 14:50 | Interactive activities / discussion |
| 15:20 | Wrap-up |
| 15:30 | Networking coffee |
| 16:00 | End of meeting |

DEVELOPING A REGIONAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- Collaboration between different actors within regions, as well as between ecosystems
- Specific local conditions that enable ecosystems to flourish
- Mutual learning and developing the European R&I ecosystem as a whole

Importance of strong interconnected less-fragmented R&I ecosystems embedded in regions and cities for building an effective European R&I policy and optimising the impact of related funding programmes



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS LANDSCAPE

Horizon
Europe Partnership
for Innovative SMEs

European
Innovation Ecosystems



Interregional Innovation Investments (I3)
[European Regional Development Fund]

ERA Policy Action 15
on "ERA Hubs"



New European
Innovation Agenda –
Ecosystems
and Innovation Divide

Partnerships for
Regional Innovation
(PRI) Pilot



Regional Innovation
Valleys



EU Missions

European Universities Initiative



European Digital
Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)

EUROCLUSTERS



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What are the key characteristics of a well-functioning regional innovation ecosystem? How do you make it happen?
- What different steps to take at different stages of developing ecosystem (building, improving)?
- What are the challenges? What are the ways of addressing them?



What are the key characteristics of a well-functioning regional innovation ecosystem? How do you make it happen?

- Collaboration, coordination, open communication
- Trust in each other, willingness to cooperate
- Awareness of the ecosystem / knowledge of local conditions, needs, history and strengths
- Governance and implementation based on quadruple/quintuple helix collaboration
- Embedding collaboration into local strategies and policies
- Alignment of needs and priorities
- Proactive approach / readiness to take on new opportunities → actors who push the innovations forward
- Overarching structure aligned with (in-kind or financial) investment
- Adequate and varied funding
- Monitoring (data)



What different steps to take at different stages of developing ecosystem (building, improving)?

Mapping, connecting, mobilising

- Map stakeholders and territorial strengths/subsystems
- Bring all/relevant stakeholders/sectors together around the table
- Increase the ownership by making the stakeholders part of the process
- Explain the principles and process, what's at stake, added value, benefits and incentives for joining the ecosystem
- Establish connection methodologies and facilitate communication
- Foster collaboration / encourage common initiatives between stakeholders in the region → Find common interests or win-wins that can align them and help them collaborate

Starting small, going big

- Encourage collaboration at the EU level
- Match local needs with EU initiatives and support
- Foster specialisation and consider the role of S3 as possible tool for cooperation

- Formalise external contacts but keep internal creativity informal
- Set targets and benchmarks, and put the ideas in practice
- Use peer-to-peer learning
- Foster autonomy to act for the collective good
- Maintain commitment → communicate your success stories

Monitoring and realigning

- Monitor according to targets set and evaluate / use a feedback loop to realign where needed and improve
- Re-innovate and re-package existing strategies to achieve better focus where possible and maintain or grow the innovation level



What are the challenges? What are the ways of addressing them?

Challenges

- Lack of stakeholders' understanding of the interregional perspective
- Lack of understanding of various ecosystems, and how they are connected, in bigger regions
- Lack of capacity (people, know-how)
- Mentality → lack of will to cooperate / engage in the ecosystem, staying in comfort zone
- Keeping stakeholders' engagement over time
- Choosing which initiatives to join at the EU level
- Bureaucracy / red-tape
- Co-existence of various power structures
- Determining the appropriate type of ecosystem governance (rotation system or centralised secretariat)
- Keeping the system democratic between SMEs, big companies and universities
- Accessing funding and implementing funding synergies, slow system
- Funding not well directed, difficult process of getting it
- Spreading information about the ecosystem

Solutions

- Be concrete – what is your ecosystem about?
- Break silos to talk across sectors, find common interests and mediate
- Use a bottom-up approach when engaging stakeholders and increase their sense of ownership
- Collaborate beyond your “administrative borders”
- Foster clear contact and personal involvement with stakeholder organisations
- Organise informal in-person meetings and working groups
- Foster openness to cooperate with actors from abroad
- Promote more flexible funding to adapt to needs
- Recognise key industry drivers / locomotives and linked value chain (RDI organisations and SMEs), and offer access to funding through synergetic portfolio → upstream (local to HE), downstream (HE to local) and cascade (SMEs)
- Show very clear results to incentivise actors to join new initiatives
- Co-create new initiatives and funding opportunities with stakeholders



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Wrap-up

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Networking coffee

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