

ERRIN - The voice of regions supporting EU decision-makers in place-based R&I policy

ERRIN – **European Regions Research and Innovation Network** – is a Brussels-based network that supports regional and local stakeholders in developing their innovation ecosystems and enhancing research and innovation (R&I) capacities through collaboration and partnerships.

As the new political cycle begins, European competitiveness, strategic autonomy and addressing the feeling of disconnect between citizens and the EU are among the major issues on the table. Fostering collaboration in R&I is key to helping Europe prosper in the wider geopolitical context. At the same time, maintaining the link with the needs and realities of territories is crucial to ensure optimal impact of policies and keeping people at the centre of the European project.

HOW CAN ERRIN SUPPORT EUROPEAN DECISION MAKERS

ERRIN brings together **120 regions and their research and innovation ecosystems from across 22 European countries**. The network mobilises key R&I stakeholders – public authorities, academia, the private sector and civil society. While facing different challenges, our members invest in research and innovation, local and regional development and contribute to making Europe more competitive. Together, we work bottom-up on European R&I policy and funding and foster experience sharing, mutual learning and collaboration.

ERRIN combines the diverse experiences and expertise at regional and local level where transformations take place. At the same time, we are not only focused on transforming our members' regions but also on connecting their innovation ecosystems to become drivers of change at the European level.

ERRIN helps regions and their ecosystems build their capacities, create EU level partnerships, and to access R&I funding. Through connecting people and sharing knowledge and ideas, we encourage members to pool resources and more effectively respond to EU level opportunities. We develop and participate in research and innovation projects that further members' and the wider network's interests.

ERRIN is an established interlocutor for EU institutions, providing feedback from the ground on EU research and innovation policy and funding and contributing to shaping policy and debate since 2001. We maintain a close dialogue with the European institutions, **offering concrete inputs and policy recommendations based on local and regional experiences**. We are recognised as a trustworthy partner and a reliable source of information on regional innovation – and we do not shy away from demonstrating challenges faced by the regional level.

We work very closely with Brussels-based regional offices, who further mobilise their key actors and stakeholders at local and regional levels across Europe. This unique model allows **combining the knowledge of EU level processes (Brussels-based colleagues) and practical perspectives coming from a variety of local stakeholders**.

ERRIN offers one point of contact through which you can tap into the collective voice and expertise of more than a hundred innovative European regions and their ecosystems – we invite you to contact us, meet our members and contribute to our meetings.

ADDRESSING KEY R&I THEMES FROM REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

ERRIN operates across EU policy areas relevant from local and regional perspectives, linking them with research and innovation policy and funding. Our members drive discussions on emerging issues such as EU Missions and the mission-oriented approach, as well as tackling challenges such as the innovation divide. Our work relies on strong engagement of members, who take an active role in defining, planning and implementing our activities.

ERRIN members collaborate through [15 Working Groups and Task Forces](#) covering both thematic areas and overarching policy issues based on members' priorities in the following areas:

- European research and innovation policy and funding and enhancing innovation in cohesion and sectoral policies
- Green transition, circularity and working towards climate-neutral Europe
- Digital transition
- Culture, creativity and design
- Healthy Europe

UNLOCKING R&I POTENTIAL AS LONG-TERM INVESTMENT FOR EUROPE – KEY MESSAGES FOR THE NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Considering the diversity of realities and conditions of regions and cities across Europe, it is **key to maintain close links with territories when designing EU policies**. It is important to address societal challenges on the ground and involve the whole ecosystem in the process. Otherwise, the policies risk missing the actual needs of the society, ending up disconnected and not achieving the desired objectives, leading to further discontent among the citizens. **Therefore, a place-based perspective is crucial in the design of the next Multiannual Financial Framework.**

Ensuring an effective multi-level governance framework and shared ownership is valid not only in research and innovation and the upcoming Framework Programme (FP10) but across policy areas, such as cohesion and industrial policies. In addition, direct access for local and regional actors needs to be secured to funding instruments such as the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

ERRIN advocates for:

- Further support for local and regional R&I ecosystems. **An effective European research and innovation policy depends on strong and interconnected R&I ecosystems.** A better-connected European innovation ecosystem is key to enhancing Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy.
- **Continuous backing of the EU Missions**, one of the successes of Horizon Europe, strongly supporting the objectives of green transition and providing direction to research and innovation funding. Achieving the ambitious goals of the EU Missions requires their seamless integration into various EU funding programmes while maintaining strong support from the next Framework Programme (FP10).
- **Bridging the innovation gap to unlock Europe's full R&I potential** needs to be tackled across policy areas, including R&I.

CONTACT

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