



The European Regions
Knowledge-based Network

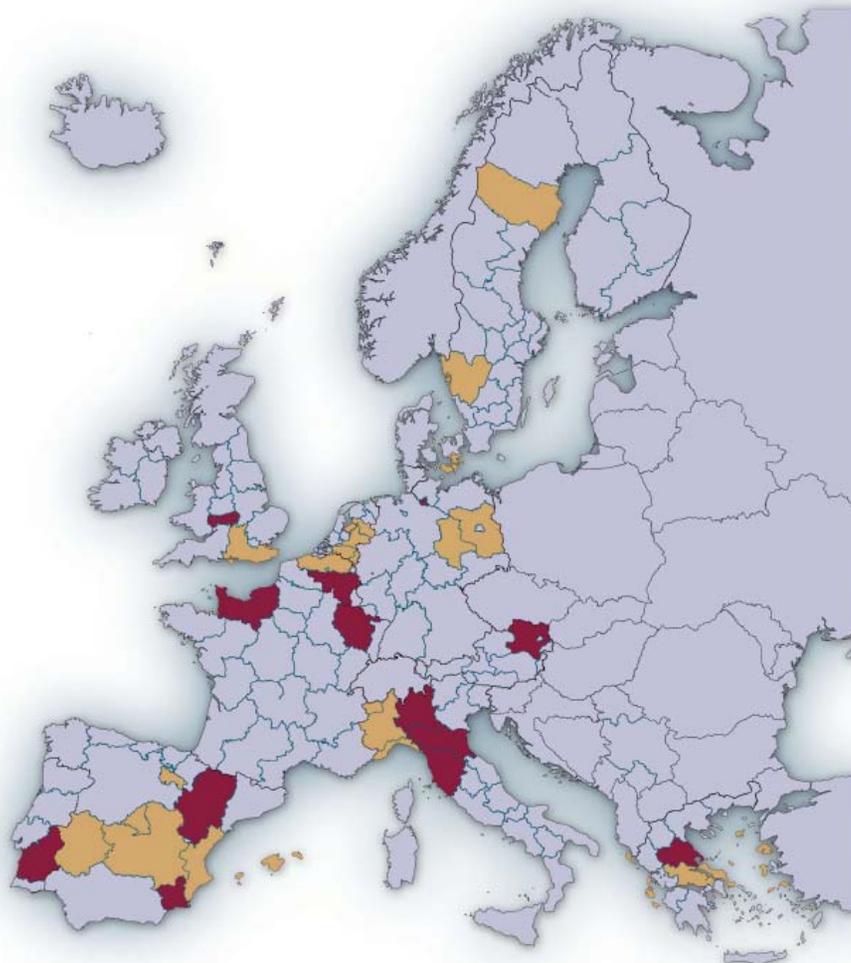
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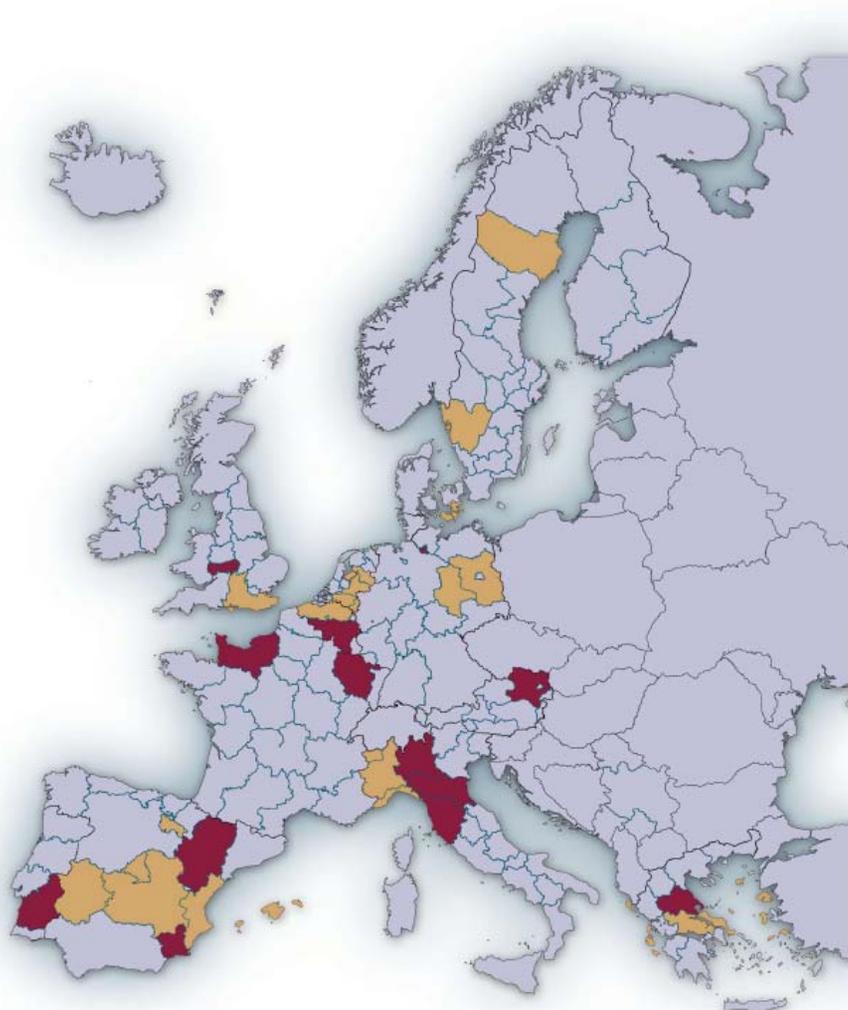
**TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND REGIONAL
COHESION IN A WIDER EUROPE**

Krakow, 21st April 2005

“... To sustain and further develop **inter-regional networking** and to provide network support to regions with approved ERDF Innovative Actions projects in order to improve **EU cohesion** and **share information, experience and good practices.....**
in view of enhancing **.....innovation and knowledge oriented regional strategies**



- 1. Emilia Romagna (Italy)**
- 2. Toscana (Italy)**
3. Nieder Österreich (Austria)
4. Wallonie (Belgium)
5. Basse Normandie (France)
6. Bremen (Germany)
7. Lombardia (Italy)
8. Thessaly (Greece)
9. Alentejo (Portugal)
10. Aragon (Spain)
11. Murcia (Spain)
12. West Midlands (United Kingdom)



1. Carinthia (**Austria**)
2. Flanders (**Belgium**)
3. Storstrom County (**Denmark**)
4. Sachsen (**Germany**).
5. Crete Region (**Greece**)
6. Epirus (Greece)
7. Ionian Islands (Greece)
8. Sterea Ellada (Greece)
9. Liguria (**Italy**)
10. Piemonte (Italy)
11. North Brabant (**Netherlands**)
12. Province of Gelderland (Netherlands)
13. South Holland (Netherlands)
14. Balearic Islands (**Spain**)
15. Castilla y León (Spain)
16. Catalunya (Spain)
17. Extremadura (Spain)
18. La Rioja (Spain)
19. Valencia (Spain)
20. Kalmar County (**Sweden**)
21. Stockholm County (Sweden)
22. Västra Götaland (Sweden)
23. Scotland (**U.K.**)
24. South West England (UK)
25. South Tirol

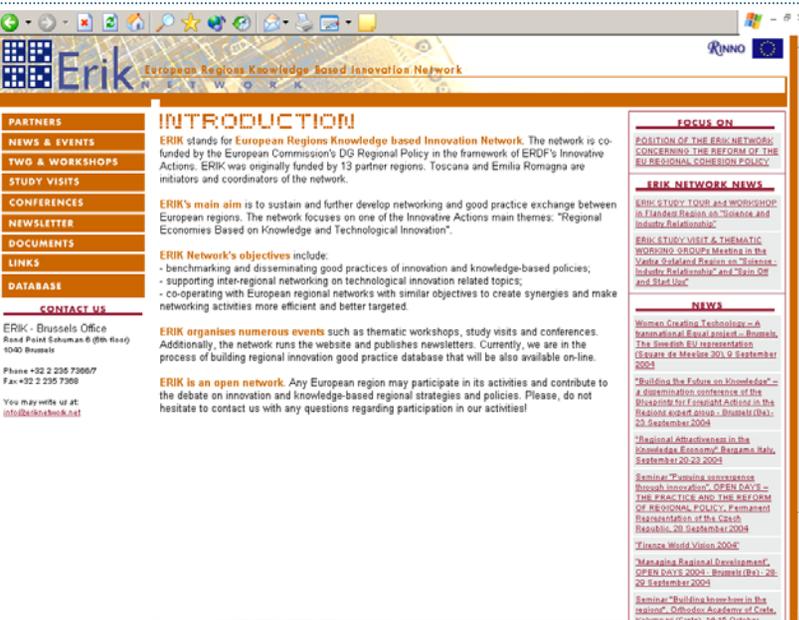
The Network is still open to new regions...

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- **Clusters and business networks**
 - **Regional foresight**
 - **Services and support to start-up and spin-off**
 - **Innovation financial mechanisms**
 - **Science and industry relationship**

The ERIK Network Position on the role of Innovation Support Measures in European and Regional Policies

- The Network **underlines** the crucial role of regions in building innovative capacities and in strengthening regional research and innovation systems:
 - Establishing strategic planning for innovation
 - Building regional partnerships
 - Assisting SMEs and the creation of NTBF
 - Supporting R&D expenditure
 - Placing more focus on policy evaluation and benchmarking

- The Network **welcome** the Third Cohesion Report and the proposal for the Council Regulations laying down general provision on the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund that set innovation and the knowledge economy at the top of policy agenda
- The Network **welcome** incorporation of the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives to the EU Cohesion Policy that is to become a “key vehicle” for their realization. This demonstrates that innovation is considered instrumental for regional development.



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