

ERIK

The European Regions
Knowledge-based Network

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- “During the period 2000-2006, the Innovative Actions funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aim to create a **laboratory for experimentation** on regional development in Europe, focusing on actions which are **genuinely innovative**”
- The Lisbon summit in 2000 set a critical strategic goal for the European Union. The European Union should, by 2010, “become **the most competitive** and dynamic **knowledge-based economy** in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”

- Efforts in the area of RTD&I have been associated in the economic literature with higher growth rates, increases in export and trade, gains in productivity, growth in income and output, bigger business profits and lower inflation, international competitiveness, ...
- Innovation is about taking risks and managing changes. It is about economics over and above research, science and technology. Some have defined it as 'profitable change', other as economic exploitation of new ideas
- In short, innovation is at the root of the evolution of the economic system and its main engine for change and 'creative destruction'

- Given the correlation between innovation and RTD&I efforts, and regional economic development, **closing the interregional RTD&I gap** in the European Union **becomes a pre-condition for reducing the cohesion gap**, which is the primary objective of regional policy
- Moreover, innovation becomes critically important as part of the regional response to the challenges posed by the 'new economy': globalisation and accelerated technological change, ICT in particular

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

- The benchmarking of good practices relating to innovation and knowledge policies
- The identification of specific topics of common interest
- The exchange of experiences matured in different regions and contexts
- The extension at the interregional level of the collaboration among the different actors of the regional knowledge systems
- The increasing of the know-how of main regional actors as far as innovation, technology transfer and the knowledge economy promotion are concerned

- The identification and valorisation of different methodologies developed under EC programmes or other schemes
- The exchange of information on the progresses of RPIAs leaded by network participants in view of improving the instrument for the future
- The co-operation with other related EU initiatives

ERIK Partners regions

European Regions Knowledge based Innovation Network

Trans-Regional WORKSHOP

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



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1. Tuscany Regional Government (I)
 2. Emilia-Romagna Regional Government (I)
 3. Lombardy Regional Government (I)
 4. Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón (ES)
 5. INFO-Instituto de Fomento de Murcia (ES)
 6. Ministère de la Région Wallonie (B)
 7. BIA Bremer Innovations-Agentur GmbH (D)
 8. Hellenic Democratic Region of Thessaly (GR)
 9. CEBANOR-Comité d'Expansion Économique de Basse-Normandie (F)
 10. Lorraine Conseil Régional (F)
 11. Amt der Niederösterreich Landesregierung (A)
 12. Advantage West Midlands (UK)
 13. ADRAL-Agencia de Desenvolvimento Regional do Alentejo, S.A. (P)

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- Brandenburg (Germany)
 - Sachsen (Germany)
 - Ionian Islands (Greece)
 - Sterea Ellada (Greece)
 - North Aegean (Greece)
 - Liguria (Italy)
 - Valle d'Aosta (Italy)
 - Valencia (Spain)
 - La Rioja (Spain)
 - Extremadura (Spain)
 - Comunidad de Madrid (Spain)
 - Castilla-La Mancha (Spain)
 - Baleares (Spain)
 - Övre Norrland (Sweden)
 - Västra Götaland (Sweden)
 - Västerbotten (Sweden)

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- **The Innovative Regions Policy Forum and the Conferences**
 - **5 Thematic Working Groups**
 - **4 Workshops**
 - **Study Visits Exchange Programme**
 - **Newsletters**
 - **ERIK Website**

- The aim of the conferences and Policy Forum : to set-up a discussion on **knowledge-based regional economies and technological innovation** at least at European level
- These events will represent an opportunity for regional activists, experts and for the European Commission to exchange information and to debate issues of common interest
- First conference:
 - **Beginning of 2004, probably in Brussels**

- Based on specific topics dealing with the first RPIAs theme: '**knowledge-based regional economies and technological innovation**'
- Focused on topics of interest for the ERIK partners, but also for the about **100 regions** managing RPIAs within the first theme

- To identify Good Practices and experiences to be shared
- To collect documentation on the specific topics to be shared
- To contribute in the collection of the GPs and documents to be included in the web site
- To prepare and select papers to be included in the newsletters
- To collaborate in the organisation of workshops and in the identification of the participants
- To collaborate in the organisation of the study visits

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- Focus on RPIAs of the partners regions
 - Focus on RPIAs at European level
 - Trying to maximise synergies and avoid overlapping with the other Innovative Actions Networks
 - Trying to maximise synergies and avoid overlapping with other European networks, as IRE and EURADA

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- **Clusters and business networks**
 - **Regional innovation benchmarking and foresight**
 - **Services and support to start-up and spin-off**
 - **Innovation financial mechanisms**
 - **Science and industry relationship**
 - **How to turn traditional products into innovative businesses**

- The aim of the workshop: to create an opportunity for EU regions to work in networking and exchange information and experiences on specific topics of interest; in particular:
 - Exchange good practices and related experiences on innovation and knowledge oriented regional strategies.
 - Stimulate inter-regional dialogue, particularly among developed and disadvantaged regions, in order to develop more effective regional and interregional policies.
 - Exchange experiences on RPIAs under implementation in the regions involved.
 - Involve different regional development actors and increase their know-how as far as innovation, technology transfer and the knowledge economy promotion are concerned.



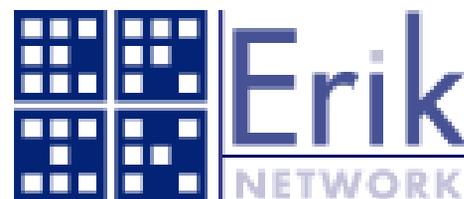
Regional innovation benchmarking and foresight

Thessaly – Greece

17th November 2003

- The aim is to enable the network members to better know other European regional experiences in terms of innovation and technology transfer
- The study visits will be mainly concentrated on the topics chosen by the Thematic Working Groups and when possible will be organised jointly with the workshops
- The study visits will be open to regions not directly involved in the ERIK network yet, but having good practices to share or an interest in learning good practices on the specific themes
- The study visits will have a duration from 1 to 3 days and will foresee focus groups on regional innovative schemes and the visit of technological parks, universities, laboratories and enterprises where these schemes have been successfully applied

- Three Newsletters are published every year and made available on-line via the ERIK Network Website
- Contents:
 - editorial; *from the regions; for the regions*; papers on technological innovation and knowledge economy and focus on the TWGs specific topics; news; calendar of events



INTRODUCING
MEMBERS
OBJECTIVES
ACTIONS
NEWSLETTER
WORKSHOP
CONTACTS

<http://www.eriknetwork.net>



- The database will represent the ERIK network knowledge tank
- Contents:
 - Good Practices, Innovative Schemes and Case Studies coming from all over Europe

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