



## EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Commission to Japan

Science & Technology

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### SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON EU REGIONAL CLUSTERS

#### **Towards world-class clusters in the European Union: Implementing the broad-based innovation strategy**

This Commission communication calls for more efforts for facilitating the emergence of world-class clusters in the European Union. It addresses key challenges to achieve this: Deepening the internal market, improving cluster policies, fostering trans-national cooperation, promoting excellence of cluster organisations, and improving the integration of innovative SMEs into clusters. [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/innovation/index_en.htm)

#### **Regions of knowledge in the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Research Framework programme (FP7)**

The 'Regions of knowledge' initiative aims to strengthen the research potential of European regions, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional 'research-driven clusters', associating universities, research centres, enterprises and regional authorities.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/regions-knowledge\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/regions-knowledge_en.html)

#### **Research potential of convergence regions**

FP7 has a specific element to unlock and develop the full research potential of outermost and convergence regions

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/convergence-regions\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/convergence-regions_en.html)

#### **Regional Gateway – regional research and innovation service**

[http://cordis.europa.eu/regions/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/regions/home_en.html)

#### **Research and regional policies – EU Cohesion policy**

The EU's regional and research policies are closely interlinked, and both follow similar aims in the context of the revised Lisbon Strategy. EU cohesion policy for 2007 - 2013 aims to engineer a structural shift towards knowledge-based activities and reduce innovation gaps within Europe through the following guiding principles (i) Increase and improve investment in R&D, (ii) Facilitate innovation and promote entrepreneurship, (iii) Promote the information society for all, (iv) Improve access to finance. [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/regional\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/regional_en.html)

#### **Improving access to finance**

The "JEREMIE" programme (Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises) is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) intended to (i) improve access to and levels of funding for businesses, (ii) improve the coordination of the national and regional levels, (iii) promote a better absorption and sound use of public resources under EU programmes.

[http://europa.eu/comm/regional\\_policy/events/ifi/doc/backgroundpapers/docu2.doc](http://europa.eu/comm/regional_policy/events/ifi/doc/backgroundpapers/docu2.doc)

#### **Regional Innovation Projects: Case Studies**

In order to encourage the exchange of experience in the area of innovation, practitioners from Europe's regions and cities can find here case studies of relevant projects co-financed under the Cohesion Policy of the European Union. These case studies, in English or in French, present the objectives and activities of the projects, the strategic context, the innovative aspects, partnership, obstacles in terms of design or implementation, results and impacts.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/studies\\_en.cfm?nmenu=5](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/studies_en.cfm?nmenu=5)

#### **Examples of regional innovative projects**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/doc/proj\\_samples.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/doc/proj_samples.pdf)

#### **RegioStar2008 / presentation of the 26 finalist innovative regions**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/doc/stars\\_pres.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/doc/stars_pres.pdf)

#### **Improving the capacity of regions for research and innovation**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/doc/theme21.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/doc/theme21.pdf)

#### **Regions for economic change / Exchanges good practices between Europe regions**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index\\_en.cfm?nmenu=1](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index_en.cfm?nmenu=1)

#### **European Regions Knowledge-based Innovation Network (ERIK)**

The network for technological innovation launched in 2007 is led by the regions of Toscana and Emilia-Romagna and includes 13 members and 23 associate members. <http://www.eriknetwork.net/>

### **Innovative Actions Network for the Information Society (IANIS+)**

The network is led by Sachsen and includes 39 regions.

[http://www.ianis.net/ layouts/loginErisa.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f\\_layouts%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252f&Source=%2f](http://www.ianis.net/layouts/loginErisa.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f_layouts%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252f&Source=%2f)

### **Europe INNOVA**

Pan-European platform aimed at broadening public-private partnership in the fields of cluster management, innovation financing, managing innovation and the exploitation of exiting standards in Europe. They include the annual innovation progress and country reports with examples of good practice in innovation policy-making, provides know-how on the evaluation and assessment of innovation support programmes and provide statistical analysis of innovation performance, including by sectoral cluster and by region. <http://www.europe-innova.org/index.jsp>

### **Innovating regions in Europe (IRE)**

Network aimed to support the exchange of good practice in the area of regional innovation (including research issues). The network provides a platform for regions to cooperate and learn from each other.

<http://www.innovating-regions.org/index.cfm>

### **European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)**

Network designed to help regional representations to participate fully and effectively in the European Research Area.

<http://www.errin.eu/en/>

### **Cluster Networks**

Europe INNOVA Cluster Networks strengthen innovation systems, foster the development of successful clusters and inform policy with regard to targeted actions for the future. <http://www.europe-innova.org/index.jsp?type=page&lq=en&classificationId=4961&classificationName=Cluster%20Networks&cid=5104>

### **Cluster mapping**

The European Observatory of clusters will be built upon the results of two cluster mapping projects. The first project, completed in June 2006, covers the EU-10 countries while the second, to start in September 2006, will cover EU-15, the three Candidate Countries i.e. Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey as well as Iceland, Israel, Norway and Switzerland.

<http://www.europe-innova.org/index.jsp?type=page&lq=en&classificationId=5967&classificationName=Cluster%20Mapping&cid=5981>

**Cluster linked over Europe** <http://www.clusterforum.org/>

### **Regional Research Intensive Clusters and Science Parks**

This expert group report to analyse ways in which research-intensive clusters and sciences parks can most effectively contribute to the research and technological development capacity of regions and the exploitation of their existing RTD potential. [http://www.eeda.org.uk/files/research\\_pub/brochure-ric.pdf](http://www.eeda.org.uk/files/research_pub/brochure-ric.pdf)

### **Two main Portals for EU research and innovation: “Europa” and “Cordis”**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/index\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/index_en.cfm) and <http://cordis.europa.eu.int/en/home.html>

### **7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (2007- 2013)**

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a new EU programme for Research. The proposal provides new impetus to increase Europe's growth and competitiveness, recognising that knowledge is Europe's greatest resource.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm) and <http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/faq.htm>

### **International Cooperation in FP7**

FP7 is open to and promotes international cooperation: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm>

### **The European Innovation Portal**

The EU's official information service aims to inform key stakeholders in entrepreneurial innovation and to facilitate the emergence of innovation networks. The target audience includes company managers, policy makers, cluster managers, investors, relevant associations and other European citizens involved in innovation activities.

<http://cordis.europa.eu.int/innovation/en/policy/europe-innova.htm>

### **Competitiveness and Innovation Framework programmes (2007-2013)**

The proposed Framework Programme is structured around three main blocks of activities: (i) The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, particularly focussing on SMEs, (ii) the ICT Policy Support Programme, to support the adoption of ICTs in business, administrations and public sector services and (iii) the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme

<http://cordis.europa.eu/innovation/en/policy/cip.htm>

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