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■ The “Regions of Knowledge” Network

The “Regions of Knowledge” Network (“Coordination action to improve trans-national co-operation of NCPs Regional”, TRANS REG NCP project) supports the development of research-driven clusters across Europe, associating universities, research centres, enterprises and regional authorities, through the FP7 “Regions of Knowledge” programme. Interested parties can contact TRANS REG NCP for information and support on European “research and cluster” policy, synergies and funding from FP7 and the Structural Funds, strategic partnerships building, networking, success stories and useful contacts. More information will be soon available on our website: www.transregncp.eu

■ FP7 Calls Update

- **REGIONS-2010 call results:**

The results of REGIONS-2010-call were presented in the NCPs meeting held in Granada, on 18 March 2010. 35 proposals were submitted, 7 of them are on the main list and 1 in the reserve. The average budget of the projects in the main list is approximately 2.4 million euro and the average consortium consists of 15 partners. The Coordinators come from 5 countries (FR 2, IT 2, NL 1, DE 1, ES 1) and the partners from 19 Member States and Associated Countries. Negotiations are still ongoing. The presentation is available on CORDIS Forum.

- **REGIONS-2011 call to be launched in July:**

The new call for proposals REGIONS-2011 is expected in July, with deadline on 9 December, and budget 18.66 million euro. This year's topic is "Boosting the competitiveness of transport-related economy: support the innovative capacity of European transport-related industries and businesses, through i.e. the development of green transport systems, intermodal regional transport systems, urban mobility and safety and security". The presentation of J.D. Malo is available on CORDIS Forum.

- **New Partner Search from CORDIS:**

The New Partner Search of CORDIS is expected to be launched in time for the FP7 calls in July 2010. OPOCE/CORDIS is organising a meeting on 1st July, in Luxembourg, for testing the new service. NCP Networks and CORDIS users will be represented.

- **EU meeting for NCPs Networks Coordinators:**

The 2nd meeting of NCPs project Coordinators was organised by the European Commission on 5 February 2010. Among the topics discussed were: problems encountered during the implementation of the projects, quality standards (results of former projects were presented), Training Third Countries participation, etc. The minutes are available on TRANS REG intranet.

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- **"Regions of Knowledge" in WIRE Conference (Granada, 15-17 March 2010)**

The "Regions of Knowledge" programme was presented on 16 March, in Granada, during the "Week of Innovative Regions" Conference. During the session, the following topics were covered:

- ["State of play \(Facts and Figures\)"](#) of the programme", Olivier Brunet, Policy Officer for "Regions of Knowledge" programme

- Case studies from Germany, Netherlands and Spain
- Lessons learnt and possible ways forward.

Among the speakers were the colleague NCPs [Sverre Sogge](#) (Senior Adviser, Research Council and National Contact Point for Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential programmes, Norway) and [Stéphane Waha](#) (Head of European Affairs, Union of Walloon Enterprises, Belgium).

The [conclusions of all sessions](#) were presented by Estelle Mougeot-Leroy, Senior consultant Efficient Technology, acting as the general rapporteur for the "Regions of Knowledge" conference. During the Conference, the Regional NCPs Helpdesk provided information to all interested parties.

More information and all presentations are available on the [website of the Conference](#).

- **12th World Conference on Transport Research (Lisbon, 11-15 July 2010)**

The 12th World Conference on Transport Research is organized in Lisbon, on 11-15 2010. WCTR aims to provide a forum for the interchange of ideas among transportation researchers, managers, policy makers, and educators from all over the world, from a perspective which is multi-modal, multi-disciplinary, and multi-sectoral. During a special session, Ricardo Migueis will present the "Regions of Knowledge" programme (call REGIONS-2011 is dedicated to Transport), as well the TRANS REG NCP Network.

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- **Italian INFODAY on Regional Programme: Università degli Studi Mediterranea, Reggio Calabria, 1 July 2010**

APRE - the Agency for the Promotion of European Research - is organizing in Italy a national Info Day on the FP7 Capacities Specific Programmes "Research Potential for the convergence and outermost regions" and "Regions of Knowledge and support for regional research-driven clusters" to be held on the 1st of July 2010 at the University of Reggio Calabria.

The EC officer Antonio Balestrieri and the Italian delegate Alberto Silvani will present the opportunities offered by the Research Potential and Regions of Knowledge Programmes Work programmes and they will describe how to use European and National funding instruments to foster regional research potential. Moreover thanks to the contributions of Italian coordinators of RegPot and Rok projects and the experience of one evaluators participants will be provided with some additional information and tips for submitting well-structured and eligible proposals.

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- **OPEN DAYS 2010: 8th European Week of Regions and Cities (Brussels, 4-7 October 2010)**

130 seminars and workshops are expected to take place during the 8th European Week of Regions and Cities (OPEN DAYS 2010) on 4-7 October, in Brussels. The sessions are organized by regional partnerships, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and banks, companies and associations. The "OPEN DAYS University" will feature 14 academic sessions including the results of a 'young researchers' competition. Underway as well is the preparation of more than 250 "Europe in my Region/City" events. The Directorate-General for Regional Policy, in partnership with the Regional Studies Association, also invites early career researchers in the area of European regional policy to present their research at OPEN DAYS 2010.

The project "[CReATE](#): Creating a Joint Research Agenda for promoting ICT-Innovations in Creative Industries across Europe", funded by "Regions of Knowledge" programme will be presented as success story at a workshop on "Creativity and Innovation", chaired by Olivier Brunet.

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- **European Cluster Conference 2010: World-Class Clusters Renewing European Industry (Brussels, 29 September - 1 October 2010)**

The high-level “European Cluster Conference 2010” will address the role of world-class clusters in renewing European industry in light of the Europe 2020 strategy. It will gather key policy-makers from the European Commission, Member States, regional authorities and high-level speakers from academia and industry to discuss how better policies can be formulated to make full use of the economic potential of excellent clusters. The event is organised under the chairmanship of the Belgian EU Presidency by the European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry. It will cover the following topics:

- European Club of Cluster Managers & European Cluster Alliance workshop
- World-class clusters renewing European industry
- Cluster policies of the Future.

On 30 September, a session will cover issues related to Impact-oriented R&D programmes through excellent clusters. DG Research is involved and successful REGIONS projects may be presented.

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- **New video series” ON CLUSTERS” released by the European Cluster Observatory**

CSC has launched a new video series “ON CLUSTERS” at the Cluster Observatory. “This series of three programs covers the most important aspects of cluster dynamics, cluster policy and management of cluster organisations”, says program host Professor Örjan Sölvell. The series features a range of cluster experts, including Dr Christian Ketels, Dr Göran Lindqvist, Ifor Ffowcs-Williams and many others. In addition to the video series, the European Cluster Observatory also offers the accompanying free book – “Clusters: Balancing Evolutionary and Constructive Forces”,

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also known as the “Redbook” – which can be downloaded together with the program series. The series will also be available on a DVD, which can be ordered free of charge. Free video series can be viewed at the Observatory’s Classroom:

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- **EU-DRIVERS Conference: "Universities leading regional innovation: New partnerships at a time of economic crisis" (Barcelona, 17 November 2010)**

This conference is the first in a series of three annual conferences which will be organized by the EU-DRIVERS European Drivers for a Regional innovation Platform. As a highly focused and interactive event, the conference will be based on a report with case studies and examples of good practices on regional innovation drawn from the EU-DRIVERS pilot partnership projects and building on partners' expertise. The EU-DRIVERS Pilot Partnership Projects are a major component of the EU-DRIVERS Project as 'showcase' projects, involving the 'triple helix' stakeholders from a university, public authority (local/regional government) and business/community.

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- **3rd Europe INNOVA Conference (Liege, 27-29 October 2010)**

The [3rd Europe INNOVA Conference](#) is being organized by the Region of Wallonia in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, in close collaboration with the European Commission’s DG Enterprise and Industry. The conference will bring together the Europe INNOVA Community with key innovation stakeholders from the worlds of politics, academia and business. The discussions will focus on three areas of particular importance for addressing the societal challenges Europe is facing:

- Unlocking Europe’s Creative Potential
- Greening Industries
- Supporting Innovative Entrepreneurship.

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- **Regions for Economic Change Conference (Brussels, 20-21 May 2010)**

The Conference "Regions for Economic Change-Building sustainable growth" was held on 20-21 May, in Brussels. It covered three main themes: a) sustainable energy; b) sustainable ICT solutions and c) greening Europe's cities. The conference will include a high-profile political event with keynote speakers, politicians and practitioners discussing the future of European cohesion policy within the new EU2020 framework.

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■ Research Driven Clusters in Europe

- **IN2WOOD (REGIONS-2009):** The European forest-based sector has to face times of challenge. Wood as a natural resource will play a key role in a sustainable society. Shaping the future markets by strategic integration of research and technological development therefore is a European objective. The European Commission expects substantial effects for the forest-based sector by cross-linking regional clusters. IN2WOOD joins 13 partners in 6 European regions (Banska Bystrica-Slovakia, Carpathia-Ukraine, Grisons-Switzerland, North Rhine-Westphalia-Germany, South Tyrol-Italy and Styria-Austria) to meet the challenges of innovation, competitiveness and sustainability. Additional “mentoring partners” will be selected and integrated into the IN2WOOD work process.

The IN2WOOD coordination activities are carried out by a “triple helix” of research, regional authority and business (SMEs) representing the forest-based cluster in each partner region. Their overall working program involves three elements of the forest-based value chain including resource production: new methods for sustainable forest management, urban timber construction and efficient use of wood energy. These working areas are interrelated by three crosscutting themes: logistic systems for wood mobilization, innovation systems for the energy-efficient use of wood as construction and heating material and a trans-regional information system.

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- **WasteKIT (REGIONS-2009):** Waste management focussing on: Knowledge and Integration to create Transnational economic development:
The project focuses on three drivers: 1. Societal & economic attention for sustainability & specific waste management; 2. Waste management-related regional economic development; 3. Network of networks for European innovation and competitiveness excellence.

The consortium consists of 19 partners from the Netherlands, Italy, Bulgaria and UK, and is coordinated by Amsterdam Innovation Motor. The objectives of the project are:

- To expand ambitions of regions with respect to regional economic development based on waste management RTD, innovation & business creation;
- To expand international mentoring roles of waste management-related actors;
- To create an international role as a European network of (regional) waste management-related clusters.

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- **WeSteer (REGIONS-2007-2):** Support Actions for the Emergence of the Research - Driven Automotive Cluster in West Romania

The project aims to facilitate the formation of an automotive industry cluster in the Romanian West Region through a series of actions focused on institutional consolidation and fostering of cooperation between academia and business. The consortium's partners are: West Regional

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Development Agency (project leader), Polytechnic University of Timisoara, Interpart Production, and the Association Tehimpuls - Regional Center of Innovation and Technology Transfer. The budget equals to 169 924 euro for the period 2008-2010. The most important results are:

- Creating a cluster management unit, in synergy with the overall activity of the association "Automotivest",
- Development of a multi-year action plan for the cluster, as well as marketing and internationalization strategies,
- Elaboration of a study of the automotive sector at regional level, Creation of databases on a) companies active in the industry at the regional level, b) R&D institutions in the region and relevant innovative products for the automotive industry,
- Drawing up a guide on promoting cooperation between the companies R&D institutions and businesses in the West Region, with emphasis on the situation in the automotive sector,
- Supporting the implementation of a pilot project for cooperation between the Polytechnic University of Timisoara and the company Interpart Production focused on techniques for generating complex paths for CNC machines,
- Implementation of a comprehensive package of information and communication activities addressed to various types of cluster stakeholders (thematic workshops, expert roundtables, site visits, jour fixes, etc.)
- Creation of specific communication tools (newsletter "Autoclustervest", portal).

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■ Publications & Links

- [Improving the Cluster Infrastructure through Policy Actions](#), European Cluster Alliance, June 2009
- [Evaluating Regional Policy – Insights and Results, Inforegio PANORAMA](#)
- [Promoting Cluster Excellence: Measuring and Benchmarking the Quality of Cluster Organizations and Performance of Clusters](#), Proceeding of European Commission DG ENTR workshop