Bench-Learning Conference for Pioneering Innovation Regions

Smart Specialisation Strategies: Implementing European Partnerships

Committee of the Regions, Brussels

June 18th 2014

Programme

The Committee of the Regions, S3 platform and the Helsinki-Uusimaa, Province of Utrecht and Valencia regions are organising this one-day Bench-Learning conference to examine concrete possibilities for European partnerships and offer an interactive participatory platform for regions and cities to explore relevant collaboration methodologies and important thematic issues.

The focus is on both regional and city collaboration. Short presentations and relevant examples will serve as a starting point for practical and creative conversations about activities already in progress, innovative methodologies in use and concrete further steps for developing partnerships.

The working methods are interactive and will include the facilitated use of the Meshmoon online virtual reality worlds before, during and after the conference.

Why is this conference special?

This is a conference about integrating content with creating partnerships, and it is **not** like others you may have attended before.

This conference is organized to stimulate conversations and create partnerships. It brings together people from cities and regions concerned with exploring practical suggestions for implementing their RIS3 programmes and finding serious partners to work with their initiatives.

"Bench-learning": International experts and practitioners will present recent and relevant insights from work-in-progress to inspire discussions. Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences and examples, discover common interests and explore plans to work together. The majority of conference time during the parallel sessions is devoted to this.

"Purposeful conversations": The conference is designed to be highly interactive, and facilitators will be available both in the parallel sessions and during the networking lunch to help people participate fully, bringing together people with similar interests, experience and requirements.

"Working with virtual worlds": In addition to this, the innovative Virtual Worlds provided by Meshmoon will support people in working together *before, during and after* the conference. So the conversations can continue in an on-line space for facilitating collaboration and partnerships.

This conference is part of an on-going initiative, carrying on from work begun at the Committee of the Regions' "Innovation Union" conference last year (on the 27th November); and there will be follow-through sessions later in 2014.

This event is part of a process to stimulate conversations between people, and the people who come are central to its success. We look forward to your active participation.

08.30 – 09.00　|　Registration & Coffee

9.00 – 10.00　|　Opening Plenary

- **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, President of the Committee of the Regions

Keynote speakers
- **Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner for Regional Policy (exact timing of contribution is open)
- **Máximo Buch Torralva**, Regional Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce for the Valencia Region
- **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Markku Markkula**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Conference Chairman

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10.00 – 10.15　|　Break & Relocation

10.15 – 12.00　|　Parallel Sessions I

1. RIS3 as a process	2. Instruments for implementing RIS3 collaboration	3. Open Innovation 2.0	4. The role of universities in entrepreneurial discovery
The regions have created their RIS3 programmes, but the real question is how they can be put into practice. This session explores recent insights regarding how to make smart specialisation an on-going and iterative process.	This session explores the practical instruments used for facilitating collaboration in the implementation of RIS3.	Open Innovation 2.0 is a new paradigm based on integrated collaboration, co-created shared value, cultivated innovation ecosystems, unleashed exponential technologies, and rapid adoption. How is this done in practice?	How can universities contribute to the creation of an entrepreneurial mentality and accelerators for renewal, while supporting start-ups and scaling innovations?

Chair:
Manuel Palazuelos Martinez, S3 Platform

Keynote:
Claire Nauwelaers, Expert from the S3 Platform

Perspective 1:
Richard Tuffs, Director, European Regions Research and Innovation Network ERRIN

Perspective 2:
Jan Larosse, Flemish Government, Vanguard Initiative New Growth by Smart Specialisation

Chair:
Inger Midtkandal, S3 Platform

Keynote:
Joaquin Rios Casanova, Director General for Industry, Regional Government of Valencia

Perspecive1:
Katja Reppel, DG Regional & Urban Policy

Perspective 2:
Petteri Vahla, Easy Procurement Ltd

Chair:
Tuula Antola, Director, Economic and Business Development, City of Espoo

Keynote:
Elmar Husmann, IBM and European Learning Industry Group ELIG

Perspective 1:
Pieter Ballon, Creative Ring, iMinds-iLab, Vrije University of Brussels

Perspective 2:
Jarmo Eskelinen, President of the European Network of Living Labs ENoLL

Chair:
Professor James Powell, Glasgow University and PASCAL

Keynote:
Professor Ilkka Niemelä, Acting President, Aalto University

Perspective 1:
Pavel Adamowicz, Member of the CoR, Mayor of Gdansk (tbc)

Perspective 2:
Mattia Tarsi, Member of the CoR, Councillor of Pesaro Province, Marche Region

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12.00 – 13.30 | Networking lunch with facilitated round-table discussions, which will also make use of online virtual reality worlds.

13.30 – 15.15 | Parallel Sessions II

5. Universities and Smart Regions	**6.** Europe's Industrial Renaissance	**7.** Low Carbon Economy & Urban Planning	**8.** e-Health
What is the role of universities in creating smart regions through the modernisation of the triple helix?	Europe is renewing its industries as powerful drivers for jobs and prosperity. How can we use this societal transformation to bring high tech to traditional sectors, in order to create new jobs and industries?	This session explores the challenges of creating a low carbon economy to support urban planning and therefore a higher quality of life.	In the near future health care will be more individualised, self-organised, at distance and virtual. This session explores the concrete solutions being developed now.
Chair: **Jan Wester**, TNO, Economic Board Utrecht **Keynote:** **Professor Francisco Mora**, Rector of Valencia University of Technology UPV **Perspective 1:** **Magnus Jörgel**, Skåne Region **Perspective 2:** **Professor John Goddard**, S3 Platform expert, Newcastle University	**Chair:** **Clara de la Torre**, DG RTD **Keynote:** **Leena Sarvaranta**, Vice President, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland **Perspective 1:** **Enrique Montiel**, INESCOOP, Region of Valencia **Perspective 2:** **Lorenza Badiello**, Emilia-Romagna Region	**Chair:** **Manuel Irún**, EU Programme Manager, Climate KIC **Keynote:** **Agustin Escardino Malva**, DG RTD **Perspective 1:** NN Utrecht, Cleantech as an example (tbc) **Perspective2:** **Valeria Bandini**, Emilia-Romanga Region (tbc)	**Chair:** NN (tbc) **Keynote:** **Tuija Hirvikoski**, Laurea University of Applied Sciences **Perspective 1:** **Peter Wintlev Jensen**, DG Connect (tbc) **Perspective 2:** Industrial representative from the Skåne Region (tbc)

15.15 – 15.30 | Coffee & Relocation

15.30 – 16.30 | Concluding Plenary

Chair:
• **Victoria Palau**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Regional Government of Valencia

Closing remarks
• **Günter Clar**, Chair of the EU Expert Group on RIS3 Assessment
• **Ralph de Vries**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Province of Utrecht
• **Ossi Savolainen**, Regional Mayor of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region
• **Hank Kune**, New Club of Paris
• **Markku Markkula**, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Conference Chairman

16.30 – 17.30 | Cocktail Reception:

Matchmaking with current and potential partners continues

Introduction

Between 2014 and 2020 "smart specialisation strategies" (RIS3) will be a priority for every region within the European Structural and Investment Funds, as well as the Horizon 2020 programme and other initiatives. But what does this mean in terms of creating concrete partnerships and realising successful collaborative partnering arrangements?

This conference brings together people from across Europe so that they can learn from each other and engage in facilitated conversations about creating the next generation of partnerships and projects which could be used to translate smart specialisation strategies into practice.

The focus is on both regional and city collaboration. Specific examples of pioneering smart regional developments from Helsinki, Valencia and many other regions will serve as a starting point for practical and creative conversations about activities already in progress, innovative methodologies currently in use and concrete further steps for European partnerships.

Objectives

• Developing a clear understanding of what smart specialisation partnerships really mean: exploring concrete proposals for joint projects.
• Exchanging experience with and examples of relevant methodologies and existing activities, and learning together from this experience.
• Creating concrete platforms for potential partners to explore relevant ideas and make initial partner agreements.

Results

• The participating regions will start and/or deepen cooperation initiatives on the topics they jointly create and define (expanding, where relevant, on work completed before the conference). The target of these joint initiatives is to implement the Europe 2020 strategy according to the interests of the participating regions.
• The conference proceedings will be published by the CoR, describing the lessons learned and ways forward, as well as information about how to implement joint platforms for interregional collaboration and partnerships in practice.

Programme and online registration:

Link to the registration, provided by the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, at https://www.webropolsurveys.com/S/54BA1C550C057BA6.par

Registration can also take place at: www.cor.europa.eu

The organiser reserves the right to make necessary changes to the programme.

For more information, please contact
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