

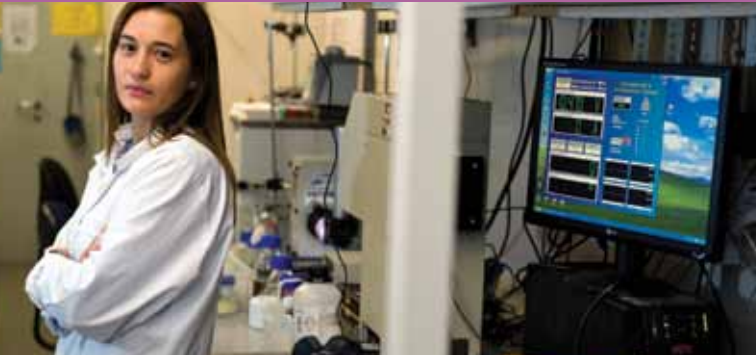
EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Innovation Union

The contribution of Europe's regions and cities



Regions and Cities supporting
Europe2020
Europe's growth strategy



Brussels
27 November 2013

Draft
programme

Conference of the
Committee of the Regions

Based on a broad concept of innovation and over 30 activities, the Innovation Union flagship initiative commits the EU to increase investment in research to 3% of GDP by 2020. Studies indicate that such investment could create 3.7 million jobs by 2025. Between 2007 and 2011, public and private spending increased from 1.85% to 2.03% of GDP, but recently it appears that disparities between regions are growing after years of convergence. Today, only one in ten regions in the EU spends more than 3% of their GDP on research and these 27 regions together amount already for over 40% of the total investment in innovation. Most of these leading regions have important competences, capacities and budgets and follow a 'smart specialisation' approach to integrated regional development and the management of economic change and recovery. Moreover, between 2014 and 2020 'smart specialisation strategies', will be a priority for all regions under the European Structural and Investment Funds accompanied by the new "Horizon 2020" programme and other initiatives.

The aim of the conference is to bring together key representatives of EU institutions, Member States and regions to take stock of the implementation of the flagship initiative at regional level. Accompanied by an exhibition of good practice from Europe's regions and cities, the event will focus on four aspects:

- Smart specialisation strategies;
- Innovation, enterprises and jobs;
- Networking across borders;
- Open Innovation 2.0.

The conclusions of the conference will feed into the contribution of the Committee of the Regions' mid-term assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy, which will be presented on the occasion of the 6th European Summit of Regions and Cities on 7 and 8 March 2014, in Athens.

Programme and online registration:
www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020

27 November 2013

9:00-10:00

Registration

10:00-12:00

Opening session: Innovation Union: The contribution of Europe's regions and cities

Keynote speeches and debate

- **Markku Markkula**, Member of the Board of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland, Member of the CoR;
- Representative of the Lithuanian Presidency.

Panel discussion

- **Jean-Jack Queyranne**, President of the region of Rhône-Alpes, France;
- **Vladimir Šucha**, Deputy Director-General, European Commission, Joint Research Centre;
- **Martin Curley**, Vice-President of Intel;
- **Kaithlin Corcoran**, student at Secondary School in Tralee, Ireland, winner of the Kerry County Young Entrepreneur Award 2013.

Moderator: Mark Rogerson

Debate with the audience

12:00-13:30

Networking lunch

Experts and practitioners meet to discuss and to provide a demand-driven input into the afternoon thematic sessions together with facilitators from the New Club of Paris, ERRIN, ENOLL, ELIG and Meshmoon Virtual Reality, as well as the European Commission.

13:30-15:00

Parallel workshops

(1) Smart specialisation strategies

This workshop will focus on lessons from previous regional innovation programmes, the preparation of smart specialisation strategies for the 2014-2020 period financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds, including provisions at regional level to ensure synergies with the Horizon 2020 programme.

Chair: Jean-François Istasse, Member of the Parliament of the French-speaking Community, Belgium, and member of the CoR.

Panel:

- **Arantza Tapia**, Basque Regional Minister for Economic Development and Competitiveness, Spain;

- **Dimitri Corpakis**, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation.

Comment:

- **Mario Marcel**, Deputy Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD, Paris.

(2) Innovation, enterprises and jobs

This workshop will focus on entrepreneurial discovery, long-term effects of integrated innovation and development strategies and the assessment of governance provisions ensuring synergies between innovation and regional development.

Chair: **Nichi Vendola**, President of the Puglia Region, Italy, and member of the CoR.

Panel:

- **Marek Darecki**, President, Aviation Valley, Subcarpathian region, Poland;
- **Herbert Rath**, CEO of ZENIT GmbH, the innovation agency of the region of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany;
- **Katja Reppel**, European Commission, Regional and Urban Policy DG, Deputy Head of Unit, Competence Centre for Smart and Sustainable Growth.

Comment:

- **Gerhard Huemer**, Director Economic and Fiscal Policy, UEAPME, Brussels.

(3) Networking across borders

In this workshop, experiences and prospects of programmes and projects funded under the European Territorial Cooperation objective will be examined, which facilitate policy learning with regard to smart specialisation strategies. In addition, future aspects of the development of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) will be presented.

Chair: **W.B.H.J. Van De Donk**, King's Commissioner Province of Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands, and member of the CoR.

Panel:

- **Karin Nygård Skalman**, Programme Manager with VINNOVA, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems;
- **Mathea Fammels**, Head of Unit of Policy and communications, EIT, Budapest, Hungary.

Comment:

- **Joep Brouwers**, Vice-Director of Brainport Development NV, Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

(4) Open Innovation 2.0

This workshop will focus on how pioneering cities and regions work to close Europe's innovation divide through practical collaboration and European partnerships. This interactive session will review the experiences of regions increasing innovativeness and entrepreneurial discovery in dealing with actual societal challenges. The workshop participants will explore how Open Innovation 2.0 processes work and what lessons can be taken forward to their own region.

Chair: **Markku Markkula**, Member of the Board of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland, and member of the CoR.

Panel:

- **Tuula Antola**, Director, Economic and Business Development, City of Espoo, Finland;
- **Pia Kinhult**, Chair of the Skåne Regional Assembly, Sweden;
- **Francesco Fionda**, Project Manager, Region of Valle d'Aosta, Italy.

Comment:

- **Jan Wester**, Senior Strategist, TNO, Economic Board Utrecht, North-wing, The Netherlands.

15:15-16:00

Closing session

Keynote speeches:

- **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, President of the Committee of the Regions;
- **Hermann Winkler**, Member of the European Parliament;
- **Michel Barnier**, Member of the European Commission responsible for the Internal Market and Services.

Closing remarks:

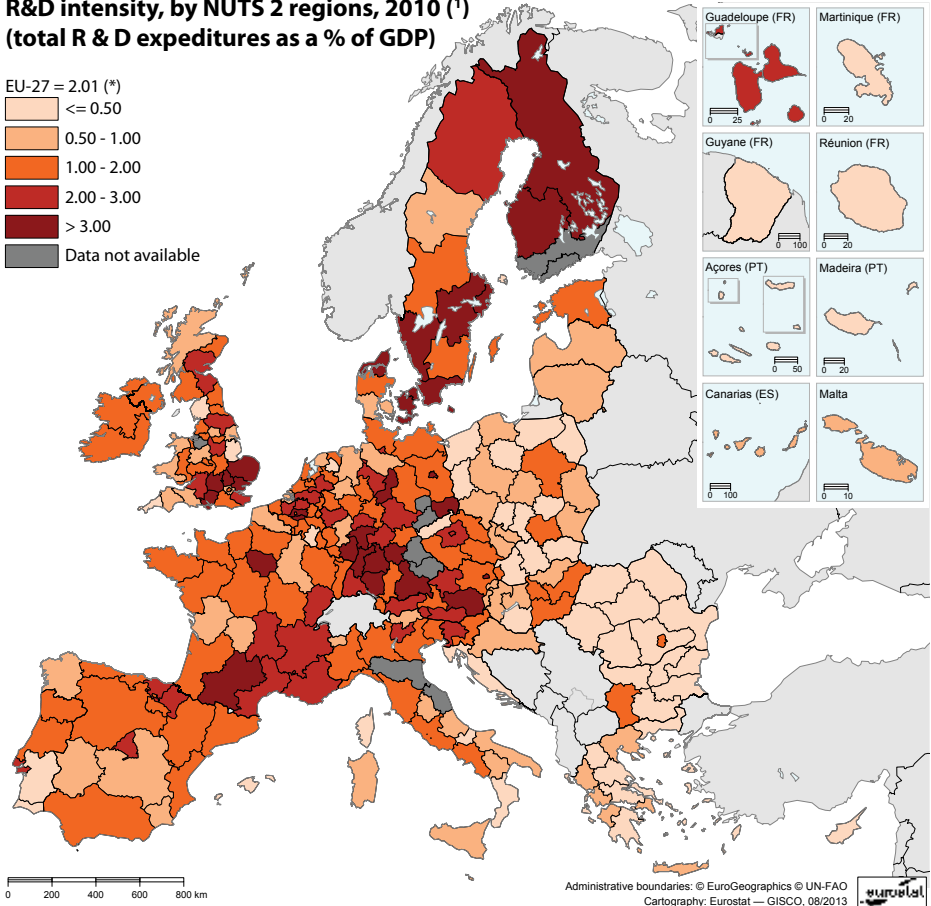
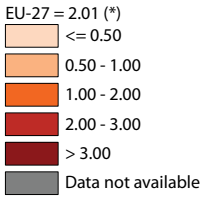
Mercedes Bresso, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions.

Reporting from the workshops:

Hank Kune, Member of the New Club of Paris

Moderator: **Mark Rogerson**

R&D intensity, by NUTS 2 regions, 2010 ⁽¹⁾ (total R & D expenditures as a % of GDP)



⁽¹⁾ Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France (except Martinique (FR92), Guyane (FR93) and Réunion (FR94)), the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom, 2009;

Greece, 2005; Martinique (FR92), Guyane (FR93) and Réunion (FR94), 2002

(*)At the time of the publication, EU28 aggregate was not available.

Source: Eurostat

Photos: European Commission

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Edited by the Directorate for Communication, Press and Events of the Committee of the Regions

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