

eNEWSLETTER

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Issue 1 / June 2008

Read on our 1st issue:

- **REGIONS-2008 calls** results announced
- Successful **Research Driven Clusters** in Europe
- 217 regions and cities from 32 countries are expected in **Open Days 2008!**

■ 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 of Knowledge calls: results 2008 announced - the experience from the first calls of proposals**

The results of the calls 2008 have been recently sent to all applicants. For REGIONS-2008-1, 69 proposals have been submitted, 15 passed all thresholds, 32 failed one or more thresholds and 22 were ineligible. The total budget requested from the proposals that have passed all thresholds is 12.895 Meuro. For REGIONS-2008-2, 40 proposals have been submitted. 16 passed all thresholds and 6 were considered ineligible. The total budget requested from the proposals that have passed all thresholds is 3.178 Meuro. The number of proposals that will be funded depends on the available budget, the negotiations and the competition of all formal procedures. The first grant agreements will be concluded by November 2008.

REGIONS 2007: 125 proposals have been submitted, in total, in the first two calls for proposals of the “Regions of Knowledge” programme (REGIONS-2007-1, REGIONS-2007-2) and 16 have been funded. The success rate for REGIONS-2007-1 was 15% and for REGIONS-2007-2 was 22%. Partners came from all over Europe and the thematic coverage was wide. The experience of these first calls pointed out three main issues: the need to clarify the triple helix approach for research clusters, the need to elaborate on expected output and impact in socio-economic terms and the need for efficient and detailed budget and management.

- **Environmental issues in Work Programme 2009**

The Work Programme 2009 is expected soon. As per WP 2008, the foreseen topics concern mainly environmental issues (integrated water management). A scaling up of projects (in terms of participants, budget, impact, etc) is expected.

■ News & Events

- **RegioStars 2009: call for Awards to Innovative Projects is now open!**

The RegioStars 2009 Awards, the Awards that aim to identify good practices in regional development and to highlight innovative projects inspiring to other regions, have been launched in February. Applications must be submitted by 15 July 2008. This year categories are: Research, Technological

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Development and Innovation, Adaptation to or mitigation of climate change, Radio or television spot or programme that highlights the contribution of Cohesion Policy.

The first RegioStars Awards were organised in 2008. Alsace, Øresund, Wales, the West Midlands, and Yorkshire and the Humber were the winners for innovative regional projects.

[More>>](#)

- **Practical Guide to EU Funding links FP7, CIP and Structural Funds**

The "Practical Guide to EU funding for research, development and innovation" that has been developed by the services of the European Commission to provide practical information on combining the different funding sources, advice for policy makers, etc. The Guide was presented in draft form by Commissioner Potočnik in conjunction with the recent conference on Research Infrastructures organised by the Commission and the Slovenian Presidency (Brdo, Slovenia, 5-6 March 2008).

[More>>](#)

- **Open Days 2008: European Week of Regions and Cities**

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO) are organising the "Open Days 2008: European Week of Regions and Cities" event, on 6-9 October 2008, in Brussels. The event will host 120 sessions on the following topics: Innovating regions: Promoting research, technological development and innovation, Sustainable development: Regional responses to climate change, Cooperation and networking: Exchange of best practice in regional development, Looking forward: A European cohesion policy for tomorrow.

[More>>](#)

- **International Conference: “Cluster Policy in European Regions”**

The International Conference will take place 22-23 September 2008 in Berlin. It aims to provide the participants with information on current development of European cluster initiatives and efficient cluster management policies. Topics that will be covered include: funding of European clusters, new initiatives, management tools for clusters, national programmes and the role of national authorities in regional development. The Conference will bring together important actors of cluster management from public institutions, research institutions, universities and private sector.

[More>>](#)

■ Research Driven Clusters in Europe

NCE Culinology: Innovation in gastronomy from Norway

NCE Culinology aims to strengthen the knowledge platform and capacity for innovation in the field of gastronomy and culinary differentiation for the benefit of Norwegian food production. The food cluster in Rogaland has deep historic roots in the production of agricultural-based food and seafood. In addition to a strong production side, the district has an acknowledged culinary environment and a well-established network in which industry, R&D institutions and the public authorities are working in close collaboration to develop the industry. NCE Culinology functions as a professional catalyst and is measured on its ability to increase the level of innovation and upgrade the professional and market-

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oriented skills within and between operators in the food and meal industry cluster. The objective is to further develop the quality of raw material production, specialise processing and increase value creation per investment factor. 17 partners participate in the cluster.

[More>>](#)

Lyonbiopôle: excellence in vaccines and diagnostics in France

A global centre of excellence in vaccines and diagnostics, Lyonbiopôle, accredited as a world competitive cluster by the French State on July 12th, 2005, aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of human and animal infectious diseases. This expertise ranges from diagnostics and prevention to treatment, with the development of innovative delivery systems. The main strength of this healthcare shield specialized in infectious diseases is that it incorporates the entire chain of activity, from identification of a virus to protection of the populations at risk. This integrated approach aims to build a “healthcare shield” in order to protect populations against these diseases. The strong points of the cluster are the following: it is focused on infectious diseases, it meets healthcare and economic challenges, it is active in dynamic markets, it is led by firms with the involvement of all major stakeholders within the cluster’s scope of action and, finally, it is strongly supported by the French State and Greater Lyon alongside Grenoble, the Rhône-Alpes Region and the Rhône and Isère General Councils. At least 45 partners participate in the cluster.

[More>>](#)

■ Publications & Links

- [Telling the story. Communicating Cohesion Policy together](#),
Proceedings of the Conference held in Brussels, on 26-27 November 2007
European Commission, ISBN 978-92-79-08185-9, 2008, EN
- [Innovation Clusters in Europe: A statistical analysis and overview of current policy support](#),
European Commission, 2008, EN
- [Europe Innova: The network driving European innovation](#)
Information on cluster mapping, cluster networks, High Level Advisory Group on clusters, etc.
- [PRO INNO EUROPE: New and Better Innovation Policies for Europe](#)
Initiative of Directorate General Enterprise and Industry which aims to become the focal point for innovation policy analysis, learning and development in Europe, with the view to learning from the best and contributing to the development of new and better innovation policies in Europe.

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■ Project News

● **Kick-off event in Brussels**

TRANS REG NCP project was officially launched in January 2008, in Brussels. The 4-year project involves 11 partners and is coordinated by the Polish IPPT PAN. The main activities concern the development of a Partner Search Facility to enhance cooperation among research-driven clusters, networking and knowledge transfer activities, training and dissemination to raise awareness on the opportunities offered for research and regional development. The minutes and presentations from the kick-off meeting will be soon available on the Network's website.

● **Tips for successful Research Driven Clusters**

A report on Research Driven Clusters (RDC) will be published, under the frame of TRANS REG NCP project. The report will include information on the European cluster policy, legislation issues, recommendations on how to create a successful RDC and good practices in EU-Member States. The report will be available online on our website!

● **Find Partners for the next calls for proposals**

A Partner Search Facility will be soon available on our website to support consortium building for successful proposals in “Regions of Knowledge” programme. The database will contain limited number of high quality inputs, validated by the National Contact Points. The information on research driven clusters and potential partners will be disseminated across Europe. Identification and promotion of “success stories” will raise the awareness and the visibility of the benefits resulting from trans-regional cooperation activities.

● **TRANS REG NCP: present in major European events**

TRANS REG NCP will be present at the Euroscience Open Forum 2008 (Barcelona, 18-22/07), the Open Days 2008 “European Week of Regions and Cities” (Brussels, 6-9/10) and the International Conference “Cluster Policy in European Regions” (Berlin, 22-23/09). Research organizations, enterprises and regional authorities are invited for face-to-face discussion on the opportunities offered by the “Regions of Knowledge” programme.

● **Better services from the National Contact Points**

A benchmarking exercise for the NCPs activities is under way. The exercise aims to identify the strong and weak points of the NCPs and to organise respective training visits and seminars. The questionnaires are being collected and the first results are expected at the end of the first year. A first training seminar for NCPs is scheduled in October, in Brussels. The first NCP Forum will be organised in Latvia, early in 2009.