

eNEWSLETTER

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- Useful **presentations** on research-driven clusters at **Open Days 2008, Intercluster 2008 and Regional workshop**
- **Calls for PRO INNO Europe/Europe INNOVA projects lunched**

■ 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 and ongoing call**

At least 75% of the grants under the call 2008 are expected to be signed and pre-financed before the end of January 2009. As per the EC presentation, the projects funded covered the fields Health, Food, ICT, Nano-sciences, Energy and Transport. The level of response to the call was good, but the ineligibility rate was high. Around 28-29% of the submitted proposals were above the thresholds.

The results of the 2009 call are expected in May and the first signatures in November 2009. As per the foreseen timetable, the draft Work Programme 2010 is expected in April and the next calls will be launched in July, including a topic about Health.

■ News & Events

● **Calls for the next generation of PRO INNO Europe/Europe INNOVA projects lunched**

PRO INNO Europe call was published on 12 November 2008, and concerns the setting up of INNO-Nets and INNO-Actions with a view to fostering transnational cooperation on support for innovation. The deadline for proposals is 12 February 2009. PRO INNO Europe initiative contributes to closer cooperation between innovation policy makers and public support organisations at different levels with a view to contributing to the development of new and better innovation policies in Europe.

[More>>](#)

● **Interregional co-operation: launch of second call for projects**

INTERREG IVC is a programme funded by the European Union that helps Europe's regions establish partnerships, enabling them to work together on common projects. This is the third component of the Territorial Co-operation Objective of the 2007-13 programme for Cohesion Policy. The component is centered on two priorities: innovation and the knowledge economy; the environment and risk prevention. All 27 Member States are eligible as are Norway and Switzerland. The 2nd call for projects is open until 30 January 2009. Applications must be sent to the programme secretariat based in Lille, France.

[More>>](#)

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- **A new stage in the European strategy for the outermost regions**

The European Commission has just adopted a new communication on the outermost regions (OR). This communication follows a request from the Member States, who wanted to show the importance of the OR for the European Union as a whole. Far from the image of "problem regions", henceforth they are being regarded more favourably as "hidden treasures". Numerous projects supported by the European Union amply bear witness to the capacity of OR to specialise in leading-edge sectors and also provide vehicles for pilot-projects of benefit to the entire Union. The European Union has seven outermost regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Reunion Island, the Azores, Madeira, and the Canary Islands. [More>>](#)

- **Conference “Research Connection 2009” in May in Prague**

The conference and exhibition will provide first-hand information about priorities, objectives and participation rules and in special sessions. The topics include, among others: 7th Framework Programme, Structural Funds, Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). [More>>](#)

■ Research Driven Clusters in Europe

CLOE – Clusters linked over Europe

CLOE – Clusters Linked Over Europe - is a co-operation project between fifteen European regions set up with the aims of sharing experience, establishing close co-operation and learning from each other in the area of cluster management. The objectives of CLOE are to enable those regions with a common interest in cluster-building techniques and in the fostering of cluster relationships to (i) to meet and jointly develop processes and methodologies for the establishment and management of clusters and networks, and (ii) to develop business opportunities for companies within and between the clusters. CLOE activities have been highly recognised by European Commission and thus the network was selected to be one of the pilot projects under DG Regio's newly created “Regions for economic change” initiative. Under this pilot action CLOE will expand to seven new regions mainly from new EU Member States. [More>>](#)

Innofit – Innovation benefits Europe

Many European countries have difficulties to “turn knowledge into money”: there is still a “European gap” between the exceptional knowledge resources and realizing benefit from those. inno-fit.eu objective is to promote the capabilities of European "Regions of Knowledge" programme by transferring knowledge into products and services with a demand from markets fuelling economic growth. For a long time, demand has been taken as outside the reach of activities of managers, entrepreneurs or regional policy makers. This is particularly true for SMEs - only a handful has sufficient resources to carry out marketing and business development. Europe has a renowned tradition – like the Italian industrial district in fashion - in SME collaboration to tap into existing R & T knowledge and resources: this cluster initiative will, therefore, try to transform them into new profitable business opportunities going along with additional economic growth and jobs. [More>>](#)

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■ Publications & Links

- [IRE working group 'Regional clustering and networking as innovation drivers'](#)
Innovating Regions in Europe, Final Report, May 2008
- [Regional Innovation Policy Impact Assessment & Benchmarking Guidebook](#)
Innovating Regions in Europe, 2008
- [Star Projects: Successes in Sciences](#)
European Commission, DG Research

■ Project News

- **1st Annual Forum in Latvia:** The first Annual Forum of TRANS REG NCP will take place in 25-27 March 2009, in the resort place of University of Latvia "Ratnieki". More details will be soon available on the website. Our colleague Arnolds Ubelis will send the official invitation and the agenda soon (More info: arnolds@latnet.lv)
- **1st Training workshop in Brussels:** The 1st training workshop on “Regional clusters as innovation drivers” was held on 14 October 2008, in Brussels. Stakeholders from France, Portugal and Spain presented policy issues and practical cases of research driven clusters in Europe. Some presentations are already online on our website. For the rest, you can contact our Spanish colleague that has organized the workshop: Macarena Munoz (regiones.7pm@micinn.es) [More...](#)
- **Presentation of TRANS REG NCP at Paris - Intercluster 2008:** TRANS REG NCP has been officially presented in the "InterCluster2008" Conference which took place on 17-18 November 2008 in Paris as an official event of the French Presidency of the EU. The event was organized jointly with PRIT2008 (Paris Region Innovation Tour 2008) and attracted more than 300 cluster representatives or cluster members from 30 countries. The presentations are online: find out more about cluster policies and inter-cluster cooperation by the European key players! [More...](#)
- **Regions of Knowledge @ Open Days 2008:** The Committee of the Regions and the EC Directorate-General for Regional Policy organised the "Open Days 2008: European Week of Regions and Cities" event, on 6-9 October 2008, in Brussels. The event hosted 120 sessions on Innovating regions, Regional responses to climate change, Best practice in regional development, European cohesion policy, etc. The presentations are available on the website: find out more about the “Regions of Knowledge” session (09A37) and the success stories of the REGIONS-2007 call presented. [More...](#)
- **Events 2009 & Training visits:** Training visits and events for the promotion of our Network are planned for 2009. Submit your ideas and availability to participate. For events, please contact our colleague from Lithuania Vilija Geciene (vilija.geciene@tpa.lt). For training visits, please contact our French colleague Marie-Helene Soto (marie-helene.soto@utc.fr).