

eNEWSLETTER

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Issue 4 / December 2009

Read on our 4th issue:

- **Week of Innovate Regions in Europe**
Granada, 15-17 March 2010
- **Research clusters in Romania**
- Useful **presentations** on research-driven clusters at **Intercluster 2010**

■ 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:

The ongoing REGIONS-2010-call has been presented in several high-level European events, like the "Learning clusters" Conference in Finland, the "Open Days for European Cities and Regions" in Brussels, the "Intercluster-2009" Conference in Brussels, etc. Useful presentations are already uploaded on our website: <http://transregncp.eu/newsletters.html>

The large focus on health, including e-health, seems well understood by the potential participants. Some of the "key points" are still the regional research driven clusters (triple helix) and the strong commitment of the regional/local authorities, the synergies with the Structural Funds and the emergence of "R&D, Innovation and Entrepreneurship" as first priority in Convergence regions, as well as the synergies with EU initiatives in support of clusters (European Cluster Policy Group, European Cluster Alliance, European Cluster Observatory, etc). Links to useful documents and contacts are available on: http://transregncp.eu/fp7_links_sources.html

■ News & Events

● Week of Innovative Regions in Europe (WIRE 2010) in Granada Granada, 15-17 March 2010

The Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the European Commission jointly organise the Week of European Regions in Europe (WIRE2010) that will be held in Granada on 15-17 March 2010, under the auspices of the Spanish EU Council Presidency. The event will focus on how to move from “synergies of policies” to “synergies of actions” for the optimal use of existing EU instruments, with the objective of making regions full protagonists in building the knowledge-based society. WIRE2010 is the result of merging three different conferences:

- Conference on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and Innovation, including their synergies with the FP and the CIP
- “Research Potential” conference, focusing on the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the REGPOT programme (Capacities-FP7).

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- “Regions of Knowledge” conference, which deals with the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the REGIONS programme (Capacities-FP7).

WIRE2010 will be a forum for discussion of stakeholder's good practices and ideas on how to make the best of European, national and regional funding for R&D and innovation and more efficient ways to conduct future actions. In this line, REGPOT and REGIONS programmes (Capacities – FP7) can play a crucial role and therefore will have a whole dedicated conference on the second day.

Due to limitations of the venue, attendance will be by invitation only, after a expression of interest on our webpage www.micinn.es/wire2010 (pre-registration facility). Let us draw your attention on the poster session of WIRE, which will be a very good opportunity to get high visibility of the results of your project, cluster, research centre, etc. (please check the deadline for abstracts submission: 15th of December 2009). If you are interested in participating, please block the date of 15-17 March 2010 in your calendar! In the hope that you will be able to join us in Granada, very best wishes. More information: [WIRE Organising Committee](#).

[More>>](#)

- **Research Clusters & TRANS REG NCP @ INTERCLUSTER 2009**
Brussels, 3-4 December 2009

The "Regions of Knowledge" programme and the TRANS REG NCP project have been presented during the INTERCLUSTER Conference 2009 in Brussels. The objective of this two days conference were to contribute to the policy recommendations in the White Paper on the emerging of World-Class Clusters and to take part in the shaping of the new European Cluster Managers' Club.

More the 150 clusters form all around Europe participated to the interactive and output oriented event that was built around 2 "World Cafés". The World Café process helped to make visible the collective experience of all participants, through brainstorming discussion, thus increasing capacity for effective results and actions.

The TransReg Project was presented during the tool box part “Clusters and cluster cooperation” under the session titled “The European Commission tools and projects”. Together with a presentation made by a representative of the European Commission, DG Research, about Regions of Knowledge Programme, the regional NCPs presented the tools and services they have developed for Research Driven Clusters. Great importance has been given above all to the promotion of the online Partner Search Facilities and database created to facilitate the participation to the RoK call for proposals.

[Intercluster Conference](#)
[TRANS REG NCP presentation](#)

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■ Research Driven Clusters in Europe

Research Clusters in Romania

During the last months, Romania is under a process of research-cluster mapping. The main clusters (or potential clusters) are already identified and the following are in an advanced phase of development:

- **Automotive West:** An industry driven cluster at the beginning, Automotive West refers to a concentration of international automotive suppliers concentrated around Timisoara. The Regional Association West supports these clusters and has founded an automotive association in the region. The cluster is being supported in the frame of a FP7 Regions of Knowledge Project.
More details can be found on: <http://www.adrvest.ro/index.php?page=domain&did=180>
- **ICT West:** A similar initiative of the Regional development West which is currently trying to formalise the ICT concentration in the Western Region. More details can be found on: http://www.adrvest.ro/attach_files/studiu_ict_phare.pdf
- **Automotive South (SPRINT):** The cluster refers to a concentration of automotive suppliers around the producer Dacia Renault in the South Region. Driver of the cluster is the Romanian Association of Car Producers. (ACAROM). The association benefited from an FP 6 Transport Project “SPRINT” (2005-2007) aiming at creating an innovative network of automotive suppliers. The most important result is the creation of so called “research nuclei”, joint working groups gathering representatives of industry and academia on from the industry relevant research topics. More details can be found on: <http://www.sprintnetwork.ro>
- **Wood Center (Pro Wood):** The cluster beneficiaries from ongoing FP7 regions of Knowledge Project “Pro Wood”. Driving forces are the SME Association in the county of Covasna as well as the University of Brasov (only one in the country specialised on wood industry), the county council of Covasna. The cluster beneficiaries from the support of renowned international consultants both specialists (TTS Helsinki, CritBois Epinal, Fraunhofer Institute in Braunschweig) and management consultants (ZENIT in Germany and Inno Consult in Romania). More details can be found on: <http://www.prowood.ro>

■ Publications & Links

- Commission Communication “[Towards world-class clusters in the European Union](#)” and explanatory Staff Working Document (17/10/2008)
- [Recommendations for the future of cohesion policy 2013+](#)

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- [Competitive Regional Clusters: National Policy Approaches](#)
- [OECD: Regional Development](#) (Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development)

■ Project News

- **Cluster Database / TRANS REG NCP Partner Search:**

Ten research-driven clusters are registered in the [TRANS REG NCP Database](#). Check the information and invite your national clusters to register!

- **Trainings & Events in 2010:** The National Contact Points that are interested to participate in the training visits in 2010 can now contact the [Coordinator](#) for further information/planning. I also remind you that if there are any conferences/events in your country related to clusters, or transport (the topic of the next REGIONS-call for proposals), please contact the [Dissemination WP Leader](#) for further promotion and participation.

- **Presentations & Links:** Useful presentations from the Programme Officer and links to policy documents / EU clusters organisations that could be used for the proposal preparation are already available on the project's website (sections: Newsletters & Press Release & FP7 Links & Sources".