

eNEWSLETTER

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- **Report on RDC good practices**
- Useful **presentations** on research-driven clusters at **Research Connection 2009**

■ 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 2009**

The results of the REGIONS-2009-1 call for proposals have been presented during the last NCP meeting. 29 proposals have been submitted, 9 are on the main list for funding and 2 more in the reserve list. The ineligibility rate was low (1 out of 29 proposals) and the quality of the proposals was good (52% over the thresholds). All themes were covered and the projects were bigger in size (15 partners: +50%) and budget (1,7M: +100%). There was a good geographical spread: the countries with more participants were Spain, Germany and Finland.

All the presentations are now available at cordis.europa.eu/forums

■ News & Events

- **Research and Regional Development in Research Connection 2009**

The Research Connection conference and exhibition took place in Prague from 7 to 8 May 2009 under the Czech Presidency of the European Union. A series of events was dedicated to research and regional development. The presentations are now available on the site:

- [Cohesion Policy and Research](#)
- [Regional dimensions of FP7](#)
- [Maximizing synergies of FP7, Structural Funds and Collaboration of Academia and Industry for Central European Biotech Research](#)
- [Synergies between research and regional development](#)

- **REGIONS-2007 projects now online**

Most projects funded under the REGIONS-2007 call, are now available online. Check their activities, results, collaborations, etc. and get a tangible example of success stories:

- BRIDGE2GEO:
<http://bridge2geo.info/>

- CREATE:
<http://www.lets-create.eu/>

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- RAF-REGIONS:
<http://www.rafregions.eu/>
 - INNOFIT:
[http://www.ve-forum.org/apps/comm.asp?\\$1=512](http://www.ve-forum.org/apps/comm.asp?$1=512)
 - STARNETREGIO:
<http://www.starnetregio.eu/>

- BRIDGE BSR:
<http://www.scanbalt.org/sw14944.asp>
 - REG CON:
<http://www.regcon.org/>
 - CITT:
<http://www.centrope-itt.eu/>

- **Informal meeting of Regional Ministers, Mariánské Lázně: Commissioner Hübner to present her vision for a stronger Cohesion Policy**

On 23 and 24 April, Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, will address the informal meeting of Ministers for Regional Policy at Mariánské Lázně in the Czech Republic. The discussions, chaired by Cyril Svoboda, Czech Minister for Regional Development, will focus on the principles and goals of the future Cohesion Policy. The Commissioner will present a reflection paper outlining her vision for a stronger policy and will discuss the initial findings of the public consultation on the Commission's 'Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion'. She will also take the opportunity to visit the Northwest region of the country to see first hand projects supported by the EU.

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- **Independent experts scrutinise Cohesion Policy**

To contribute to the debate on future cohesion policy, Commissioner Danuta Hübner has asked Dr. Fabrizio Barca (Director General, Ministry of Economy & Finance, Italy) to prepare an independent report containing an assessment of the effectiveness of cohesion policy to date as well as a series of proposals how to reform cohesion policy for the period post 2013.

In this context, Mr. Barca has organised, over the last year, eight hearings and seminars with academic experts and policy makers. The results of these discussions, those of ten working papers prepared for the report and a review of the economic literature and empirical evidence served as the basis for drawing up the findings of the report.

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- **Észak-alföld Region in REGPOT/ROK programmes**

“The Észak-alföld Region is situated in the north-eastern part of Hungary, and has borders with Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania. The Észak-Alföld Region, which is made up from 28 microregions, consists of the administrative area of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Hajdú-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Counties. The region's land area covers just over 19% of Hungary, while its population of 1.500.000 inhabitants represents 15.3% of the total population of the country. From among the cities, Debrecen is one of the "regional centres", thanks to its role as an economic focal point, its internationally famous university, and the intellectual background of the innovation-based economic development of the city. The economy of Nyíregyháza is characterized by a higher-than-average weight of institutional and commercial services in the local economy. The dominant element in the economy of Szolnok is the processing industry, the privatization of which attracted significant foreign investments, even in national comparison.

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The region was successful in the regional programmes of the 7th Framework Programme. The project MOLMEDREX is supported in the Research Potential Program at the University of Debrecen with the aim of being a regional centre of excellence in molecular medicine. The most important aims are improving human potential, upgrading the research equipment in this area, helping with mobility of researchers and dissemination of the results. The project CLUSTHERM is supported in the frame of the Regions of Knowledge Program. This project aims to set up a Research Driven Cluster on the field of Thermal Water Utilization. The consortium is made of 12 regional authorities, research centers and companies of 4 countries. In a form of a Joint Research Action Plan the members of the Cluster will collect the topics for joint research activities.

Information:

Márta Völgyiné Nadabán

Programme Committee member "Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential and Coherent Development of Policies", Deputy Director of INNOVA Észak-alföld Regional Development and Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd.

Tel: +36/52/880-256, Fax: +36/52/880-251,

Email: marta.nadaban@eszakalfold.huwww.innova.eszakalfold.hu

■ Research Driven Clusters in Europe

Research driven clusters in European regions: Examples of good practices

A detailed report entitled "Research Driven Clusters. Overview on RDC Policies, methods of characterization and examples of best practices" has been prepared by NCPs Italy and Germany (Katia Insogna, Hannah Wilhelm, Cornelia Borek), under the TRANS REG NCP project. The mapping exercise was carried out in 27 EU Member States, 2 candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey) and the associated countries. It included a two-step sampling approach: a questionnaire and the selection of 20 best practices from all over Europe.

[More>>](#)

■ Publications & Links

- [research*eu: Special issue dedicated to Research Potential – Regions of Knowledge](#)
- [IRE Regional aspects of FP7](#)
- [Lead Market Initiative for Europe](#)
- [Regional Innovation Observatories in Europe: Activities and Potential for EU level Coordination](#)

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■ **Project News**

● **1st Annual Forum in Latvia:** The first Annual Forum of TRANS REG NCP took place in 25-27 March 2009, in the resort place of University of Latvia "Ratnieki". The event included a workshop on clusters, moderated by Luk Palmén (InnoCo), covering topics/interactive exercises such as: the importance of clusters in economic policy in EU countries, Challenges for EU economy, Areas of cooperation within and among clusters, etc. During the Forum, the achievements of TRANS REG NCP and ResPotNet have been presented and the Partner Search Tools of the 2 projects were discussed. The participants had the opportunity to visit the Institute of Wood Chemistry and meet successful proposers for ROK and REGPOT calls. The minutes of the Forum and the presentations are now available on the intranet (transrenpc.eu > Intranet > ncp@transregncp.eu > Documents > 1st regional forum)

[More...](#)

● **Presentation of TRANS REG NCP Partner Search at Research Connection 2009:** The Partner Search Tool for TRANS REG NCP project has been presented at the Research Connection 2009 Conference organized on 7-8 May 2009, in Prague by the European Commission and the Czech Presidency. The workshop "International cooperation among clusters under FP7" aimed to effectively contribute to the general understanding of the concept, functioning an cooperation among Research Driven Clusters (RDC).

[More...](#)

● **Training visits 2009:** Training visits and events for the promotion of our Network are planned for 2009. For those interested to visit a more experienced NCP for training on research driven clusters, please contact Marie-Helene Soto: Marie-Helene.Soto@u-cergy.fr