

ARE EU INNOVATION AND RESEARCH POLICIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN REGIONS OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA?

16-17 SEPTEMBER 2010
Lahti, Region Päijät-Häme, Finland



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CRPM CPMR



AGENDA

Venue of the Conference: Congress and Concert Centre Sibelius Hall, Ankkurikatu, 7 -
15140 LAHTI (Finland) www.sibeliustalo.fi

16-17 September 2010

Online information and registration: <http://www.paijat-hame.fi/fi/innovationconference>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With the support of the European Commission, Regions of Päijät-Häme, Uusimaa and Itä-Uusimaa, and the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) are organising a seminar on 16 and 17 September 2010, on the current impact of EU innovation and research policies (EU Regional Policy, Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, State Aid Regulations) in Regions of the Baltic Sea Area, and on their future after 2013.

Innovation and research are among the key strands of both the EU2020 strategy and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). They are also today at the heart of EU regional policy, and are covered by a large set of EU programmes, as well as by specific EU regulations on State Aid regulations. They are also at the heart of national and regional policies implemented in the Baltic Sea Area. 3 years after the beginning of the 2007-2013 programming period, it is now time to have a debate on the impact that these EU instruments have today in the Regions of the Baltic Sea Area, and to launch a debate on their future. In order to have the best contribution possible to the development of Regions of the Baltic Sea Area, and taking into account the key orientations set in the EU2020 and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), to which extent should the next generation of EU instruments be based on the existing ones?

In this context, the Lahti seminar aims to:

- Show the impact that EU Innovation and Research policies have today in the Regions of the Baltic Sea Area and stimulate the debate on the future of these policies after 2013. The contribution of the EU Regional policy to innovation and growth, which will be addressed in an EC Communication to be published in September 2010, will be one of the key topics for discussion.
- Specifically address the issue of the Regions as regional authorities and the role they could have as key partners in the design and implementation of the next generation of EU and national instruments which will support the implementation of the innovation and research strands of EU2020, including in the framework of the "Innovation Union" flagship initiative, and of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).
- Encourage practical exchanges of knowledge and experiences between public authorities and stakeholders managing EU innovation and research policies or benefiting from them. The European Commission, the European Parliament, national and regional governments, as well as stakeholders of the research and business community from several countries in the Baltic Sea Area will be represented among speakers and participants of the conference.

A poster exhibition will be organised in parallel with the conference.

"Are EU Innovation and Research Policies Making a Difference in Regions of the Baltic Sea Area"

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WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2010

Arrival of Conference delegates

19.00: Get together buffet in the City Hall of Lahti (Harjukatu 31, Lahti), hosted by the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2010

Kuusi Room

9.00-10.30: Opening session - Chair: Region Päijät-Häme

Speakers:

- Mr **Pekka KOMU**, Delegate of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (Finland) - Welcome speech and introduction to the objectives of the seminar
- Mrs **Astrid THORS**, Minister of Migration and European Affairs of Finland
- Mr **Carl HAGLUND**, Member of the European Parliament
- Mrs **Charlina VITCHEVA**, Director, Directorate for Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, DG Regio, European Commission
- Mr **Erik BERGKVIST**, President of the Regional Council of Västerbotten (Sweden), President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30: Round Table: Are the current EU innovation and research policies today delivering satisfactory results in Baltic Sea Regions?

Issues for discussion:

The EU is today making considerable investments in innovation and research in Baltic Sea Regions. On the basis of available data and analysis on the impact of EU policies in this field, this session will address the following issues:

- Are these policies today making a difference in Baltic national and regional innovation and research systems? Which factors in national and regional innovation and research systems contribute to the efficiency of EU policies?
- Is the current governance of EU policies providing an efficient framework for their design and implementation? To which extent are Regions and EU Regional Policy contributing to the organisation of synergies between policies from all governance levels?
- What is the added value of the Baltic Sea Strategy in this context? How to improve links between the Baltic Sea Strategy and Baltic Sea Regions?

Speakers:

Moderator: Mr **Esa HALME**, Region Mayor, Council of Tampere Region (Finland)

- Mr **Pierre GODIN**, Unit for thematic coordination and innovation, DG Regio, European Commission
- Mr **Antti VALLE**, Head of Division, Innovation Department, Ministry of Employment and the Economy of Finland
- Mr **Stefan CAIREN**, Deputy Director, responsible for planning and coordination of Project Area "Research and Innovation" in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), Ministry of Enterprise of Sweden
- Mr **Pekka MÄKI-REINIKKA**, Director, Karl Fazer Ltd, Mill and mixes (Finland)

12.30-14.00: Lunch on site

14.00-16.00: Three parallel sessions on specific issues

First Parallel Session: Haapa Room
Should EU, national and regional instruments contributing to territorial cooperation in innovation and research in the Baltic Sea Area be better coordinated?

Issues for discussion:

This session will address the issue of the Baltic Sea Strategy and its links with territorial cooperation and the Regions from the following angles:

- Is the Baltic Sea Strategy opening a way for a territorialisation of EU innovation and research policies? In the context of globalisation, what is the relevant territorial level for organising cooperation between the scientific and business communities in the innovation and research field?
- How should European, national and regional policy tools aiming at facilitating cooperation in the innovation and research fields be coordinated? Which are the best incentives for cooperation?
- How can Regions act as full partners of European and national policies in order to mobilise the full potential of European territories and ensure best coordination of all public policies? How to envisage the participation of the Region in the coordination of public research programmes, in parallel or in the framework of projects such as the Bonus project?

Speakers:

Moderator: Mr **Damien PERISSE**, Director for innovation and competitiveness, CPMR

- Mr **Kypros KYPRIANOU**, Territorial Cooperation Unit , DG Regio, European Commission
- Mr **Lennart SVENSSON**, Region Skåne (Sweden), on the basis of the EUSBSR project “Create a Baltic Sea Fund for Innovation and Research”
- Mr **Piotr SZUTKIEWICZ**, Coordinator of Podlaska Innovation Strategy Project, Podlaskie Voivodeship (Poland)
- Mrs **Tea DANILOV**, Head of Economic Development Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia

Second Parallel Session: Kuusi Room

How are EU instruments contributing to the continuous improvement of Regional Innovation Strategies?

Issues for discussion:

Continuous improvement of Regional Innovation Strategies is at the same time a objective and a condition for a successful contribution to European and national innovation and research policies. Against this background, this session will focus on the following issues:

- Which is the best support to the development of regional innovation strategies in Baltic Sea Regions? Which are the key tendencies in innovation strategies, and how European, national and regional policies are contributing to their implementation? In particular, how have Regional Innovation Strategies been evolving in Baltic Sea Regions, in particular under the influence of Regional Policy?
- Within regional innovation systems, how are public policies, including EU policies, specifically contributing to the development of:
 - Research infrastructures? Which funding for research infrastructures, including ESFRI infrastructures listed in the Baltic Sea Strategy, and how to best develop linkages between these infrastructures and research and innovation communities located in other Regions?
 - Innovation-based incubators and clusters?
 - Access to finance for innovative projects?

Speakers:

Moderator: European Commission – Mr **Alain ROGGERI**, Head of Unit for Estonia, Finland and Latvia, DG Regio, European Commission

On regional innovation strategies:

- Mr **Vesa HARMAAKORPI**, Professor on Industrial Management, Specific Innovation Systems, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lahti School of Innovation

On access to finance for innovative projects:

- Mr **Anssi RANTASALO**, Managing Director, Kemppe Ltd
- Mr **Graham COPE**, Head of Region, European Investment Fund, on the basis of EIF projects in the Baltic Area

On research infrastructures, innovation-based incubators and clusters:

- Mr **Sven-Gunnar EDLUND**, Vinnova, Flagship project on, "Innovation Systems, Clusters and SME Networks"
- Dr **Saulius GULBINSKAS**, Association "Baltic Valley", and Ms **Asta RAUGALIENE**, Section of regional development of Klaipeda region, Ministry of Interior

Third Parallel Session: Puusepän Sali Room
How can education and training policies foster regional innovation and match business needs?

Issues for discussion:

This session will cover the issue of the links between the European Social Funds (ESF) and policies implemented at national and regional level in the fields of innovation and creativity. It will in particular address the following issues:

- How are Baltic Sea Regions supporting innovation and creativity? How can education meet the needs of business life?
- What is today the contribution from the European Social Fund to innovation and creativity in Baltic Sea Regions, and how are synergies with national and regional policies organised?

Speakers:

Moderator: Mr **Jaakko MIKKOLA**, Executive Director, Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa (Finland)

- Mr **Christian AAGAARD**, Programme Manager & Policy Officer - Denmark, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission
- Mr **Jarl BERGSTRÖM**, Principal, Porvoo Commercial College
- Ms **Katariina RAIJ**, PhD, Director, Laurea University of Applied Sciences
- Ms **Ewa HEDKVIST-PETERSEN**, Responsible for the Best-Agers, Region Norrbotten (Sweden)
- Mr **Steve HERNES**, Regional CEO, Young Enterprise Nordland

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.00 Summing-up of the parallel sessions (Kuusi Room)

Chair - Mrs **Tuula LOIKKANEN**, Acting Executive Director, Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

- Speakers: *Rapporteurs* of the three parallel sessions

17.00-17.30: Conclusions

Chair - Mrs **Tuula LOIKKANEN**, Acting Executive Director, Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

- Mrs **Charlina VITCHEVA**, Director, Directorate for Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, DG Regio, European Commission
- Mr **Erik BERGKVIST**, President of the Regional Council of Västerbotten (Sweden), President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

**20.00: Dinner with innovative preparation for the second conference day
at the Countryside Restaurant "Hollolan Hirvi - Elk of Hollola"**

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2010

Innovative Approaches in the Baltic Area

EU funded projects: EU Regional policy (including Objective Territorial Cooperation) and FP projects: current and future synergies.

9.00-12.30: Are EU schemes funding collaborative projects (FP7, CIP, Territorial Cooperation) significantly contributing to regional innovation and what should their future be? (Kuusi Room)

This session will involve businesses, scientists and regional authorities involved in EU projects (Regions of Knowledge, Regions Potential, Territorial Cooperation projects) having a regional or territorial dimension. Discussions will focus on innovation and research issues addressed in the framework of projects, on the impact of the projects (including on national and regional policies) and on the funding schemes themselves (including their future post-2013).

9.00-9.30 - Welcome coffee

9.30-10.00 Opening Session - Chair: Mr Jarmo ESKELINEN, CEO, Forum Virium

- Mr **Philipp SCHWARTZ**, Head of Secretariat, Central Baltic INTERREG IVA Programme 2007-2013
- Ms **Ninetta CHANIOTOU**, Development Manager, Kainuun Etu Ltd

10.00-10.45 Experiences from EU collaborative projects - Part one

Chair: Mr Jarmo ESKELINEN, CEO, Forum Virium

- **Health**
 - Prof. **John WATERWORTH**, Umeå University (Sweden), representative of RICHARD (Regional ICT based Clusters for Healthcare Applications and R&D) Project (FP7-Regions of Knowledge)
 - Ms **Raisa VALVE** Head of Development, University of Helsinki, PhD, Authorised Nutritionist, University of Helsinki Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education

NB: presentations should not only address the content of the project, but also their specific regional dimension, and some issues concerning the funding scheme used.

10.45-11.00 - Break

11.00-11.45 Experiences from EU collaborative projects - Part two

Chair: Mr Jarmo ESKELINEN, CEO, Forum Virium

- **Energy / Climate Change**
 - Mr **Jerker JOHNSON**, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia (Finland), Coordinator of the RESGEN (RES generation-from infrastructure to sustainable energy and reduction of CO2 emissions) Project (FP7, Regions of Knowledge)
 - Ms **Mari PANTSAR-KALLIO**, Director, Vice-president, PhD, Finnish Cleantech Cluster, Lahti Science and Business Park Ltd

NB: presentations will address the content of the project, but also their specific regional dimension, and some issues concerning the funding scheme used.

11.45-13.00 - Summing-up, discussion and conclusions - Which future for EU collaborative projects?

Chairs - Mr Jarmo ESKELINEN, CEO, Forum Virium and Mrs Tuula LOIKKANEN, Acting Executive Director, Regional Council of Päijät-Häme

13.00-14.00 Lunch on site