

15:00 - 17:00

12E01- listening room

- OPEN DAYS Opening Session: Europe's regions and cities: Partners for investment, innovation and growth

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, CoR

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt (listening room) + Room Jenkins (listening room)

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Lindemans-Maes Agnes (Chair), Mr. Markkula Markku (Chair), Mr. Capello Roberta , Mr. Coleman Karen , Mrs. Crețu Corina , Mr. McCann Philip , Mr. Moedas Carlos , Mr. Radosevic Slavo , Mr. Valcárcel Siso Ramon Luis

The opening session of the 13th edition of the OPEN DAYS - European Week of Regions and Cities will mark the beginning of a week of more than 100 events on regional and urban development. A panel of EU representatives at the highest level will analyse challenges and opportunities related to the reformed cohesion policy, the EU's principle investment tool which will make available up to EUR 351,8 billion to invest in Europe's regions and cities. The session will be built around local aspects of investment, innovation and implementation of the EU Structural and Investment Funds. The event will be followed by a networking cocktail.

Please note that only places in the listening rooms are available.

Target audience: EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

Moderator: Karen Coleman

Morning Sessions

09:00 - 10:30

'13E03 - REGI-COTER: Joint meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development and the Committee of the Regions' Commission on Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget

Organisers: Commission on Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) - CoR, European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI)

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Cattaneo Raffaele (Chair), Mrs. Mihaylova Iskra (Chair), Mr. - -

The meeting will provide REGI and COTER members with an opportunity to take stock of the application of the principles of partnership and multi-level governance during the elaboration and implementation of the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes, as well as to look at the opportunities and challenges in the use of financial instruments within the framework of Cohesion Policy, and the synergies with the Investment Plan for Europe and the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

09:00 - 10:45

13A01

- Putting the 'e' into e-Government: Can ICT solutions deliver good governance?

Organisers: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group (ALDE) - CoR

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Decoster François (Chair), Mr. Leyman Frank , Mr. Strotmann Maximilian , Mr. Zegelis Eriks

E-government aims to facilitate interaction between the public and both central and local government. The idea is to deliver more efficient government services in order to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and sustainable development. However, in a number of Member States, the focus is still on making services available rather than providing transparency or good governance. This leaves ample room for development in areas such as user-based approaches, speed and service delivery. In this workshop, we will be exploring successful case studies where ICT solutions have enhanced good governance, empowered people and proven to be an effective platform for generating benefits in the form of new jobs and better health and education.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

13A02 - 'EU policy for regenerating town and city centres'

Organisers: European Alliance Group

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 70

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Szwabski Stanislaw (Chair), Mr. Dutkowski Marek , Mrs. Gilliam Linda , Mrs. McGrath Hughie , Mr. McNamara Gillian

This seminar will examine the issues local and regional authorities face in the process of regenerating their town and city centres. Many of these centres have lost their 'focus of activity' due to the development of large-scale shopping outlets on the outskirts of towns and also to the development of estates around towns and cities. There are also issues concerning planning and a lack of investment in urban centres. We will bring together policy-makers, practitioners and the EU institutions to discuss how a focussed approach and policy could further develop an 'EU policy for regenerating town and city centres'.

Target audience:

EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

09:00 - 10:45

13A03 - The bioeconomy: Regional Best Practices and Smart Specialisation

Organisers: SEDEC Commission secretariat - CoR, DG RTD - EC

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Renström Yoomi (Chair), Mrs. Bastioli Catia , Mr. Bell John , Mr. Stadler Thierry , Mr. Van der Sande Rogier

The bioeconomy represents a large and growing market, estimated to be worth over EUR 2 trillion, providing 20 million jobs and accounting for 9% of all EU jobs. Its huge potential for jobs and investment creation is seen as the way forwards by many European regions striving to achieve economic renewal. Its role in the regions' smart specialisation strategies is, therefore, crucial.

The workshop seeks to explore and share best practices on bioeconomy policies developed by the regions, the European institutions and other shareholders. It will also launch the first initiative under the 'Knowledge Exchange Platform' that has been jointly developed by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation. The Platform promotes co-operation and knowledge exchange between Europe's regions and the European Commission through the Committee of the Regions.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

13A05 - Regions contributing to the goals of the Energy Union

Organisers: Smart Energy Partnerships
Venue: Norway House

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Parnell Hugh (Chair), Mr. Bondaruk Jan , Mr. Cocco Gianluca , Mr. Czyzewski Roman , Mr. Dekker John , Mrs. Engan Therese Troset , Mr. Engelsen Lars Jacob , Mrs. French Sheryl , Mr. Melero Xavier

This workshop is split into two parts: the first section will showcase regional work and projects on energy efficiency; the second is a partner networking event.

The focus is on local and regional projects that contribute to the Energy Union by harnessing investment in sustainable energy production, developing smart grids, improving air quality and increasing energy efficiency. Specifically, it demonstrates how local and regional authorities can support green skills and jobs in this new economy.

The emphasis of the second part of the session is on innovative networking opportunities to discuss local solutions, best practice and transnational cooperation.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

13B02 - Seal of excellence: implementing synergies through Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds

Organisers: DG RTD - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Corpakis Dimitri (Chair), Ms. De Carli Magda , Mr. Guerra Casanova Luis , Dr. Reppel Katia , Ms. Savini Laura , Mr. Schade Sven , Mr. Sipko Stanislav

The "Seal of excellence" initiative addresses regions and member states interested in increasing the impacts of their investments in Research & Innovation, by supporting the most dynamic and innovative SMEs.

A 'Seal of Excellence' means that a quality label is awarded for those Horizon 2020 proposals evaluated as of high quality but not funded for budgetary reasons. The initiative aims at creating a link between the Horizon 2020 proposals meriting funding and the Managing Authorities of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), in the Member States and regions, interested in providing the proposals with the required support.

Greater synergies contribute to more innovation impact of Horizon 2020. Furthermore, open innovation allows to capitalise on the results of European research and innovation. This means creating the right ecosystems, increasing investment, and bringing more companies and regions into the knowledge economy.

The workshop will take stock of already realised synergies, critically discuss opportunities and known barriers and propose new ways of maximising impacts.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

13B03 - SME involvement in European territorial cooperation programmes

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Bachmann Karolina (Chair), Dr. Bird Eve , Mr. Knol Peter Paul , Mr. Schreil Jan , Mr. Tóth Viktória

In the 2007-2013 programming period less than 10% of all projects supported by ETC programmes involve SMEs as beneficiaries. Due to the specificities of cooperation programmes, the direct involvement of SMEs is more complex and constitutes a challenge. There are, however, a growing number of programmes that provide possibilities for SMEs to be directly involved in the implementation of the programme.

Representatives of programmes and projects will present different ways to involve SMEs and will discuss the challenges and benefits thereof. The discussion will also reveal capitalisation between programmes by explaining how one programme can inspire another to take up specific scheme and adopt it to their local circumstances.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 13:00

13B04 - How the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process contributes to growth and employment

Organisers: Regions in the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
Venue: Representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Catinat Michel (Chair), Mr. García Gomez Antonio (Chair), Mr. Alvarez Molina Francisco , Mr. Andrés Ibrányi , Mr. Bradler Moritz , Mr. Celdrán Lorente Javier , Mr. Pinna Frederic , Prof. Pivec Aleksandra , Mr. Popik Piotr , Mr. Pöntiö Matti Petteri

Rather than being a strategy imposed from above, smart specialisation involves businesses, research centres and universities working together to identify a region's most promising areas of specialisation. The key factor for regions open for business is a successful entrepreneurial discovery process.

The first session will focus on the key innovation stakeholders in regional systems for entrepreneurship. The main questions will be: How can governance be improved and what can be done to get stakeholders – especially SMEs and research centres currently cut off from the local entrepreneurial eco-systems – more closely involved?

The second session will focus on the role of public bodies. The effect of entrepreneurship activity on regional development is driven by the institutional context and its quality. What are the elements required for good quality and success?

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

13B05 - Responsible Research and Innovation as a part of a regional innovation eco-system

Organisers: Regions 4 Innovation
Venue: Lodzkie House

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Galiay Phillippe (Chair), Dr. Salvi Maurizio (Chair), Mr. Anto Recio , Prof. Copic Martin , Prof. Cmojevic Vladimir , Ms. Frysova Iveta , Ms. Onofre Rosa , Prof. Rhys Thomas , Mr. Sillero Carmen , Prof. Zbigniew Matyjas

Excellence today is about more than ground-breaking discoveries: it includes openness, responsibility and co-production of knowledge. Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) promotes values shared across the whole spectrum of actors involved in the innovation process i.e. universities, higher education establishments, innovation centres, civil society organisations (NGOs), business and policy-makers at all levels. After the plenary session, where participants will hear from the European Commission and top experts, we will continue discussions on fostering the innovative capacities of regions in thematic workshops. We aim to provoke a substantial discussion and an authentic networking session. For further details, visit: <http://opendays2015.lodzkie.pl>

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

13C01 - Building resilience to disasters

Organisers: European Conservatives and Reformists Group - CoR
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Siggs Harvey (Chair), Ms. Albrito Paola , Mr. Banaszak Adam , Mr. Branda Pavel , Mr. Clark Ian , Dr. Surminski Swenja

The "Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action: managing risks to achieve resilience" will be used as an umbrella topic. In line with the CoR opinion adopted, the main focus will be on prevention, preparedness and resilience of local and regional authorities. The importance of cooperation at the different levels of governance in preparing local communities to disasters will be discussed.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

13C02

- The role of Territorial Impact Assessments in improving EU policymaking

Organisers: CoR

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 63

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Beck Joachim (Chair), Mrs. Bjorklund Mona , Mr. De Bruijn Martijn , Mr. Mehlbye Peter , Mr. Schneider Michael

In recent years, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) has been actively advocating the territorial dimension in impact assessments. In 2014, the CoR started the pilot phase of its Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) Strategy, in which different methodologies and approaches were tested.

The territorial aspects of impact assessments have so far failed to be adequately implemented in the EU and national policy-making context, despite the fact that "territorial cohesion" was included in the Lisbon Treaty as explicit objective. Different processes have been used to develop methods and approaches to assess territorial impact by the European Commission and its Joint Research Centre and by the ESPON network and other organisations.

In the Better Regulation Package published earlier this year, TIA was included as one element of Impact Assessments, strengthening its importance in comparison with 2009 Impact Assessment guidelines.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

13C03 - State of Play of integrated Community-Led Local Development across four European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Roller Elisa (Chair), Mr. Gierulska Joanna , Mr. Magnusson Johan , Mr. Overmeire Ton , Mr. Palmero Jorro Jose Vicente

The workshop will take stock of the way Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) has been programmed in four European Structural and Investment Funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD and EMFF).

The four DGs concerned will draw out a comprehensive figure of investments planned by the Member States and present different models used to deliver multi-funding at local level.

Practical examples will also be presented by four representatives of managing authorities to illustrate different forms of integration of the Funds.

The expected outcome is a wider take-up of this approach before the deadline for the selection of new groups at the end of 2017.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

13C03 - listening room - State of Play of integrated Community-Led Local Development across four European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Roller Elisa (Chair), Mr. Gierulska Joanna , Mr. Magnusson Johan , Mr. Overmeire Ton , Mr. Palmero Jorro Jose Vicente

The workshop will take stock of the way Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) has been programmed in four European Structural and Investment Funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD and EMFF).

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- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

13C05 - A new regional index of Social Progress to inform policies at all levels in Europe

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Green Michael (Chair), Mrs. Annoni Paola , Mr. Dijkstra Lewis , Mrs. Franco Suzana

This workshop will present the global Social Progress Index and a draft EU regional index. It is part of joint project with Social Progress Imperative, Orkestra, Deloitte and the European Commission. The goal of this index is to measure social progress in a new way that is meaningful for policy makers at multiple levels. Its main results will be the publication of a Social Progress Index for 272 regions in 28 European countries to inform the next Cohesion Report in 2017 and the development of a network of European Regions sharing knowledge on social progress drivers and expertise on socially innovative policies.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

13C07 - Drive me green! Partnership for Sustainable Mobility

Organisers: Attention! Eco-Connected Regions

Venue: Art56, Avenue des Arts 56

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Stelmaszczyk Pawel (Chair), Mr. Buyukersen Yilmaz , Mr. Cornier François , Mr. Ertug Ismail , Mr. Gajsek Miran , Mr. Hoogma Remco , Mr. Matczak Radomir , Mr. Pol Marek

Everyone has a responsibility to reduce their individual carbon footprint, and there are lots of ways to do so. The EU encourages people to think about their lifestyle decisions and find opportunities to reduce their climate impact. One way to start thinking green is to incorporate ecological systems into public and freight transport. We are going to focus our workshop on public awareness of green and sustainable transport, which is now one of the top subjects on the European agenda. We would like to present the good examples of ecological transport for passengers and goods used in our regions and raise the issue of creating an integrated European transport system.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

13UNIV01

- Beyond Big Data: regional analysis for university, industry and policy collaboration

Organisers: Association of European Schools of Planning, Regional Studies Association, CoR

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Rae Alasdair (Chair), Mrs. Brandmuller Teodora , Dr. Brzuchowska Jadwiga , Mr. Karjalainen Anne , Mr. Solomon Alex

This joint RSA/CoR/AESOP workshop critically examines the potential of 'big data' for EU regional development and collaboration between universities, industry and policy makers. Big data has been accompanied by a lot of hype but, to date, there have been too few examples of how it can help improve policy at local and regional levels. We think there is an urgent need to assess claims associated with big data and to work with a variety of partners to develop a big data agenda that can deliver tangible improvements in the way we live, work and plan across the regions of Europe.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

13UNIV02 - Dynamics of job creation and role of micro-enterprises

Organisers: Regional Studies Association

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Hart Mark (Chair), Dr. Criscuolo Chiara , Ms. Heathcote-James Emma , Mrs. Richter Anita , Mr. Roper Stephen , Mr. Weber Morten

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) presents this session which is chaired by Professor Mark Hart, Deputy Director of the UK's national Enterprise Research Centre (ERC). The session will focus on the role of micro-enterprise in stimulating job creation and innovation at local, regional and national levels. This will be a facilitated session designed to summarize the latest research and policy developments in an accessible manner and will involve key contributions from the OECD. The session will also include perspectives from a panel of micro-entrepreneurs themselves as well as those involved in supporting micro-businesses and the research community.

Target audience:

Workshops - Tuesday 13 October 2015

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13A06 - Towards a resilient, sustainable and resource-efficient Energy union – the role of European capital cities and regions

Organisers: Capital Cities and Regions Network (CCRN)
Venue: Prague House

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Hoos Eva (Chair), Mr. Lauko Marcel , Mr. North Peter , Mr. Pella Villu , Mr. Schäfer Thomas , Mr. Stepanenko Vjaceslavs , Mrs. Vestre Silja Bjerke

The European Commission's flagship initiative, the Energy Union, aims at providing efficient, secure, environmentally sustainable and economically affordable energy for the EU. In particular, it would help Europe become more independent vis-a-vis external energy suppliers. Creating a pan-European interconnected energy network will contribute to higher long-term economic growth and energy security and achieve the ambitious goals on reducing carbon emissions. The debate will be split into two parts. Each one will feature the representatives of four capital cities/regions giving a brief presentation of their different strategies and case studies. Those will include technical measures implemented to improve energy security and resilience to future shocks, electricity and gas monitoring and control systems at the distribution and transmission levels, building efficient heating networks to reduce demand, implementing long-term energy strategies and projects in the field of energy storage, energy transformation and public transport sectors, to name just a few areas to be discussed during the event.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13A08 - Eastern Partnership Territorial and Parliamentary Cooperation: Revising Relations, Implementing the Association Agreements

Organisers: CORLEAP - CoR
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Kobzar Svitlana (Chair), Mr. Hagström Martin , Mrs. Hautala Heidi , Mr. Markkula Markku , Mr. Povoroznyk Mykola

In recent years, the multilateral dimension of the EaP has developed and moved beyond governments to encompass parliaments, local authorities, civil society and business. Since the Vilnius Summit in 2013, the EU has signed Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The Association Agreements are key means of achieving the democratic development and deep modernisation in the partner countries for which their populations are calling.

The workshop would explore how the CoR (through CORLEAP) and the EP (through EURONEST) could contribute to stepping up cooperation with the partner countries in a new context and also review the outcome of Riga Summit.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13A09 - Emission Impossible? – Linking policy and low-carbon transport projects

Organisers: North Sea Commission
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 63

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Friis-Hauge Preben (Chair), Mr. Brink Henk , Mr. Byrith Christian , Mrs. Karbaumer Rebecca , Mr. Lervik Andreas , Mr. Rojas Nelson , Mrs. Schmal Yolanda , Ms. Smith Amy , Mr. Wijkhuizen Jan

This workshop presents four interreg projects focussing on low-emission transport: North Sea Region Electric Mobility Network, Baltic Biogas Bus project, HyTRec and CARE-North+. The workshop will examine the motivation for participating in these projects and their results. Low-carbon transport solutions are essential to modernising Europe, but how do these projects reflect and support regional policies? President of the North Sea Commission Tom-Christer Nilsen will moderate a discussion on transnational cooperation in sharing good practice and policy development, seeking to link regional policymaking and transnational projects in terms of how these elements interact.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13A10 - What key competencies are required for managing and implementing the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund?

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Myleus Ann-Kerstin (Chair), Mrs. Bubanovic Devcic Helga , Mr. Cenderello Alessandro , Mr. Krasnauskas Vytautas , Mrs. Maskaliuviene Loreta

The outcomes of a study developing a Competency Framework for efficient management and implementation of ERDF/CF will be presented. This includes a presentation and demonstration of a self-assessment tool that can be used by administrations to identify gaps and find out which key competencies need to be further developed. This is part of a wider goal to support further professionalization of the management of the funds.

Experiences from a Member State making use of a competence framework for public administrations will also be presented as well as reflections from a Member State that sees itself as a potential future user.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

11:15 - 13:00

13A10 - listening room - What key competencies are required for managing and implementing the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund?

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Myleus Ann-Kerstin (Chair), Mrs. Bubanovic Devic Helga , Mr. Cenderello Alessandro , Mr. Krasnauskas Vytautas , Ms. Maskalioviene Loreta

The outcomes of a study developing a Competency Framework for efficient management and implementation of ERDF/CF will be presented. This includes a presentation and demonstration of a self-assessment tool that can be used by administrations to identify gaps and find out which key competencies need to be further developed. This is part of a wider goal to support further professionalization of the management of the funds.

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- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

11:15 - 13:00

13A11 - Using a smart combination of funding sources to boost energy investment at regional level: synergies between European Structural and Investment funds and Horizon 2020

Organisers: DG RTD - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Neumann Doris (Chair), Mr. Clar Günter , Mrs. Fernandez Marisa , Mr. Joliff-Botrel Gwenaël , Mrs. Rist-Larsen Reime Marianne

Research and innovation are key drivers for jobs and growth at regional level. Furthermore, the existence of a Smart Specialisation strategy, focusing on a place-based research and innovation strategy is an ex-ante conditionality for any Operational Programme supporting research and innovation investments under ESIF in the current programming period (2014-2020).

The aim of this workshop is to show how regions can boost research and innovation in the field of energy by using a smart combination of funding initiatives. Special attention will be given to synergies between Horizon 2020 and European Structural Investment Funds and to cross-border and interregional cooperation. Key examples will be presented together with best practice.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13A12 - Cohesion policy and financing opportunities for smart and clean urban development in 2nd tier cities

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, DG GROW - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Rogalska Marzena (Chair), Mr. Duncan Mark , Mrs. Miladinova Gergana , Mr. Schwebel Oliver

The recent flagship initiative "Energy Union" and the roadmap proposed therein will influence the day-to-day life of citizens and ways of doing business in the EU. The concept of "one-stop shops" should be further developed for investors and public administrations alike with regard to administrative simplification and blending of financial instruments, particularly in buildings, energy infrastructure and waste management. The objective of this workshop/debate is to present the latest information available at EC level on the implementation of Operational Programs (OPs) at Member State level regarding the Low-Carbon Economy, particularly linking this with the experiences at national and regional level, focusing on 2nd tier cities and on the strategies/programs which contribute to this aspect.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13B01 - Integrity Pacts – a tool for increasing transparency, accountability and improving access to EU public investments for all companies, including SMEs

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boijmans Pascal (Chair), Ms. Kramiņa Inguna , Ms. Osterhaus Anja , Ms. Rajkova Michaela

The objective of the workshop is to promote the use of Integrity Pacts for safeguarding EU funds against fraud and corruption and as a tool to increase transparency and accountability.

An Integrity Pact (IP) is a tool developed by Transparency International during the 1990s. IPs enhance trust in authorities and government contracting, and contribute to a good reputation of contracting authorities, bring cost savings and improve competition through better procurement. In this way public investments will become more transparent and the market will be more open up for companies, including SMEs. Read more: [Integrity Pacts on Inforegio](#)

The workshop is organised in close cooperation with Transparency International (TI). Workshop will have a panel with 3 speakers: a speaker from TI Secretariat will present the concept of Integrity Pact tool, highlighting its benefits for managing authorities, contracting authorities, businesses and general public; it will be followed by a speaker from Transparency International Bulgaria presenting their experience with implementing IPs for EU funded projects in Bulgaria. The presentations from the panel will be followed by questions and answers session. The workshop will end with the presentation providing information on DG Regional and Urban Policy funded project "Integrity Pacts - civil control mechanisms for safeguarding EU funds" which seeks to pilot IPs in several EU Member States.

11:15 - 13:00

13B06 - Innovative Solutions to SME Support

Organisers: Advanced Co-operation in Regional SME Support
Venue: Representation of Lower Saxony

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tuffs Richard (Chair), Mr. Behavka Jiri , Mr. Bjerregaard Pedersen Soren , Mrs. From Melinda , Mrs. Jortveit Clare , Mr. Keith Mans , Mr. Schulpen Tom , Mr. Van der Tuuk Ard , Mr. Vigmostad Paul

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the European economy, accounting for over 90% of jobs, and indeed most current mid-size and large-scale companies in Europe started as SMEs. Thus supporting SMEs – both emerging and existing ones – is vital for the current and future health of the European economy, as demonstrated by the EU2020 Strategy. This is, of course, also true at the regional level; regions need to constantly support their SMEs in order to improve and/or retain their attractiveness as a place to live and do business.

The debate will present various examples of regional best practice in SMEs from different sectors of the economy. This will include the blue economy, the energy sector and multi-stakeholder working, including harnessing the triple helix effect, as well as ensuring opportunities for young people. How the regional authorities have provided, co-ordinated and/or contributed to supporting SMEs – including with the support of EU policies and/or funding programmes – will be the main focus of the debate, which will lead to a constructive discussion between the panellists and with the audience.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13B07 - Better Jobs for Stronger Cities and Regions: a New Approach

Organisers: Cities and Regions for Jobs and Growth
Venue: Wielkopolska Regional Brussels office

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lietz Carsten (Chair), Mr. Gaunt Paul , Mr. Haak Jan , Mrs. Hermenau Cora , Mr. Melander Dan , Mrs. Wojcik Sylwia

Employment is one of the greater challenges for European cities and regions, and Cohesion Policy provides support for job creation, SME development and investment in training, education and social inclusion.

Cities and regions must adopt new strategic approaches, combining the instruments provided under Cohesion Policy to make the best use of their own resources and create long-term quality jobs. Good-quality job creation is the first step in ensuring a better quality of life for local communities.

This debate will analyse how our cities and regions use the funding available under Cohesion Policy, combined with their own resources and strategic approaches to stimulate sustainable, quality employment.

M. Mathieu Fichter, Member of Ms Corina's Crețu Cabinet for Regional Policy, will be the keynote speaker of this debate.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13B08 - Maritime Regions and Smart Growth for business, job, innovation and skills

Organisers: Smart Maritime Alliance
Venue: Basque Government Delegation to the EU

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Anton Mikel (Chair), Mr. Perisse Damien (Chair), Mr. Grossi Luigi , Mrs. Lopez-Egea Maria , Mr. Pourcher Etienne , Mrs. Roberts Gwenllian , Mr. Valtanen Juha

Innovation and skills are key ingredients for sustainable growth and for creating high-value jobs and competitiveness.

The Maritime regions are regions open for business, SME development, innovation and job creation, and specialisation, but face common challenges in ensuring their long-term competitiveness. The territorial approach and regional cooperation and platforms, as well as other collaborative initiatives to support SMEs and entrepreneurship under the Smart Specialisation dimension are of key importance.

The aim of this debate is to show the kind of action that regions can take to strengthen growth for business, jobs, innovation and skills. The session will address several topics, including research and innovation support, education and skills, entrepreneurship, maritime industry, the internationalisation of SMEs, and cluster policy. The focus will be on collaborative approaches to implementing smart specialisation strategies and supporting SME participation under the 2014-2020 EU Programmes.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13B09 - Bio-based products for growth and jobs in the EU: the crucial role of regions in boosting the bioeconomy and the circular economy

Organisers: Bio based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU), DG RTD, F.2 - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Mengal Philippe (Chair), Mr. Aalto Mika , Mrs. Garburg Christine , Dr. Reppel Katia , Ms. Truszczynska Agnieszka

The workshop aims to outline the economic and growth potential of the European bio-based economy by developing innovative capabilities in SMEs. It will present concrete examples of how regional authorities can foster Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) to exploit this potential. Examples include how the Finnish Ministry implemented the Bioeconomy strategy for accelerating new areas of growth through a biorefinery competition which was won by 3 SMEs.

There will also be a presentation of best project approaches that can boost the development of emerging industries and build the link with regional smart specialization strategies, in synergy with other EU funding sources, such as Horizon 2020 and the EIB financial instruments.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13B10 - Implementing SME policy in action – participatory workshop

Organisers: DG GROW - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Balucka-Debska Katarzyna (Chair), Mr. - -

The purpose of the workshop is to co-create concrete strategies and actions for implementing together SME and entrepreneurship policies in the regions as the successful implementation of these policies lies in efficient exchange of information and best practices and hands on cooperation between various implementing levels.

There will be interactive discussions conducted in small groups around the 'café' tables. At the end of the process the main ideas will be summarised in a plenary session and follow-up possibilities will be discussed.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13B17 - Implementing Smart Specialisation Strategies on Health and Ageing: Mutual learning for Integration of care services and Age-friendly environments

Organisers: DG SANTE - EC, DG CONNECT - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Pavickova Andrea (Chair), Mrs. Aguirre Rueda Maria , Mr. Bultje Daan , Mrs. Smetankova Romana

With a good implementation of their Smart Specialisation Strategy for Health and Ageing regions can stimulate their local economy and profile themselves as good places to live and age.

The interactive workshop will focus on mutual learning. Participants get inspiration and counselling from each other, based on concrete examples and good practices from regions participating in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing and large scale European Pilots. Participants will also receive guidance on innovation for health investments and an overview of smart specialisation in health and ageing in ESIF 2014 - 2020.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

13C08 - Getting on track: accessible transport for older people

Organisers: Accessible transport for older people

Venue: Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe (vlewa)

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Parent Anne-Sophie (Chair), Mrs. Broster Patricia , Mr. Dircks Sandra , Mrs. Hopman Maria , Mr. Sempels Eric

On Tuesday 13 October 2015, "Getting on track: accessible transport for older people" will unlock the social and economic potential of smart solutions for accessible transport for older people.

Discover:

- the importance of cycling and walking for the vitality, physical and mental health, and mobility of older people;
- how government policy is shifting towards the most cost-efficient demand-oriented transport model;
- how communities gain capacity and resilience by providing smart transport solutions for people diagnosed with dementia and;
- the benefits for older people of training and of the benefits of providing smart bicycles for older people and people with disabilities.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

13C09 - Pursuing the new Sustainable Development Goals at local level: towards more sustainable cities in the light of the forthcoming Habitat III conference

Organisers: CoR

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Janssen Hans , Mr. Karvounis Alexandros , Mr. Laloge Michel , Mr. Scheers Joris , Mr. Tuts Rafael

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly is expected to approve the "Sustainable Development Goals" for the period 2015-2030. In October 2016, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will take place and will focus on the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda" for sustainable urbanisation in the next 20 years. Local authorities in the EU will play an important role in planning their cities' sustainability. They will also be asked to cooperate with their counterparts in third countries to support them in reaching the goals in their respective cities. This workshop aims to explore the implications for cities of the new goals, decide on the next steps to be taken in order to have common indicators to assess cities' sustainability and identify the EU funding instruments that LRAs can use to achieve the goals, in the light of the forthcoming Habitat III.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

13C11 - Inclusion of mobile EU citizens

Organisers: DG JUST - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2C

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Boulanger Marie-Hélène (Chair), Mr. Jézéquel Thomas , Mr. Massini Gilles

Some European cities and regions have in recent year been confronted with a sudden increase of newcomers from other EU Member States. Some cities report challenging situations related to the presence of spatially segregated and marginalised groups of low-income mobile EU citizens in specific neighbourhoods.

The Commission recognises the importance of a bottom-up approach and is committed to helping address the needs of local authorities, including the exchange of best practices. We will present actions taken on EU level, showcase some good practices, and provide a platform for catalyst encounters.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

11:15 - 13:00

13UNIV03 - How to move up the technological ladder: knowledge, innovation and institutions in European regions

Organisers: College of Europe, DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Christie Rebecca (Chair), Mr. Berkowitz Peter , Mr. Cortinovis Nicola , Prof. Rodriguez-Pose Andrés

Nowadays knowledge dynamics and institutional factors are key elements in shaping the growth trajectory of regional economies. On the one hand, the ability of firms and especially of SMEs to access knowledge, recombine it and innovate is necessary for regions to move up the technological ladder. On the other hand, governments and institutions are essential for ensuring a suitable regulatory framework for innovation and for fostering cooperation among different actors. We argue that a better understanding of the relationship linking knowledge and institutions to innovation and, eventually, to growth, are of critical importance for the successful implementation of Cohesion Policy.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

Afternoon Sessions

14:30 - 17:00

13A13 - Towards well-adapted, green and climate-friendly cities – A participatory debate on cities integrating climate change adaptation, mitigation and green infrastructure

Organisers: CoR, ICLEI and European Environment Agency
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Hertell Sirpa , Mrs. Tütto Kata

Urban action in the field of climate and environment is both essential and complex. As activity hubs, urban settings bring together a number of variables and issues that have an impact on each other and have to be dealt with simultaneously. This participatory event will present successful experiences of policies incorporating three key policies: climate change mitigation, adaptation and city greening. The event will be the ideal place for an open dialogue, with the audience being encouraged to ask for more details or to put questions to speakers in order to share and benefit from best practices.

The event will be prolonged by a networking session where speakers will meet participants in an informal atmosphere to further elaborate on the discussion with a cup of coffee and snacks.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

14:30 - 17:00

13A14 - How can local projects benefit from the Juncker Plan? The Long-Term Investors (NPBIs) approach

Organisers: European Long-Term Investors association (ELTI)
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. de Crayencour Dominique (Chair), Mr. Bini Smaghi Bernardo , Mrs. Kaptur Karolina , Mr. Merigo Nicolas , Mr. Zylberberg Laurent

National Promotional Banks and Institutions (NPBIs), having a public mandate and a wide array of financial products, combined with deep knowledge of domestic markets and local projects, are willing to support EU policies and contribute to the success of the EU Investment Plan.

In accordance with President Juncker's views, they work in close cooperation with the Commission and EIB Group to enable Europe to draw together appropriate resources and expertise to restore growth, by fostering strategic investments and attracting private investors.

Taking opportunity of the 2015 Open Days, several Members of the ELTI Association will present examples of local and regional projects to be achieved under the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

13A15 - Implementing Smart Energy services locally: intelligent & connected infrastructures

Organisers: UDITE/Veolia
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 63

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Meadows Graham (Chair), Mr. Coomans Paul , Mr. Eymery Pierre , Mr. Frederickx Ronny , Mrs. Grieri i Fisa Mercè , Mr. Kruff Jack , Mr. Merino Valentin , Mr. Pouthier Christophe

The transition towards a secure and sustainable energy system is central to the European Energy Union package. Investment in local networks and energy efficiency projects are fundamental to its success. Costs are estimated at € 200 billion annually in the next decade alone. Access to finance will be a major challenge for the public sector at a time when financial capacity is limited. As new EU Structural Fund programmes begin implementation, there are many opportunities for local authorities to finance smart and energy efficient cities with projects that benefit citizens and lead to energy savings and reductions in carbon emissions.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00**13A16 - How to modernize transport services through a smart combination of Innovation Procurement and ICT**

Organisers: DG CONNECT - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Marolda Maria Cristina (Chair), Ms. Bos Lieve , Ms. Oene Kerstjens , Mr. Somma Giacomo , Dr. Tsanidis Vasileios

Innovation Procurement holds an enormous potential to improve the quality of transport services in European Cities and Regions in an energy- and cost-efficient manner, mainly through the use of ICT. Introduction to Innovation Procurement will be the starting point of the workshop, followed by a presentation on the recently published toolkit and the assistance that will be provided at European level to procurers interested in launching Innovation Procurements. The effective role of Cities and the Regions as procurers of R&D and/or innovative solutions will be also highlighted through the presentation of relevant Innovation Procurement projects in the transport area.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00**13A17 - Appraisal Procedures of Major Projects planned for European Regional Development Fund or Cohesion Fund funding in 2014-2020**

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Willak Witold (Chair), Prof. Baltov Milen , Mr. Engel Pawel , Ms. Kovacs Camelia Mihaela , Mr. Kremlis Georges , Mr. LAIU Roxana , Mr. Paunescu Mugurel George

By their dimensions, complexity and impact, major projects require significant financial resources and time to prepare at appropriate quality requirements. They are subject to new and different appraisal and approval procedures before a final conclusion is made by the Commission about their EU funding. These include important changes compared to the 2007-2013 programming period and therefore require smooth and timely adaptation by project promoters and managing authorities. Experienced professionals will present these new procedures and the main risk factors experienced in project appraisal and approval (e.g. EIA, climate change, state aid) to a diversity of stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion on experiences and questions.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00**13A18 - Cohesion policy support for the EU Energy Union**

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Uustal Kadri (Chair), Ms. Cicmanova Jana , Ms. Gibson Claire , Mr. Goldmann Ralf , Mr. Mayrhofer Walter , Ms. Vitcheva Charlina

The workshop is aimed at explaining the role of EU Cohesion Policy in the creation of the Energy Union. It aims to provide the general policy framework and explain the general support tools to Member States and regions to support the fulfilment of Energy Union objectives.

It will include a keynote speech on "EU Cohesion Policy contributing to the Energy Union" and presentations, including concrete project examples, and discussions on energy efficiency, renewable energy, research and innovation in sustainable energy and smart energy infrastructure.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00**13A19 - Innovative and socio-ecological urban dynamics**

Organisers: DG RTD - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Rossetti Domenico (Chair), Mr. Bilbao Iñigo , Mrs. De Boissezon Brigit , Mr. Gruening Max , Mr. Hooimejer Pieter , Mrs. Lombardi Patrizia

The workshop aims to highlight how European cities may become emblematic places for attracting jobs and economic activities, transforming them into "innovation hubs" preserving natural resources and limiting environmental damage for the future generations.

At the core of this transformation, innovation and sustainable urbanisation will stimulate "green, blue, white and pink" growth. These would allow us to move towards resource-efficient and more liveable cities enjoying technological, social, marketing and organizational innovations.

The purpose of this workshop is to exploit the most recent EU research and innovation initiatives sponsored by the EU Framework Programme.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00**13B12 - Interregional Cooperation on Smart Specialisation Strategies**

Organisers: INTERREG EUROPE

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Heydebreck Peter (Chair), Mr. Anagnostou Magdalini , Mrs. Ksiazek Elzbieta , Mr. Martinez Jason , Mr. Sorvik Jens

This workshop will demonstrate the importance of the outward dimension of smart specialisation strategies (S3) and present the support offered to regions in this domain by the S3 Platform and the Interreg Europe interregional cooperation programme.

Participants will discover the main results of a survey carried out by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in this domain and see examples of successful interregional R&I partnerships. It will provide an opportunity for regions to learn how they can benefit from the services offered by the Interreg Europe programme on innovation policy-related issues, and the links to the S3 Platform.

The workshop will be followed by a networking session with the speakers at the workshop.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

13B13 - Evidence-Based Employment Policies – What Works for Regions

Organisers: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Forster Reiner (Chair), Mr. Walker Natascha (Chair), Mr. Brink Bernward , Dr. Janßen Peter , Mr. Lauxen Olivier , Mr. Matzdorf Roland , Mrs. Nagels Kerstin , Mr. Peschner Jörg , Mr. Rosato Sergio

Youth unemployment, demographic change, skills shortages and migration are just a few of the challenges that influence regional economic development and labour markets in Europe. What can regions do to make their labour markets more attractive and boost employment? How can they identify trends at the earliest possible stage, track the effectiveness of measures and adapt their labour market policy accordingly? The "Evidence-based Employment Policies" event, organised by GIZ, aims to address the above questions. Based on practical examples from regions including Veneto in Italy, North-Rhine Westphalia in Germany, and the Greater SaarLorLux Region, policymakers, researchers and practitioners will explore promising approaches, as well as critical factors for successful employment policies.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

13B14 - Promoting SMEs' access to government contracts - best practices and results from a study on administrative capacity for public procurement in the ESI Funds

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boijmans Pascal (Chair), Ms. Jacquemot Florence , Mrs. Wiss Holmdahl Kerstin , Mrs. Zademach-Schwierz Anna-Lena

This workshop presents results of a study on administrative capacity for compliance and quality of public procurement involving ESI Funds across the 28 Member States. How do good practices, systems and tools contribute to the efficient implementation of procurement of ESI Funded projects? A speaker from DG REGIO will present the study, and in particular some examples on the capacity of administrations to increase SMEs' access to government contracts. Two speakers from local authorities and business representations will elaborate on their specific tools and experiences in supporting SMEs to participate in public procurements, e.g. via e-procurement.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

13B15 - Supporting SMEs to take advantage of Resource Efficiency

Organisers: DG GROW - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Czaga Peter (Chair), Mr. HAPPAERTS Sander , Mr. Hormaeche Jose , Mr. Joslyn Mark , Mrs. Nicholson Samantha , Ms. Revilla Penaranda Eva , Mr. Vancauwenbergh Andy

Go green, make savings! This workshop offers advice on how to improve SME resource efficiency, including cost savings, productivity gains, and reduced material inputs (savings potential of 55-75% in some sectors). Concrete examples from England, Belgium and Spain will demonstrate the potential for SMEs and how European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) can be utilised in the transition towards the green, low-carbon economy. Resource efficiency is one of the main drivers of companies' competitiveness, so this is an opportunity to find out how the EU can support SMEs to become greener and get involved in circular value chains, both within Europe and internationally.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

13B16 - Innovative Tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries: building on Regional best practices for an effective use of European Structural and Investment Funds

Organisers: DG GROW - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Almendros Bonis Oscar (Chair), Mr. Liberos Alain (Chair), Mr. Edwards John , Mr. LeGuyader Hervé , Mr. Lepage Vincent , Ms. Veronesi Burch Monica , Ms. Ziemele Asnate

Tourism, cultural and creative industries are cross-cutting and dynamic industries with high potential to boost local economies, create new and sustainable jobs, and contribute, through various links and spill-over effects, to innovation in other industries.

In view of the positive impact of Tourism and CCI on local and regional development and on social cohesion, an increasing number of strategies are being developed at all levels to nurture the development of these industries.

This workshop will highlight examples of regional good practices and projects which have successfully integrated innovation strategies in Tourism and CCIs to inspire the development of more dynamic regional ecosystem for innovation and a better use of the structural and investment funds (ESIF) in the programming period 2014-2020.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

13B16 - listening room - Innovative Tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries: building on Regional best practices for an effective use of European Structural and Investment Fund

Organisers: DG GROW - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 3B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Almendros Bonis Oscar (Chair), Mr. Edwards John , Mr. LeGuyader Hervé , Mr. Lepage Vincent , Ms. Veronesi Burch Monica , Ms. Ziemele Asnate

Tourism, cultural and creative industries are cross-cutting and dynamic industries with high potential to boost local economies, create new and sustainable jobs, and contribute, through various links and spill-over effects, to innovation in other industries.

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Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

13C13 - Promoting integrated urban development with a view to an EU Urban agenda

Organisers: Dutch Government, CoR - E1
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Grisel Mart (Chair), Mr. Beets Nicolaas , Mr. Escudero Juan Carlos , Mrs. Frangenheim Alexandra , Mrs. Koroban Eva , Mr. Landabaso Mikel , Mrs. Van Eijl Henriette , Mr. Verkerk Bas , Mrs. Westphal Kerstin

Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two-thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also where persistent problems such as unemployment, exclusion and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. The thematic scope of a future EU Urban Agenda should incorporate cross-sectoral priorities. The development of a strong partnership involving multilevel governance cooperation is an indispensable element of the future EU Urban Agenda. This workshop is aimed at stimulating a debate on how to strengthen integrated urban policies in view of a potential EU Urban Agenda and in the framework of the current inter-governmental process.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

13C14 - Food sovereignty and urban-rural integration

Organisers: LDnet
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 70

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lukesch Robert (Chair), Mr. Budzich-Tabor Urszula , Mr. Cannell Bob , Mr. Ilic Boban , Mr. Johnson Toby , Mrs. Karner Sandra , Ms. Karstens Marianne , Mr. Myrivili Eleni , Mr. Vizinho André

This workshop will focus on learning from a new wave of food initiatives that point the way towards local food sovereignty, lasting urban-rural links and a new generation of local development strategies.

It will open with specific cases covering the territorial aspects of food initiatives (rural-urban integration through sustainable food systems) and the community aspects (new links and alliances). Participants will then discuss whether/how such initiatives could be scaled-up with EU/Member State support. It will close with a panel discussion to which experts and practitioners will contribute from different perspectives: local food systems, the social economy, cities in economic crisis, community-led local development, etc.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

13C15 - Managing disaster risks across borders: Disaster risk prevention and emergency response in EU border regions

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, DG ECHO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Das Hans (Chair), Mr. Clark Ian , Mr. Ferstl Alexander , Mr. Kreuzer Stefan , Ms. Marcian Corina

Disasters and climate risks do not respect national borders. The increasing frequency and magnitude of natural disasters cause not only significant damages in Europe's cities and rural areas - but also costs lives. In border areas, where rivers or mountains often constitute the border between two countries, the management of flood risks is an important cross-border challenge. In addition, some of these border areas are also highly urbanised – which multiplies damages and makes joint responses even more urgent. Disaster risks require authorities on both sides of the border to co-operate in order to optimise disaster prevention and emergency response. In addition, transnational co-operation across Member States and along river basins is needed for a coherent policy making, for data sharing and for information. While some of the co-operation mechanisms date back over 50 years, some regions are rather new at this. In the context of the revised international framework for disaster risk reduction, this workshop will look at some of the challenges faced by European regions, put it into the context of the global framework and illustrate the role of Cohesion policy. It will also take stock of the situation on border regions facing increasing flood risks. It will look at what the "newcomers" can learn from the "experienced" and provide examples from different levels and forms of cooperation

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

13C16 - International cooperation in urban and regional development: the experience of the World Cities project

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Deffaa Walter (Chair), Mr. Hall Ronald (Chair), Mr. Boysen Mark , Ms. Fulzele Uttama , Mr. Heinemann Torben , Mr. Hengshan Fan , Mr. Nakamura Jun , Mr. Neelabh Singh , Mr. Schneider Mark , Mr. Sousa Carlos

World Cities is a project of the European Union supported under a Preparatory Action of the European Parliament. The project aims to promote the exchange of experience and best practices between the European Union and third countries on territorial development issues. World Cities currently involves local and regional authorities in 16 cities or regions from Europe, China, India, Canada and Japan. The seminar will present selected experiences from 8 twinning regions in the areas of regional economic cooperation and urban development. These experiences will be considered by UN HABITAT in the light of the "UN Post-2015 Agenda" framework.

Interpretation: English - Chinese - Japanese

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 18:00

13C17 - How could result-oriented transnational cooperation best be organised ? Capitalising on past experiences to address present and future challenges

Organisers: University of Geneva, DG REGIO - EC, INTERACT, European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas (AEM)
Venue: Euroregion Alpes Méditerranée

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Debarbieux Bernard (Chair), Mr. Gløersen Erik (Chair), Ms. Bresso Mercedes , Mr. Evrard Nicolas , Mr. Mairate Andrea , Ms. Scherrer Susanne , Mr. Spinaci Gianluca

How can transnational cooperation be of added value for Europe's cities and rural area? What is the state of play of transnational cooperation in Europe in ETC programmes, macro-regions and other contexts? For what types of actions is there an added value in transnational cooperation? How to rally local, regional and national authorities, NGOs, private companies and other actors to transnational cooperation?

These issues are relevant in relation to macroregional regional strategies, which seek to mobilise local and regional actors around shared objectives. However, the objective is to have a wider discussion on the purpose and potential added-value of transnational cooperation.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

15:30 - 17:00

'13E01 - Interreg Europe networking on low-carbon economy, environment and resource efficiency

Organisers: INTERREG EUROPE
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atrium 5 & 6

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Peekel Erik (Chair), Ms. Bacova Martina , Ms. Fulgenzi Erika

In a specially designed networking area with help of a professional moderator you will be part of an interactive networking session on low-carbon economy, environment and resource efficiency. You will exchange information, contacts and find others who have the same interests. This could lead to the new collaborations and is very helpful for organisations that are looking for new partners or different ways of doing things. The networking is organised by the interregional cooperation programme Interreg Europe which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

Interpretation languages:

Passive: FR – DE – EN – IT – NL – DA – EL – ES – PT – FI – SV – CS – HU – LV – LT – PL – SL – BG – RO – HR (20)
Active: FR – DE – EN – IT – NL – EL – ES – SV – CS – HU – PL – BG – RO (13)

19:00 - 22:30

'13E02 - OPEN DAYS official reception and RegioStars Awards ceremony

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, CoR
Venue: Bozar, Centre of Fine Arts

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Lindemans-Maes Agnes (Chair), Mr. van Nistelrooij Lambert (Chair), Mr. Dujardin Paul , Mr. Lockett Tony , Mr. Markkula Markku

The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions have the pleasure to invite you to the evening programme of the OPEN DAYS 2015, consisting of a welcome cocktail, followed by the 2015 RegioStars and Photo Competition Awards ceremony and the official OPEN DAYS evening reception.

RegioStars – the award for innovative and inspiring projects – has been running for eight years and has been firmly established in the Regional and Urban Policy calendar as an event that recognizes and rewards innovative projects supported by Cohesion Policy. The Europe in my Region photo competition, running this year for the fourth time, shows and celebrates projects that are making a real difference to local communities. A trophy will be presented to the winning projects as well as a short video on each winning RegioStars project in the following categories: Smart Growth, Sustainable Growth, Inclusive Growth, and CityStar.

Programme:

18:30 doors open
19:00 Awards Ceremony
20:30 Walking dinner

Guests are also offered the possibility to visit the exposition **Europalia.Turkey: Anatolia. Home of Eternity**. Since prehistoric times Anatolia has served as a bridge between Europe and Asia fuelling cultural cross-fertilization. Exceptional masterpieces from the greatest Turkish museums and best contemporary arts are exposed.

Morning Sessions

09:00 - 10:45

14A01 - Cities and regions investing in the Energy Union

Organisers: ICLEI Europe

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Robrecht Holger (Chair), Mrs. Badino Miriam, Mrs. Belala Mihai, Mr. Borelius Magnus, Mrs. King Brenda, Mr. Leanza Eugenio, Mr. Van Kemseke Peter

Local authorities are facing the urgent socio-economical challenge to ensure secure, sustainable, affordable and competitive energy for their communities. The Energy Union and the development of a single energy market aims to address the current challenges of the integration of variable renewable energy, and security of supply. Local authorities are ideally positioned to facilitate the roll-out of policies and planning for the energy transition at local level, while supporting consumers to better participate in markets, but often a lack of technical and financial capacity, and of clear legal framework, limits and hinders their possibility to fully engage and create local added-value. The event will discuss how to spur low carbon investments to implement climate policies, as well as the generating of local employment through utilising Structural and Cohesion Funds and innovative financing models involving citizens and business participation. The debate will address how regional-local value chains can support sustainable development and job creation through decentralised approaches and participatory finance.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

14A02 - Sharing costs and infrastructure amongst network operators: a win-win scenario for broadband, smart growth and inclusion

Organisers: DG CONNECT - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Grussmann Wolf-Dietrich (Chair), Ms. Gallyas Katalin, Mr. Rodziewicz Rafal, Mr. Serot Alexandre, Mr. Simonsen Simon, Mr. Zorer Alessandro

A high quality digital infrastructure underpins virtually all sectors of a modern and innovative economy and is the backbone of the Digital Single Market. The Directive on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks (2014/61/EU) facilitates their roll out by reducing their cost thanks to cross-sector synergies. The workshop will showcase best practice examples of cross-sector cooperation in broadband deployment. The panel discussion will focus on more detailed aspects of cross-sector cooperation and its key success factors, e.g. contractual conditions, incentives for utilities, implications for ESIF funded projects.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 13:00

14A03 - Part 1: EUSALP an opportunity to foster sustainable growth in the Alps

Part 2: Save energy and create new jobs – the use of sustainable materials

Organisers: EUSALP

Venue: Representation of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Mairate Andrea (Chair), Mr. Chiamparino Sergio, Mr. Farella Raffaele, Mr. Gump Alexander, Mr. Kaiser Peter, Mrs. Pallauf Brigitta, Mr. Parolo Ugo, Mr. Rollandin Augusto, Mr. Soulage Bernard, Mr. Theiner Richard, Mr. Van Staa Herwig, Mr. Vögel Christian

Part 1:

The European Union Strategy for the Alps (EUSALP) is based on three policy areas vital to the competitiveness of the Alpine Regions. The third focuses on the promotion of a more inclusive environmental framework and a renewable and reliable energy framework (also linked to the international agenda and COP21 in Paris in December). The aim is to analyse the added value and steps taken to foster sustainable growth in the Alps, ecological transformation, growth, jobs and innovation. The focus will be on the implementation of the Action Plan, the role of regions and the combination of different European, national and regional instruments.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

Part 2:

The second debate will tackle the specific objective "Fostering energy efficiency and savings in the housing and mobility sectors, among others". The concept of using sustainable materials will be the common thread running through the whole event in order to work out on the one hand how to save energy and on the other – and this is essential – to create new "green" jobs; products and services. Although the EUSALP is not only based on environment and climate change mitigation, it is important to consider those sensitive issues, which tie in closely with economic growth and job creation.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 13:00

14A04 - Future sustainable energy supply through innovative partnerships - biomethane and CNG as an example

Organisers: The Innovative Partnership for Sustainable Energy 2020

Venue: Stockholm Region EU Office

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Stambasky Jan (Chair), Mr. Baikis Janis, Mr. Kilgallon Ian, Mr. Pilskog Lennart, Mr. Saarela Johan, Mrs. Säfvestad Albinsson Anna, Mr. Tricas Antonio, Mr. Vécsey György

Turning organic waste into biomethane, a 2nd-generation biofuel, also creates great opportunities: jobs and economic growth, while improving energy security, emission reductions and rural development.

The EU has ambitious targets for renewable energy and transport must be recognised as a sector that can contribute to achieving these goals and overall decarbonisation of the industry.

Introducing innovative energy solutions requires cooperation, and we have a number of successful public-private cooperation in place across Europe. The

Workshops - Wednesday 14 October 2015

workshop will showcase successful partnerships and experiences and how regional communities can benefit from them, present funding opportunities and discuss biomethane's role in the EU's 2020 objectives.

Read more: www.biofuelregion.se/ipse2020.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

09:00 - 10:45

14A12 - European Territorial Scenarios and Visions for 2050

Organisers: Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg (LU presidency)
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Eser Thiemo W. (Chair), Mr. Dijkstra Lewis , Ms. Kok Liisa , Mr. Linkaits Talis , Mr. Mehlbye Peter

As part of the IT-LV-LU Trio Presidency Programme, this workshop aims to explore the potential for a political debate on European territorial scenarios and visions and to critically assess the available material and approaches. Showcasing the material as well as previous experiences should help to set ambitions and expectations. The workshop will address access points for a constructive debate at the political level on European territorial scenarios and visions. This debate will also highlight the European regions' development prospects.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

14A13 - European Roundtable on Energy Data Sharing

Organisers: ENVE Commission secretariat - CoR
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 1

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Pigiariu Francesco (Chair), Mr. Andronescu Florin , Mr. Le Guern Servan , Mr. Moggia Silvia , Mr. Pérez de Laborda Alvaro , Mr. Yalamas Pierrick

Effective monitoring of sustainable energy action plans requires the availability of data for the calculation that will be instrumental for analyzing trends as well as implementing a continuous improvement process of the SEAP actions. This process will also lead to new requirements and conditions in data exchange such as access to a wider range of data (energy and non-energy related) for implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Energy Action Plans; and the implementation of more institutionalized monitoring and data exchange processes (CoM, Regional observatories,...), potentially involving new regulatory obligations for data providers (revision of EED...)

Objectives of the EU conference: Provide energy data providers with the opportunity to share their vision - What would it take to develop more advance data collaboration models according to data providers; formulate policy recommendations to the European Commission for a more institutionalized monitoring and data exchange processes.

This workshop will be followed by a networking event.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14B01 - Strategies and policies for local economic development and job creation: a toolkit for adult learning policy

Organisers: Abruzzo Region
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Costantino Lorenzo (Chair), Mr. D'Alfonso Luciano , Mr. Kenny Michael , Mr. Marquardt Henning

This workshop presents the results of a comparative analysis (21 regions) carried out under the REGIONAL EU project on the formulation, implementation and funding of adult learning policies. Policymakers, practitioners and academics will exchange ideas on the links between Adult Learning and socio-economic development, from civic empowerment to economic competitiveness and SME development. Presenters will introduce the Policymaking Toolkit, a practical instrument designed to support local policymakers in shaping policies for effective adult learning in their local contexts. The Toolkit combines country profiles, best practices and practical examples of effective policy measures.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14B02 - Promoting SMEs' access to government contracts - best practices and results from a study on administrative capacity for public procurement in the ESI Funds

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boijmans Pascal (Chair), Mr. Brennan Peter , Ms. Jacquemot Florence , Mrs. Zademach-Schwierz Anna-Lena

This workshop presents results of a study on administrative capacity for compliance and quality of public procurement involving ESI Funds across the 28 Member States. How do good practices, systems and tools contribute to the efficient implementation of procurement of ESI Funded projects? A speaker from DG REGIO will present the study, and in particular some examples on the capacity of administrations to increase SMEs' access to government contracts. Two speakers from local authorities and business representations will elaborate on their specific tools and experiences in supporting SMEs to participate in public procurements, e.g. via e-procurement.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

14B03 - Implementing ICT innovation vouchers to foster innovation and boost business development for SMEs

Organisers: DG CONNECT - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Simon Christine (Chair), Mr. Navarro Antonio , Mr. Pennec Yann , Mr. Stamkos Neoklis

The use of ICT and digital services for business development across economic sectors is one of the priorities for regional growth, but the rate of ICT adoption by SMEs remains too slow.

[The ICT Innovation Vouchers](#) hold an enormous potential to boost business innovation and increase competitiveness for micro-enterprises and SMEs, by investing in innovative digital business solutions.

Based on feedback from regions, the workshop will give the opportunity to the participants to learn more about the implementation of ICT innovation vouchers schemes for SMEs. An exchange of experiences with the panel's members will foster the reflexion and discussion on implementation issues.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

09:00 - 13:00

14B05 - Local authorities working together to promote SMEs and stakeholders for development with a view to Europe 2020

Organisers: Local authorities promoting integrated growth

Venue: BIP.BRUSSELS

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Mastantuono Alena (Chair), Mr. Akpınar Mutlu Huseyin , Mr. Cazacu Ghenadie , Mr. Favreau Gilbert , Mr. Firquet Katty , Mr. Heuwinkel Friedel , Mr. Michel Mathieu , Mr. Usta Hasan Tahsin , Mr. Všetěčka Daniel

The debate will discuss cooperation between the different partners in order to more effectively help and support SMEs and stakeholders. The aim is to promote regional development.

The participants will come from a variety of businesses, especially SMEs. As local authorities, it is important to join strengths and techniques that will help increase innovation and prosperity.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 13:00

14B06 - The rising impact of healthcare innovation on regional economies

Organisers: Healthy Strategies for Smart Regions

Venue: Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Dedeu Toni (Chair), Mr. Begona Vicente , Mr. Denanot Jean-Paul , Mr. Faure Jean-Emmanuel , Ms. Fragoso Marisol , Dr. Giaimo Maria Donata , Mr. Iakovidis Ilias , Mr. Kovacic Vlatko , Mrs. Kucharczyk Anna , Dr. McCormick Andrew , Dr. Moniuszko Marcin , Mr. Rys Andrzej , Mr. Sorvik Jens

The overall aim of the debate is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in terms of the working environment of local and regional economic players in the health sector.

In particular the debate will:

- explore the range of best practices and strategic approaches to the development and implementation of health and smart strategies at the regional level and their impact on the regional economy;
- explore and develop new models to improve the infrastructure for cooperation between all players in the health sector, and find solutions to regulatory problems hindering the commercialisation of new technologies;
- explore options to ease SMEs' access to finance and the design of innovative, sector-specific financial schemes;
- explore the values of cross-border health care and its impact on regional economies.

Commission officials from DGs Regio, Enterprise, and Research and Sanco will join the debate to explore key issues such as the EU's "Together for Health", Strategy, the European Scaling-up Strategy in Active and Healthy Ageing, health tourism and its impact on the silver economy, ICT and m-Health solutions and its place in Horizon 2020 financial schemes as well as other topics related to recent EU measures to improve health systems across Europe.

By providing EU and regional policymakers and experts with a platform to discuss the design of more efficient regional health policies, the debate will give an insight into how regions could make more informed decisions when adopting healthcare mechanisms, and how entering into cluster-based relations could be beneficial to SMEs and to the health of society as a whole.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14B14 - Ready for take-off? Smart Participation of SME in Regional Innovation Systems

Organisers: DG EAC - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. PRZEOR Marek (Chair), Dr. Aase Karin , Dr. Cerrano Carlo , Mr. Roccaro Mario , Mr. Wert Bertrand

The new RISE Research and Innovation Staff Exchange scheme as part of the well-proven Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions responds to the SMEs' need to continuously updating competences related to current academic, science and research trends. The new European SME instrument is part of the "Industrial Leadership" and "Societal Challenges" pillars of Horizon 2020. It intends to fund high-potential innovative SMEs to develop ground-breaking innovative ideas for products, services or processes that are ready to face global market competition.

The testimonials will demonstrate how these two funding schemes could be used to address specific regional challenges. The audience is invited to enquire and discuss with the experts on the panel.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14C01 - Sustainable urbanisation through investing in medium-sized cities

Organisers: City of Schiedam/Eurotowns

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lamers Cor (Chair), Dr. Elisei Pietro , Mrs. Foracchia Serena , Mrs. MADRENAS-MIR Marta , Mr. Verkerk Bas , Dr. Vöhringer Bernd

Population decline in a growing number of European regions is an irreversible trend.

This workshop sets out the role and involvement of medium-sized cities in promoting sustainable urbanisation.

Medium-sized cities play a key role by offering an attractive living environment and a wide range of services. There is a need to support these cities which are closely linked to their rural surroundings as well as to metropolitan areas.

The Urban Agenda provides an opportunity to emphasise the contribution of medium-sized cities to sustainable urbanisation.

This position should be strengthened by on-going investment, cooperation in (international) networks and a better balance in European investment programmes.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14C02 - Cross-border cooperation and regional integration, a worldwide approach

Organisers: Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Peyrony Jean (Chair), Ms. Alvergne Christel , Mr. Granda Alva German , Mr. Hall Ronald , Mr. JULIEN Hélène , Mr. SOERAKOESOEMAH Rony

For the last 25 years, Interreg has funded cross-border cooperation programmes that have achieved considerable success. Organisations such as MOT or AEBR bring together local and regional authorities that have developed projects to improve the daily life of Europeans living in urban and rural cross-border areas. But cross-border cooperation is not limited to Europe. On other continents, national and local authorities and regional organisations are committed to strengthening cross-border integration. This workshop presents different cross-border cooperation projects in West Africa and Latin America in relation to the European experience.

In West Africa, UNCDF implements the LOBI project, which is an experiment in cross-border cooperation carried out using multilevel governance and the financing of practical projects. UNCDF intends to extend this experiment to other parts of the world (including Central Asia and South East Asia). In Latin America, CBC features on the political agendas of all MERCOSUR countries.

In France, the French Foreign Affairs Ministry promotes local cross-border cooperation as a component of decentralised cooperation.

What experiences of CBC can be shared between Europe and other continents?

What is the role of local authorities?

What is the role of decentralised cooperation in stimulating cross-border cooperation?

This debate should help review these issues and provide an opportunity for discussion on different continents' experiences of cross-border cooperation.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14C03 - 25 years of erasing borders: focus on the Iberian Peninsula

Organisers: Iberian Network of Crossborder Entities - RIET

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 63

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Rio Ricardo (Chair), Ms. Andersson Pench Lena , Mr. Cunha Costa Jose M. , Mr. Fernández Melle Fernando , Ms. Soeiro Jose

INTERREG is one of the most highly-valued and visible elements of the European Union. It helps eliminate the internal borders of the Union, whose founding slogan is "Europe without Borders"

After 25 years of promoting cross-border cooperation, the situation at the Spanish-Portuguese border has substantially changed in terms of socioeconomic and territorial cohesion.

This workshop aims to promote the debate about the future of cross-border cooperation in the post-2020 scenario showing, through practical examples, the importance of ETC policies and funds to achieving a true single market and to promoting economic growth, job creation and European citizenship in border regions.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

14C04 - Opportunities for demographic change

Organisers: Local and Regional cooperation for demographic change

Venue: Castilla y León Permanent Delegation to the EU - Spanish Permanent Representation

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Parent Anne-Sophie (Chair), Mrs. Abrunhosa Ana , Mr. Gomes Emidio , Dr. Gurun Osman , Mr. Kiefmann Jan-Paul , Ms. Martínez Sánchez Pilar , Mr. Scherling Lutz , Mr. Tofoni Elisa , Mr. Van Oostrum Joost , Mrs. Wernerred Ida

A number of European regions and cities facing different demographic challenges such as ageing, low density and a shrinking population, will discuss two subtopics: In the first slot, regions and cities will look at how quality public services are provided in fields such as health, social services and education. In the second slot, regions and cities will explain how they promote economic activity to create businesses and attract and retain people, especially the young.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14UNIV01 - Creating Links between Academia and Policy at the National and Regional Level

Organisers: Regional Studies Association, DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Bachtler John (Chair), Mr. Kot Tomasz , Mr. Morgan Kevin , Mr. Olejniczak Karol

The aim of the workshop is to reflect on the potential for academic-policy engagement in the implementation of Cohesion policy, 2014-20. It will draw on the recent academic-policy conference in Riga (Challenges for the New Cohesion Policy in 2014-2020), specifically the lessons of research for the contribution of Cohesion policy to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It will discuss the conditions for effective academic-policy engagement, drawing on practices and experience from different countries and regions. Key themes are how academics engage with policy research, influence policy agendas and contribute to practice, and how policymakers use academic expertise in Cohesion Policy.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14URB01 - Sustainable chemicals production as an example of the circular economy (a contribution to the reindustrialisation of EU regions and municipalities)

Organisers: DG GROW - EC
Venue: Tour and Taxis (Brussels canal zone), room Syntra

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Buescher Reinhard (Chair), Mr. Barath Jan , Mr. Hes Michal , Mrs. Monge Cristina , Mrs. Piovesan Laura , Mr. de Ruiter Rob

The circular economy is about environmental protection and sustainability, while also creating opportunities and reindustrialising the EU. Sustainable chemicals production is the best example of how to make the use of alternatives to fossil-based chemicals possible by promoting efficient resource-use and by facilitating business in the circular economy. However, it must be understood that the transition towards a circular economy calls for systemic changes.

Local authorities play a key role by providing a favourable business environment and the necessary political acceptance for sustainable chemicals production. Building chemicals production on domestically available resources, such as municipal waste or biomass, offers new opportunities in particular for rural regions and for municipalities and regions in industrial decline.

Investors and entrepreneurs are eager to create new business using domestic resources and experiences are flourishing in Europe in the field of sustainable chemicals. Financial support for private investment in water-management facilities to recover phosphorous, to produce biogas and fertilisers from manure and food waste, to produce goods from plastic waste and many other examples of the circular economy may be expected under the European Fund for Strategic Investment as established in the Commission Communication "An investment Plan for Europe".

Two local authorities, two investors and a representative of the European Investment Bank will participate to discuss how public strategies can attract investment related to sustainable chemicals production. Experiences will be shared with other interested European regions, with the aim of providing practical guidance on how to identify bankable proposals to be financed and to facilitate investment in this field.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14URB05 - Smart solutions for citizens

Organisers: Pecs city
Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone), workshop room 40

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Droege Jan (Chair), Mr. Daboczi Kalman , Mr. Giran Janos , Mr. Szamosvari György , Mr. Tata Ionut , Mr. Zambara Nino

The workshop provides the best practices of the modern and innovative solutions for the smart cities:

1. PECS CITY - Introducing public transport of the future
Smart city solutions: distance traffic ecosystem; passenger's solutions; smart system integration: funding model & cooperation
2. BUDAPEST CITY – The innovative solutions for the smart biking and public transport
Traffic management and planning system – innovative approach; system integration: funding model & partner cooperation
3. BRASOV CITY - Living labs – citizens vs. smart cities
*- Bridging technologies and citizens needs
- Strategic planning for ERDF and showing best practice*
4. DG CONNECT – Smart solutions for citizens – EU perspective

Discussion and lessons learnt.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14URB07 - The future of financial instruments for cities. What are the opportunities and challenges in setting up and implementing an urban development fund?

Organisers: URBACT, European Investment Bank, Metropolitan area of Lille, City of Manchester, The Hague, DG REGIO - EC
Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone - Tour & Taxis site), main hall

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Andersson Lars (Chair), Mr. De Bethune Thomas , Mrs. Descamps Caroline , Mr. Duncan Mark , Mr. Lee Frank , Mr. Overmeire Ton , Mr. Roy Marcel

What are the opportunities and challenges in setting up and implementing an urban development fund?

Financial instruments offer a more sustainable model for funding urban development projects in the future. Those financial instruments are those established under the 2007-2013 or expected during the 2014-2020 ESIF programming periods but also other kind of instruments allowing loans, equity or guarantee that support urban development projects. Within an interactive format, these guiding questions are suggested to be addressed:

- what are financial instruments for urban areas?
- why are financial instruments key for urban development projects?
- what about their implementation?
- what are the challenges and solutions encountered?

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

14URB08 - Urban Development Network – deprived areas and its communities: how to improve the living conditions?

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone), workshop room 50

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tosics Ivan (Chair), Ms. Hyde Ann , Mr. Kovacs Katalin , Mrs. Lapenne Valérie , Mr. Pastors Marco

Cities implementing Art 7 of the ERDF regulation dealing with deprived neighbourhoods are invited to this workshop. Some cities are working on strategies and/or have already implemented projects addressing the complex needs of migrants, Roma communities or other vulnerable groups in deprived neighbourhoods. The workshop will present some good practices across Europe and also the new plans, strategies for the 2014-2020 period. Speakers will represent cities from different parts of Europe in order to show the diversity of responses to the challenges. The audience will consist of local and national authorities, European institutions, non-governmental and international organisations.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

09:00 - 10:45

14URB09 - How to set up new types of cooperation to transform European urban areas and make our cities smarter?

Organisers: DG MOVE - EC
Venue: KBC (Brussels canal zone), Room Herman Teirlinck

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Volkery Axel (Chair), Mr. Breen Ronan , Mr. Eskelinen Jarmo , Mr. Haon Sylvain , Mr. Hoe Mette , Mr. Van Audenhove François-Joseph , Mr. Worth Jon , Mr. Wrottesley Alex

Many European municipalities and regions are investing in increasing the quality of life of their urban areas, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting the use of renewable fuels. Business, innovation and administration are changing rapidly in urban areas. Economic opportunities are huge, and cities are the test-bed for these new business models. There is a need to better connect innovators, investors and clients (cities) and intermediaries (eg. Innovation agencies, special accelerators/incubators)?

This session will focus on two areas that could provide both challenges and opportunities:

1. How to create speed and scale in 'smartness' in urban, collaborative ecosystems?
2. Rapid urban transformation – how to get it right?

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:30 - 17:00

14B04 - Cohesion Policy open data challenge

Organisers: DG REGIO.02
Venue: European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy - BU-1 VIP Room

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lockett Tony (Chair), Mr. Dijkstra Lewis , Mr. Walsh John

The workshop will begin with an overview of available data, including statistical data series and monitoring data on Cohesion Policy programmes (financial allocations, expenditure, indicators and targets, lists of beneficiaries published by Managing Authorities).

Following these introductory presentations, participants will work in small groups in order to identify possible solutions to specific challenges. These will include problems linked to working with data covering variable geographies, the aggregation of different data series and the development of effective visualisations building on complex data. REGIO will provide participants with explanatory material, datasets and questions in advance of the workshop.

The workshop will promote collaboration between different partners that have an interest in the use of data to scrutinise and improve the performance of Cohesion Policy programmes. The following stakeholders are encouraged to register for the workshop - evaluators, statisticians, programme managers, academics and researchers, civil society organisations, open data/tech community, data journalists, economic consultants.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14E01 - Interreg Europe networking on research & innovation and SME competitiveness

Organisers: INTERREG EUROPE

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atrium 5 & 6

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Peekel Erik (Chair), Mr. Dalbert Benoit , Mr. Martinez Jason

In a specially designed networking area with help of a professional moderator you will be part of an interactive networking session on research & innovation and SME competitiveness. You will exchange information, contacts and find others who have the same interests. This could lead to the new collaborations and is very helpful for organisations that are looking for new partners or different ways of doing things. The networking is organised by the interregional cooperation programme Interreg Europe which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

11:15 - 13:00

14A05 - The need for specific legal provisions in border areas

Organisers: Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg (LU presidency)

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Sinner Jean-Claude (Chair), Mr. Dobroslavic Nikola , Mr. Monfret Agnès , Mr. Oser Jürgen , Mr. Peyrony Jean , Mr. Šik Andrej

As part of the IT-LV-LU Trio Presidency Programme, the workshop aims to explore the potential benefits of specific legal provisions for border regions, supporting better integration and cooperation across borders. The workshop will identify situations in which cross-border territorial development is hampered by incompatible rules or legal frameworks. The challenges of cross-border cooperation are illustrated by examples from sectors such as healthcare, transport, and planning. The workshop will clarify the type of legal provision that could help overcome barriers to territorial development across borders.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

11:15 - 13:00

14A06 - Research Infrastructures as drivers of knowledge and innovation in European regions

Organisers: DG RTD - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Di Giulio Antonio (Chair), Mr. Dröll Peter (Chair), Prof. Carvalho Maria Graca , Mr. Dettenhofer Markus , Ms. Gunsenheimer Ute , Mrs. Mihaylova Iskra , Mr. Rainoldi Alessandro , Mr. Ramirez Antonio , Dr. Reppel Katia , Prof. Sandner Wolfgang , Mr. Smith Carthage , Dr. Smits Robert-Jan

Research infrastructures play an increasing role in the advancement of knowledge and technology, and their integration into local, regional and global innovation systems is crucial. They are per se natural regional knowledge exchange platforms delivering high social and economic impact at regional level. An important factor is to tackle the challenges presented by their construction and sustainability, developing synergies with H2020, the EFSI investment plan and the ESIF. The event is a unique opportunity to make the regional and national authorities aware of the opportunities they have with research infrastructures and how they could exploit their full potential, through the combination of strategies and funds.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14A07 - Capacity building for social partners – enhancing the contribution of workers and employers organisations to modernising Europe

Organisers: DG EMPL - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Dion David-Pascal (Chair), Mr. Chorazy Pawel , Mrs. Coenen Isabel , Mr. Mazurkiewicz Artur , Mr. de Keersmaecker Stefan

The European Commission is committed to give a new start to social dialogue at both EU and national/regional level. Social partners can play a crucial role in managing transitions and implementing EU policies, but need the capacity to do so. Member States can use technical assistance of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) to support capacity building of social partners. The European Code of Conduct on Partnership provides the framework for involvement of social partners in ESIF. The workshop will identify how best use can be made of the ESIF to support well-functioning social partner organisations and social dialogue.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14B07 - How are local and regional authorities involved in the European Semester for economic governance?

Organisers: CoR - E2

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Delebarre Michel (Chair), Mr. Böhme Kai , Mr. Ciaffi Andrea , Mr. Engels Stephen , Mr. Hagelstam Kajus

As of 2015, the European Semester is being streamlined to focus on key priorities and to involve stakeholders more closely in order to increase ownership. Despite mounting awareness of the need for EU policies to incorporate a territorial dimension, local and regional authorities are far from fully involved. How is the Semester doing in this respect, and what progress is possible? This workshop is taking place just as the mid-term review of Europe 2020 is coming to an end. It will provide an opportunity to present the 6th CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020, which presents an analytical background to the discussion on the role of regions and cities in the European Semester.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

11:15 - 13:00

14B08 - The Investment Plan and the European Structural and Investment Funds - Maximizing synergies and complementarities

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Niessler Rudolf (Chair), Mr. Appel Stefan , Mr. Chiarion Casoni Giorgio , Mr. Havenith Roger , Mr. Kuhn Christoph , Mr. Stepien Radoslaw

The Investment Plan of the European Commission aims to revive investment activity in the Union. The approach is focused on three major components:

- (i) A new implementation tool – The EFSI
- (ii) An extended project pipeline – Strategic investments supported through enhanced technical assistance tools
- (iii) A new regulatory environment – An enhanced set of rules better addressing the need to support jobs, innovation and growth across EU regions

ESIF are complementary to the Investment Plan in several dimensions. The workshop shall aim to present the Investment Plan implementation to date and the synergies created with ESIF programmes.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00
14B09 - Open & Agile Smart Cities – Creating the European Smart City Market

Organisers: DG CONNECT - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Campolargo Mário (Chair), Mr. Brynskov Martin , Ms. De Lama Nuria , Mr. Eskelinen Jarmo , Ms. Gallyas Katalin

The Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC) initiative aims to foster city-led open innovation by making urban systems interoperable in a manner that is effective, economical, non-exclusive and easy to adopt. This has the dual benefit of creating local jobs while also supporting demand-driven, agile innovation.

This workshop will focus on policy makers and smart city developers, and explain how OASC can help a city or region connect existing initiatives and become part of a global smart city market. OASC 1st wave included 31 cities from 7 countries, and more are in the pipeline for 2nd and 3rd wave.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00
14B16 - Making savings: Cohesion Policy for a low-carbon and resource-efficient Europe

Organisers: DG ENV - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Kremlis Georges (Chair), Mr. Wolfe Colin (Chair), Mr. Gyene Gyöngyvér , Ms. Hagenauer Simone , Ms. Lange Kristy-Barbara , Mr. Trilling Markus

New Cohesion Policy programmes envisage support to green growth – a transition to a green, low-carbon, resource-efficient economy.

Moving towards green growth may be particularly challenging for SMEs, taking into account resource constraints. Nevertheless, many lessons of good practice have been learnt within the previous programming periods.

The workshop will start with an overview of Cohesion Policy support to SMEs and green growth. It will be followed by good practice examples and reflections of civil society. It will conclude with a discussion on how to further strengthen Cohesion Policy support to SMEs in their quest towards green growth.

Presentations of speakers:

1. "Introduction: Cohesion Policy for a low-carbon and resource-efficient Europe"
Gyöngyvér Gyene, Senior Advisor, Prime Minister's Office, Hungary
Representative of the European Network of Environmental Authorities-Managing Authorities
2. "Bioplastic as SME opportunity"
Kristy-Barbara Lange, Deputy Managing Director, European Bioplastics (not-for-profit European association of bioplastics producers)
3. "Cohesion Policy funds as an important cornerstone to support green growth in SMEs".
Simone Hagenauer, Project Manager Clusters, EcoPlus: The Business Agency of Lower Austria Ltd
4. "No time to waste: European Structural and Investment Funds for a resource-efficient Europe"
Markus Trilling, EU Funds Campaigner, Bankwatch/Friends of the Earth Europe

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00
14B17 - Connecting digital innovation hubs in manufacturing across European regions

Organisers: DG CONNECT - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Lemke Max (Chair), Mr. Butter Maurits , Mr. De Kinderen Wim , Mr. Pegman Geoff , Ms. Pinto Vera

Advances in ICT are essential to support and reinforce the competitiveness of European industrial sectors. Large companies are usually the frontrunners in adopting digital technologies, especially in sectors such as automotive and aerospace. However, there are still disparities in the adoption of novel ICT across companies in the different European regions and across manufacturing sectors, particularly when considering SMEs and mid-caps. Member States and regions have recently launched regional/national initiatives to create digital innovation hubs with the objective of transferring innovative ICT, including knowledge and skills to SMEs and mid-caps in order to improve their business/competitiveness/access to new markets, etc. To get outreach SMEs and mid-caps, the national and regional initiatives have to connect together to agree on priorities, create critical mass and transfer new knowledge. European initiatives such as I4MS* (ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs – www.i4ms.eu) or SAE (Smart Anything Everywhere – <https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/>) focus on the connection of the entire value chain in a large number of small experiments in key areas such as HPC cloud-based simulation, lasers equipment, autonomous robotics systems, with leading European competence centres acting as facilitator. This initiative can support regional innovation hubs/competence centres to co-operate together and thus SMEs and mid-caps to engage on an EU scale. The workshop will focus on how to connect existing regional/European initiatives to exploit synergies at EU scale in the context of the Smart Specialisation strategy for advanced manufacturing by combining different sources of funding.

The workshop will include short presentations (max 8-10 min) of the concept of digital innovation hubs in robotics showing the advantage of sharing infrastructure and resources, of the expression of interest for digital innovation hubs to grow the I4MS ecosystem and an example of how to use the Smart Specialisation strategy to align strategic roadmaps and investments to cooperate at EU level with the VANGUARD initiative. After that a panel of the previous speakers, moderated by the representative of the European Commission, will discuss on how to cooperate in order to get outreach of SMEs to an EU scale by the means of combining different funding.

*I4MS first successes can be found here:
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/innovation-manufacturing-smes-i4ms-initiative-enhancing-digital-transformation-european>.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

14C05 - Growing closer together along the Fehmarn Belt and the Jutland Axes

Organisers: Northern Connections
Venue: Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Højberg Niels (Chair), Ms. Bengtsson Emma , Mr. Bernander Mathias , Mr. Henriksen Per , Mr. Madsen Peter , Mr. Mortensen Rune Stig , Mr. Seidler Stefan

Europe is growing closer together – Scandinavian regions and cities are becoming more closely connected to the centre of Europe. New routes are needed and are becoming a reality – step by step. Two routes connecting Southern Norway through Denmark and Sweden to Northern Germany will be presented: The Fehmarn-Belt-Axis and the Jutland-Axis. What are the challenges and opportunities faced by urban and rural regions along these two routes? And what does this development mean for a region at the heart of Europe, in the Netherlands, for example? Transport infrastructure is a prerequisite for development and economic growth along the two routes, but the aim is to connect people across borders and between urban and rural areas and to offer new opportunities and a better quality of life.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

14C06 - ITI - the best way(s?) to integrate European urban spaces

Organisers: Design of European Urban Integration
Venue: Lodzkie House

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Olbrycht Jan (Chair), Mr. Cieslak Marek , Mr. Dlugosz Anna , Mrs. Ionescu Claudia , Mrs. Matusa Helena , Ms. Pasma Reina , Mr. Soyer Tunc

A European Urban Agenda could help cities adopt a more joined-up approach and bring together the efforts of different levels of governance: in short, to integrate European urban spaces. During the workshop, we intend to discuss the most innovative initiatives and strategies that local authorities are taking or planning to take under ITI and the types of project they are implementing in order to support the development of ITI. The aim of the workshop is to present a set of practical actions (best strategies) from different perspectives – as well as examples from the Member States implementing the ITI under EU structural funds and the IPA approach to be implemented in candidate countries with an integrated, bottom-up approach for urban and rural areas. The multi-level discussion among regions, cities and their functional areas will enable participants to create new solutions. During discussion, speakers will discuss with the public the possibility of synergies through combining these actions.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

Translation:

From Polish to English

Other:

A lunch will be organized after the workshop

11:15 - 13:00

14C07 - Twinned regions open to supporting SMEs and urban-rural development through EU-funded projects

Organisers: Harghita County Council
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Nica Alin-Adrian (Chair), Mr. Borboly Csaba , Dr. Csák László , Mr. Karacsony Janos Adam , Mr. Pajna Zoltán Arpád , Mr. Zalai Mihály

Given the need for proper rural development and European integration, the workshop will focus on the programmes, initiatives and project results that have led to a successful series of regional development initiatives in Harghita County, Romania and its twinned partner regions from Hungary. The event will give an overall and comprehensive insight into how the different local and regional actors are using international, national and regional strategies, as well as EU funds, to improve living standards and economic development in the regions, create jobs, contribute to greater social inclusion, maintain rural communities and support SMEs. It will also present the local challenges and opportunities faced in rural –urban development and in the integration

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process, taking into consideration the objectives and priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy, this being an important task not only for the present partnership, but also for all European regions.

The workshop will be followed by a networking event, where there will be the opportunity to taste traditional local products.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

14C08 - EGTCs implementing urban-rural strategies in border areas

Organisers: EGTC - CoR

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Cattaneo Raffaele (Chair), Mr. Ferenčák Ján , Mr. Nagy Peter , Mr. Pascual Criado José Luis

This workshop will focus on the main task facing 80% of EGTCs - European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation -, which is to be strategic platforms for development and to integrate urban-rural functional areas at cross-border level. The participants will also discuss the possibilities of using Structural and Investment Funds in the Regional, Territorial Cooperation and Rural Development programmes, including new instruments such as Integrated Territorial Investments and (why not?) Community-led Local Development actions.

A networking drinks event will take place after the event in Atrium 5 at 1 p.m., with the aim of bringing together everyone involved in cross-border cooperation. A group photo will be taken with the Political Coordinator of the EGTC Platform, Mr Cattaneo (EPP/IT)

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

14C09 - Public banks supporting local and regional finance and development

Organisers: European Association of Public Banks (EAPB)

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Fechtner Dettlef (Chair), Mr. Averio Pekka , Mrs. Biering Pauline , Mr. Hopfe Jörg , Mr. Laugier François , Mr. Roy Marcel

From the start of the financial crisis in 2007 until today, national and regional promotional banks (NPBs) across Europe have demonstrated their capacity to respond swiftly to the sharply-reduced access to finance. The workshop will showcase how NPBs play an important role in ensuring and maintaining access to finance for investments in national, regional and municipal infrastructure projects across Europe. The Workshop will present the added value of the support provided by public local finance providers and development banks via financial instruments for local infrastructure finance and social services, as well as the refinancing of local councils over the capital markets. For this purpose, the European Association of Public Banks (EAPB) will bring together high-level representatives from its member organisations, who will provide an overview of their activities and of the challenges they are facing. The workshop follows a networking lunch which will provide ample networking opportunities with industry professionals.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

14C16 - Filling the data gap in border regions: the importance of developing meaningful cross-border data for policy making and programme management.

Organisers: DG REGIO, D2 - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2D

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Verschelde Nathalie (Chair), Mr. Denert Olivier , Ms. Guerois Marianne , Mr. Svard Daniel , Mr. Van der Valk Johan

To exploit the full potential of border regions and reduce the negative effects of political and administrative borders, policy- and decision-makers need more robust and meaningful ways to measure flows across borders. Questions which are simple in a national or regional context can become very complex in a cross-border context because underlying data is either missing or not compatible. The workshop will draw a general picture of the state of play of cross-border data and will look at two initiatives which have tried to address the issue. It will then consider possible future developments in this field.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14URB02 - Green Infrastructure – revitalizes cities, boosts sustainable territorial development

Organisers: DG ENV - EC

Venue: Tour and Taxis (Brussels canal zone), room Syntra

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Ten Brink Patrick (Chair), Mr. Huck Neil , Ms. Miliadinova Gergana , Mr. Robrecht Holger , Mr. Schwarze-Rodrian Michael

Territorial cohesion relies upon economic effectiveness, social cohesion and ecological balance. Green Infrastructure is a tool that delivers on all three fronts: it strengthens ecological balance, boosts our economy and enhances social cohesion. Green Infrastructure is defined as a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas designed and managed to deliver multiple benefits to society. The workshop will showcase these benefits on the example of ecological revitalization of ex-industrial area in the Ruhr region. Opportunities for Green Infrastructure under Cohesion Policy financial instruments as well as opportunities in the business sector will be also discussed.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14URB10 - The Brussels Canal Area: The dynamics of an urban renovation

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone - Tour & Taxis site), main hall

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Meade Geoff (Chair), Mr. Borret Kristian , Mr. De Ruyck Stefaan , Mr. HOHLFÄLT Ann-Louise , Mr. Matthis Philippe , Ms. Ruppert Christina , Mr. Sanders Tom

The conference aims to provide an insight into the vision and strategy that underlie the development of the canal area. This part of Brussels consists of a number of densely populated neighbourhoods with a diverse population in the city centre. These neighbourhoods overlap with the former industrial districts of the Region and socio-economically are among the most fragile areas in the Brussels-Capital. From an economic point of view, it is an important development area for the Brussels-Capital Region, since it includes the Brussels port, among other sites.

For over 20 years, the Brussels-Capital Region has accorded special attention to an urban development project involving European, regional and local funding, with a view to enhancing the social and sustainable development of the neighbourhoods. Those efforts have already brought about major changes in this part of the city, and are contributing to a new urban and socio-economic dynamic as well as developing the area's potential.

During the conference, past and present achievements will be highlighted, along with future projects. The developments along the canal will be compared and parallels drawn with those in other cities featuring important waterside development projects, such as Ghent, Hamburg and Gothenburg.

The conference will offer the additional advantage of providing a better understanding of the area where the OPEN Urban Day is set to take place.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14URB11 - Urban Development Network: A step change in creating liveable cities with decreasing carbon emissions

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, DG MOVE - EC

Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone), workshop room 50

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Matko Marton (Chair), Mr. KLINKENBERG Michael , Mr. Rosca Daniela , Mr. Vitez David

The workshop aims to inspire and help urban authorities in setting up the foundations for a strategic shift towards an integrated, low-carbon driven development in urban areas.

The workshop will introduce the EU policy framework and the tools offered to help improve local policy making in the field of energy efficiency and sustainable urban mobility. It will explore how these tools can contribute to developing integrated strategies for sustainable urban development providing the framework for future investments.

The workshop will also present inspiring examples of cities accomplishing a step change in approach to carbon neutral development and sustainable urban mobility.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14URB12 - URBACT Capitalisation results – Job generation: what can cities do to grow jobs for young people?

Organisers: URBACT

Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone), workshop room 40

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Partridge Alison (Chair), Mrs. Cooke Sue , Mrs. Doumpa Vivian , Mr. Kézy Béla

This workshop will explore what cities can do to grow jobs for young people.

Drawing on the results of URBACT's capitalisation exercise, participants will explore how to better understand the youth employment challenge in cities and how to more effectively engage employers. They will look in depth at some examples of city policies and practices and explore how they can use URBACT findings to 'youth proof' their own economic development strategies and activities so as to grow jobs for young people.

Speakers will include thinkers and do-ers from URBACT partner cities: Thessaloniki (GR), Leeds (UK) and Nyíregyháza (HU).

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

14URB13 - Sharing good practices on Sustainable Integrated Urban Development : the URBACT offer for EU cities

Organisers: URBACT

Venue: KBC (Brussels canal zone), Room Herman Teirlinck

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Houk Melody (Chair), Mrs. Kneeshaw Sally (Chair), Mr. Garcia Macian Albert , Mrs. Jervfors Sara , Ms. Patti Daniela , Mrs. Timpanaro Caterina

For over ten years, the URBACT programme has been the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. URBACT enables cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, identifying and transferring good practices.

This session will provide participants with an overview of what is in URBACT for urban practitioners and policy-makers (at local, regional, national and European levels). More especially, the calls for Implementation and Transfer networks (to be launched early 2016) will be presented. Partner cities will also share their URBACT experience, with a focus on the transfer of good practices recently experimented in URBACT pilot transfer networks.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 14:00

14URB14 - Discovering the canal area by boat

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: Boat tour (Brussels canal zone) - meeting point: Quai Béco

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert , Mr. van Winder Willem

People taking the boat tour will have the opportunity to better acquaint themselves with the canal area and its port. After an introduction about the use of the ERDF funds in this part of Brussels, a representative from the Brussels Agency for Territorial Development will provide further information about the development of the canal area as well as the agency's activities, which are helping to improve the image of this part of town. European projects designed to stimulate the development of the Brussels port will also be discussed. During the boat tour itself, information will be provided about the Brussels port's activities, with further information about a number of development projects.

Participants will be offered a packed lunch to eat during the tour and can buy drinks on board.

Meeting point for boat departure: avenue du Port 6 - Quai Béco, 1000 Brussels.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 14:00

14URB15 - Visit on social inclusion

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: Site visit by bus 2 (Brussels canal zone), meeting point: Avenue du port 57

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert

During the tour, participants will also visit the Atelier Groot Eiland, AJJA and Belle-Vue and will receive information about these projects. All three projects cover a wide range of social issues. AJJA offers social support to newcomers, while Atelier Groot Eiland is an association for social employment and training, targeting the low-skilled long-term unemployed. In Belle-Vue, an energy efficient building, training is organised in hospitality and culinary arts as well as tourism, in a training hotel created for this purpose.

Bus transportation will be provided.

Meeting point: Avenue du port 57, 1000 Brussels

The buildings are all within walking distance of each other.
A lunch will be offered to participants in the social restaurant.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

Afternoon Sessions

13:00 - 13:30

14URB21 - Meeting the passive standard - Vist of the BEL (1)

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: BEL building (Brussels canal zone - Tour & Taxis site)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. - -

The new administrative headquarters of Brussels Environment on the Tour & Taxis site is also one of the largest office and activity buildings in Europe to meet the passive standard. It boasts exemplary environmental and energy performance. Participants in the OPEN Urban DAY will be given the opportunity to undertake a short guided visit of the BEL building. They will also receive information on the urban park that is going to be developed in this area.

Meeting point: at the entrance hall.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

13:30 - 14:00

14URB22 - Meeting the passive standard - Vist of the BEL (2)

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: BEL building (Brussels canal zone - Tour & Taxis site)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. - -

The new administrative headquarters of Brussels Environment on the Tour & Taxis site is also one of the largest office and activity buildings in Europe to meet the passive standard. It boasts exemplary environmental and energy performance. Participants in the OPEN Urban DAY will be given the opportunity to undertake a short guided visit of the BEL building. They will also receive information on the urban park that is going to be developed in this area.

Meeting point: at the entrance hall.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:00 - 14:30

14URB23 - Meeting the passive standard - Vist of the BEL (3)

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: BEL building (Brussels canal zone - Tour & Taxis site)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. - -

The new administrative headquarters of Brussels Environment on the Tour & Taxis site is also one of the largest office and activity buildings in Europe to meet the passive standard. It boasts exemplary environmental and energy performance. Participants in the OPEN Urban DAY will be given the opportunity to undertake a short guided visit of the BEL building. They will also receive information on the urban park that is going to be developed in this area.

Meeting point: at the entrance hall.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14A08 - Cities and Regions addressing the Energy Challenge

Organisers: Transition Cities and Regions

Venue: Greater Birmingham & West Midlands - Brussels Office

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tufts Richard (Chair), Mr. Bloomfield Jon , Mr. Bore Sir Albert

The debate will focus on the promotion of innovative methods to implement energy efficiency and renewables in pioneer cities and regions.

Securing a low-carbon future for our cities means transforming our utility infrastructure to create multi-level energy systems that make use of sustainable resources such as wind, solar and geothermal energy. It also means integrating the use and reuse of waste and heat flows, and developing smarter control options that optimise variables in demand and supply. The goal is to maximise the acknowledged benefits of cities while successfully managing their disadvantages.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14A10 - Financing Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Heating and Cooling

Organisers: European Commission - EASME

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Berrutto Vincent (Chair), Mrs. Colangelo Cinzia , Mr. Dubinski Bartosz , Mr. Escobar Joan Josep , Mr. Hodson Paul , Mr. Pernetta Robert , Mrs. Szolgayová Elena , Mrs. Tetteroo-Mathijssen Marie-Thérèse , Mr. Wolfe Colin , Mr. Zapfel Björn

Up-scaling sustainable energy investments in the building, heating and cooling sectors is essential to meeting the European Union's energy targets for 2020 and 2030. Lack of public resources requires new approaches to investment. This shift to innovative financing approaches is supported by the European Union's Project Development Assistance (PDA) facilities, funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe and Horizon 2020 programmes.

The aim of the workshop is to discuss and showcase how the available EU programmes and instruments can help cities and regions launch large-scale investments in energy-efficiency of buildings and in the heating and cooling sector, using ESI funds and PDA projects.

The workshop will be followed by a networking cocktail.

The programme of the workshop can be downloaded by clicking on 'More information about this workshop' above.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

14A11 - Digital Skills and entrepreneurship in the Digital Revolution Era: from EU funding opportunities to job creation

Organisers: DG CONNECT - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Van Puymbroeck Wily (Chair), Mrs. Baroni Maria , Ms. Jakobsone Mara , Mrs. Sioli Lucilla , Ms. Van der Perre Liesbet , Mr. Ventura Pobre , Mr. Vreeker Jos

The Digital Single Market strategy calls for "the Commission to address digital skills and expertise as a key component of its future initiatives on skills and training". In the context of our digital skills policy and our landmark initiative, [the Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs](#), we support and encourage stakeholders to make better use of European funding to address the digital skills deficit.

Digital skills is a key enabler of the digital revolution. Electronic Components and System technologies are at the core of the digitised Europe. Without these we wouldn't have computers or mobile phones. The functionalities of many objects we use daily are increased by the digital components hidden inside. We are only at the beginning of this revolution.

The European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative should be used to finance more ICT trainings and work-based learning. To this end, we also support the creation of national, regional and local partnerships effectively gathering the right stakeholders and mobilizing regional funding to deliver concrete actions in the area of ICT learning.

The workshop aims to discuss ways of mobilizing digital skills funding at regional level. It will present best practices of regions utilizing public funding to implement successful ICT learning programmes (e.g. for young people, unemployed, career-changers). Furthermore, the workshop will address the role of industry and the synergies that can be obtained in closer cooperation in view of the skills gap, (also with respect to entrepreneurship) and the skills shortage that affects the industry and the economy. It will bring together stakeholders playing a key role in activating digital skills funding, promoting stakeholder alliances and developing digital skills policies.

- **Nano-electronics for tomorrow's society: raising skills to pave the way - Liesbet Van der Perre, IMEC-Academy**

- Better Stem Education through Cooperation: A View from the Brainport Region - Jos Vreeker, ASML
- The contribution of the European Social Fund in supporting digital skills development – Maria Baroni, ESF Policy and Legislation unit - DG EMPL, European Commission
- Effective use of EU funds for implementation of National ICT training and e-skills priorities : Latvia case study – Māra Jākobsone, Latvian Information and Communication Technology Association (LIKTA)
- Presentation – Ventura Pobre, Spanish Information and Communication Technology Association (AMETIC)

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14B10 - The Silver Economy: what approach should the regions adopt?

Organisers: Council of European Cities and Municipalities (CEMR)
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Parent Anne-Sophie (Chair), Mr. Hinkema Menno , Mr. Iakovidis Ilias , Ms. Lemoine Alexia , Mrs. Martin Joan , Mr. Nuyttens Rik , Mr. Sinclair David

How to turn Europe's demographic change into an opportunity is a key issue for policymakers. In early March 2015, the European Commission organised a summit on innovation for active and healthy ageing to involve relevant stakeholders in setting up a new agenda for societal change and sustainable economic development. Our debate will discuss the key role played by local and regional authorities in the Silver Economy. These authorities are on the front line and can support sustainable, innovative and inclusive solutions for active and healthy ageing, facilitate the development of local enterprises, create jobs and provide adequate products and services.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14B11 - Regions open for green business: environment legislation as the driving force

Organisers: DG ENV - EC, Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE), CoR
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Holub Rolf (Chair), Ms. Tietari Satu (Chair), Ms. Dorfner Teresa , Mr. Kremlis Georges , Mr. Kwak Marco , Mr. Meuleman Louis , Mr. Pigiariu Francesco , Ms. Robinson Amy , Mr. Struzik Adam , Ms. Subira Marta

Regions play a major role in promoting green growth because they are close to entrepreneurs and other important stakeholders involved in the "greening the economy" process. The workshop will look at how current EU environmental policy promotes green growth at regional and local level and will present success stories from different European regions that can be replicated in other regions, with the aim of promoting green business, innovation and job creation to foster a greener economy.

This workshop forms the 6th meeting of the CoR/EC Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

14B12 - Smart Specialisation in KETs: fostering cooperation between public and private sectors

Organisers: DG GROW - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Vitiello Luigi (Chair), Mrs. Gacka Jolanta , Mr. Jamier Vincent , Mr. Milne Paul , Mr. O'Donohue Michael J , Mr. TKACZUK Jean

Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) provide the technology that enables a wide range of innovative product applications and contributes to a more productive, competitive, energy- and resource-efficient economy.

KETs have the potential to bring growth to regions and SMEs as well as enhancing their overall competitiveness.

The objective of the workshop is to ensure more information exchange between regional authorities and stakeholders, including industry and SMEs, for a successful translation of smart specialisation priorities in the field of KETs. The workshop will highlight how regional funds can support KETs industrial innovation as a tool for economic transformation.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14B13 - Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – springboard for business creation and growth

Organisers: DG GROW - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Weinberger Christian (Chair), Mr. Butters Ben , Mr. Lagerpusch Tim , Ms. Pajarón Anna , Ms. Rybka Joanna , Ms. Spaepen Lutgart

[Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs \(EYE\)](#) is a simple but powerful concept, which aims at stimulating innovative business practices, the creation of new companies, the development of new products and services, and expansion to new markets. EYE is implemented on regional level by 180 business support organisations that act as local contact points for the programme across Europe.

The session will provide insights into the functioning of the programme and will showcase its impact on business creation and growth through inspiring testimonials from alumni entrepreneurs and local contact points. The discussion will then be followed by a Q&A session.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14C10 - Integrating urban and rural areas: ideas and experiences from European regions

Organisers: Europe of Traditions
Venue: Fundación Galicia Europa

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Calheiros Francisco (Chair), Mr. Bakoyiannis Konstantinos , Mr. Black Stuart , Mrs. Bosich Patrizia , Ms. Cutolo Nicoletta , Mr. De Reu Ben , Mr. Garcia Garcia José Luis , Mr. Manti Elio , Mr. Paluch Tomasz , Mr. Pan Giuseppe , Mrs. Ramsvik Heidi , Mr. Rio Ricardo , Mr. Zagula Wojciech

How can we deepen integration between rural and urban areas? How can we stop the population drift towards the cities? How can we increase the value of local products? These are some of the questions we will try to answer, applying a multi-faceted approach that takes into account the diversity of the challenges facing rural areas. Policymakers with direct experience in the field will present the audience with a variety of successful initiatives that have found ways of supporting rural development and of furthering rural-urban integration. This is a good opportunity to share best practices, express ideas and look at different solutions to common problems.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

14C11 - Urban Agenda & ESIF 2014-2020: Involving peri-urban territories in order to boost urban-rural links

Organisers: Peri-urban Regions enhancing urban-rural linkages
Venue: Randstad Region Office – House of the Dutch Provinces

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Weij Astrid (Chair), Mr. Bogovic Franc , Mrs. Bresso Mercedes , Mrs. Clack Helyn , Mr. Fichter Mathieu , Mr. Frequin Marc , Mr. Kanuty Pierre

Two issues will be debated by regional practitioners and EU decision-makers:

- 1) The importance of any EU Urban agenda taking account of the peri-urban dimension and urban-rural links as crucial elements of territorial development and
- 2) The way in which urban-rural integration could take place on the ground, given that the ESIF programmes 2014-2020 have just been launched. How are peri-urban areas benefiting from EU Cohesion policy?

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

14:30 - 17:00

14C12 - Cities of the future: smart, connected and open

Organisers: European People's Party - CoR
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Dixon-Declève Sandrine (Chair), Mr. Boorsma Bas , Mr. De la Serna Hernáiz Ifigo , Ms. Kann Constance , Mr. Kekäläinen Frederik , Mr. Markkula Markku , Mr. Schneider Michael , Mr. Spyridon Spyros , Mr. Valcárcel Siso Ramon Luis , Mr. van Nistelrooij Lambert

People want to live in smarter cities that run efficiently and encourage businesses to thrive. Thanks to the rise of digital technologies, mayors and city leaders have a tremendous opportunity to develop sustainable, joined-up strategies, which put people's needs at the centre.

This seminar will examine:

- the European Union's efforts to encourage cities to adapt and plan for the future;
- a local perspective on the main challenges facing cities;
- the conditions and partnerships needed for success.

Participants will be encouraged to get involved in discussing their experiences before the official launch of MEP Lambert Van Nistelrooij's book on this subject.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14C13 - Modernisation of small and medium-sized European cities with smart and sustainable measures – the present challenges and future prospects

Organisers: North-East Regional Development Agency + Iasi County Council
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Cauti Ercole (Chair), Mr. Boyer Frédéric , Mr. Dura Dan Florentin , Mr. Elisei Pietro , Mrs. Flacco Iris , Mrs. Lindemans-Maes Agnes , Mr. Pelayo Esteban , Mr. Tinca Stefan Alexandru , Mr. Trincă Ionut

The event will give EU stakeholders in urban development the opportunity to share their experience in the development and implementation of urban policies. Panellists and participants will analyse the EU approach, the ways in which it addresses the needs and specific characteristics of different territories and contexts (capital cities versus small and medium-sized ones, for example), to facilitate a greater impact and mutually-reinforcing results between different types of ESIF actions expected to take place at the local and regional levels in the period 2014-2020.

The event will focus on examples of good practice (such as CITYKEYS, EFFECT and Iasi Urban Growth Pole Romania) reflected already in the EU regions with support from EU and regional operational programmes and projects.

The discussion will be followed by a networking session, intended to be a platform for developing new project ideas and identifying partners for future joint actions.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14C14 - Models of Multilevel governance: the process of decentralization in countries of Latin America

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Hall Ronald (Chair), Mr. Maggi Campos Claudio , Mr. Nieto Enriquez Alejandro , Ms. Ravanelli Losada Paula , Mr. Rivera Salazar Jose Rodrigo , Ms. Rubio Villamil Luisa Bibiana

Today, decentralization is recognized by Latin American governments as way of promoting economic efficiency, public accountability and the empowerment of citizens. The current trend towards decentralization in Latin American countries also draws at least some of its inspiration from models of multi-level governance existing in Europe. This workshop will examine the institutional, legal and budgetary challenges faced by Latin America countries (Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Brazil) in decentralizing responsibilities to the regional level, with particular reference to implementing a devolved regional development policy, and the lessons emerging both in these countries and in Europe.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14C15 - Cross-border urban integration: European groupings of territorial cooperation in twin cities and cross-border agglomerations

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2C

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Rapp Aleksandra (Chair), Mr. Bollmann Sören , Mr. De Bruijn Martijn , Mr. Nagy Peter , Mr. Peyrony Jean , Mr. Rivera Bua Pablo , Mr. Sodini Sandra

This workshop will focus on how EU regional programmes can promote more balanced territorial development in rural or rural-urban contexts. The special challenge of border cities and border rural hinterlands will be addressed under this theme. Most of the EGTCs have developed a development strategy for their territory. Use of regional and cross-border programmes may be used to develop twin cities or urban-rural areas.

DG Regio and the Mission opérationnelle transfrontalière will also present tools available for border cities: the URBACT project "Expertising governance in transfrontier conurbations" and tools for the governance of border cities and agglomerations.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: European and national associations
- Academics

14:30 - 17:00

14C17 - Addressing health inequalities to promote growth and social cohesion in deprived areas

Organisers: DG SANTE - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Seychell Martin (Chair), Mr. Bücherl Wolfgang , Mr. Kralik Jan , Mr. Wismar Mathias

By investing in health and reducing inequalities in terms of lifestyle, health status and access to healthcare, regions may significantly contribute to their development and to enhancing social cohesion.

The workshop will discuss ways by which targeted investments in health can contribute to sustainable regional development. It will present some of the tools that are available for regions to address health-related problems and to promote development.

Participants will receive overview of how Member States and regions have planned to tackle health inequalities with the co-financing from European Structural and Investment Funds, alongside concrete examples of projects.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14UNIV02 - Smart cities, social and technological innovation: What is the right mix?

Organisers: DG RTD - EC

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Brunet Olivier (Chair), Mr. Bylund Jonas , Mr. Kunzmann Klaus , Mr. Michilli Mirta , Mr. Noll Margit

Cities in Europe are facing many-fold societal challenges that affect our continent as a whole: ageing population, climate change, threats to security and social cohesion – to mention only a few. Innovation is needed but it must look beyond business and technology, and include both the public and voluntary sectors to create social as well as economic value. How can smart cities boost European jobs, growth and investment as well as the well-being of our citizens? What is the right mix between social and technological innovation? How can smart cities strike a balance between these two facets of innovation? There is also a less bright side of smart technologies. Who are the stakeholders of smart technologies? How dependent are cities and the public sector on multinational private corporations; who controls the technology? Does the public sector require new policies and instruments to control smart city development?

The purpose of this workshop is to gather and capitalise on the results of driving initiatives in the field of urban research and innovation. We can learn a lot from projects funded by the previous Framework Programmes in the field of social innovation, from the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe and their upcoming Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, and from the opportunities offered by the new EU HORIZON 2020 programme to support multi-disciplinary and collaborative research and innovation with and for cities.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14UNIV03 - The role model of the Covenant of Mayors in Multi-level Governance: Views from Academia and Local and Regional Actors

Organisers: CoR/Covenant of Mayors Office

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Bertoldi Paolo , Mr. Fleming Paul , Mrs. Kebir Leïla , Mr. Kern Kristine , Mr. Raimondi Attilio , Ms. Strachinescu Andreea , Ms. Túttó Kata , Mr. Vendrellra Roca Albert

The workshop will unveil key research findings on multi-level governance in energy and climate policies conducted by EU universities and make a practical linkage with concrete examples in the context of the Covenant of Mayors initiative. The Committee of the Regions will present the results of their study on analysing multi-level governance and partnership practices in the preparation and implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans. Discussion with the audience is foreseen at the end of the session. The event will be followed by a networking reception.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14UNIV04 - Regional Manufacturing Renaissance

Organisers: Regional Studies Association, DG RTD - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Bailey David (Chair), Prof. Bianchi Patrizio , Prof. Clark Jennifer , Prof. De Propis Lisa

This Open Days University 'policy forum' session brings together key emerging themes around distributed manufacturing, reshoring/offshoring, global value chains, open innovation, and the most recent developments in industrial policy thinking.

It builds on the earlier Open Days University sessions on smart specialisation and industrial policy but critically moves the discussion on in the context of recent developments in advanced and 'distributed' manufacturing and the opportunities these may yield for regional 'rebalancing' and manufacturing renaissance.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14URB03 - Active transport in the metropolitan century: Policies and measures to support walking and cycling and their impact on urban development

Organisers: European Commission - EASME

Venue: KBC (Brussels canal zone), Room James Ensorzaal

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Boni Anna Lisa (Chair), Mr. Avramov Metodi , Mr. Crist Philippe , Ms. Jens Petra , Mr. Smet Pascal

Transport is the one sector where a reduction in energy consumption has an immediate and direct impact on the quality of life, particularly in urban areas. A well-managed city is one that limits its individual motorised vehicles and creates integrating public spaces. Concrete policies and measures are needed to increase the modal share of non-motorised active forms of travel. This event collects and exchanges successful policies and measures at European and regional level to provide mobility options for the many and finance smart urban road design, while reducing congestion, noise and air pollution.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

14URB04 - New urban economies

Organisers: INTERREG, URBACT, ESPON, INTERACT
Venue: KBC (Brussels canal zone), Room Herman Teirlinck

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Hill Ian (Chair), Mr. Bowyer Stephen, Ms. Konrad Ingrid, Mrs. Masáková Petra, Mr. Mehlbye Peter, Mr. Moulin Emmanuel, Mr. Siveris Erwin, Mr. van Winden Willem, Dr. von Breska Eric

Making Europe is about modernising the economy, ensuring that businesses and individuals thrive and enjoy growth and prosperity, and seeing regions, urban and rural areas develop throughout Europe, providing attractive places and spaces.

New urban economies are developing, building on drivers such as digitalisation, health and care, green growth, sharing and collaborative economy, etc. The experience and knowhow of the four pan-European ETC Programmes, INTERREG EUROPE, INTERACT, URBACT and ESPON will be brought together in the workshop, giving the audience a cross-cutting insight into practical regional and urban projects and good practices, governance issues, trends and the dynamics of fostering new urban economies.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researcher

14:30 - 17:00

14URB06 - Starting green businesses: experiences of incubators in an EU perspective

Organisers: Incubator Greenbizz and Citydev Brussels
Venue: Tour and Taxis (Brussels canal zone), room Syntra

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Bryskère Jean-Marc (Chair), Mr. Barfety Sylvain, Mr. Belenger Olivier, Mr. Foscolo Patricia

In the framework of the 13th European Week of Regions and Cities-OPEN DAYS, this workshop will bring together experts in business start-up for green incubators from across Europe in order to exchange experiences with regards to the development and management of incubators dedicated to green and sustainable projects. The workshop will be facilitated by the new GreenBizz incubator which will be opening in spring 2016 in the Brussels canal zone. One aspect of the exchange will be the use of European Structural and Investment Funds and the possibilities during the 2014-2020 period in supporting the low carbon economy.

Three main topics will be covered in three different sessions:

- 1) How to best support the financing and access to financing of startups within a business incubator?
- 2) Which kind of startups and industries do green incubators need to target in priority?
- 3) How does the direct environment, neighborhood and ecosystem of a green incubator impact its objectives and its functioning?

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14URB16 - Co-creation in urban space: finding solutions to urban challenges through urban innovation

Organisers: DG RTD - EC, DG REGIO - EC
Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Adams Eddy (Chair), Mr. Caulfield Tim, Prof. De Oliveira Álvaro, Mr. Defriend Nat, Mrs. Haavisto Kirsi, Mrs. Jervfors Sara, Mr. Nenshi Mayor, Mr. Oosterloo Stef, Mrs. Torokne-Rozsa Judit, Prof. Van Zoonen Liesbet

In a rapidly changing world, the search for solutions to economic, societal and environmental challenges is more complex. While market systems have become interconnected and supply chains have become supply webs, public policy is trying to catch up. As a result, cities are exploring ways to better mobilise stakeholders to help meet these challenges.

This workshop will showcase different approaches to co-creation, with practical examples from across Europe. In addition, the latest information concerning the upcoming first call of the 'Urban Innovative Actions' initiative (enabling cities to test potential solutions to urban challenges) will be presented.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14URB17 - Urban Development Network: Fostering the environmental dimension of sustainable urban development

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, DG ENV - EC
Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone), workshop room 50

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Ramsden Peter (Chair), Mr. Banfield Nicholas, Mrs. Bugaj Marta, Mrs. Custead Savita

The workshop will explore the links between the environmental aspects of sustainable urban development and the social and economic aspects, looking at how these three overlap, interact and can drive each other forwards.

The workshop will show how when cities make investments in an effort in becoming more environmentally sustainable, they can benefit from an integrated approach, tackling social problems too, while providing economic benefits for the city.

The workshop will also look at how measuring the environmental performance of cities, and benchmarking progress against similar cities facing similar challenges, can help cities to in making investment decisions, through learning from each other and sharing experiences.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14URB18 - Child Poverty: how to develop integrated strategies and actions?

Organisers: Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration

Venue: BEL (Brussels canal zone), workshop room 40

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Van Geertson Julien (Chair), Ms. Denoo Hanne , Ms. Verhauwert Sandra , Mrs. de Jacquier de Rosée Lara

Starting from the Commissions' recommendation "Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage" we will discuss different approaches to tackle child poverty : how can different policy levels and actors cooperate in an integrated way and share expertise and experiences?

1. Introduction on the various aspects of child poverty, the European initiatives, the "Declaration of mayors against child poverty" and the Belgian local consultation platforms.
2. Presentation of two inspiring practices from Belgian cities of a participatory approach to tackle child poverty.
3. Discussion in subgroups: exchange of experiences with similar initiatives in different countries, the multi-level approach....
4. Feedback.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

14URB19 - Visit to a socio-economic project: Abattoir

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: Site visit by bus 1 (Brussels canal zone), meeting point: Avenue du port 57

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert

In 2009, ambitious plans were drawn up to give a new boost to market and commercial activities on the site of the Brussels Abattoir. In May 2015, this led to the opening of the FOODMET, a modern food hall. On the roof of this hall, an urban farm will be installed. There will be a guided tour of this farm, as well as an in-depth presentation of the ERDF project, which will also focus on social integration in the neighbourhood. Future developments, which will benefit from new ERDF funds, will also be discussed and debated.

Bus transportation will be provided.

Meeting point: Avenue du port 57, 1000 Brussels

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

14:30 - 17:00

14URB20 - Sustainability visit

Organisers: Brussels Capital Region

Venue: Site visit by bus 2 (Brussels canal zone), meeting point: Avenue du port 57

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert

First, participants will be shown around an exemplary building, one of the model buildings in Brussels that has been constructed according to the passive house concept. Participants will then visit and receive information on RecyK. This project, which is coordinated by the regional agency for cleanliness, will provide facilities to collect and reuse certain types of waste such as computers and household appliances. Once the centre is operational, it will create between 45 and 77 jobs and provide training opportunities for job-seekers in Brussels.

Bus transportation will be provided.

Meeting point for bus departure: Avenue du port 57, 1000 Brussels

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

Morning Sessions

09:00 - 10:45

15B01 - Strengthen efficient innovation through lasting collaboration between SMEs and larger enterprises

Organisers: Region Drechtsteden

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Van Erp Jos (Chair), Mr. Korteland Richard, Dr. Schut Joost, Mr. Van der Wal Sander, Mr. Vergouw Arjan

The importance of cluster policy and the need to stimulate and establish enduring collaboration between SMEs and large enterprises in order to reinforce the supply-chain and unlock innovation and exploit it.

The workshop will be followed by a networking reception, providing an opportunity to further discuss topics addressed during the session.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15B02 - How can regional Smart Specialisation Strategies support innovation ecosystems & value chains?

Organisers: European Association of Research and Technology Organisations

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Khorsand Maria (Chair), Mr. Markkula Markku, Mr. Rainoldi Alessandro, Mr. Wolfe Colin, Mr. van Nistelrooij Lambert, Mr. van de Ven Anthony, Mr. van den Biesen Jan

This high-level debate will explore how the different actors, Regions, Industry & RTOs can work together to boost regional innovation. Alongside industry, RTOs are key stakeholders supporting regions' innovation ecosystems. As such, RTOs should, together with industry, further support the development and implementation of RIS3 strategies by the regions as well as supporting regions in identifying where and how to achieve synergies between H2020 and ESIF. The debate will aim to support dialogue between the main actors involved in this process.

A networking session will start afterwards.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15B03 - Improving business and innovation support in the regions – through cooperation with the Enterprise Europe Network

Organisers: DG GROW - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Németh István (Chair), Mrs. Cibu-Buzac Raluca, Mr. Gassmann Daniel, Mr. Golding David

The workshop will look at the regional business and innovation support that can build on the presence of Enterprise Europe Network in European regions. The Network has a new mandate of creating synergies with existing services supporting SMEs and to transfer better practices in business support to the regions. The workshop will present this mandate and first experiences with this new mandate invite participants to think of possible synergies.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

15B04 - 50 shades of Broadband: from copper to fibre

Organisers: DG CONNECT - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Krzyzanowska Anna (Chair), Mr. Dupuy Hervé, Mr. Forzati Marco, Mr. Jähler Magdalena, Mr. Munisteri Filippo

The workshop aims to raise awareness about the socio-economic enabling role of broadband and present support instruments and concrete actions to facilitate the work of the regions and/or project promoters in submitting mature proposals on high-speed connectivity.

The workshop will start by presenting the Broadband Europe website and the High-Speed Broadband investment guide

(<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/high-speed-broadband>, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/broadband2011/broadband2011_en.pdf). It will then proceed into looking at CEF and EFSI and other EC programmes for shaping projects. This will be followed by Best Practice projects from ESIF programmes and other related initiatives ("one-stop-shops").

The final part will be devoted to the importance of high-speed broadband and ubiquitous connectivity for socio-economic development.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15B05 - Innovation & SMEs: Perspectives of the Atlantic 2020 INTERREG Programme and the EU Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic

Organisers: Atlantic Area Programme Managing Authority, DG REGIO - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Rodriguez Sáez Vicente (Chair), Mr. Clement Daniel , Mr. Ronco Juan , Mr. Sheridan Neil , Ms. Suarez Ana

Innovation and SMEs are at the centre of both the Atlantic Area 2020 Interreg Programme and the Atlantic Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy, aiming to contribute to the EU Innovation economic model. The workshop will look at how the two instruments combine and provide practical information to regional potential beneficiaries. In addition, Regional innovation actors will showcase their best practices of cooperation in the Atlantic, for an effective involvement of regional stakeholders and SMEs.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

15B06 - The Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion for Jobs and Growth

Organisers: Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion
Venue: Emilia-Romagna Region Representation

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Mairate Andrea (Chair), Mr. Arnaoutakis Stavros , Mr. Bogdanovic Aleksandar , Mr. Bonaccini Stefano , Mr. Bricelj Mitja , Mr. Ceriscioli Luca , Mr. D'Alfonso Luciano , Mrs. Di Fatta Lucia , Mr. Dobroslavic Nikola , Mrs. Guffrida Michela , Mr. Jakovcic Ivan , Mr. Konakovic Elmedin , Mrs. Lindemans-Maes Agnes , Mrs. Lugovic Aleksandra , Mrs. Mogherini Federica , Mr. Oliverio Gerardo Mario , Mr. Polignano Claudio , Mr. Sannino Stefano , Mrs. Serracchiani Deborah , Mr. Stanojevic Mico

The macroregion will hold a debate, comprising 2 panels, one political and one technical, on how to boost jobs and growth in the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, in the context of the four EUSAIR pillars. The debate will bring together political representatives, experts in regional policy and the EU institutions.

The conference aims to discuss the implementation of the EUSAIR and how to make the region more attractive to investors. Special focus will be placed on the role of investment in human capital and the importance of mobility within the area at different levels. The debate will also cover the potential that the strategy offers as an instrument to foster the further European integration of the Western Balkans, and to reinforce Mediterranean cooperation.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

15C01 - Social innovation in rural communities

Organisers: Local Urban Development European Network
Venue: Portuguese Permanent Representation to the European Union

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Saad Haroon (Chair), Mr. Oldejans Rolf , Ms. Petrescu Doina

The European urban landscape faces a range of environmental, social, and economic challenges and the need to create a strategy of urban resilience is becoming increasingly urgent.

This workshop will focus on social innovation in rural and urban communities, which face considerable challenges in the post-crash economy. These challenges are social, economic and environmental in nature. How can local economy stakeholders sustain and create jobs? What can "smart" solutions offer? How can progressive practices be initiated and ecological lifestyles sustained while acting locally?

This workshop will present the background and 2 case studies to illustrate social innovations carried out in Europe

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15C02 - Partnership – the key to successful urban development

Organisers: European Economic and Social Committee
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. van Iersel Joost (Chair), Ms. Patti Daniela , Mr. Rice Les , Ms. Urboniene Vylune , Mr. Valusis Gintaras

This workshop will look at the cases of Glasgow and Vilnius. Although the two cities have a very different socio-economic background, their major projects clearly demonstrate their commitment to an innovative and sustainable urban development based on broad partnership. The objective of the workshop is to examine the potential opportunities and challenges faced by the cities and how these are determined by their location. It also aims to identify the various stakeholders and their roles, as well as how dialogue between them works and how it could be fostered in order to contribute to better urban development.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15C03 - The Potential of Small and Medium-sized Cities in Cross-Border Polycentric Regions

Organisers: Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg (LU presidency)
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Vidal Marie-Josée (Chair), Mr. Bollmann Sören , Dr. Decoville Antoine , Ms. Schelkmann Petra , Mr. Suopanki Petri

As part of the IT-LV-LU Trio Presidency Programme, the aim of the workshop is to pave the way for a political debate on how small and medium-sized cities in a cross-border situation can cooperate to reach the critical mass of a metropolitan region in a polycentric pattern. Showcasing regions with potential for cross-border development should help to identify success factors and good practices in terms of multilevel governance, funding, and common development strategies. The debate should show the added value of cooperating on developing an integrated cross-border polycentric region.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15C04 - Copernicus and the Urban Atlas: Measuring cities and their qualities

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Dijkstra Lewis (Chair), Mrs. Bamps Catharina , Mr. Chrysoulakis Nektarios , Mr. Lavale Carlo

To improve the quality of our cities, local, regional and European policy makers need more information. This workshop will show how satellite imagery provided by Copernicus and its local component, the Urban Atlas, can be turned into easy to understand urban indicators that can guide policy. This workshop will highlight Copernicus' potential in providing handy tools to support spatial planning at local, regional and European scale. Real-world applications from cities will show how the Urban Atlas is used to detect land use changes, urban sprawl and access to urban green space in a pan-European comparable way.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15C06 - Innovative strategies for historical challenges: rural and urban integration policies, from theory to practice.

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, DG AGRI, H.5.

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Olbrycht Jan (Chair), Mr. Bakoyiannis Konstantinos , Ms. Haapakka Merja , Mrs. Jetten Annemiek , Mrs. MacRury Sandra , Mr. Pan Giuseppe , Mr. Veneri Paolo

The Commission sees reinforcing urban-rural linkages as an important element to provide job opportunities and services to European citizens and strengthen territorial cohesion. The purpose of the debate will be to inspire regional authorities and stakeholders to reflect on the urban-rural potential in their area and to develop concrete project ideas that can be supported by the ESI funds. Institutional players involved in promoting urban-rural linkages i.e. Commission, European Parliament and OECD will discuss with European regions how this has been done in practice, e.g. by diversifying rural income, promoting local products and short supply chains or land management.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15C06 - listening room - Innovative strategies for historical challenges: rural and urban integration policies, from theory to practice.

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, DG AGRI, H.5.

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Olbrycht Jan (Chair), Mr. Bakoyiannis Konstantinos , Ms. Haapakka Merja , Mrs. Jetten Annemiek , Mrs. MacRury Sandra , Mr. Pan Giuseppe , Mr. Veneri Paolo

LISTENING ROOM

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Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

15UNIV01 - Multilevel Governance systems and their role in policies for balanced urban development

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC, CoR, Association of European Schools of Planning

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 1

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Geppert Anna (Chair), Mrs. Dühr Stefanie , Mr. Fernandez Güell Jose Miguel , Mr. Finka Maros , Mrs. Zimmermann Karsten

The workshop will elaborate issues arising from new governance systems based on the greater empowerment of citizens through participation and partnerships. It will build on the Charter for Multilevel Governance (MLG) in Europe of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and investigate the consequences of developing MLG systems for different European territories. The first part of the workshop will set up the scene by discussing the MLG issue from different perspectives (political, territorial, European, policy tools) while the second will focus on selected cases drawing some conclusions from practice. Special guest of the workshop will be CoR member, Luc van den Brande.

More at:

http://www.aesop-planning.eu/activities/en_GB/2015/06/04/readabout/aesop-workshop-on-mlg-systems-at-the-open-days-university

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

15UNIV02 - Smart development for rural areas?

Organisers: European Regional Science Association (ERSA)
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Alcide de Gasperi

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Garcilazo Jose Enrique (Chair), Mr. Steiner Michael , Mr. Torre André , Mr. Westlund Hans

This workshop raises questions about the future of European rural areas, in the light of the new H2020 policy. The EU growth strategy for 2020 builds on the ambition to become "a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy". Does this new orientation of smart specialization apply to rural areas, which currently make up the majority of the EU's land surface and involve millions of people? Or is it reserved for the cities and their suburbs which are the world's most urbanized area, with an expected growth of the urban population?

Target audience:

- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

15B07 - How JASPERS can support Regions and Cities

Organisers: European Investment Bank, CoR - E1
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Kazamaki-Ottersten Eugenia (Chair), Mr. Frankowski Mariusz , Mr. Kozierkiewicz Adam , Mr. Marra Massimo , Mr. Prisecaru Tudor , Mr. Schaller Michael , Mr. Smyth Brendan , Mr. Zagar Ivan

JASPERS combines the essential activities of knowledge-sharing and capacity with those of advisory operations by using a Networking and Competence Centre Division that has two components. Firstly, a Networking Platform aimed at implementing capacity-building activities, disseminating knowledge and exchanging good practices among JASPERS Stakeholders, and secondly a Competence Centre to provide cross-sector specialist advice. The aim of the workshop is to show what JASPERS technical assistance can do for regions in the context of their regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

This workshop will be followed by a networking session.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

11:15 - 13:00

15B08 - European Entrepreneurial Regions (EER) promoting inclusive entrepreneurship

Organisers: CoR
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Petersen Karsten Uno (Chair), Mr. Coheur Alain , Mr. Kumcu Adem , Ms. Kurrer Rosanna , Ms. McNamee Ethna , Ms. Ortola Maria Jose , Ms. Silva Cristina

To boost the creation of growth and jobs, Europe needs more entrepreneurs. In line with the third pillar of the European Commission's Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan and the expected priorities of the Small Business Act 2.0, several EER regions are developing and implementing actions that reach out to specific groups whose entrepreneurial potential is not yet fully harnessed. These groups include women, immigrants and the unemployed. The workshop will showcase some of the EER regions' most successful good practices and explore how EU regions and cities can move ahead on promoting inclusive entrepreneurship.

A networking reception will take place after the workshop.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

15B09 - INTERREG EUROPE: what are the benefits of the Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes?

Organisers: INTERREG EUROPE
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Siweris Erwin (Chair), Mr. First Grzegorz , Mr. Singer Nicolas , Mr. Terzoni Mauro

Find out about the opportunities offered by Interreg Europe to Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies of the Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes. The interregional cooperation programme Interreg Europe primarily aims to improve the performance of the programmes through the exchange and transfer of policy experiences among European regions. The programme will co-finance over 200 projects implemented by partners from the EU, Norway and Switzerland. It will also launch policy-learning platforms that would be open to any stakeholder involved in implementing Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) programmes.

The workshop will be followed by a networking session with the speakers of the workshop.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

11:15 - 13:00

15B10 - Creating a market place for smart cities and communities in Europe: achievements and lessons learnt through the EIP Smart Cities

Organisers: DG MOVE - EC
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A + Room 1B (listening room)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Fitch Keir (Chair), Mr. Gargani Francesco , Mr. Hertzch Eckart , Mrs. Maloney Colette , Mr. Olszewski Michal , Mr. Schroeder Koen , Ms. Stjernfeldt Jammeh Katrin , Mr. Strachinescu Olteanu Andrea

The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities is Europe's key initiative to foster the uptake of innovative solutions and support market building. It connects up to 4000 partners from cities, companies, research organizations and other organizations. This session will provide an overview of the current achievements of the partnership. Speakers will discuss commitments to scaling up actions, and the relevance of the EIP to fostering collaborative projects in key urban areas such as energy, transport, lightning, ICT. It will also provide the opportunity to learn about business models, financing and integrated planning of city-needs driven projects.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

15B10 - listening room - Creating a market place for smart cities and communities in Europe: achievements and lessons learnt through the EIP Smart Cities

Organisers: DG MOVE - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Fitch Keir (Chair), Mr. Gargani Francesco , Mr. Hertzch Eckart , Mr. Olszewski Michal , Mr. Schroeder Koen , Ms. Stjernfeldt Jammeh Katrin

Listening room - The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities is Europe's key initiative to foster the uptake of innovative solutions and support market building. It connects up to 4000 partners from cities, companies, research organizations and other organizations. This session will provide an overview of the current achievements of the partnership. Speakers will discuss commitments to scaling up actions, and the relevance of the EIP to fostering collaborative projects in key urban areas such as energy, transport, lightning, ICT. It will also provide the opportunity to learn about business models, financing and integrated planning of city-needs driven projects.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

15C05 - Trends and perspectives for the European territory and practical use of the ESPON Tool Box for cities and regions

Organisers: DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Monfort Philippe (Chair), Mr. Mehlbye Peter , Mr. Schmidt-Seiwert Volker

The workshop will present the ESPON Atlas "Mapping European Territorial Structures and Dynamics" which shows a synoptic and comprehensive overview of key findings on new facts, evidence and knowledge about European territorial structures, trends and perspectives and policy impacts. Key note speakers will demonstrate the usefulness of the Atlas for policy makers at all administrative levels to understand and define the most efficient investments for regions, cities and/or larger territories and to pursue tailor-made, place-based policies. The workshop will also feature the latest Tools developed by ESPON, such as ETMS, BSR-TeMo, CityBench, Functional Indicators, Territorial Impact Assessment.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

15UNIV03 - The added value of an integrated versus sectoral approach to territorial development

Organisers: Regional Studies Association, DG REGIO - EC

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Dabinett Gordon (Chair), Dr. Dawson Richard , Mr. Evers David , Prof. Faludi Andreas , Dr. Van Herwijnen Marjan , Mrs. Vignetti Silvia

Territorial cohesion promotes the value of place-based strategies to enhance the implementation of policies whilst acknowledging the differences between regions. An 'integrated' approach can potentially increase the efficiency and effectiveness of outcomes in specific territories and also secure greater engagement of partners. However such approaches also have to address the challenges of operational complexity, the limits of governance arrangements, and the limited potential to bend sector policy where only sub-optimal outcomes might be achieved. This theme provides insights into the context of place-based strategies and the practices that have been developed to deliver the potential added-value of this approach.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

15UNIV04 - Energy issues in regional and urban development

Organisers: European Regional Science Association (ERSA), Association of European Schools of Planning

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Alcide de Gasperi

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Françoise Yann (Chair), Dr. Deboer Cheryl , Prof. Diab Youssef , Prof. Greiving Stephan

This workshop addresses the challenges and opportunities faced by cities and regions with regard to energy and climate change issues. Energy efficiency objectives and risk mitigation strategies affect many aspects of everyday life and economic activity (planning, transport, agriculture, housing, production, etc.). This workshop aims to promote understanding of how energy issues challenge existing regional, urban and development models. It also questions the way these issues may help to reduce costs and promote more geographically-balanced development.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers