



# 10<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels 8 - 11 October 2012

## Workshop - reporting

**Code of the Workshop:** 09B02

**Title of the Workshop:** How can the regional level learn from each other on innovation?

**Date and time:** 9th October 2012/ 09:00-10:45

**Organiser/leader:** PERIA (Partnership of European Regional Innovation Agencies) and the regions of Andalucia (Spain), Basse-Normandie (France), Mazovia (Poland) and Murcia (Spain)

**Chair/moderator:** Thomas Wobben - Director for Horizontal Networks and Studies at European Union, Committee of the Regions, Germany.

**Speakers:**

1. Bernard Strée, International affairs manager of CARINNA – Champagne-Ardenne Research and INNOVATION Agency, France.
2. Norbert Grasselli, Director of INNOVA Észak-Alföld Regional Innovation Agency, Hungary.
3. Ivan Boesso, European Policies Department, Veneto Innovazione spa (Veneto Regional Innovation Agency), Italy.
4. Maëlle Pichard, European project manager, Higher education, Research and Innovation Department of the Champagne-Ardenne regional council, France.
5. Stefania Amorosi, Finance Officer, INTERREG IVC Joint Technical Secretariat, France.

**Outline:**

The overall objectives of the PERIA project, co-financed by European Regional Development Fund in the framework of the INTERREG IVC programme, are to contribute to the collaborations of local and regional actors in order to strengthen the effectiveness of regional innovation policies, to enhance the level spent for Research & Development and Innovation, and to contribute to the transformation of knowledge into new and marketable products and services. PERIA is a co-operation project between Regional Authorities and Regional Innovation Agencies. In light of current economic challenges and the emphasis on the effectiveness of public innovation support mechanisms within the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy, exchanges supported by this project are even more important in these times of financial uncertainty.

For the PERIA final conference, the 1st workshop has focused on testimonials of territorial cooperation in the field of regional innovation, which were carried out by partners of PERIA. Concrete results have been presented that were conducted between the partnering regions.

**Panel discussion**

Welcome: **Mr Adam Struzik**, Marshal of the Mazovia Region, Poland. He emphasized on the importance of regional cooperation at European level to strengthen economic development and innovation within the regions.

**Mr Vincent Steinmetz**, Director of CARINNA (Champagne-Ardenne Research and Innovation Agency) introduced the fact that PERIA supports the implementation of new practices for regional innovation tools and services and it also supports improvement of existing ones at political and operational level. For the future, new projects are being develop based on identified practices and links between Regional authorities, Regional innovation agencies towards smart specialisation...has already started!

**Mr Bernard Strée** explained the PERIA activities, methodologies and main results drew attention to the fact that having both Regional authorities and Regional Innovation Agencies facilitates the work within the Regional innovation ecosystem.

**Mr Norbert Grasselli** presented the good practices exchange between Észak-Alföld and Saxony-Anhalt regions. This pair focuses on “Cluster management services” and “Funding of companies’ participation at foreign trade fairs”. PERIA benefited to both partners and also to the whole consortium by providing documents detailing the practices, the process, the methodology used and main findings of the exchange.

**Mr Ivan Boesso** echoed this message. Thanks to the exchange with Aquitaine Development Innovation, about “Methodology programme to support companies interested in developing new products by using design” and “Example of Innovation Voucher in Aquitaine”, Veneto is assessing the possibility to support the implementation of its innovation voucher scheme. Relating to Veneto’s practice “International cooperation visits” the Aquitaine Development Innovation’s interest lies in the actual effort to broaden the scopes of its international activities.

**Mrs Maëlle Pichard** drew attention to the bilateral exchange between the Champagne-Ardenne and Valencia regions. She explained the methodology used between the two regions to exchange about EXPANDE programme, the Young innovative enterprise contract and the regional incubator in Champagne-Ardenne.

**Mrs Stefania Amorosi** highlighted that the INTERREG IV C programme allow local and regional authorities to access the experience of various exchange between actors throughout Europe, facing similar issues or challenges to improve their practices and policies. She also explained that INTERREG IV C contributes to smart specialisation through international comparison and peer review and projects.

**Conclusions:** “The chairman concluded with the observation that the financial crisis might impact on the feasibility of transfer of practices. Regional stakeholders should pay attention to the effect of reducing funding for collaboration”.

**More information, links:** [www.peria.eu](http://www.peria.eu)

*“The PERIA project has helped to strengthen institutional relations and their collaboration on innovation support”* Bernard Strée, International affairs manager of CARINNA.