



10th European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels 8 - 11 October 2012

Code of the Workshop: 09B02

Title of the Workshop: How can the regional context contribute to smart specialisation?

Date and time:

09 October 2012

11:15- 13:00

Organiser/leader: Partnership of European Regional Innovation Agencies

Chair/moderator: Mr. Christian Saublens, Director, EURADA, Belgium

Speakers:

- Mrs. Luisa Sanches, Policy Analyst, Unit D2 - Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission, Belgium
- Mr. Juan Hernández Director General of INFO, Murcia Regional Development Agency, Spain
- Mr. Antonio Valverde, Director General of IDEA, Development and Innovation Agency of Andalusia, Spain
- Mrs. Marianna Myron, Chief Manager of Investor and Exporter Service Centre, Mazovia Development Agency, Poland
- Mr. Laurent Lecoœur, European Projects Officer of MIRIADE, Agency for Innovation and Business Development in Basse-Normandie, France

Outline: The smart specialization strategies are an initiative of the European Commission to foster regional development. These strategies are place based economic transformation agendas done accordingly with the unique characteristics and assets of each region. They are done highlighting each region's competitive advantages; it is needed to make choices to concentrate the public and private investment in certain activities on research, innovation and entrepreneurship that will provide better economic grow accordingly with the unique characteristics and assets of each region. This will lead comprehensive European innovation strategy to fully exploit Europe's potential. Every region is preparing its smart specialization strategy because it is going to be implemented throughout the next programming period 2014 -2020 of the structural funds. This workshop provides practical hints and four specific examples about how to carry out the smart specialization strategy.

Debate/Panel discussion:

Mrs. Luisa Sanches: Provided the context for the discussion, giving information of what is expected by the European Commission with the smart specialisation strategies. She emphasizes that it is needed to change our traditional development policies to more innovative ones, concentrated in cross-

sectorial activities, with enough critical mass to be competitive. The strategy is an ex-ante condition for structural funds but it should also cover regional and national funds to have an overall strategy.

Mr. Juan Hernandez: described the main trends in the economy of the region of Murcia with 30% in the last 15 years, the importance of the agrofood industry, water technologies and biotechnology, and the orientation to international markets with 28%.of GDP exported during this year 2012. There is actually an overall process of sectorial competitiveness identification to make a more efficient assignation of resources.

Mr. Antonio Valverde: pointed out the enormous development of Andalucia in the last 25 years with a 25% of increase of per capita GDP. The current economic crisis revealed that the economic model of regional development was exhausted because it was too specialized. Today there is a new model which implies diversification (agrofood, aeronautics, biotechnology, renewable energies, etc.). The governing scheme follows the quadruple helix and fostering the entrepreneurial discovery process with financial instruments.

Mrs. Marianna Myron described his region as good example of development with 1'07% of R&D investment and 13.700 € per capita of GDP production. But there are strong differences within the region. The leader of the new strategy is the Strategic Planification Department together with Mazovia Regional Development Agency, making both private and public consultations. Policy mix is fostered trying to create a good environment for companies, but there is not a strong cluster development yet and the actions are carried out by Mazovia exporters. The evaluation of the strategy will be bases on the strategy implementation progress assessment. Preferred industries are ICT and Biotechnology.

Mr. Laurent Lecoeur: Lower Normandy is a well-known French region of 1.5 million of inhabitants. In June 2011 it was launched the Regional Strategy for Innovation with 4 challenges: invest in future, health, numeric, materials, environment, placement of companies in the centre of the innovation system, non-technological innovation and follow project logic. The regional strategy is part of the strategy of economic development (also launched in December 2011) and is complemented by the Regional Scheme for higher education and research.

More information, links:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/smart_specialisation_en.pdf

One representative quote from your workshop with author: “We want to maximize the impact of the public policies and we will do that by concentrating resources”. Luisa Sanchez, European Commission.