



Week of Innovative Regions in Europe

The partners of the iRegions project

- ▶ **CyberForum, Karlsruhe, Germany**
- ▶ **Electrum Foundation/Kista Science City, Kista, Sweden**
- ▶ **Baltic Innovation Agency, Tartu, Estonia**

participated in the WIRE conference in Granada, Spain, March 15-17, 2010 and held a joint project workshop.

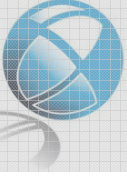
The WIRE conference centered on how to move from "synergies of policies" to "synergies of action". Enabling regions to build Europe as a knowledge-based society requires the optimal use of all EU instruments.

One central theme discussed by many was how to support going from research and development results to innovations on the marketplace. Among others, Luc Soete, director of the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Center on Innovation and Technology in Belgium, emphasized the importance of supporting the quality of research, openness, and having the right policies and instruments in place to encourage new dynamics and growth. Mario Pezzini, Head of Territorial Reviews and Governance Division, OECD, made the case that innovation has to be a multisectoral demand-driven collaboration.

This entails that technology transfer, and in particular this function within clusters, will continue to be important in the future. The need for triple-helix based participation was also highlighted.

Another prominent idea of the conference was the idea of "smart specialisation" as a way to focus the activities of a region and its clusters.





In order to be able to select what smart specialisation areas to focus on, there is a need for foresight and benchmarking. The road can then be mapped to each region's strength.

The conference also covered academia-industry relationships as well as governance issues and coherence. About 300 delegates were present.



The iRegions project's main objective is to provide a strategy aiming at maximising the benefits of research infrastructures for regional economic development in the ICT-based clusters in Karlsruhe, Kista and Tartu.

Three models will be evaluated, namely Living Labs, Leading Edge Projects, and Ecosystems for Growth.

More information is available at www.iregions.de



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