iRegions Partners Strengthened

The iRegions partners:
▶ **CyberForum, Karlsruhe, Germany**
▶ **Kista Science City, Kista, Sweden**
▶ **Baltic Innovation Agency, Tartu, Estonia**
are proud to announce that recent events will positively boost the outcome of the iRegions project.

When Annette Schavan, the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, announced in January the winners of the "Spitzencluster" competition, **Karlsruhe**, the coordinator of the project learned that its bid for Europe's largest software cluster "Softwareinnovationen für das digitale Unternehmen" had been successful, meaning more than 80 million € for research. CyberForum will manage the cluster, which includes centers in Darmstadt, Kaiserslautern, Karlsruhe, Saarbrücken and Walldorf.

Digital companies work in extremely flexible Internet-based corporate networks and dynamically align their business models and processes with these. All data concerning processes, facilities and resources of the real company are available at all times and in all areas for planning, control and optimization activities. The objective of the software cluster is to enable normal companies to be transformed into completely digital companies, in which ICT forms the decisive driver for product and process innovations.

In **Kista**, it was recently announced that that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has appointed Kista as one of the first two Knowledge and Innovation Communities, KIC. The Royal Institute of Technology's School of Information and Communication Technology, KTH ICT, will be leading the effort, with Gunnar Landgren as the coordinator. Mobile communication and mobile services are two focus areas that also match strategic priorities of KTH ICT.

Kista is joined by four other leading ICT-clusters, Berlin, Helsinki, Paris and Eindhoven to build the network EIT IC Labs and make Europe the global leader in ICT-based innovation. In addition to KTH, Kista partners include the Swedish Institute of Computer Science, SICS, Ericsson and TeliaSonera, who all have extensive experience in leading innovation. One of the key challenges for the EIT IC Lab is to ensure that research results reach the market in the form of new business ideas, new enterprises, and economic growth.

" The Spitzencluster award is a historic milestone for our whole region. By bringing together the relevant actors in Karlsruhe, Walldorf, Darmstadt, Kaiserslautern and Saarbrücken, Europe's largest software cluster has emerged. The IT-Region Karlsruhe, thanks to its outstanding infrastructure and quality of life, will be able to attract new businesses and develop attractive jobs.

Martin Hubschneider, Board Member CyberForum e.V. and Chairman of CAS Software AG

More info at www.software-cluster.com.

It feels fantastic. This provides KTH with amazing development opportunities together with the leading universities, institutes and industries in Europe. It is tremendous that we have succeeded in bringing a major application to fruition. "

Gunnar Landgren, vice President of KTH, co-ordinator of Stockholm's EIT ICT Labs application

More info at www.eitictlabs.eu.

The iRegions project's main objective is to provide a strategy aiming at maximizing 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