

The European Union's IPA Programme for the Republic of Serbia

# Integrated Innovation Support Programme, Republic of Serbia

**Project Identification No.**

Contract N<sup>o</sup>: 10/SER/01/12/11

CRIS N<sup>o</sup>: 2011/272-530

*Component 1 Activity 1.1.*

*Sub Activity 1.1.1*

*Section to the “Best Practice Resources Brief”*

*“Institutions, organisations and initiatives providing innovation information channels for Policy Making”*



This project is funded by the European Union



A project implemented by a consortium led by GFA Consulting Group GmbH

02 July 2012

## **Table of Contents**

INTRODUCTION	3
THE INNOVATION UNION	4
SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM	6
WBC INCO - Co-ordination of Research Policies with the Western Balkan Countries	8
PRO INNO EUROPE	10
EUROPE INNOVA	12
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA	15
EUROSTAT	17
ERRIN - THE EUROPEAN REGIONS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION NETWORK	19
EURADA, THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES	21
EUROCHAMBRES ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY	22
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (INSME)	23
THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)	25
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)	27
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CRAFT, SMALL & MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (UEAPME)	28
NORMAPME	30
EUROPEAN URBAN KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (EUKN)	31
PATLIB	33
EUROPEAN BUSINESS & INNOVATION CENTRE NETWORK (EBN)	34
EUREKA	36
CORDIS	38
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) EUROPE	40
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS (NESTA)	42
TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD	44
THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM	46
PROTON	49
TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION INTERNATIONAL (TII)	51
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (EIT)	53

List of Abbreviations

<b>BISO</b>	Business and Innovation Support Organisations
<b>CCI</b>	Cross-Cutting Issue
<b>CEE</b>	Central and Eastern European
<b>CIP</b>	Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
<b>COST</b>	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
<b>DFI</b>	Development Finance Institution
<b>EBAN</b>	European Business Angel Network
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>EEN</b>	Enterprise Europe Network
<b>EIF</b>	European Investment Fund
<b>ERA</b>	European Research Area
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FP7</b>	Seventh Framework Programme
<b>ICIP</b>	Improved SME Competitiveness and Innovation Project
<b>IFI</b>	International Finance Institution
<b>IISP</b>	Integrated Innovation Support Programme
<b>IPA</b>	Instrument for Pre-Accession
<b>KE</b>	Key Expert
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator
<b>LAP</b>	Local Access Point
<b>MoERD</b>	Ministry of Economy and Regional Development
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Education and Science
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MSTD</b>	Ministry of Science and Technological Development
<b>NARD</b>	National Agency for Regional Development
<b>PMG</b>	Project Management Group
<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development
<b>RDA</b>	Regional Development Agency
<b>SBA</b>	Small Business Act
<b>SBAN</b>	Serbian Business Angels Network
<b>SCC</b>	Serbian Chamber of Commerce
<b>SECEP</b>	Support to Enterprise Competitiveness and Export Promotion
<b>SIEPA</b>	Serbian Investment and Export Promotion Agency
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>STE</b>	Short term expert
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UPKS</b>	Association of Management Consultants of Serbia
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development

## INTRODUCTION

One of the goals of EU funded Integrated Innovation Support Programme is to help policy makers to access regular updated information on national and international best practice in supporting innovation and technology transfer. The **key issue** to be addressed regarding this activity, is that there is a large and increasing amount on innovation information available through EU, national innovation bodies, and Serbian organisations. The challenge for policy makers is to be able to quickly and efficiently assess the relevance and importance of different information sources in the design of new policy measures and initiatives. The risk is that unless information flows are efficiently managed, there will be significant information overload, resulting in sub-optimal policy design.

Addressing the challenge has two main elements:

- Ensuring that appropriate and relevant innovation information is delivered to policy makers; and
- Linking access to the information with capacity building to ensure that policy makers are able to use it in practical policy design.

The European Commission provides support for innovation through a series of initiatives and actions aimed at providing financial support to innovators, as well as better innovation support services for SMEs, by developing and testing new forms of business support and facilitating transnational cooperation with a view to mobilising more resources for the creation of a European Innovation Space.

The main goal of these initiatives is to achieve the objectives of Europe 2020, so that Europe becomes a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy and delivers high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

In addition to the main channels of information providing mainstream EU Innovation policy and actions there also exists a range of specialist organisation mainly European based that provide specialist advice and networking to particular areas relevant to policy makers.

These Networking organisations are both commercially and publically funded. Below are a range of these types of European organisations that may provide information relevant to policy development in Serbia.

This document represents the first brief overview of the institutions, organisations and initiatives providing innovation information channels for Policy Making. It is prepared by IISP Innovation Support Service Experts, Peter Parsons and Ivan Brkic, with the aim of researching the innovation information needs and availability at different levels of policy making in Serbia. Based on the feedback response from the policy makers, the IISP Innovation Support Service Experts will develop the “Best Practice Resource Brief” to their specific needs.

## THE INNOVATION UNION<sup>1</sup>



The Innovation Union is one of the seven flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy.

The Innovation Union main aim is to do three things:

- Make Europe into a world-class science performer;
- Remove obstacles to innovation – like expensive patenting, market fragmentation, slow standard-setting and skills shortages – which currently prevent ideas getting quickly to market; and
- Revolutionise the way public and private sectors work together, notably through Innovation Partnerships between the European institutions, national and regional authorities and business.

The Innovation Union contains over thirty action points including ground-breaking proposals like the European Innovation Partnerships. For example, the pilot Partnership on active and healthy ageing aims to add an average of two years of healthy life for everyone in Europe. Action points are grouped in following chapters:

1. Promoting excellence in education and skills development
2. Delivering the European Research Area
3. Focusing EU funding instruments on Innovation Union priorities
4. Promoting the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) as a model of innovation governance in Europe
5. Enhancing access to finance for innovative companies
6. Creating a single innovation market
7. Promoting openness and capitalising on Europe's creative potential
8. Spreading the benefits of innovation across the Union
9. Increasing social benefits
10. Pooling forces to achieve breakthroughs: European Innovation Partnerships
11. Leveraging our policies externally
12. Reforming research and innovation systems
13. Measuring Progress

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm)

The Innovation Union also introduces the strategic use of public procurement budgets to finance innovation, a comprehensive Innovation Scoreboard based on 25 indicators and a European knowledge market for patents and licensing.

It includes measures to reinforce successful existing initiatives like the Risk Sharing Finance Facility, which has so far levered 15 times the combined Commission and European Investment Bank contribution of over a billion euro.

In order to measure progress in implementing EU 2020 Strategy, Innovation Union developed methodology to produce different types of reports like:

- State of the Innovation Union 2011
- Innovation Union Scoreboard
- Innovation Union Competitiveness report 2011

## SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM<sup>2</sup>

# SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM



Smart Specialisation is a strategic approach to economic development through targeted support to Research and Innovation (R&I). It will be the basis for Structural Fund investments in R&I as part of the future Cohesion Policy's contribution to the Europe 2020 jobs and growth agenda.

More generally, smart specialisation involves a process of developing a vision, identifying competitive advantage, setting strategic priorities and making use of smart policies to maximise the knowledge-based development potential of any region, strong or weak, high-tech or low-tech.

Smart Specialisation Platform was established by the European Commission to provide professional advice to EU Member States and regions for the design of their innovation strategies for smart specialisation. Their services include:

- Providing guidance material and good practice examples
- Organising information sessions for policy makers and participating in conferences
- Providing training to policy-makers
- Facilitating peer-reviews
- Supporting access to relevant data
- Participating in high quality research projects to inform strategy formation and policy making

Registration on the Platform is open to all EU regions and Member States.

The S<sup>3</sup> Platform (S<sup>3</sup>P) assists Member States and regions to develop, implement and review Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS<sup>3</sup>). Established in 2011 following the Communication 'Regional Policy contributing to smart growth in Europe 2020', the role of the S<sup>3</sup> Platform is to provide information, methodologies, expertise and advice to national and regional policy makers, as well as contribute to academic debates around the concept of smart specialisation.

The S<sup>3</sup>P is hosted by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) in Seville, part of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. It is made up of three main parts:

- A project management and research team at the IPTS.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home>

- A Steering Team gathering representatives of several Commission Services

- A Mirror Group composed of leading academics and experts in the fields of innovation and regional development, as well as representatives of networks such as EURADA, ERRIN, EBN, OECD, European Cluster Observatory, European Cluster Alliance, and ERISA

Main activities are:

1) The RIS<sup>3</sup> Guide

This is a methodological guidance document for policy-makers and implementing bodies on how to conceive draft and implement a regional smart specialisation strategy. It will be regularly updated following discussions among regions and contributing policy experts.

2) Peer review

Based on existing practice, the S<sup>3</sup>Platform has developed its own tailored methods for reviewing RIS3 and organises regular workshops for registered regions and countries. These workshops aim at mutual learning and exchange of good practice. In addition, the Platform can provide guidance on how to undertake reviews in individual Member States, by advising on methods, acting as moderators and reporters, and proposing experts to provide additional input.

3) Academic research and analysis

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the scientific and technical arm of the European Commission, which produces multi-disciplinary research to inform EU policy challenges. Smart specialisation is an example of how theory and practice can inform each other and how the EU can draw on the wide range of academic expertise in the various institutes of the JRC.

4) Organise events

The Platform organises two main types of events: Outreach seminars in different European locations explain and promote the concept of smart specialisation to all interested regions and institutions; Workshops for registered regions address specific aspects of concern to regional policy makers. In addition, the Platform will support Member States in organising national events on Smart Specialisation.

5) Management of the S<sup>3</sup>P website

Designed principally for regions and countries that have registered on the Platform, the website will also be of use to anyone interested in smart specialisation. It provides information on relevant projects and resources. In addition, specially designed interactive tools are currently being designed as online resources for registered regions and countries.



WBC INCO - Co-ordination of Research Policies with the Western Balkan Countries<sup>3</sup>



The initiative is supported by the European Commission under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

The issue of enlargement in the direction of the so-called Western Balkan countries is high on the political agenda of the European Union. The Western Balkan countries INCO-NET assists in developing the relationship between the EU and the WBCs in the area of science and technology (S&T). Throughout its total duration of six years (2008 to 2013), the project supports the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries in the facilitation of interaction between the Western Balkan countries, the EU Member States, states associated to the Framework Programmes for RTD and the European Commission. It is a strategic body designed to deal with European, multilateral and regional issues of science and technology policies in and with the WBCs.

The core objectives of WBC-INCO.NET are:

- to support the bi-regional dialogue on science and technology (S&T) by benefiting from and interacting with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries
- to identify RTD potentials and priorities for take-up in FP7 and other European programmes in a transparent and methodologically sound way
- to enhance participation of researchers from the region in European projects of mutual interest and benefit by implementing capacity building measures and accompanying networking activities
- to analyse innovation needs and barriers to innovation in the WBC, to exchange information and best practices on innovation policies and to prepare an Action Plan for further WBC cooperation in the field of innovation and
- to establish closer cooperation between research and innovation, to strengthen the intersectoral dialogue and to support the training of innovation stakeholders.

The objectives are being achieved in close interaction with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries. The platform members are the EU Member States, the Candidate and Potential Candidate countries, the countries associated to FP7 and the European Commission. It meets twice a year and is typically hosted by the EU Presidency or a Western Balkan country. WBC-INCO.NET supports these meetings logistically and cooperates in an efficient division of labour.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://wbc-inco.net/>

The project implements such activities as:

- setting of thematic regional S&T priorities,
- analysis of opportunities to access infrastructure, barriers to cooperation and cooperation patterns,
- analysis of the needs in innovation policy and innovation support and identification of policy measures to improve the framework conditions for innovation,
- organisation of training workshops and learning groups (for innovation stakeholders), in addition to brokerage events and awareness raising sessions,
- organisation of Innovation Dialogue Fora and establishment of a WBC Innovation Group of Experts,
- support to National Contact Points and Research Information Systems and
- publishing of regular newsletters, a journal and the web-based information portal [www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net)

Through its portal [www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net), newsletters and reports, WBC-INCO.NET engages in information exchange on S&T policy cooperation with the Western Balkan countries. WBC-INCO.NET is open to publish your event announcements on the topic, your organisation profile and your project news, as well as to disseminate relevant news and documents on funding opportunities, cooperation possibilities, scholarships, awards, etc. Access to platform is free of charge and open to everyone interested in WBC-INCO.NET activities.

## PRO INNO EUROPE<sup>4</sup>



PRO INNO Europe® is an initiative of Directorate General Enterprise and Industry which aims to become the focal point for innovation policy analysis and policy cooperation in Europe, with a view to learn from the best and contribute to the development of new and better innovation policies in Europe. The ultimate aim is to help European enterprises to innovate better and faster and to optimise and leverage complementarities between the various innovation support measures that exist throughout Europe (be it at regional, national and Community level). To achieve this, PRO INNO Europe® gives a prominent role to national and regional innovation policy and innovation support actors.

PRO INNO Europe® is composed of 5 building blocks that provide an integrated policy approach to develop new and better innovation policies. Together they provide analysis, benchmarking and development tools and activities to enhance the performance of innovation policy and support measures and to further cooperation between innovation policy makers across Europe. Each building block forms part of either the policy analysis or the policy cooperation pillars of the PRO INNO Europe® initiative:

1. Policy analysis:
  - a. Benchmarking of innovation performance (INNO-Metrics)
  - b. Analysing of major innovation trends (INNO-Policy Trendchart)
  - c. Pooling of world-wide knowledge and contacts with regard to innovation policy and business innovation and facilitating a dialogue between public authorities, industry and academia on innovation policy (INNO-GRIPS)
2. Policy cooperation:
  - a. Stimulating of transnational innovation policy cooperation (INNO-Nets)
  - b. Providing incentives for joint innovation actions (INNO-Actions)

The main objectives of the “policy analysis” pillar are to measure and benchmark innovation performance; analyse innovation policy trends at national and regional level and bring together available worldwide information on innovation issues from policy, business and academia.

The policy cooperation pillar supports cooperation between innovation policy makers, thus contributing to the creation of a European Innovation Space. It serves to develop and test new innovation policy concepts in view of raising the effectiveness and more rapid implementation and uptake of innovation policy support throughout Europe.

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/>

All together, PRO INNO Europe® provides a platform for exchange of information, views, mutual learning and practical cooperation between innovation policy and innovation support actors with an interest in, and willingness to contribute to the improvement of the design, implementation and delivery of innovation policies and support measures at Member State and European level.

## EUROPE INNOVA<sup>5</sup>



Europe INNOVA is an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry, which aspires to become the laboratory for the development and testing of new tools and instruments in support of innovation with the aim of helping innovative enterprises to innovate faster and better. It brings together public and private innovation support providers such as innovation agencies, technology transfer offices, business incubators, financing intermediaries, cluster organisations and others.

Launched in 2006, Europe INNOVA has identified and analysed drivers and barriers to innovation in order to design sound, targeted, supportive policy measures. Its sector-based approach has reinforced cooperation between business clusters and between finance and standardisation practitioners by establishing learning platforms for the exchange of experiences, good practice and knowledge.

In 2009, a new set of Europe INNOVA actions was launched in the three high priority policy areas of transnational cluster cooperation, knowledge-intensive services and eco-innovation. These actions will develop and test new innovation support services for SMEs, most notably start-ups, and will be delivered by European Innovation Platforms, that bring together public-private partnerships from different countries, with both a sectoral and transversal focus, to help them to realise their aims.

Europe INNOVA consists of 8 platforms:

- Sectoral Innovation Watch (SIW)
- European Cluster Observatory
- Eco-innovation Observatory
- IMProve
- Promotion of Novel Tools and Services
- European Innovation Platform for Clusters (Cluster-IP)
- European Innovation Platform for Knowledge Intensive Services (KIS-IP)
- European Innovation Platform for Eco-innovation (Eco-IP)

The overall goal of the **Sectoral Innovation Watch (SIW)** is to provide policy-makers and innovation professionals with a better understanding of current sectoral innovation dynamics. It identifies key drivers, emerging markets and specific requirements such as organisational

---

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.europe-innova.eu/>

change at firm level, skills requirements, structural changes and institutional changes. Recently, SIW has introduced a new foresight exercise to anticipate the way in which sectoral innovation systems will evolve and to assist with the design of future mechanisms to support the development of innovation policies and strategies at regional, national and European levels.

The **European Cluster Observatory** is a strategic tool for devising effective evidence-based cluster policies and for measuring the economic impact of clusters in Europe. It provides information on the mapping of regional clusters, the mapping of cluster organisations, national and regional cluster policies and programmes and its cluster library contains case studies and other relevant documents. The Cluster Observatory also provides information on what clusters have to offer, and is introducing a new web-based tool for the benchmarking of performance and partner search. Thus, the Cluster Observatory will provide a fully-fledged information service for SMEs and cluster organisations.

The **Eco-innovation Observatory** intends to become a strategic knowledge resource on eco-innovation by offering appropriate statistical data and identifying emerging trends and global business opportunities. It will collect both market and technology intelligence and customise it to the needs of SMEs. The Eco-innovation Observatory will also provide information that is relevant to policy-makers, business and financial interests and other eco-innovation stakeholders.

Europe INNOVA's **IMProve** partnership provides SMEs with a clearer picture of their innovation management performance and potential for improvement, through an on-line self-assessment tool. This enables companies to benchmark themselves against competitors across countries or across sectors within the same country. The results can be also be used to redress weaknesses in innovation management, or for marketing and fundraising purposes. The development of action plans to improve innovation management is supported by consultants trained in the use of the **IMProve** benchmarking tool. The **IMProve** approach also offers training opportunities for intermediaries that can assist them to set up innovation management consultancy services for SMEs and innovative start-ups.

This promotional pillar of **Novel Tools and Services** will contribute to a more intensive exploitation of the outcomes of Europe INNOVA's partnerships and actions. This project called TAKE IT UP will establish an on-line repository of Europe INNOVA's innovative tools and services for innovation support providers. Various activities have also been designed to accelerate the uptake of these resources. These include the setting up of an EU-level expert group to provide strategic advice on the exploitation of the tools and services, the provision of coaching services, marketing and communication services to promote these better practices and the testing of tools that are being developed in different environments.

The **European Innovation Platform for Clusters (Cluster-IP)** aims to accelerate the take-up of innovation and the growth of cluster firms in Europe, especially SMEs. It focuses on the development and testing of new or better innovation support, in particular, in the areas of eco-innovative industries and biotechnology. **The Cluster-IP** will design and test new support tools for innovative SMEs that will help them to internationalise and access expertise that is available elsewhere. It will also experiment with new forms of cluster cooperation and test

new joint approaches to exploiting research and innovation capacities. **The Cluster-IP** will strive for excellence in its search for better practices that can support cluster firms.

The **European Innovation Platform for Knowledge Intensive Services (KIS-IP)** will accelerate the take-up of services innovations. This includes the design and testing of new service packages and new forms of service delivery, most notably in technological and industrial fields. The KIS-IP will develop support that takes account of the specific needs of service companies, as well as the potential role that services innovation can play in finding solutions to some of the current societal needs. The KIS-IP will also attempt to overcome the traditional bias in innovation support mechanisms towards technological innovation

The **European Innovation Platform for Eco-innovation (Eco-IP)** aims to accelerate the take-up of eco-innovative solutions, in particular, in the fields of biobased products, recycling and resource efficiency and water management. The Eco-IP will experiment with new forms of mediation between those companies that possess prototype eco-innovative solutions and those companies that might be willing to make their production processes more environmentally friendly by testing the prototypes, as first users. The Eco-IP will also help to bridge the demand for, and the supply of, environment-friendly solutions and thus, assist the growth and development of innovative eco-industries in Europe.

## EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA<sup>6</sup>



The European Research Area is composed of all research and development activities, programmes and policies in Europe, which involve a transnational perspective. Together, they enable researchers, research institutions and businesses to increasingly circulate, compete and co-operate across borders. The aim is to give them access to a Europe-wide open space for knowledge and technologies in which transnational synergies and complementarities are fully exploited.

ERA consists of activities, programmes and policies, which are designed and operated at all levels: regional, national and European.

There are a number of fully integrated European-level structures and programmes: the EU RTD Framework Programmes, including the current Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013), related European agencies and undertakings, as well as a number of intergovernmental infrastructures and research organisations. Some have existed for more than 50 years, such as the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the research activities of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). Many were created in the 1970s and 1980s, such as the European Space Agency (ESA) and the first Framework Programmes. However, there are also important new organisations, which are changing the ERA 'landscape': notably, the European Research Council, the Joint Technology Initiatives and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology.

Some public policies, which have an important impact on research, are defined at the European level. This is notably the case for state aid and competition law, as well as for many relevant internal market rules. The EU also develops and promotes voluntary guidelines and recommendations, which serve as common European references. Examples can be found in areas such as researchers' careers and mobility, knowledge transfer and co-operation between public research and industry. The EU also fosters a broad-based approach to innovation. With the launch of the Europe 2020 strategy and the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative a strategic approach to innovation is now on the European agenda.

While most research activities, programmes and policies take place at regional and national levels, no single country offers sufficient resources to be competitive on the world scale. To strengthen ERA, such activities and policies should be increasingly designed and operated

---

<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm)



from a transnational perspective, including, where relevant, cross-border co-operation. However, this does not mean that they should be centralised in Brussels. Transnational co-operation helps make the most efficient and effective use of national and regional resources.

All Member States and the Commission agreed on a shared vision of how the European Research Area should develop by 2020. This vision was adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 2008. Since then, work is going on to make the vision a reality.

By adopting the 2020 Vision for ERA, Member States and the Commission agreed to develop ERA in ways that contribute to the sustainable development and competitiveness of Europe.

According to the opening statement of the vision, by 2020, all players should benefit from:

- The "fifth freedom" across the ERA: free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology;
- Attractive conditions for carrying out research and investing in R&D intensive sectors in Europe; and
- Healthy Europe-wide scientific competition, together with the appropriate level of cooperation and coordination.

In future, ERA should, for example:

- Offer an attractive, Europe-wide single labour market for researchers as well as single markets for knowledge and for innovative goods and services;
- Build on mutual trust and continuous dialogue between society and the scientific and technological community;
- Benefit from a strong publicly-supported research and technology base and world-class research infrastructures and capacities across Europe;
- Provide for the joint design of research, education and innovation policies and programmes at all levels;
- Address major challenges by strategic partnerships involving the Community, Member States and Associated States, based on common foresight; and
- Enable Europe to speak with one voice in international fora and with its main international partners.

Work is going on to translate the Vision 2020 into a series of strategic objectives, with indicators and possibly targets will be attached in order to monitor and evaluate progress.

Many initiatives are already underway to make the vision a reality. Refer to the sections Partnership for ERA and Areas of Action of this website.

In 2010, the Innovation Union Communication has given a new strength to the ERA 2020 vision. By calling for the creation of a common framework of principles and objectives by 2014, the Union seeks to avoid the remaining fragmentation in its research systems.



Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union situated in Luxembourg. Its task is to provide the European Union with statistics at European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions.

This is a key task. Democratic societies do not function properly without a solid basis of reliable and objective statistics. On one hand, decision-makers at EU level, in Member States, in local government and in business need statistics to make those decisions. On the other hand, the public and media need statistics for an accurate picture of contemporary society and to evaluate the performance of politicians and others. Of course, national statistics are still important for national purposes in Member States whereas EU statistics are essential for decisions and evaluation at European level.

Eurostat covers various statistical areas that are related to innovation, e.g.:

- R&D expenditure at national and regional level
- R&D personnel at national and regional level
- EU Industrial RD Investment scoreboard
- Government budget appropriations or outlays on R&D
- Community Innovation survey
- Venture capital investments
- High-tech industries and knowledge-intensive services statistics
- Patent applications and granted to the EPO by priority year
- Human Resources in Science & Technology
- Career Development of Doctorate Holders

Every year Eurostat publish pocketbook called *Science, Technology and Innovation in Europe*. This pocketbook gives an overview of science, technology and innovation (STI) statistics. All the statistical data and indicators are based on sources available at Eurostat. Only the most relevant indicators have been selected so as to give an overall statistical picture of science, technology and innovation in Europe and of how the EU stands in relation to its partners. Eurostat has been collecting STI data for many years to meet the needs of policymakers and the scientific community.

In 2010 the Commission acknowledged that STI statistics are closely linked to the EU's policy activities. Innovation indicators are seen as a key element in terms of the Innovation

---

<sup>7</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>

Union initiative and the European Research Area (ERA) in generating progress under the various Europe 2020 strategy priorities.

The pocketbook is divided into three main parts and seven chapters, as follows:

- Part 1 — Investing in R&D
- Part 2 — Monitoring the knowledge workers
- Part 3 — Productivity and competitiveness

Part 1 deals with government budget appropriations or outlays on R&D (GBAORD — Chapter 1) and R&D expenditure (Chapter 2).

Part 2 sets out data on R&D personnel (Chapter 3) and human resources in science and technology (HRST — Chapter 4).

Part 3 features statistics on innovation (Chapter 5), patents (Chapter 6) and high technology (Chapter 7).

## ERRIN - THE EUROPEAN REGIONS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION NETWORK<sup>8</sup>



**ERRIN - the European Regions Research and Innovation Network** is a unique network of 90 dynamic EU regions and their Brussels representation offices. ERRIN facilitates knowledge exchange, joint action and project partnerships between its members with the aim to strengthen their region's research and innovation capacities.

ERRIN facilitates knowledge exchange, joint action and project partnerships between its members with the aim to strengthen their region's research and innovation capacities.

ERRIN also aspires to influence EU policies in order to make them respond better to the needs of European regions and to that end engages in debate with EU institutions.

ERRIN members meet regularly in thematic working groups and at key network events to exchange information and know-how about EU funding and project opportunities, present regional good practice, build transnational consortia and develop joint projects.

ERRIN is also partner to key strategic coordination actions and projects of benefit to all ERRIN members.

ERRIN and its members adhere to its Internal Rules and the ERRIN Statutes that clearly define its aim and lines of action.

There are four organisational levels in ERRIN:

1. Secretariat
2. Management Board
3. Advisory Panel
4. Working Groups

The Secretariat provides information services and organisational support to ERRIN members and it supports the Management Board in developing and implementing ERRIN's strategic and operational objectives.

The Management Board provides strategic guidance to the network. It monitors and directs the activities of the Brussels office and the activities of the Working Groups (WG). It prepares the draft annual ERRIN Work Programme and provisional budget, and presents these to the Annual General Assembly for discussion and approval. The Management Board is responsible for the implementation of the Work Programme of the association, in line with the

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.errin.eu/en/>

budget. The Management Board also represents ERRIN vis-a-vis the EU institutions, acting in consultation with the relevant Working Group Leaders.

The Management Board has the following Working Groups:

- Policy Working Group
- Project Working Group

The Advisory Panel is composed of high-level representatives from European institutions, networks and organisations. ERRIN organises an Advisory Panel Meeting twice a year, in order to consult the panel members on the strategies, activities and objectives of the ERRIN network, and to reinforce the network's role in European debates.

Working Groups are thematically divided in 12 following areas:

- Biotechnology
- Energy and Climate Change
- Health
- Innovation Funding
- ICT
- Science in Society
- Transport
- Nanotech
- International Co-operation
- Future RTD
- Design & Creativity
- Tourism

## EURADA, THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES<sup>9</sup>



The European Association of Development Agencies (EURADA) has a membership of about 150 regional development agencies from across the European Union. Agencies from almost all the Member States of the EU are EURADA members.

EURADA runs conferences and seminars and has an extensive publications programme. It keeps its members up to date with EU policy developments and provides briefing on critical issues such as state aid rules. It alerts members to funding and contract opportunities and helps with forming and running partnerships.

EURADA lobbies and briefs the European Commission on behalf of members and maintains a highly effective communications network there. Through round tables and reflection groups individual EURADA members can play a direct role in the development of policy at the Commission, and form their own links with officials.

EURADA brings together and disseminates good practice in economic development for the benefit of its members. From 2009 it has run an annual university-based summer school to help members enhance the competence of their management teams.

EURADA has strong international links, particularly through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in the United States, but also with economic development networks in China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. There is a good record of members using these links to pursue their own local objectives.

The benefits of EURADA membership come from being an active, participating member. There is some value to paying the subscription and receiving the published material, but the really worthwhile benefit will come out of personal staff involvement: attending conferences and round tables – and speaking at such events, joining lobbying groups, participating in EU programmes with fellow members and giving other support as the opportunity arises.

Involvement in this manner will have the added benefit of giving the member's region a high profile at the European level and with the other agencies in the EURADA membership network.

---

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.eurada.org/>

EUROCHAMBRES ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN CHAMBERS OF  
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY<sup>10</sup>



# EUROCHAMBRES

Created in 1958, EUROCHAMBRES is the European Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and forms one of the key pillars of business representation to the European institutions.

EUROCHAMBRES voices the interests of over 20 million member enterprises in 45 European countries through a network of 2000 regional and local Chambers represented by 45 national and one transnational organisations. More than 93 % of these enterprises are Small or Medium Enterprises. Chamber members employ over 120 million employees.

EUROCHAMBRES is the sole European body that serves the interests of every sector and every size of European business - due to the multi sectoral membership of Chambers - and the only one so close to business, as a result of the Chambers' regional focus.

Eurochambres mission is to represent, serve and promote European Chambers of Commerce and Industry through

- strengthening the voice and position of European Chambers as significant, respected, valued influencers of EU affairs on all major economic issues,
- developing the participation of European Chambers in projects of value to business,
- delivering services to our members, and developing a European network of services for enterprises

Eurochambres vision is an enlarged competitive Europe where:

- entrepreneurial behaviour is promoted and rewarded,
- the legislative and physical environment for profitable business is the best in the world,
- SMEs are encouraged and supported,
- competition is free but fair and which is open to free and fair trade with the rest of the world.

---

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.eurochambres.be/>

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (INSME)<sup>11</sup>



The International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises-INSME is a non-profit Association open to international membership.

Its mission is to stimulate transnational cooperation and public and private partnership in the field of innovation and technology transfer to SMEs.

This is justified by the challenges posed by globalisation that force SMEs to strive to be more competitive through accessing innovation and technology. Policy Makers and Intermediaries play a crucial role in assisting SMEs in this respect:

- Policy Makers provide support through the creation of innovation policies and by orienting public funding towards SMEs that need innovation services;
- Intermediaries provide more 'hands-on' support, working directly with SMEs to resolve their problems.

Given this scenario, INSME's role is to create a link between these entities so as to enhance the level of support provided. In doing so, INSME acts as a hub, multiplier and disseminator of knowledge, a facilitator for alliances, a promoter of networking and a catalyser to encourage North-South and South-South international cooperation and political dialogue.

The INSME is an initiative promoted and managed by the Italian Institute for Industrial Promotion. It was set up within the framework of the 'Bologna process', which was launched at the first 'OECD ministerial conference on SMEs and globalisation' held in Bologna in June 2000. INSME was conceived as a set of initiatives aimed at encouraging the development of synergies, alliances and collaborations between governments, international organisations, NGOs, intermediaries and their networks. This is with a view to strengthening, and setting up, policies, programmes and initiatives to promote innovation and technology transfer to SMEs.

INSME was first launched as an informal multistakeholder community gathering Governmental bodies, International Organisations and NGOs, Intermediaries and their networks acting in the field of innovation, technology transfer and SME related issues.

---

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.insme.org/>



In mid-February 2004 the network evolved into an independent legal entity initially founded by organisations from Italy, Romania, Spain and Switzerland. Membership in the Association is reserved for the above mentioned categories.

Individual SMEs cannot apply for membership in the INSME Association, but they remain indirect beneficiaries of its activities.

The Association provides services and facilities to its Members, some of which are also made available through this portal. Gathering and dissemination of information are achieved through collaboration and exchange among Members, which may occur through e-mail contacts, discussion in the dedicated rooms of the Discussion Group Area of the portal, periodical meetings and conference calls.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC) <sup>12</sup>



ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) is the voice of world business championing the global economy as a force for economic growth, job creation and prosperity.

Because national economies are now so closely interwoven, government decisions have far stronger international repercussions than in the past.

ICC activities cover a broad spectrum, from arbitration and dispute resolution to making the case for open trade and the market economy system, business self-regulation, fighting corruption or combating commercial crime.

ICC has direct access to national governments all over the world through its national committees. The organisation's Paris-based international secretariat feeds business views into intergovernmental organisations on issues that directly affect business operations.

Main activities are divided in four groups:

### **Setting rules and standards**

- Arbitration under the rules of the ICC International Court of Arbitration is on the increase. Since 1999, the Court has received new cases at a rate of more than 500 a year.
- ICC's Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits (UCP 500) are the rules that banks apply to finance billions of dollars worth of world trade every year.
- ICC Incoterms are standard international trade definitions used every day in countless thousands of contracts. ICC model contracts make life easier for small companies that cannot afford big legal departments.
- ICC is a pioneer in business self-regulation of e-commerce. ICC codes on advertising and marketing are frequently reflected in national legislation and the codes of professional associations.

### **Promoting growth and prosperity**

- ICC supports government efforts to make a success of the Doha trade round. ICC provides world business recommendations to the World Trade Organisation.

---

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.iccwbo.org/id93/index.html>

- ICC speaks for world business when governments take up such issues as intellectual property rights, transport policy, trade law or the environment.
- Signed articles by ICC leaders in major newspapers and radio and TV interviews reinforce the ICC stance on trade, investment and other business topics.
- Every year, the ICC Presidency meets with the leader of the G8 host country to provide business input to the summit.
- ICC is the main business partner of the United Nations and its agencies.

### **Spreading business expertise**

- At UN summits on sustainable development, financing for development and the information society, ICC spearheads the business contribution.
- Together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), ICC helps some of the world's poorest countries to attract foreign direct investment.
- In partnership with UNCTAD, ICC has set up an Investment Advisory Council for the least-developed countries.
- ICC mobilises business support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. At ICC World Congresses every two years, business executives tackle the most urgent international economic issues.
- The World Chambers Congress, also biennial, provides a global forum for chambers of commerce.
- Regular ICC regional conferences focus on the concerns of business in Africa, Asia, the Arab World and Latin America.

### **Advocate for international business**

- ICC speaks for world business whenever governments make decisions that crucially affect corporate strategies and the bottom line.
- ICC's advocacy has never been more relevant to the interests of thousands of member companies and business associations in every part of the world.
- Equally vital is ICC's role in forging internationally agreed rules and standards that companies adopt voluntarily and can be incorporated in binding contracts.
- ICC provides business input to the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation, and many other intergovernmental bodies, both international and regional.

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)<sup>13</sup>



The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights.

As the world's only tripartite multilateral agency, the ILO is dedicated to bringing decent work and livelihoods, job-related security and better living standards to the people of both poor and rich countries. It helps to attain those goals by promoting rights at work, encouraging opportunities for decent employment, enhancing social protection and strengthening dialogue on work-related issues.

The ILO is the international meeting place for the world of work. We are the experts on work and employment and particularly on the critical role that these issues play in bringing about economic development and progress. At the heart of our mission is helping countries build the institutions that are the bulwarks of democracy and to help them become accountable to the people.

The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights: freedom of association, the right to organise, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment and other standards addressing conditions across the entire spectrum of work-related issues.

The ILO's diverse tasks are grouped under four strategic objectives:

- Promote and realise standards and fundamental principles and rights at work
- Create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income
- Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all
- Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue

---

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/>

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CRAFT, SMALL & MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (UEAPME)<sup>14</sup>



UEAPME (Union Européenne de l'Artisanat et des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises) is the employer's organisation representing the interests of European crafts, trades and SMEs at EU level. UEAPME is a recognised European Social Partner and acts on behalf of crafts and SMEs in the European Social Dialogue and in discussions with the EU institutions. It is a non-profit seeking and non-partisan organisation.

As the European SME umbrella organisation, UEAPME incorporates 82 member organisations consisting of national cross-sectorial SME federations, European branch federations and other associate members, which support the SME family.

Across the whole of Europe, UEAPME represents over 12 million enterprises with nearly 55 million employees.

The main objectives of UEAPME, as the voice of crafts, trades and SMEs in Europe include:

- Monitoring the EU policy and legislative process and keeping its members informed on all matters of European Union policy of relevance to crafts, trades and SMEs
- Representing and promoting the interests, needs and opinions of its member organisations to the EU institutions and other international organisations
- Supporting its members academically, technically and legally on all areas of EU policy
- Supporting the idea of European integration and contributing to European co-operation.

As the recognised voice for the interests of crafts, trades and SMEs in Europe, UEAPME acts as an 'agenda setter' in the area of European SME policy. It has direct role in all EU policy that has an effect on SMEs. This is made possible through the maintenance of direct links and contact with the EU administration and strengthened by its status as a Social Partner.

UEAPME endeavours to ensure that the interests of crafts and SMEs are taken into account in all legislation that has an impact on them. Some of the key legislative areas in which

---

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.ueapme.com/EN/index.shtml>

UEAPME is active include: economic and fiscal policy, employment and social policy, environmental policy, enterprise policy, internal market, legal affairs, and R&D.

UEAPME analyses the role of SMEs in European economies and the challenges they face. On the basis of this analysis, UEAPME, with its members, identifies the ways in which SMEs can adapt to the challenges of the open and competitive EU economy.

UEAPME subscribed to the European Commission's Register of Interest representatives and to the related code of conduct as requested by the European Transparency Initiative. The organisation's profile can be consulted here. For the financial year 2009, the costs to the organisation directly or indirectly related to representing interests to EU institutions amounted to 1,745,120 EUR.

## NORMAPME<sup>15</sup>



NORMAPME is an international non-profit association created in 1996 with the support of the European Commission, under the full name of the "European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium sized Enterprises for Standardisation".

NORMAPME is the only European organisation which is exclusively devoted to the interests of Small and Medium sized Enterprises in the European standardisation system.

Its members represent over 12 million enterprises in all European countries, including all European Union and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member states.

The European Commission has supported NORMAPME during the first years of operation. Presently, NORMAPME carries out a contract of the European Commission offering standardisation services to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

NORMAPME is strongly committed to the mission of defending Small and Medium sized Enterprises in the standardisation process, as they represent the strength and the uniqueness of the European economy and society.

NORMAPME is devoted to satisfying the needs of our member associations and to help Small and Medium Sized Enterprises to understand and adopt standards.

NORMAPME supports its members to act in defence of Small and Medium sized Enterprises before legislators and governments and they encourage Small and Medium Sized Enterprises to raise their voice in the standardisation process.

NORMAPME contributes to maintain and improve the European economy by supporting companies that create employment and redistribute wealth.

NORMAPME works democratically and takes every decision only after consulting its members and receiving the approval of the majority of them.

NORMAPME shares and transmits its trust in the EU institutions and in the Standardisation Organisations to our member associations and to European companies.

---

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.normapme.com/>

## EUROPEAN URBAN KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (EUKN)<sup>16</sup>



The key objective of EUKN is to enhance the exchange of knowledge and expertise on urban development throughout Europe, bridging urban policy, research and practice.

EUKN is characterised by a demand-driven approach, based on the needs of urban practitioners and policymakers. EUKN has developed an extensive, high-quality knowledge database, based on shared standards and protocols. This extensive e-library provides free access to case studies, research results, policy documents, context issues, network descriptions, updated news and meetings.

Over the past five years, EUKN has proven itself to be an efficient one-stop urban shop, providing city practitioners, policy makers, project managers and other users with high quality urban knowledge and experiences. At the same time, EUKN is more than a virtual knowledge network. It constitutes an international platform stimulating the exchange of knowledge and experiences during international and national meetings, and offering topical dossiers, expert opinions and specific practical assistance through the National Focal Points of the network and support for EU Presidencies.

EUKN is the prime network for urban policy makers, practitioners and researchers throughout Europe offering high quality knowledge and services which inspire them to make cities a better place to live, work and play.

EUKN is a self-sustainable, intergovernmental knowledge network with national focal points in all EU Member States, acting as a knowledge hub for existing networks of urban practitioners, researchers and policy-makers at all governmental levels.

EUKN key products are:

- eLibrary for urban professionals: EUKN's interactive European portal website offers a comprehensive knowledge base containing more than 5,000 validated documents on urban research, policy and practice. In addition, the National Focal Point websites provide country and context-specific knowledge in their national eLibraries;

---

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.eukn.org>



- Topical dossiers on urban priority policy areas: EUKN maintains topical dossiers on issues such as demographic change, integration and local economic development;
- Conferences: EUKN facilitates face-to-face contact through national and international meetings and conferences;
- Interviews: Every month, EUKN interviews key stakeholders who give their expert opinion on an urban topic;
- Research and Practice Review and National Newsletters: EUKN published a bi-weekly European newsletter on one of the seven main knowledge domains, and most National Focal Points publish a monthly national newsletter;
- News and meetings: EUKN's website gives an overview of recent development and the most important meetings on urban issues.

EUKN focuses on the following main themes:

- social inclusion & integration;
- housing;
- transport & infrastructure;
- urban environment;
- economy, knowledge & employment;
- security & crime prevention;
- skills & capacity building.

The eLibrary contains four types of documents:

- descriptions of best or proven practices;
- summaries of practical research;
- descriptions of successful policies;
- descriptions of relevant networks.



PATLIB are Centres that are part of the European Patent Organisation (EPO) that provides patent information by searching available national and international patent databases. The European Patent Organisation (EPO) is an intergovernmental organisation currently having 27 member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Rumania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and United Kingdom). In a near future three further countries will become members of the European Patent Convention (Lithuania, Latvia and Poland). The executive body of the European Patent Organisation - the European Patent Office - has its seat in Munich, a branch in The Hague and sub-offices in Berlin and Vienna.

In cooperation with the national patent offices of the member states the EPO supports a Network of patent information centres ("PATLIB Centres") throughout Europe having evolved from a grouping of national PATent LIBraries widely distributed in the member states. A numbers of PATLIB Centres are located in national patent offices and universities. The main aim of the PATLIB Network is for the patent information centres to be able to communicate and to work with each other in a feasible and convenient way.

The PATLIB Centres provide patent information by searching available national and international patent databases. Depending on the national system for intellectual property rights, many Centres additionally provide information on other intellectual property rights like trademarks, design and models. The PATLIB staff performs searches for their clients or provides advice in searching or using patent information made available in the Centre's public library. A number of Centres have developed patent awareness modules, workshops or training programmes for their users. Some Centres cooperate with patent attorneys or business advisers who regularly visit the Centre to provide clients with advice in the area of intellectual property rights. A number of Centres have acquired their own specific profile by providing special services and products. Examples of specialities are pro-actively contacting potential clients such as small and medium size enterprises ("SMEs") who are generally nor able to afford an in-house information bureau and offering assistance, organising so called "patent clinics" where clients can make appointments to obtain basic advice from patent attorneys or business advisors free of charge and providing interactive training packages. PATLIB users may be students, inventors, researchers, small and medium sized enterprises ("SMEs"), patent agents or members of the general public.

---

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.epo.org/searching/patlib.html>

## EUROPEAN BUSINESS & INNOVATION CENTRE NETWORK (EBN)<sup>18</sup>



The European Business & Innovation Centre Network was set up in 1984 as a joint initiative of the European Commission, European industry leaders and the first pioneering Business and Innovation Centres.

EBN is now the leading non-governmental pan-European network bringing together 200+ Business & Innovation Centres (BICs), and similar organisations such as incubators, innovation and entrepreneurship centres across the enlarged Europe.

BICs are organisations which promote innovation and entrepreneurship. They help enterprises to innovate; they drive the creation of start-ups (support to innovation, incubation and internationalisation) and they promote economic development through job and enterprise creation and development.

The network is therefore an umbrella organisation bringing together over 200 BICs from all around Europe and beyond. It provides help and support to these BICs by acting as an interface with other organisations including the European Commission (which officially recognises EBN), by providing expertise in numerous areas including funding and by stimulating the sharing of best practices.

EBN follows closely the European Union Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policies and is developing 'hub and spoke' networking connections with the rest of the world.

With headquarters in Brussels, EBN organises various activities designed to be of genuine help to its members, and through them to SMEs. These activities include:

- **Policy** - EBN represents the voice and interests of the BICs and its Associate members, their stakeholders and customers to all EU organisations and EC institutions. EBN acts as an interface between EU Policy makers and its members, and maximizes the reputation of the members both in the private and public sector (local, regional, national, European).
- **Quality** - EBN undertakes feasibility studies and technical support for the setting up of new BICs, Incubation and Innovation centres, through on-site visits, audits, and assistance in quality assurance. EBN ensures that members comply to a professional, serious and specific quality system, using both process and result

---

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.ebn.be>

indicators, delivering advice, benchmarking, and assistance to BICs, candidate BICs and similar organisations.

- **Networking** - EBN creates the appropriate environment for networking and exchange to take place between members, especially at the international level, through projects, events, thematic actions, sector-specific approaches, etc. EBN also facilitates benchmarking and the sharing/transfer of expertise, tools, and specific know-how, enabling members to continuously evolve and adapt to competitive environments.
- **Projects** - EBN facilitates the network “idea-lab” and drives the “project factory” of its community, inventing, testing and deploying pilot-schemes, EC-funded projects and thematic working groups. EBN monitors calls for tender within the EU, and alert members of forthcoming projects which may be of strategic interest. EBN builds and coordinates consortium involving members in order to respond accurately to the relevant project opportunities.
- **Promotion** - EBN is a recognized quality brand, and communicates members’ technical assets via newsletters and publications. EBN promotes the network through participation in international and national events, and takes all initiatives to increase its members’ exposure in media, publications and events.

#### EBN Mission:

- To create and strengthen a vibrant community of entrepreneurship, innovation and incubation practitioners
- To provide a framework for encouraging the development of innovative entrepreneurs
- To connect with the global environment, public sector and industry leaders
- To be the respected voice of BICs within European institutions
- To ensure network quality and top class professionalism
- To seek out business opportunities for SMEs across and beyond Europe
- To provide expertise, benchmarks, best practices and guidance to its members
- To increase the competitiveness, the efficiency, the credibility, the reliability and the impact of BICs, and of the BIC label
- To initiate sector-specific and thematic networking
- To act as the idea lab and project factory of the community
- To enable partnerships with economic players acting in the periphery of the BICs’ supply chain
- To stimulate innovation by all means



**EUREKA** is an intergovernmental network launched in 1985, to support market-oriented R&D and innovation projects by industry, research centres and universities across all technological sectors. It is composed of 39 members, including the European Community. Several European countries participate in EUREKA cooperation through a network of National Information Points (NIPs). With its flexible and decentralised network, EUREKA offers project partners rapid access to skills and expertise across Europe and national public and private funding schemes.

The internationally recognised EUREKA label adds value to a project and gives participants a competitive edge in their dealings with financial, technical and commercial partners.

The affiliation known as Associated Country Status was initiated as part of EUREKA's proactive strategy to enhance cooperation with countries outside of Europe judged to have scientific and research potential.

There are four main areas of EUREKA activities:

- **INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS** - the most common EUREKA funding tool. It is used for high-technology market oriented R&D projects aiming at developing a cutting edge civilian product, process or service and must involve partners from at least two EUREKA member countries;
- **EUROSTARS** - A European research and development programme targeting small and medium enterprises. It can address any technological area but must have a civilian purpose and be aimed at the development of a new product, process or service;
- **CLUSTERS** - longer term strategically significant industrial initiatives. They have a large number of participants, and aim to develop generic technologies of key importance for European competitiveness;
- **UMBRELLAS** - thematic networks focusing on a specific technology area or business sector. Their main goal is to facilitate the generation of EUREKA projects in its own target area.

---

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.eureka.be>

Serbia has been a member of the EUREKA organisation since June 2002. The management of the EUREKA activities for Serbia has been assigned to the Ministry of Science and Technological Development.

Since 2002 the Ministry of Science and Technological Development, in the framework of its Programme for international scientific cooperation, established the “EUREKA Programme”, which offers funding opportunities to Serbian companies and research organisations wishing to participate in EUREKA projects.



CORDIS - Community Research and Development Information Service, is an information space devoted to European research and development (R&D) activities and technology transfer.

The main aims of CORDIS are:

- to facilitate participation in European research and take-up activities;
- to improve exploitation of research results with an emphasis on sectors crucial to Europe's competitiveness;
- to promote the diffusion of knowledge fostering the technology take-up to enterprises and the societal acceptance of new technology.

CORDIS is the official website through which researchers can obtain funding under the main EU research funding programme. The site contains all the information they need on EU tenders, the process by which researchers propose projects for funding. It also offers interactive online services, bringing together researchers, decision-makers and other key players in research.

Since coming online in 1990, CORDIS has provided an essential service for European research and innovation.

CORDIS has three main tasks:

- helping researchers get EU funding for their work;
- ensuring research results are exploited more effectively (especially in sectors essential for the EU's competitiveness);
- promoting the spread of knowledge by stimulating business innovation and social acceptance of new technologies.

CORDIS is run by the EU publications office.

CORDIS contains a vast amount of information on R&D activities and infrastructure in Europe, sourced either directly from the EU research community or from their journalists:

- over 250 000 documents stored in databases
- over 150 000 web pages web providing 240 online services
- almost 50 000 downloadable documents

---

<sup>20</sup> <http://cordis.europa.eu/en/home.html>

CORDIS has an average 200 000 visitors a month, mainly from the R&D and business sector, but also political decision-makers, business-support bodies, journalists, etc. Every month, these users visit a total of almost 7 million pages, downloading no less than 400 000 documents. They are all looking for specific information to meet their particular needs - CORDIS job is to ensure this information is always up-to-date and can be easily found.

On CORDIS, the information flow is not just one way - many site visitors also provide them with information. CORDIS functions as a platform where research stakeholders can share information and knowledge and set up partnerships, spreading the benefits European research as widely as possible. These services are used regularly by over 50 000 registered users.



## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) EUROPE<sup>21</sup>



CSR Europe is the leading European business network for corporate social responsibility with around 80 multinational corporations and 33 national partner organisations as members. The organisation was founded in 1995 by senior European business leaders in response to an appeal by the European Commission President Jacques Delors. It has since grown to become an inspiring network of business people working at the very forefront of CSR across Europe and globally.

CSR Europe's network of national partner organisations brings together 33 membership-based, business-led CSR organisations from around 30 European countries. In total, the network reaches out to approximately 4000 companies throughout Europe.

In October 2010, CSR Europe launched a joint Enterprise 2020 initiative to address societal challenges through collaborative action and shape the business contribution to the European Union's Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Since its launch, Enterprise 2020 has become the reference initiative for the ideal company of the future and forms the umbrella for all CSR Europe activities.

In order to help companies to progress towards Enterprise 2020, CSR Europe has designed a unique service delivery model, which aims to:

1. Support companies in building sustainable competitiveness by providing a platform for innovation and exchange:

- Share and further develop best practice on CSR
- Benefit from practical research and information services

2. Foster close cooperation between companies and their stakeholders by exploring new ways of working together to create a sustainable future:

- Cooperate and co-build solutions with stakeholders in several topic platforms
- Produce tangible results and models which can be shared externally across industries

---

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.csreurope.org>

3. Strengthen Europe's global leadership on CSR by engaging with EU institutions and a wider range of international players:

- Shape European CSR policy development
- Engage with CSR Europe's National and leading global CSR organisations

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS (NESTA)<sup>22</sup>



NESTA is the UK's National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts - an independent body with a mission to make the UK more innovative. The endowment status means they operate at no cost to the UK taxpayer. They invest in early-stage companies, inform policy, and deliver practical programmes that inspire others to solve the big challenges of the future. NESTA does not work alone their success depends on the strength of the partnerships formed with innovators, policymakers, community organisations, educators and other investors. They bring the best ideas, new flows of capital and talented people together, and encourage others to develop them further.

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1998. The company acts through a combination of practical programmes, early stage investment, research and policy, and the formation of partnerships to foster innovation and deliver radical new ideas. Funded by a £250 million endowment from the UK National Lottery, NESTA uses the interest from that endowment to fund and support its projects. On 14 October 2010, the Government announced that it would transfer NESTA's status from an executive non-departmental public body to a charitable body. NESTA's work to tackle social and economic issues in the UK at no cost to the taxpayer will continue.

NESTA currently operates in three areas:

### **Economic growth**

NESTA's Policy and Research team publishes a wide range of research papers designed for policy makers. Most recently it contributed to James Dyson's *Ingenious Britain* report, and published a series of research papers—*The Vital 6 Percent*, *Attacking the Recession*, and *Mass Localism* that influenced all of the three major party manifestos in the UK general election in 2010.

The company also has a venture capital arm, which invests in early-stage companies through direct investment. They use their unique position in the market to leverage a higher proportion of private finance on top of their own initial investment to stimulate economic growth.

### **Public services**

NESTA's Public Services Lab aims to test out radical theories and produce practical programmes to demonstrate how innovative schemes can improve public services and benefit local communities.

---

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.nesta.org.uk>

Recent examples of their work were The Big Green Challenge, a £1 million prize fund to stimulate community action on climate change, and Health Launchpad, a project to transform the delivery of healthcare in the UK.

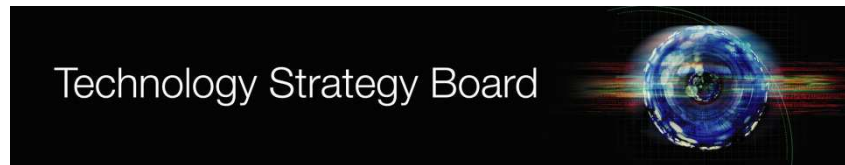
### **Creative industries**

NESTA's Creative Industries team seeks to enable those in the creative sector to improve their business expertise. It has set up a number of mentoring schemes across industries such as video games, fashion and film, to help creatives bring their ideas to market.

One such example was the Alpha production by Wayne McGregor Random Dance. The project was supported by NESTA, the Arts Council England and Sadler's Wells Theatre, with animation and visual effects created by Hotbox Productions the production toured internationally.

.

## TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD<sup>23</sup>



The Technology Strategy Board is an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB), established by the UK Government in 2007 and sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The Technology Strategy Board is the UK's national innovation agency. Their goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. They seek to understand business, and ensure that their people come mainly from business. They work right across government, business and the research community - removing the barriers to innovation, bringing organisations together to focus on opportunities, and investing in the development of new technology-based products and services for future markets.

The Technology Strategy Board main role is to stimulate technology-enabled innovation in the areas, which offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity. They promote, support and invest in technology research, development and commercialisation. They spread knowledge, bringing people together to solve problems or make new advances.

They advise Government on how to remove barriers to innovation and accelerate the exploitation of new technologies. In addition, they work in areas where there is a clear potential business benefit, helping today's emerging technologies become the growth sectors of tomorrow.

The activities of the Technology Strategy Board are jointly supported and funded by BIS and other government departments, the devolved administrations, regional development agencies and research councils.

The vision of the Technology Strategy Board is for the UK to be a global leader in innovation and a magnet for innovative businesses, where technology is applied rapidly, effectively and sustainably to create wealth and enhance quality of life.

In 2008, The Technology Strategy Board published their first strategy, under the title Connect and Catalyse, to explain how they would promote and invest in innovation for the benefit of business and the UK between 2008 and 2011.

New approach to accelerating the pace of innovation over the coming period is captured in their new strategy document, Concept to Commercialisation, published in May 2011. This builds on the approach they have already developed and sets out new directions.

The Technology Strategy Board help companies to:

---

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.innovateuk.org/>

- Find people and business partners
- Tap into the expertise available within UK universities and colleges
- Develop innovative products to meet government needs
- Find out more about the Technology Strategy Board – who we are and what we do
- Their priority technology areas
- Co-funding opportunities
- European funding opportunities
- Their Catapult centres

## THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM<sup>24</sup>



The US Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialisation. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialisation. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.

The mission of the SBIR program is to support scientific excellence and technological innovation through the investment of Federal research funds in critical American priorities to build a strong national economy.

The program's goals are four-fold:

- Stimulate technological innovation;
- Meet Federal research and development needs;
- Foster and encourage participation in innovation and entrepreneurship by socially and economically disadvantaged persons;
- Increase private-sector commercialisation of innovations derived from Federal research and development funding.

Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed \$100 million are required to allocate 2.5 percent of their R&D budget to these programs. Currently, eleven Federal agencies participate in the program:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation

---

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.sbir.gov/>

- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation

Each agency administers its own individual program within guidelines established by Congress. These agencies designate R&D topics in their solicitations and accept proposals from small businesses. Awards are made on a competitive basis after proposal evaluation.

The SBIR Program is structured in three phases:

*Phase I.* The objective of Phase I is to establish the technical merit, feasibility, and commercial potential of the proposed R/R&D efforts and to determine the quality of performance of the small business awardee organisation prior to providing further Federal support in Phase II. SBIR Phase I awards normally do not exceed \$150,000 total costs for 6 months.

*Phase II.* The objective of Phase II is to continue the R/R&D efforts initiated in Phase I. Funding is based on the results achieved in Phase I and the scientific and technical merit and commercial potential of the project proposed in Phase II. Only Phase I awardees are eligible for a Phase II award. SBIR Phase II awards normally do not exceed \$1,000,000 total costs for 2 years.

*Phase III.* The objective of Phase III, where appropriate, is for the small business to pursue commercialisation objectives resulting from the Phase I/II R/R&D activities. The SBIR program does not fund Phase III. Some Federal agencies, Phase III may involve follow-on non-SBIR funded R&D or production contracts for products, processes or services intended for use by the U.S. Government.

Only United States small businesses are eligible to participate in the SBIR program. Business must meet *all* of the following criteria at the time of Phase I and II awards:

- Organised for profit, with a place of business located in the United States;
- At least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States, or
- At least 51 percent owned and controlled by another for-profit business concern that is at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States; and;
- No more than 500 employees, including affiliates.

The SBIR program was established under the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-219) with the purpose of strengthening the role of innovative small business concerns in Federally-funded research and development (R&D). Through FY2009, over 112,500 awards have been made totaling more than \$26.9 billion.



In December 2000, Congress passed the Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act (P.L. 102-564), reauthorising the SBIR program until September 30, 2008. The program was reauthorised until September 30, 2008 by the Small Business Reauthorisation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-554). Subsequently, Congress passed numerous extensions, the most recent of which extends the SBIR program through 2017.

SBIR targets the entrepreneurial sector because that is where most innovation and innovators thrive. However, the risk and expense of conducting serious R&D efforts are often beyond the means of many small businesses. By reserving a specific percentage of federal R&D funds for small businesses, SBIR protects the small business and enables it to compete on the same level as larger businesses. SBIR funds the critical startup and development stages and it encourages the commercialisation of the technology, product, or service, which, in turn, stimulates the U.S. economy. Since its enactment in 1982, the SBIR program has helped thousands of small businesses to compete for federal R&D awards. Their contributions have enhanced the nation's defense, protected our environment, advanced health care, and improved our ability to manage information and manipulate data.

The US Small Business Administration serves as the coordinating agency for the SBIR program. It directs the agencies' implementation of SBIR, reviews their progress, and reports annually to Congress on its operation. SBA is also the information link to SBIR program.



ProTon Europe is the pan-European Association of Knowledge Transfer Offices (KTOs) affiliated to universities and public research organizations. It first started its activities in 2002 as a thematic network, funded by the European Commission under its Gate2Growth initiative, and was constituted as a not-for-profit legal entity at the end of 2005.

Its purpose is to promote innovation in Europe by more effective knowledge transfer from universities and other research organisations funded primarily from public sources (Public Research Organisations or PRO) in order to contribute to the recognition and support of public research, economic development and public welfare in general.

ProTon Europe has partnership agreements with the national associations of knowledge transfer offices (KTOs) in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom. It also has an international partnership agreement with TII, which is one of the three founders of ProTon Europe in its initial phase as a thematic network. At the beginning of 2007, ProTon Europe had some 240 members employing about 2 000 knowledge transfer professionals. On a consolidated basis, ProTon Europe and its partner national associations cover more than 500 transfer offices in Europe.

The Association offers services to members in the following areas:

- good practice and tools, available via the website;
- training and professional development offered through seminars, expert workshops and on-line training tools;
- an annual conference on state-of-the-art themes for knowledge transfer professionals;
- an annual survey of the profession and an on-line self-assessment tool;
- policy and position papers on subjects affecting the knowledge transfer profession.

The purpose of ProTon Europe is to support the professional development of Knowledge Transfer Offices across Europe through networking, the exchange of good practice, staff exchanges and the delivery of appropriate training.

Through the representation of national associations of KTO at a European level ProTon Europe offers its members a chance to develop, inform and influence European policy relating to knowledge transfer and knowledge transfer offices.

The services of the Association are based mainly on contributions from the members and the partner and National and European Associations.

---

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.protoneurope.org/>

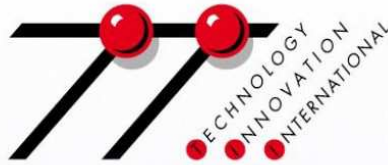
There are two operating committees coordinating regular activities, namely:

- Continuous Professional Development;
- Survey and Metrics.

In addition, four special interest groups are entrusted with the development of positions on current political issues, namely:

- the patent system in Europe;
- the European Institute of Technology;
- the Responsible Partnering between public research and industry;
- the harmonization of IP ownership rules in public research.

## TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION INTERNATIONAL (TII)<sup>26</sup>



TII is a professional network of innovation and technology transfer consultancies, intellectual asset advisors and university/ research centre transfer offices, regional development organisations and chambers of commerce, science parks, innovation centres and business incubators, contract research organisations and engineering consultancies, government ministries and agencies, and sectoral professional associations. This multifaceted community of innovation support players creates TII's unique wealth and strength. Founded in 1984, the association has its headquarters in Luxembourg and a representation office in Brussels. It operates as a service centre to help members establish working relations with colleagues in other countries, to develop trans-national collaborative projects, to exchange and acquire good practice and to assist them with their information needs for technology transfer assignments.

The TII Board of Management consists of one representative for each country of the EU27, as well as one member to represent the affiliate members (members based in countries outside the EU).

TII currently has over 220 members in 40 countries. Membership of TII offers many and varied benefits, and includes:

- Networking with leading European technology transfer organisations to help you and your organisation build valuable professional contacts and to open up new markets for your services and your clients' technologies.
- Opportunities to contribute actively to the further development of professional technology transfer services in Europe and to assist the effective commercial exploitation of science and RTD for the benefit of industry.
- Conferences, seminars, meetings and publications through which to promote your organisation and its services across Europe and beyond.
- International exchange of working methods, professional experience and good practice, which can be a major source of information and advice for developing your organisation and your own career.
- Trans-national business development opportunities through collaborative projects and consultancy assignments.
- High added-value web-based tools for market and technology information searches.

The association offers services in five main areas: information and networking; business/project development; good practice exchange; technology transfer facilitation; and professional development/ training.

---

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.tii.org/>

The association creates a vibrant hub for members to share professional experience and good practice, to facilitate business opportunities for them and to support them in their technology transfer and innovation assignments. It does this by organizing conferences and training events, by pursuing specialist activities through dedicated sub-groups and by offering high added value web-based tools.

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (EIT)<sup>27</sup>



The EIT is a body of the European Union established in March 2008. The EIT mission is to increase European sustainable growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the EU. It was set up in order to 'address Europe's innovation gap', and is the EU's flagship education institute designed to assist innovation, research and growth in the European Union. The idea of a European Institute of Innovation and Technology has been developed within the framework of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, and has been specifically implemented to address Europe's innovation shortcomings. It is based on the concept that innovation is the a key-driver of growth, competitiveness and thus social well-being in the 21st century.

The EIT has established its headquarters in Budapest in April 2010. The EIT is not a research centre and does not directly contribute to financing individual projects. Instead, it provides grants to so-called "Knowledge and Innovation Communities", composed of networks of existing businesses, research institutes and education institutions or universities which work together around innovation projects and assist or fund individual innovators and entrepreneurs, all over Europe. The three first innovation communities of the EIT have been selected in December 2009 and are established in co-location centres (i.e. places where they can physically work together) in France, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Belgium and Poland.

The EIT has created integrated structures (Knowledge and Innovation Communities), which link the higher education, research and business sectors to one another thereby boosting innovation and entrepreneurship. The KICs focus on priority topics with high societal impact, currently: Climate change mitigation (Climate-KIC), Information and Communication Technologies (EIT ICT Labs), Sustainable Energies (KIC InnoEnergy).

In short, the EIT's mission is to facilitate the following transitions:

- from **idea to product**
- from **lab to market**
- from **student to entrepreneur**

by integrating the three sides of the Knowledge Triangle (higher education, research and business) in areas of high societal need.

---

<sup>27</sup> <http://eit.europa.eu/>

The EIT is governed by a Governing Board consisting of 22 Members representing a balance of leading individuals active in the education, research and business sectors (including KIC partners). The Governing Board is in charge of setting the overall strategy and direction of the EIT. The EIT's activities are supported by the legally and operationally independent EIT Foundation.

The vehicle that ensures that the EIT vision and policies are translated into effective actions, and that reaches out to individuals on the ground are the **KICs**. Much of the EIT's efforts to date have been focused on establishing the current three KICs. They are organised as separate legal entities, which provide the physical infrastructure to bring together individuals from universities, research centres and businesses in geographical locations (16 centres) where all KIC partners work together face-to-face. The KICs implement specific projects, educational programs, funding schemes, etc. The EIT is monitoring the KICs to ensure that its aims are being effectively developed. More about the KICs and current actions

Part of the EIT's mission is to create the conditions and framework that will allow a fresh entrepreneurship culture to flourish – both as a mindset and as an action. Its strategy is therefore based on a two-pronged approach: 1) by way of education, to create a cultural shift in the perception of entrepreneurship and risk taking, and 2) by encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship through concrete entrepreneurship activities such as the EIT Academy and EIT Award. More about the EIT and entrepreneurship

The EIT is developing higher education programmes (of Masters and PhD level) with the KIC partners. The aim is to create an EIT brand of excellence across European higher education institutions which will mark out the EIT courses as cutting edge in delivering high quality and innovation results. The courses will integrate entrepreneurship, innovation and risk management content and include mobility and practical business experience aspects. More about the EIT and education

In addition to linking to and encouraging the KICs in their innovation task, the EIT focuses on building and strengthening relationships with key stakeholders both in Europe and beyond. In the long term, it will disseminate results from the Knowledge and Innovation Communities, share knowledge, and maintain close links with other EU bodies with a view to ensure, implement, and develop the EIT strategy.