



Why do we need Fast Track Networks?

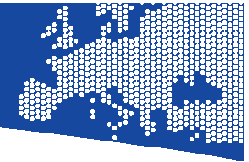


RAPIDE in Action

24 March 2010

Rudolf Niessler

DG REGIO/ Director Policy Coordination



Networks are always useful because...

- they enable quick processes of learning by exchanging 'good practices'
- they enable the exchange of 'tacit' knowledge which cannot be achieved by other means.

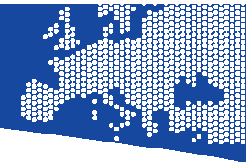
But results are only achieved when networks work closely together on a common subject because 'learning by doing' is the most effective process of learning.



What does the Commission expect of Fast Track Networks?



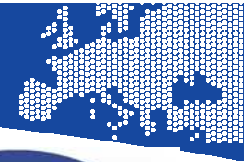
- Fast Track Networks focus on action
- They must go one step ahead from exchange of 'good practices' to investments and implementation of actions and delivery of improved projects in each region.



What does the Commission expect of Fast Track Networks?



- Active involvement of the Managing Authorities (MAs) of the relevant Operational Programmes
- Concrete deliverables (**Regional Action Plans**) to feed the Operational Programmes with qualified and better projects



What makes the Fast Track Networks different?

- New creative ideas from regions and from community policies are fed in and tested by the regions
- The Commission works in partnership: in RAPIDE DG ENTR is in the lead but DG REGIO, DG INFSO and DG RTD are active as well.

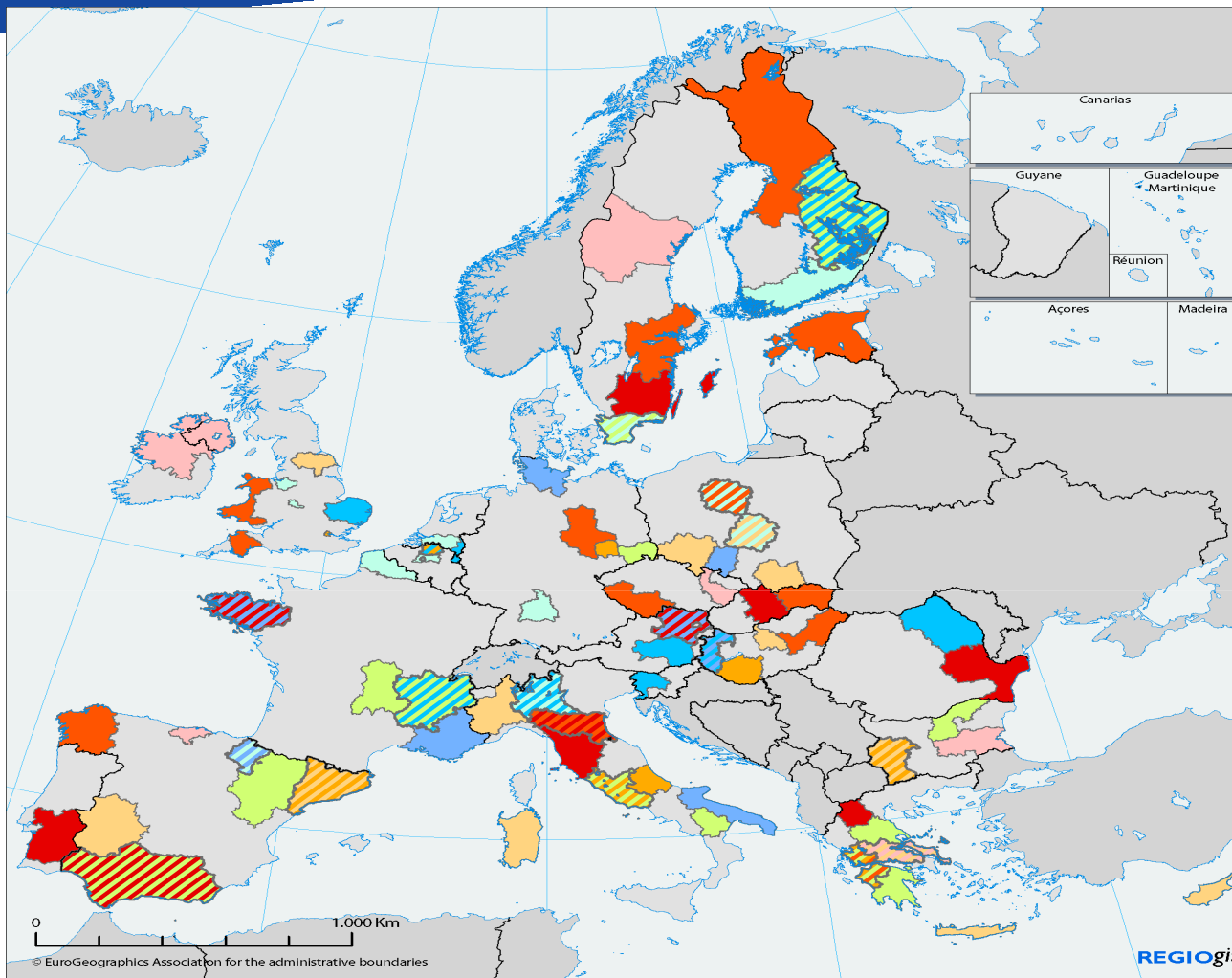


What makes the Fast Track Networks different?



- Peer review processes are established

All partner regions and the Commission discuss openly and improve together the projects developed.



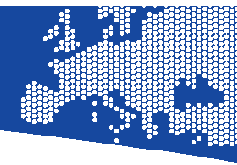
Regions For Economic Change: INTERREG IVC: Fast Track Networks

Distribution of the networks' partner at regional level

| | |
|--|--|
| B3 REGIONS - Regions for Better Broadband Connection | MKW - Making Knowledge Work |
| C2CN - Cradle to Cradle Network | PIKE - Promoting Innovation and the Knowledge Economy |
| ERIK ACTION - Upgrading the Innovation Capacity of Existing Firms | RAPIDE - Regional Action Plans for Innovation Development and Enterprise |
| ESF6 CIA - Capitalising Innovative Approaches towards Demographic Change | SCINNOPOLI - Scanning Innovation Policy Impact |
| IMMODI - Implementing Mod | |

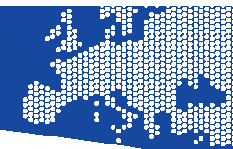
A few Fast Track Networks: RAPIDE, ERIK ACTION, B3 Regions, PIKE.... Additionally many actions and projects will be signed by MAs in 2010.

*New:
C2CN- cradle to cradle
Making Knowledge Happen
IMMODI,
SCINNOPOLI*

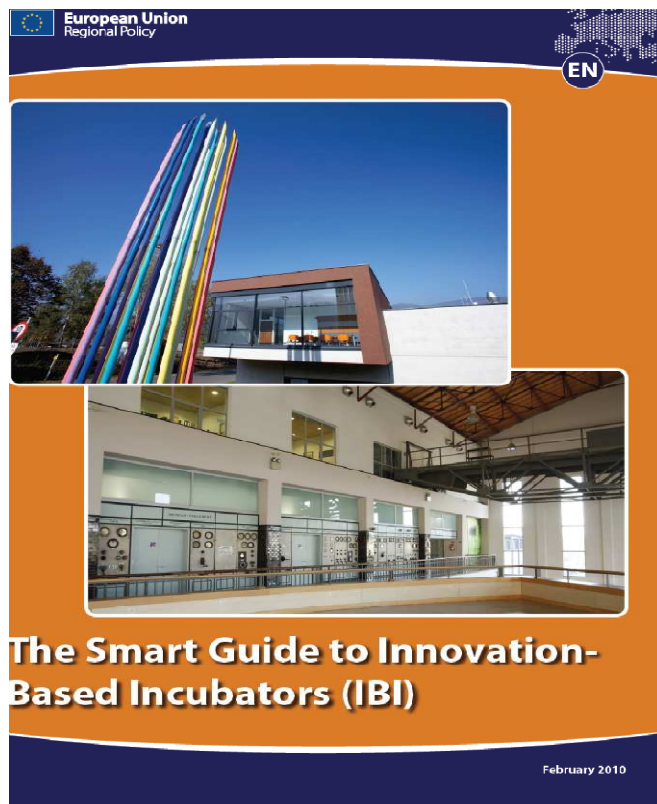


With the RAPIDE in Action Conference we are walking the extra mile...

- We will hear about the advance of RAPIDE in devising creative methods to bring innovative ideas to the market.
- We are closing the circle by bringing together the Managing Authorities in the regions, the project developers and the persons responsible for the Operational Programmes in DG REGIO.



Working together with DG ENTR



The EC-Business and Innovation Centres (EC-BICs)

Foreword



The EU's Cohesion Policy has been supporting authorities and stakeholders to deliver innovation in their regions for many years.

Promoting incubation and growth of small innovative firms is singled out in the EU2020 strategy, proposed by President Barroso, as one of the ways of creating value by basing growth on knowledge.

Given the huge diversity of regions across the EU27, and the great complexity of innovation processes, we need to gather forces for this task. This guide shows that Commission departments working together can make it happen and reach a larger number of Managing Authorities and stakeholders.

It is an easy-to-read guide for those directly involved with delivering innovation in the regions - those who create and design the projects that make innovative businesses thrive, that bring new entrepreneurs to the market place, and that help to transform ideas into action.

We are proud that the European EIC Network, launched in the mid 80s under Cohesion Policy, is now an independent organisation globally recognised for its expertise in incubation processes and the provision of high quality services to businesses and innovation. This guide owes much to their existence.

We hope that you will find it a valuable tool for action.

Katarina Mathernová
Deputy Director General
DG Regional Policy



New knowledge and new ideas are created every day across Europe. Transferring them into real innovation - a new economic activity that creates jobs and wealth - is facilitated by supporting those that have been inspired by new ideas and knowledge.

Business Incubators have a long history in supporting research

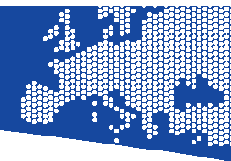
and development based start-ups from academic and research institutes. But with the changing nature of innovation, the incubators and the support services they provide must all be open to change.

Business incubation for knowledge intensive services or in creative industries has to respond to needs which are different from those for biotech companies. The case studies included in the guide show this immense diversity of creativity source for innovation.

Good incubation services have to cover a broad range of innovation support services in the region and in Europe. Ever more start-up companies are 'born-globals', based on business ideas that immediately addresses an international market.

The guide provides several examples of how incubators act as networks successfully support young companies to make the most of the opportunities offered by the EU.

Françoise Le Bail
Deputy Director General
DG Enterprise and Industry



I invite you to register to the RFEC conference on 20-21 May in Brussels: Building Sustainable Growth

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/sustainable-growth/index_en.cfm?nmenu=2. The page is titled "Regional Policy - InfoREGIO" and features a navigation menu with links: "The Policy", "The Means", "In Your Country", "Success Stories", and "Information Sources". The main content area is titled "Conference | Brussels 20 - 21 May 2010" and "Regions for Economic Change Building Sustainable Growth". It includes an "Overview" section with a paragraph about the conference's structure and a list of topics to be discussed: "Political discussion of key priorities", "In-depth discussion policy challenges and good practice", and "the importance of cooperation and of spreading good practice". The page also features a sidebar with links to "Conference Home", "Overview", "Programme", "Registration", "Practical information", and "Contact". On the right, there are promotional banners for "Regions for Economic Change", "RegioStars 2010", "The Awards for Region Innovative Projects", "Regional Policy InfoREGIO Website", "Lisbon Monitoring Platform", and "INTERREG IVC". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Error on page." and "Local intranet".

Regional Policy InfoREGIO - Regions for Economic Change - Building Sustainable Growth - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/sustainable-growth/index_en.cfm?nmenu=2

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Regional Policy - InfoREGIO

European Commission > Regional Policy > Regions for Economic Change > Building Sustainable Growth

The Policy The Means In Your Country Success Stories Information Sources

Conference | Brussels 20 - 21 May 2010

Regions for Economic Change Building Sustainable Growth

Conference Home Overview Programme Registration Practical information Contact

Overview

For the 2010 Regions for Economic Change conference – "Building Sustainable Growth" we have adopted a new improved formula. The conference is organised in three modules. You can choose to attend either one module alone or any combination of modules you wish. This is to ensure that you can attend only these conference modules which are of the most interest for you. You will be able to make your selection through the registration system which will be available in mid February 2010 together with the detailed program. The conference purpose is to discuss key themes, to network and to exchange good practices at regional level through cohesion instruments:

- Political discussion of key priorities
- In-depth discussion policy challenges and good practice
- the importance of cooperation and of spreading good practice

At the core of the conference will be the political forum in the afternoon of the first conference day. During the forum two high-profile key-note speakers will speak about research and ICT and about climate change, respectively, and prominent panels consisting of academics, European politicians and practitioners will discuss about the future of European regional policy with a view towards the year 2020.

Regions for Economic Change

RegioStars 2010

The Awards for Region Innovative Projects

Regional Policy InfoREGIO Website

Lisbon Monitoring Platform

INTERREG IVC

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I invite the Managing Authorities to participate in the symbolic signature of the RAPs

RAP signed by MAs

- On the 20th May in the morning
- Join the ceremony attended by Commissioner Hahn





Thank you for your
attention