



**eNewsletter**  
Issue 5: June 2010

## The Research Potential Network in FP7

Working together to strengthen research capacities in convergence and outermost regions of the EU

### Events

**02-07/07/10** [ESOF, Turin Italy](#)

**06/07/10** [European business and speed dating, Turin, Italy](#)

**04-07/10/10** [OPEN DAYS 2010–8th European Week of Regions and Cities, Brussels, Belgium](#)

**21-23/07/10** [Regional branding in EU 2020 Santander Spain](#)

**27-29/09/10** Conference '[ICT 2010 Digitally Driven](#)', **Brussels, Belgium**

**27-29/10/10** [INNOVA CONFERENCE 2010 – Reshaping Europe: Addressing Societal Challenges through Entrepreneurship and Innovation](#), Liegi, Belgium

**29-01/10/10** [EUROPEAN CLUSTER Conference 2010 – World-Class Clusters Renewing European Industry](#), **Brussels, Belgium**

**17/11/10** [EU-DRIVERS Conference - Universities leading regional innovation: New partnerships at a](#)

### Events

#### Italian National INFODAY

Università degli Studi Mediterranea, Reggio Calabria  
July 1, 2010

**APRE** - the Agency for the Promotion of European Research - is organising a national Info Day on the FP7 Capacities Specific Programmes "*Research Potential for the convergence and outermost regions*" and "*Regions of Knowledge and support for regional research-driven clusters*" to be held on July 1, 2010 at the University of Reggio Calabria.

The Italian delegate and the speakers from the EC will showcase the opportunities offered by the Research Potential and Regions of Knowledge Work programmes and explain how to use European and National funding instruments to foster regional research potential.

Moreover, thanks to the contributions of Italian coordinators of RegPot and Rok projects and the experience of the evaluators, participants will be provided with additional insight and tips for submitting well-structured and eligible proposals. In the afternoon potential proposers will have the opportunity to discuss their project ideas in more depth during bilateral meetings with the NCP.

More [info](#)

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### Events

#### European Regional Economic Forum 2010

*"Competencies and Values for Sustainable, Knowledge-based Competitiveness - A New Agenda for European Regions"*.

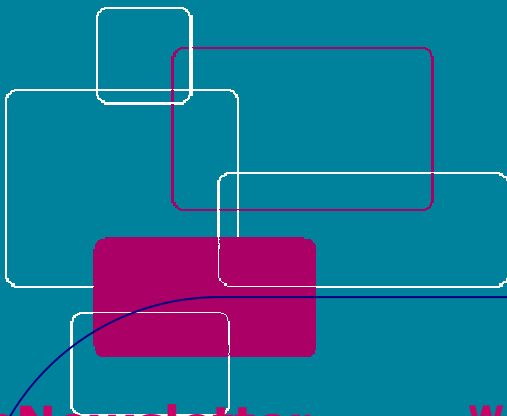
The sixth European Regional Economic Forum 2010, is being held on 7-8 June in Nova Gorica, Slovenia.

The Forum is being co-organised by the Slovenian Government and the Municipality of Nova Gorica, under the high auspices of the Committee of the Regions.

The Triple Helix policy makers and knowledge stakeholders will openly explore and discuss possible, practical solutions to the problems of future knowledge society. Forum participants will be acquainted with selected European and worldwide best practice.

To know more: <http://www.eref.eu/>





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## NEWS - WIRE 2010

### Week of Innovative Regions

#### Granada



The Spanish presidency of the EU organised the WIRE Conference, in Granada. The conference focused entirely on European Research and regional innovation. The results of the discussions will be the starting point of the debates for WIRE 2011 that will be held in Hungary.

WIRE saw a high level of participation by the European Commission, institutional representatives of the Member States and Local Authorities and researchers, representing the regions' needs. The event was an opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Research Potential (RegPot) and Regions of Knowledge and (ROK) programs, as well as the Seventh Framework Programme and the most suitable development for the future.

The three-day agenda was articulated around a common theme: to examine the efficient use of the resources devoted to R&D, especially the Structural Funds (SF) and their potential synergy with the Framework Programme of RTD (FP) and Innovation and Competitiveness Programme (CIP).

The presentations highlighted the need to have a greater impact at international and local level by sustaining the synergies between different research policies and financing schemes (European, national and regional). Moreover, several speakers stressed the need to consider the local economic base with more business-oriented programmes, giving confidence to private investment, particularly SMEs. The theme of cross-border cooperation in research was widely discussed as an essential element of FP7 but not adequately supported at national and regional level.

The two key elements that emerged as solutions to improve synergies between research funding were:

- stronger national coordination through more consultation & monitoring of the implementation policies,
- more efficient dissemination of good practice, even when involving different schemes and programmes.

The network of Regional NCPs set up a helpdesk to give support and assist participants. The two coordinators of the NCP networks ResPotNet and TransReg participated in the various sessions, contributing the considerable experience they have gained from past calls of the respective programmes. Presentations and a summary of the outcome of the week of innovative regions in Europe are available on the [website](#).

### Evaluating Regional Policy - Insights and Results

Between 2000 and 2006, Cohesion Policy not only spent one third of the EU budget, it was also a policy that was challenged by history and helped to change history. The task of the ex post evaluation of this period was to analyse what has been achieved across all regions and identify any possibilities that could make the policy even more successful in meeting its challenges.

Read more in the [Panorama-Inforegio](#)



[www.respotnet.eu](http://www.respotnet.eu)

**Success Story:** The 36 month project, TEMP launched in December 2009 will focus on strengthening relations between Italy, Portugal and Tunisia, in the field of textile & clothing technology, while promoting a closer cooperation between complementary organisations in the following topics:

- Development of Scientific and Human Potential;
- Exchange know-how and best practices;
- Increasing S&T research capacities.



The major expected impacts of the TEMP Project are:  
Better integration of EU and MED countries strategies;  
Improved S&T capacities in the MPC (Mediterranean Partner Country) country and convergence region;  
Reinforcement of the regional economic and social development;  
Stronger and more effective link between partner's organisation and further RTD organisations in the partner's countries.

Temp is coordinated by Technological Centre for the Textile and Clothing Industry of Portugal. [www.temp-eumed.eu](http://www.temp-eumed.eu)

**Success story:** The "TransMedRi" project—"Upgrading the capacities for research in translational medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka" - aims to strengthen the research potential of the Faculty for translational research in biomedicine, particularly in the fields of infectious diseases and cancer. The project objectives include: close cooperation between several basic and clinical research groups, recruitment of several experienced researchers from abroad, establishment of new laboratories and a bio-bank, training of young researchers in foreign laboratories, organisation of several courses and procurement of research equipment. Over 30 experts and their groups from European and American scientific institutions will be involved in the transfer of specific knowledge and technologies. The project will be supported by the EU Commission with €1.853.941,00 over 36 months. The coordinator of the project is Prof. Dr. Bojan Polić, Vice-Dean for Research and PhD Programmes at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, Croatia.

**Success Story:** The **WeSteer** project a "Support Action for the Emergence of the Research - Driven Automotive Cluster in West Romania" was funded by the EU's FP7 as part of the RoK initiative. Partnership of the Project ran between March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2010 includes; West Romanian Regional Development Agency (project leader), Polytechnic University of Timisoara, Interpart Production, and the Association Tehimpuls - Regional Center of Innovation and Technology Transfer and has a budget of €169,924.

WeSteer's major objectives were to facilitate the formation of an automotive industry cluster in the West Region through a series of actions focused on institutional consolidation and fostering of cooperation between academia and business.

The most significant results of the "Westeer" are:

- creating a cluster management unit, in synergy with the overall activity of the association "Automotivest"
- development of a multi-year action plan for the cluster, as well as of marketing and internationalisation strategies
- elaboration of a study of the automotive sector at regional level
- creation of databases on a) companies active in the industry at regional level, b) R&D institutions in the region and relevant innovative products for the automotive industry
- drawing up a guide on promoting cooperation between the companies R&D institutions and businesses in the West Region, with emphasis on the situation in the automotive sector
- supporting the implementation of a pilot project for coop between the Polytechnic University of Timisoara & the company Interpart Production focused on techniques for generating complex paths for CNC machines
- implementation of a comprehensive package of info and communication activities addressed to various types of cluster stakeholders (thematic workshops, expert roundtables, site visits, jour fixes, etc.)
- communication tools, eg. the newsletter "Autoclustervest" and the portal [www.automotivest.ro](http://www.automotivest.ro).

