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EDITORIAL

In the year 2000, the heads of the European member States adopted the so-called Lisbon Agenda, hoping that Europe would be the most successful knowledge-based economy by 2010. Already in 2004 we all knew that Europe would not be able to reach such a goal. Shouldn't we propose that the next Lisbon Agenda should aim at building the most world open and agile public administration in Europe able to support both economic and wellbeing innovation?

Why open? Because the different players of the EU multi-governance system too often behave in a JIMA attitude (Just In My Administration) which prevents any real integrated approach of economic development. Why agile? Because flexibility and creativity are the only ways to respond to a fast changing environment! More than in the past, public administration should be able to open doors for innovation. Instead of fostering or ordering innovation, public authorities should detect innovation opportunities and help innovation to be used by local stakeholders. With such a goal, this part of the world would be able to align the political wisdom with funding willingness and readiness. We can of course not pretend to change the world within the two or three coming days, but we can at least explore common paths to forge new ways of thinking how our practitioners' community will develop the next generation of tools to ensure the prosperity of the citizen of the regions which trust our capability to make a difference!

IMPORTANT DATES

23.2.10	Expert Group: Dialogue with DG Regio
2.3.10	Working Group to validate the results of the EURODITE project
15/16.4.10	N2N seminar on 'Eco-Innovation in partnership with IMADE (Madrid)
6.5.10	General Assembly of EURADA
6/7.5.10	Agorada 2010 in partnership with the partners of the Eurodite project
10/13.5.10	INSME Annual meeting (Rio de Janeiro)
26/28.9.10	IEDC Annual meeting (Columbus, Ohio)

LIFE OF THE NETWORK

SNAPSHOT OF THE AUTUMN 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following decisions were taken :

1. 2010 membership fee scale. The General Assembly has decided to keep the amounts of the 2010 membership fees at the same level as those of 2009. As a consequence, the 2010 membership fee scale is as follows:

Categories of members	2009
Full members EU 15	€ 3,500
Full members EU 12	€ 2 610
Partner members	€ 3,500
Associate and subscribing members	€ 2,260
Members from TACIS and other non-European countries	€ 575
Partner national associations	0

EURADA Partnership Forum	2009
Corporates	€ 3,500
Small & medium sized consultants	€ 2,360
Universities	€ 1,180

2. 2010 budget. Out of the impact of the Secretariat's participation in projects cofinanced by the European Union, the General Assembly has adopted a draft balanced budget for an amount of EUR410,500.
3. Broad lines of the work programme for the first half of 2010.
 - Organisation of a N2N meeting in cooperation with IMADE Madrid in April 2010 on eco-innovation.
 - Agorada 2010. Topic: Regional knowledge trajectories. Final conference of the EURODITE project.
 - Continuation of the dialogue with DG Regio on the measures and tools in favour of RTDI and entrepreneurship.

The Executive Committee, extended to interested Board members, will think about the new forms of knowledge dissemination.

The members were happy to hear that since 1st January 2009, the Secretariat has been invited 9 times to give its opinion on various text or project proposals before their publications.

WORLD EXHIBITION OF SHANGHAI

If you intend to organise a mission in Shanghai during the 2010 World Exhibition which will take place from 1st May until 31 October 2010, the managers of the Shanghai Minlian Lingang United Development Co., Ltd. (the biggest economic development zone of Shanghai) offer to collaborate with you for the organisation of a joint seminar, a visit of the zone, the participation in a conference you intend to organise there, etc.

For any information, you can contact

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3RD WORLD FORUM ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

70 participants from 24 countries representing all continents have exchanged their points of views on the types of regional economy to be shaped at the end of the financial crisis which appeared in mid-2008.

The PowerPoint presentations of the speakers are available on EURADA's website in the section "About us" ---> Conference library.

The **CONCLUSIONS OF THE FORUM** are reproduced below.

More than ever, the economy emerging from the 2008 crisis will require strengthening the resources made available to regional policies (place-based policies). Indeed, the latter are best equipped to take up the challenges of territorial cohesion (Manfred Beschel) and the societal challenges facing people (Renato Galliano, Stuart Barlett). In the same way as economic innovation, societal innovation can be a source of economic growth and profit for businesses and rests on the regional human capital (João Carlos Cunha e Silva, Carlos Estudante).

To be desirable for the future, regional economic development (place-based strategy) must be associated with eco-diversity, a triple-layer economic model including the social/community, local and global levels. Actually, eco-diversity involves a wide diversity of stakeholders and reconciles notions of time, efficiency and reality (Marjorie Jouen).

Globalisation is an irreversible phenomenon which regional economies never ignore. This being said, deregulation at supranational level must be associated by controls to avoid the excesses that led to the subprimes crisis (Fernando Madelino). Controlled deregulation cannot lead to nationalism, protectionism (Johan Declerck) or even the enforced survival of lame ducks (Konstantin Fokin). Controls must serve the endogenous potential (Malgorzata Dwierzynska).

There is a broad consensus on the need to identify alternatives to GDP as the measure of economic growth, including when it comes to providing the impetus for future strategies (Anne-Marie Romera). Measurement of regional wellbeing and support for wellness clusters are generalising (Andrea di Anselmo and Gen Amano). In the long run, the notion of socially responsible regions will become mainstream (Renato Galliano).

Eco-innovation and renewable energy sources are emerging as some of the most widespread answers to the crisis (David Vanden Brule, Lamia El Bouanani, Ian Bromley, Malgorzata Dwierzynska) and as genuine opportunities for regional economies (place-based

solutions) (Samuele Furfari, Agostinho Figueira, Carlos Pereira Da Silva, Lars Tomlinson, Paul Wright) and new industrial park concepts (Johanna Pulli). The role of China as a driver of economic recovery is raising both hopes (Johan Declerck, Stuart Barlett) and fears, especially when it comes to FDI (Gen Amano).

Too often, Europe comes across as a region where shaping the policy discourse and earmarking resources takes a long time while in the US, it seems that economic players act fast and so precede policy discussions (Ian Bromley, Victor Hausner). In both the US and Europe, there is a need to invest in institutional capacity training to enable intermediary bodies to turn major policy decisions into effective operational projects (Victor Hausner). International cooperation can be a fantastic driver of life-long training for development agency staff (Victor Hausner, Renato Galliano, Lamia El Bouanani).

To plan their future, regions can examine the exposure of their industrial fabric to cyclic economic changes. This hypothesis takes account of the fact that industries have different positive and negative growth rates and that productive structures are specific to individual regions (Martin Eichler).

Regions must continue to encourage entrepreneurship in consideration of regional entrepreneurial history and population training levels while promoting entrepreneurship within education systems (Jonathan Levie). Specific attention must be dedicated to innovative and atypical business developers: migrants, women, students, the population of urban regeneration areas as well as social and community enterprise developers through provision of specific grants and support services (Alain Leikine).

Regions also need to support and invest in knowledge assets, notably by means of an analysis of their knowledge stock and through management of locally-generated or imported knowledge flows, thereby moving from an approach based on regional clusters to one resting on a cognitive-based regional drive (territorial knowledge dynamics) (Stewart MacNeill). This approach is applied in the Finnish region of Southern Savo by leveraging regional environmental assets to promote employment in SMEs (Tiina Tervaniemi).

Regional development entails continued financing of infrastructure and intangible investment (John Berry, Paul Krutko). This requires development agencies to adopt new organisational models (Carmen Gonzalez) as well as public-private and public-public partnerships (Stefano Robol) and promotion of innovation at (cross-)regional level (Antoine Platen, Theo Föllings).

Attracting talent thanks to an entrepreneurship-friendly environment should inspire European regions because such initiatives encourage constant diversification through sectorial innovation (Johan Declerck, Paul Krutko, Gen Amano). This phenomenon can be facilitated by use of techniques including inter-clustering (Theo Föllings), private demand-driven innovation (Antoine Platen) or public demand-driven innovation (Carlos Pereira da Silva), living labs (Gen Amano) and innovation cafés (David Vanden Brule). These processes all encourage participation of as many regional businesses as possible in open innovation activities (Antoine Platen, Theo Föllings), thereby putting flesh around the bones of the concept of place-based innovation.

More than in the past, regional public authorities will need to be able to identify innovation opportunities and promote their use, including through public procurement and public-private partnerships, i.e. by accepting risk-taking rather than simply planning innovation support strategies (Manfred Beschel).

In short, regions need to redefine their support activities and programmes to strike the best possible balance between activities aiming to support either economic growth or citizen wellbeing. This balance should be sought through a development model that reckons with

the diversity of economic activities, i.e. the social, local and global economies and rests on a wide diversity of entrepreneurs.

PROJECTS RECENTLY ACCEPTED

The following projects, in which the Secretariat of Eurada is due to play a more or less important role, were accepted by the European Commission in the past months:

RegCEP: Implementation of regional policies in favour of energy clusters. Project leader: Shannon Development (IRL).

Take it Up: Project aiming at modelising the results of PRO-INNO projects in view of their transfer to other regions. Project leader: META Group (I).

EU Drivers: Pilot project to implement the concept of RTD triangle (University Dean-RDAs-Enterprises) at regional level. Project leader: European Centre for Strategic Management of Universities.

Regional Innovation Monitor: Development of regional innovation indicators. Project leader: Technopolis Group (B).

Cradle to Cradle: Share of experience aiming at fostering the recycling of a product or its components as soon as it is designed. Project leader: Milano Metropoli (I).

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

INED (International Network of Economic Development).

EURADA is associated to IEDC (International Economic Development Council, USA) in order to favour exchanges between the continental associations of RDAs and thus to give substance to the relationships between the members of those associations.

Except a few RDAs such as the Brussels Enterprise Agency (B), the members do indeed not take advantage of these networks to develop partnerships. It should be noted that the Brussels Enterprise Agency took advantage of its participation in the IEDC annual conference in Reno to meet enterprises of San Diego, San Jose and Sacramento identified by IEDC members. The agency had already tested this approach in 2008 in the region of Atlanta.

There is no obstacle to the generalisation of this type of cooperation between the EURADA members and those of IEDC, EDAC, ...

UNOPS

UNOPS and EURADA have just signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* aiming at promoting the exchange of experience between RDAs of emerging countries and those of developed countries. The EURADA members might participated in an accreditation project of RDAs from emerging countries.

WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT

- ✓ **Reply to the Consultation of DG Enterprise and Industry on the future of the EU innovation policy** (see below)

EURADA CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU INNOVATION PLAN

EURADA is the European Association of Development Agencies. Its members are 140 development agencies operating in the European Union. EURADA can be considered the European association of economic development practitioners. Currently, EURADA is hosting the Secretariat of the IRE Community of Practice.

(1) Do you agree with the Commission's assessment of the main achievements and shortcomings of Community policies in support of innovation?

In its document COM(2009)442 of 2 September 2009, the Commission gives itself too much credit for its own action while lacking the courage to examine (i) the effectiveness of its action; (ii) the lack of symmetry between its offer and existing demand; and (3) the positioning of its action in a value chain. Like many administrations, its action is too narrowly focused on low added-value services (information, awareness) to the detriment of high value-added services (investment, research or implementation of future practices).

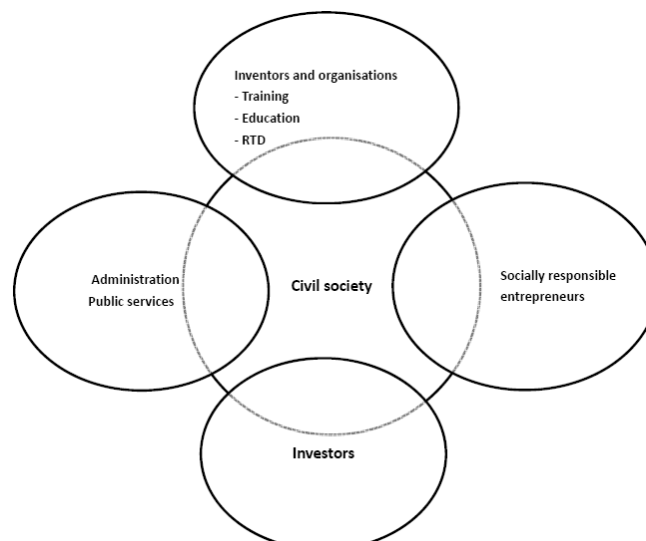
The recent trend in innovation policy seems to be a focus on operations among “insiders” without aiming to transfer the outcomes of activities for the benefit of the wider population. Excellence cannot ignore the needs of the European Union as a whole.

The EU Commission finds it difficult to reconcile notions of Community interest projects and challenges with the principle of subsidiarity. It is worth recalling that it is businesses that create jobs and produce knowledge – not framework conditions – and that their roots are systematically local. Therefore, it is essential for innovation policy to leverage geographical proximity.

The picture the EU Commission paints of its own action is not set against the backcloth of final users expectations – i.e. those of businesses – as described in document SEC(2009)1197 of 9 September 2009 introducing the results of the public consultation on innovation policy.

(2) Should EU innovation policies have a stronger orientation towards addressing major societal challenges? If so, which ones should be prioritised?

Yes. To face the core challenges in business and society it is necessary that the EU innovation policy is focused on the most important issues. These challenges should be prioritized in concertation with the following five key actors represented in the penta helix below.



(3) Should innovation policy have any specific sector approach? If so, which sectors should be supported and which specific policy measures should be developed?

No. Innovation is and needs to remain a cross-cutting activity. In view of its limited financial resources, the EU Commission should focus its efforts in the four areas below:

- detection of new techniques;
- modelling/codification of new techniques;
- promoting their dissemination throughout the EU;
- enabling their development in a context of transnational cooperation.

In this way, the EU Commission brings genuine added value to its action in the form of the promotion of innovative techniques.

To do so, it should review its organisational chart to include a new Directorate managing the units below:

1. Intelligence
2. Experiment
3. Modelling and capitalisation
4. Dissemination

The “Dissemination” Unit would have a teaching and coaching role in the (top-up) transfer of practices identified as promising. Implementing these techniques to solve societal or sectoral issues should be the responsibility of the different users based on their own perception of these challenges and of their institutional capital as assets of or obstacles to innovation.

Indeed, the fundamental principles of the innovation process – i.e. perception of demand or markets, access to finance, internationalisation, technology transfer, IP protection or activation, networking, etc. – apply equally to all industries and societal challenges. The depth of issues may vary from one industry to the next. Indeed, it is comparatively more difficult to invest in biotechnology than in tourism.

In this context, the EU Commission needs to be a “breeding ground for ideas”, a knowledge multiplier leaving it up to key national/regional players to adjust its concepts to their own societal challenges and key industries.

In any case, rather than a sector-specific approach, the Commission should promote a transnational, cross-sector approach to contribute Community added value by providing more funding for testing such approach.

More financial resources are needed to support demonstration and reference measures. Innovation policies should support local sectorial initiatives in order to help to address the major societal challenges faced locally. Social innovation is identified to be important. Nevertheless, there is very limited or even no support for developing and testing new approaches in that field.

(4) Do existing instruments to support innovation need to be adjusted to reflect the changing nature of innovation and integrate new innovation patterns (services innovation, open innovation, user-driven innovation etc.)?

Yes, because the majority of public support services are not necessarily suited to the new innovation methods used by businesses.

However, as far as innovation in services is concerned, it should be borne in mind that it is often linked to manufacturing operations both upstream (RTD, engineering, design, process, finance, etc.) and downstream (distribution, logistics, marketing, etc.). In traditional

industries, the best commercial successes are often achieved through this combination of innovation.

Most of the public support instruments for innovation are actually concentrated on high tech innovation. New addition funding instruments for a broader innovation support are necessary. European regions, including rural ones, must have the opportunity to better exploit their specific potentials. Therefore, a freedom of design for specific innovation support measures at regional and local level is preferable.

(5) What are the most important remaining obstacles for the EU to unleash its full creative and innovative potential, in particular through innovative SMEs?

Access to market, the strengthening of financial engineering tools and the adoption of tax rules that encourage efforts to reinvest profits into RTDI.

Attention should be given to the changes needed in the management structures of SMEs to cope with innovation.

For instance, the EU Commission should solve the language issue preventing the adoption of the European patent by requiring its publication in only two languages – one of which English – and allowing tax deductibility of patent translation costs.

Furthermore, it is necessary to have a closer connection between innovation support measures and funding programmes for human capital (education and vocational training). Human capital builds the basis for the development of innovation.

(6) What are the implications for research policy of the changes needed to policies in support of innovation (e.g. the goal of addressing major societal changes, etc.)?

The objective should be to expedite commercialisation of research outcomes through support for proof-of-concept, market testing, public procurement, public private partnerships and other schemes as well as pilot “first movers” or “first innovation takers” programmes.

(7) Which scope exists to better facilitate the consolidation of world-class innovation “eco-systems” or clusters in the EU at regional level, taking into account emerging industries?

The only EU added value in this field is in its support for internationalisation efforts among businesses involved in formal clusters. Measures to be supported should be identified using the matrix overleaf:

EURADA matrix of “Business Functions and International Services”

Business functions	International services
Research	Joint research Access to facilities Establishment (FDI)
Innovation	Joint development Technological proof Economic proof IP licensing and transfer
Production	Outsourcing Off-shoring Subcontracting Establishment (FDI)
Marketing	Market testing
Distribution	Economic intelligence
Finance	Equity capital

The internationalisation effort should not be restricted to the internal market. Matchmaking events for innovative SMEs to find technology partners from third countries should be promoted by the EU action plan.

(8) How could the cooperation between regional, national and European innovation support programmes be reinforced to address the new challenges faster and more efficiently?

As mentioned above (see Question (2)), the EU needs to play a double role:

- a) accelerator of new practices;
- b) mentor/coach for the take-up of new ideas through regional and national (public and private) support service providers.

The EU Commission should involve more the regional level (NUTS II and NUTS III) for the design and implementation of innovation support measures as there is a better knowledge of the SME support needs. Instruments can be more precisely adjusted on the regional demand of the regional SMEs.

(9) What could the EU do to provide adequate access to finance to SMEs and entrepreneurs?

The Commission can help build up finance provision by investing in (cross-)regional seed capital funds as well as by designing and disseminating tools that help improve SME take-up of finance (investment readiness, proof of concept, etc.).

The EU Commission could also develop a European Business Angels statute.

(10) Could the EU contribute to exploit the innovation potential in public services?

Yes. The EU Commission should promote the emergence of innovative public procurement (some of them should be restricted or dedicated to innovative SMEs), transnational public-private and public-public partnership practices.

(11) How could the Community funding programmes for innovation, including FP7, CIP and Structural Funds, be simplified and streamlined?

It is a pipe dream, due to administrative practices and a bureaucratic culture that promotes the JIMA (Just In My Administration) syndrome. Indeed, we doubt that the EU Commission will ever have the political stamina to merge all its different funding providers into one programme managed by a single administrative unit. Even CIP did not manage to achieve this: delivery of its different pillars is not coordinated.

Consequently, the only option is to encourage – through joint dissemination activities – support for sector hubs enabling cooperation among all supply chain stakeholders (see section (8) above for a description of the concept).

The only possible avenue of progress would be either strengthened cooperation among policies to finance a larger number of projects or implementing prototype administrative tools developed within the framework of the different pilot projects funded under the three instruments.

In the face of underutilised funding earmarked for action in support of RTDI, maybe DG Regio could give a second chance to good yet unsuccessful project applications submitted under FP7 or CIP? This action could either take place as part of a dialogue with regional or national Operational Programme management authorities or carried out with ERDF unused amounts recovered in accordance with the automatic decommitment (n+2) rule.

Innovation capitalisation processes are too long for SMEs, more flexibility is needed in the processes of handling financial applications. Cut-off date could be six times a year.

(12) What could be realistic and meaningful quantitative and qualitative targets for future European innovation policy?

The quantitative objectives of EU policy should be expressed both as the number of innovative start-ups developed and supported from Community instruments and as the (employment, turnover and additional added value created) growth rates of innovative businesses.

As for qualitative objectives: detection of at least X innovative practices over the next five years and transfer of Y practices per member State over the same period, as well as a tripling of total seed capital investment in SMEs – i.e. less than three years into their existence.

AND IF THE FUTURE COHESION POLICY TOOK DECLINING REGIONS INTO CONSIDERATION?

In Eurada-News Nr 302, 30.09.2009, pages 3 to 6, we examined the concept of transitional regions, i.e. regions the GDP of which would be comprised between 75% and 100% of the Community average by successive 5-point jumps. In total, a maximum of 79 regions would be included in that category. Below is the list of the 125 regions the GDP of which has decreased between 2002 and 2006.

The table below tries to categorise those regions according to the severity of the decline recorded and their GDP level in 2002.

(in units)

Regression	Total	GDP level in 2002			
		< 74,99	75 - 99,99	100 - 124,99	> 125
> 20	1	-	-	-	1
10 – 19,99	10	1	1	2	6
5 – 9,99	41	8	9	18	11
1 – 4,99	55	8	19	21	7
0 – 0,99	18	4	5	5	4
Σ	125	16	34	46	29

Here is the breakdown by Member State:

Member State	Σ	> -20	-10 to -9,99	-5 to -9,99	-1 to -4,99	0 to -0,99
A	3	-	1	-	2	-
B	11	1	-	4	6	-
BG	1	-	-	-	-	1
D	15	-	-	1	7	7
E	3	-	-	-	2	1
F	26	-	4	12	9	1
FIN	2	-	-	1	1	-
GR	6	-	-	1	4	1
HU	3	-	-	-	2	1
I	21	-	4	12	5	-
NL	10	-	1	2	6	1
P	2	-	-	-	2	-
S	5	-	-	1	2	2
UK	17	-	-	7	7	3
TOTAL	125	1	10	41	55	18

In detail :

Region	Country	2002	2006	Δ 2006-2002
Wien	A	180,20	165,90	-14,30
Burgenland (A)	A	84,90	82,10	-2,80
Vorarlberg	A	132,00	129,50	-2,50
Région de Bruxelles-Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest	B	254,60	233,30	-21,30
Prov. Limburg (B)	B	104,60	97,20	-7,40
Prov. West-Vlaanderen	B	116,90	110,70	-6,20
Prov. Liège	B	92,90	86,90	-6,00
Prov. Antwerpen	B	145,30	139,70	-5,60
Prov. Luxembourg (B)	B	86,40	81,60	-4,80
Prov. Oost-Vlaanderen	B	110,10	105,30	-4,80
Prov. Namur	B	86,60	81,90	-4,70

Region	Country	2002	2006	Δ 2006-2002
Prov. Hainaut	B	81,70	77,10	-4,60
Prov. Vlaams Brabant	B	127,50	123,80	-3,70
Prov. Brabant Wallon	B	118,00	114,50	-3,50
Severozapaden	BG	26,20	25,40	-0,80
Berlin	D	102,90	97,30	-5,60
Köln	D	121,70	118,50	-3,20
Rhein Hessen-Pfalz	D	107,60	105,50	-2,10
Schleswig-Holstein	D	103,40	101,40	-2,00
Mittelfranken	D	133,20	131,40	-1,80
Stuttgart	D	140,40	138,70	-1,70
Karlsruhe	D	132,90	131,50	-1,40
Freiburg	D	115,20	113,80	-1,40
Düsseldorf	D	128,40	127,70	-0,70
Schwaben	D	121,60	120,90	-0,70
Weser-Ems	D	100,20	99,60	-0,60
Detmold	D	110,40	109,80	-0,60
Lüneburg	D	84,50	84,00	-0,50
Brandenburg - Nordost	D	75,90	75,50	-0,40
Trier	D	95,30	95,20	-0,10
Illes Balears	ES	119,00	114,10	-4,90
Canarias (ES)	ES	94,20	92,60	-1,60
Comunidad Valenciana	ES	96,20	95,40	-0,80
Île de France	F	181,60	169,70	-11,90
Alsace	F	113,00	101,60	-11,40
Franche-Comté	F	103,00	91,90	-11,10
Guyane (FR)	F	59,70	49,00	-10,70
Picardie	F	94,10	86,30	-7,80
Centre	F	103,90	96,50	-7,40
Limousin	F	96,70	89,50	-7,20
Aquitaine	F	106,60	99,60	-7,00
Lorraine	F	95,70	89,00	-6,70
Pays de la Loire	F	105,60	99,00	-6,60
Bourgogne	F	101,00	94,80	-6,20
Champagne-Ardenne	F	105,80	99,80	-6,00
Basse-Normandie	F	95,40	89,40	-6,00
Poitou-Charentes	F	96,90	91,00	-5,90
Auvergne	F	96,80	91,30	-5,50
Haute-Normandie	F	104,60	99,30	-5,30
Rhône-Alpes	F	115,60	111,20	-4,40
Languedoc-Roussillon	F	90,00	86,10	-3,90
Midi-Pyrénées	F	104,10	100,40	-3,70

Region	Country	2002	2006	Δ 2006-2002
Bretagne	F	99,70	96,40	-3,30
Corse	F	89,00	85,80	-3,20
Martinique (FR)	F	76,70	73,60	-3,10
Nord - Pas-de-Calais	F	91,00	88,00	-3,00
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	F	107,40	104,60	-2,80
Réunion (FR)	F	63,50	61,60	-1,90
Guadeloupe (FR)	F	69,30	68,40	-0,90
Åland	FIN	151,90	146,70	-5,20
Etelä-Suomi	FIN	134,50	132,50	-2,00
Ionia Nisia	GR	79,00	73,90	-5,10
Kriti	GR	85,70	82,80	-2,90
Notio Aigaio	GR	98,00	96,20	-1,80
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	GR	62,40	60,90	-1,50
Dytiki Ellada	GR	61,20	59,80	-1,40
Thessalia	GR	68,90	68,10	-0,80
Dél-Dunántúl	HU	45,20	42,90	-2,30
Dél-Alföld	HU	43,30	42,10	-1,20
Nyugat-Dunántúl	HU	63,90	63,80	-0,10
Lombardia	I	149,50	135,10	-14,40
Emilia-Romagna	I	140,20	126,60	-13,60
Provincia Autonoma Trento	I	134,30	121,50	-12,80
Abruzzo	I	95,10	84,90	-10,20
Toscana	I	122,60	113,00	-9,60
Lazio	I	132,70	123,20	-9,50
Umbria	I	105,90	96,60	-9,30
Piemonte	I	123,20	114,00	-9,20
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	I	125,40	116,20	-9,20
Veneto	I	130,00	121,50	-8,50
Marche	I	112,80	104,30	-8,50
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	I	130,20	121,90	-8,30
Liguria	I	112,90	105,30	-7,60
Provincia Autonoma Bolzano-Bozen	I	141,50	135,50	-6,00
Puglia	I	73,40	67,40	-6,00
Campania	I	72,00	66,10	-5,90
Basilicata	I	78,40	74,30	-4,10
Molise	I	81,60	77,60	-4,00
Sicilia	I	70,80	66,90	-3,90
Sardegna	I	83,20	79,50	-3,70
Calabria	I	69,80	67,00	-2,80
Utrecht	NL	166,10	156,10	-10,00
Noord-Holland	NL	157,20	151,40	-5,80

Region	Country	2002	2006	Δ 2006-2002
Drenthe	NL	106,50	101,50	-5,00
Gelderland	NL	113,50	109,40	-4,10
Zeeland	NL	119,90	116,80	-3,10
Limburg (NL)	NL	120,50	117,40	-3,10
Friesland (NL)	NL	107,80	105,10	-2,70
Overijssel	NL	115,70	113,20	-2,50
Noord-Brabant	NL	133,70	132,20	-1,50
Zuid-Holland	NL	135,90	135,00	-0,90
Lisboa	P	108,70	106,60	-2,10
Norte	P	62,40	60,50	-1,90
Mellersta Norrland	S	112,80	107,50	-5,30
Småland med öarna	S	108,70	106,70	-2,00
Sydsverige	S	109,80	108,80	-1,00
Östra Mellansverige	S	104,90	104,10	-0,80
Stockholm	S	165,90	165,80	-0,10
Lincolnshire	UK	91,50	82,70	-8,80
West Midlands	UK	116,80	108,40	-8,40
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area	UK	138,50	130,40	-8,10
Surrey, East and West Sussex	UK	131,80	124,90	-6,90
North Yorkshire	UK	109,70	104,20	-5,50
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire	UK	135,00	129,70	-5,30
East Wales	UK	118,30	113,20	-5,10
West Yorkshire	UK	114,20	110,50	-3,70
East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	UK	99,30	95,70	-3,60
Lancashire	UK	98,80	95,40	-3,40
Merseyside	UK	88,80	86,40	-2,40
Shropshire and Staffordshire	UK	93,80	91,60	-2,20
Kent	UK	97,40	95,50	-1,90
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	UK	107,30	105,90	-1,40
Outer London	UK	109,90	109,00	-0,90
West Wales and The Valleys	UK	77,40	77,30	-0,10
Berkshire, Bucks and Oxfordshire	UK	164,10	164,00	-0,10

FUTURE OF THE EU POLICIES

UE post 2013

The European Commission has just launched a consultation on the future "EU 2020" strategy. This consultation is open until 15.1.2010. Individuals, organisations and public authorities can take part. The highlights of the consultation are as follows:

The Commission considers that the key drivers of EU 2020 should be thematic, focused on the following priorities:

- (1) **Creating value by basing growth on knowledge.** Opportunity and social cohesion will be enhanced in a world where innovation makes the difference in both products and processes, harnessing the potential of education, research and of the digital economy;*
- (2) **Empowering people in inclusive societies.** The acquisition of new skills, fostering creativity and innovation, the development of entrepreneurship and a smooth transition between jobs will be crucial in a world which will offer more jobs in exchange for greater adaptability;*
- (3) **Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy.** The EU should compete more effectively and increase its productivity by a lower and more efficient consumption of non-renewable energy and resources in a world of high energy and resources prices, and greater competition for energy and resources. This will stimulate growth and help meet our environmental goals. It will benefit all sectors of the economy, from traditional manufacturing to new hi-tech start ups. Upgrading and inter-connecting infrastructure, reducing administrative burden and accelerating the market uptake of innovations will equally contribute to this goal.*

These priorities will guide EU policy making inside the EU and externally. The promotion of international co-operation and multilateral governance, including efficient, fair and rules based international trade and finance systems, will be an integral part of EU 2020. The Commission is seeking views on the following priorities which it considers to be the key drivers of EU 2020.

The following points should also be underlined :

To make a successful exit from the crisis and deliver our EU 2020 objectives, the Commission considers that we need a strategy for convergence and integration which recognises more explicitly the advanced interdependence of the EU:

- Interdependence between Member States in the form of (positive or negative) spill-over effects of national actions, particularly in the Euro-zone;*
- Interdependence between different levels of government (EU, Member States, regions, social partners - multi-layer governance);*
- Interdependence between different policies, between policies and instruments and the importance of policy integration to deliver the overall objectives;*

- Interdependence at global level – none of our Member States is large enough to keep pace with the emerging economies or to undertake this transformation alone.

(...)

Once agreed, these new priorities need to be reflected in budgetary policies. The Commission intends to take them up in the budget review it will publish next year and in its proposals for the next multi-annual financial framework. Similarly, Member States should also review their public expenditures to improve quality and efficiency and, despite important fiscal constraints, find room to invest in sustainable growth. At the same time, new financing models (such as PPPs, leveraging EU or EIB funding) also need to be explored to pool resources between the public and the private sectors and maximise impacts.

(...)

The EU 2020 vision will need the active support of stakeholders such as the social partners and civil society. Its take up across all the regions of the EU will also be crucial to its success and the Commission would like to see national parliaments taking a particular interest in this new strategy as it is developed.

Full text on http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/eu2020/consultation_en.htm

REFORM OF THE POST 2013 EU BUDGET

A first version of the draft orientations for the post 2013 budget recently circulated in the Brussels lobbies. It states the European Commission's intentions

- ✓ Redoubling the efforts to invest in research and innovation, through *inter alia*:
 - A bigger focus on spreading R&D capacities in the regions,
 - A better coordination between the private and public sectors.
- ✓ Continuing the efforts in employment and skills, namely in the field of green (eco...) and white (health, social services, ...) jobs.
- ✓ Increasing concentration, conditionality and performance of cohesion spending. The relevance of the EU intervention in favour of the "rich" regions is raised under this title. It is also underlined that zoning is a brake to the transnational and cross-border dimensions which build up the added value of the European Union. The recommended solution goes through the launch of competitive calls for projects. Finally, the document recommends the full integration in the budget of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund and of the European Union Solidarity Fund.
- ✓ Creating a new Climate and Energy Policy for Europe. Interventions under the Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion should be "climate proofed".
- ✓ Modernising transport and communication infrastructure. The option of pooling the various existing resources (cohesion, ERDF, EIB, ...) in a single TEN fund for transport is launched.
- ✓ CAP and maritime policy. The weight of the budget must be reduced in order to free up resources for new EU priorities. The question of interactions between the cohesion and rural development policies is launched.

The document contains a series of ideas on increasing the efficiency of the EU policy implementation mechanisms.

PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP

On 19.11.09, the European Commission has issued a communication entitled "Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long term structural change: developing Public Private Partnerships".

Below are the conclusions of that communication which also settles the future measures which the Commission intends to take in this matter.

Developing PPP as an instrument becomes critical as the financial and economic crisis is taking its toll on the ability of the public purse to raise adequate financial means and allocate resources to important policies and specific projects. The interest of the public sector in innovative financing instruments has increased and so has the political readiness to create conditions for more efficient ways of delivering infrastructure projects, whether in the transport, social, energy or environmental sectors. On the other hand, the private sector's interest in pursuing PPPs could be limited by the prevailing regulatory framework and new economic constraints, as well as other longer established underlying factors such as limitations in the public sector's capacity to deliver PPP programmes in many parts of Europe. In order to ensure that PPPs continue to play a role in the longer term, in particular five key actions are indispensable in 2010:

- *The Commission will set up a PPP group inviting relevant stakeholders to discuss their concerns and further ideas with regard to PPPs. Where appropriate, it will issue guidance assisting Member States in reducing the administrative burden and delays in the implementation of PPPs: in this context, it will explore ways to facilitate and to speed up the attribution of planning permits for PPP projects.*
- *The Commission will work with the EIB with a view to increasing the funding available for PPPs, by re-focussing existing Community instruments and by developing financial instruments for PPPs in the key policy areas.*
- *The Commission will review the relevant rules and practices in order to ensure that there is no discrimination in the allocation of public funds, where Community funding is involved, depending on the management of the project, be it private or public. It will make proposals for amendments, where appropriate.*
- *The Commission will propose a more effective framework for innovation, including the possibility for the EU to participate in private law bodies and directly invest in specific projects.*
- *The Commission will consider a proposal for a legislative instrument on concessions, based on the ongoing Impact Assessment.*

The actions set out above aim at creating a supportive Community framework for PPPs designed to meet the needs of citizens, furthers Community goals through a prospective analysis and ensures that actual delivery meets these needs.

Full text on EURADA's website, Heading "Thematic Info" → Regional development

BIBLIOGRAPHY

TERRITORIES WITH SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

24-page document presenting economic indicators (population, GDP, unemployment, economic disparities, ...) for five types of regions: border regions, mountainous regions, island regions, sparsely populated regions and outermost regions. Those regions represent 44.3% of the total population of the European Union, of which 39.5% for the sole border regions category.

The study concludes that there are disparities in development situations within each of the five categories. These findings justify a case by case regional approach rather than a homogeneous approach by category of regions.