

14:30 - 16:30

**10E01A - European Week of Regions and Cities: OPENING SESSION**

Organisers: The European Commission - DG REGIO & The European Committee of the Regions  
Venue: European Parliament, Hemicycle

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Cretu Corina , Mr. Markkula Markku , distinguished guests

Description in process.

Please note that the Opening Session is followed by an Opening Event (cocktail and exhibition). If you wish to attend it, you need to register to it **separately** (by selecting **Opening Event- Regiostars exhibition** in the list of workshops).

16:30 - 19:00

**10E01B - Opening Event- Regiostars exhibition**

Organisers: The European Commission - DG REGIO & The European Committee of the Regions  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atriums 5 & 6

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Cretu Corina , Mr. Markkula Markku , distinguished guests

An exhibition of the Regiostars finalists, accompanied by a networking cocktail, that will give the opportunity to familiarise with the projects and vote for the best one using the EWRC APP.

A welcome address speech will be delivered by Commissioner Corina Cretu and President Markku Markkula.

## Morning Sessions

09:00 - 10:45

**11A02 - Towards the circular economy: local and regional solutions to food waste**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - ALDE

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Martikainen Ossi

Due to wasteful production and consumption great volumes of food are lost along the production chain or at the finished product stage. This puts an enormous stress on our environment and biodiversity. The focus on producing and consuming as cheaply as possible has created a linear economy in which objects are briefly used and then discarded as waste. The aim of this workshop is to discuss how local and regional authorities can play an essential role in preventing and reducing food waste and share good practices for better consumption and waste management which will facilitate transition to a circular economy.

09:00 - 10:45

**11A05 - Towards an EU Rural Agenda – Revitalisation Opportunities and Challenges**

Organisers: European Alliance Group in the Committee of the Regions

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 70

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Szwabski Stanislaw (Chair), Mr. Dermot Ryan

The aim of the seminar is to bring together policy makers and practitioners who will examine various policies and incentives needed to revitalise Rural areas including, the creation of Jobs; the provision of services; the accessibility of high speed broadband as well as transport links, and the sustainability of Rural areas across the European Union

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

**11A06 - Eastern Partnership Territorial and Parliamentary Cooperation: Advancing economic development, entrepreneurship and research & innovation**

Organisers: Euronest Parliamentary Assembly Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP)

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 1

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Hautala Heidi (Chair), Mr. Markkula Markku (Chair), Mr. Adamowicz Pawel

The reviewed ENP emphasises that economic development, entrepreneurship and youth employment should be at the heart of the EU's contribution to stabilising the neighbourhood and building partnerships. It encourages policy-makers to enhance cooperation under the Eastern Partnership in the economic and social areas, as well as for research & innovation.

The workshop will discuss strategies of regions and cities to foster growth, innovation and job creation, on the basis of some experiences such as entrepreneurial community development, smart territories, EGTCs. It will also explore how legislative and regional/local policy-makers could contribute to stepping up cooperation for economic development and innovation.

09:00 - 10:45

**11A09 - Cities and regions as launch-pads for digital transformation**

Organisers: European Commission - DG GROW – Unit F3: KETs, Digital Manufacturing and Interoperability

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Higgins John (Chair), Mr. Diez Tomas , Dr. Eleftheriadou Dana , Mr. Pustelnik Adam , Mr. Sturesson Jan

Cities and regions are entering a new area of transformation: a digital transformation which embraces social, economic, urban, mobility, educational, technological and cultural changes. The aim of the workshop is to illustrate the main attributes which characterize the digital transformation and the concrete steps to take in order to facilitate this transformation. A blueprint, conceived as a smart guidebook for all the local stakeholders will be presented, and two cities or regions, subjects of the comparative analysis of the blueprint will present their challenges and achievements. The European Commission will also present support actions related to this specific topic.

09:00 - 13:00

**11A11 - Youth Entrepreneurship: the key to boost competitiveness and growth in the regions**

Organisers: Entrepreneurship Education for Economical Growth

Venue: Northern Ireland Executive

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Ascani Anna , Dr. Augustyn Anna , Mr. Baldassarri Simone , Ms. Feňovčíková Jana , Ms. Lehman Maja , Mr. Lejeune Guy , Ms. Maksimović Marijana , Ms. Marčinko Biserka , Mr. McCourt Frankie , Mr. Orawlec Grzegorz , Mr. Stefanec Ivan , Mr. Tokarski Slawomir , Ms. Velia Anita

The aim of the debate is to showcase the impact of entrepreneurial education to support growth and business creation. It provide insights into available instruments and programmes and showcases its impact on business creation and growth. It will be a great opportunity for regional authorities to discuss the removal of existing administrative barriers and support for entrepreneurs in crucial phases of the business lifecycle.

The presence of EU officials will help to explore how regions can move further ahead in promoting inclusive entrepreneurship, including adapting educational methodology at all levels to the real needs of regional markets.

[Full programme](#)

09:00 - 13:00

**11A13 - How can cities and regions deliver the skills of the future?**

Organisers: Smart Partnerships for New Skills  
Venue: Norway House

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Ortiz Jugatx (Chair), Mr. Bozbey Mustafa , Mr. Cunha Paulo , Ms. Dahl Furunes Ingrid , Mr. Jimenez Sierra Jose , Mr. Larsson Joakim , Dr. Ludvigsen Stian S , Mrs. Pedrotti Alice , Mr. Rozlucky Konrad , Mr. Thomson Andrew

Providing Europeans with the right skills, fostering talent, releasing potential and preparing them for the job markets of the future is at the heart of Europe's 2020 Strategy. This workshop will showcase best practice from across Europe's regions on how local and regional authorities are improving the skills and employability of EU citizens. It will explore in particular how to match future demand for specialised skills with innovative provision of education and training, develop new and innovative skill-sets to improve the competitiveness of the local workforce and consider how entrepreneurial 'start-up skills' can be embedded throughout education systems.

**09:00 - 10:45**

**11C03 - Policymaking in 21st century**

Organisers: Interreg Europe  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. zzz zzz

Policymakers face the challenge of designing and implementing regional policy in an increasingly globalised, complex and interdependent environment. Competing demands come from the 'bottom', through increased citizen participation in decision-making; and from the 'top' through national and European agendas, focus on smart specialisation and results. With competition for resources tight in many contexts where budgets are being squeezed, policymakers are turning to evidence-based policy to demonstrate effectiveness. The need to collaborate in new networks, find and implement proven solutions, and be open and responsive seems primordial. How effective is cooperating and benchmarking with other European regions in better implementing regional policy? This debate with policymakers and researchers will explore interregional cooperation as a tool in the 21st century policymakers' toolkit.

**09:00 - 10:45**

**11C04 - The post-2020 growth and jobs agenda – what do local and regional authorities want?**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - ECR Group  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Keymer Gordon , Mr. Lewer Andrew , Mr. Vlasák Oldřich , Mr. Zająkala Jerzy

The EU's current growth strategy runs till 2020. This session will aim to look at how the post 2020 strategy can better accommodate the views of local and regional authorities. It will take stock of the current growth and jobs agenda and look at what the post-2020 agenda should look like.

**09:00 - 13:00**

**11C12 -**

**Efficient and effective use of ESI Funds: regional best practices**

Organisers: Regions for simplification  
Venue: Representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Przeor Marek (Chair), Mr. Tuffs Richard (Chair), Mr. Celdrán Javier , Mr. Dunn David , Mr. Esser Clemens , Ms. Fernández Myriam , Mr. Pinna Frédéric , Mr. Thomas Terri , Mr. Vámosi Gábor , Mr. Wajda Marcin

The success of ESIF largely depends on good governance and effective implementation. Part one will focus on efficient implementation by way of strategic planning, simplification and concentration. It will ask what kind of simplification is recommended by managing authorities and highlight good practices which make ESIF simpler for beneficiaries. Part two will ask whether RIS3 can enable regions to exploit synergies between funds and enable smart specialisation, thus increasing the impact of ESIF. The aim is to show how regional good practices could contribute to the more effective use of ESIF while also discussing ways of making implementation more efficient.

**09:00 - 10:45**

**UNIV11A08 - Knowledge Pearls: how can the City-University Nexus contribute to close the innovation gap?**

Organisers: European Commission - DG RTD, in coop. with EUniverCities Network, AESOP and RSA  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Brunet Olivier (Chair), Mr. Axelsson Jan , Mr. Sagan Mariusz , Mr. Van Winden Willem , Ms. Yiannakou Athena

Cities and universities are facing common challenges. The new "Amsterdam Pact" aims at helping cities across Europe to tackle multiple challenges but how can we get universities involved as global players in the setting of urban agendas including innovation? How can we promote a clever cooperation between both?

We will explore how and to which extend more cooperation between local and regional governments and universities can help us to close the growing innovation gap in the EU.

We will compare different models of cooperation and discuss the role of universities in creating not only technological and entrepreneurial impact on cities but also in contributing to close the innovation gap. We will "look forward", by debating and conceptualizing good models of "winning strategies" in this field, including models and effects of Smart Specialisation Strategies.

How can we in the end encourage the European institutions and networks to be more efficient in promoting these strategies from an innovation perspective by also taking advantage of the role played by Universities in the field of higher education?

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45**

**UNIV11C07 - Urban Development/Territorial Policy Provisions and the challenge of creating simplified and user-friendly implementation systems**



Organisers: European Commission – DG ECHO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Bower Andrew (Chair), Mr. Bruns Heiner , Mr. De Fré Dimitri , Mr. Eude Jean-Claude , Mr. Happaerts Sander

The impact of disasters is high and increasing, hitting hardest at the local and regional levels.

Investing in disaster prevention makes economic sense. Building resilience and a culture of risks is crucial to mitigating the impact of disasters, ensuring business continuity and economic well-being in cities and regions. €8 billion of EU cohesion policy cover disaster prevention and risk management between 2014 and 2020.

Panelists will discuss the economic benefits of prevention by addressing the role of local and regional authorities, EU cohesion policy and the private sector in mitigating the impact of disasters and reducing the vulnerability of citizens, infrastructures and the economy.

**11:15 - 13:00**

**11A26 - From bio-waste to bio-based products: the potential for regional innovation development**

Organisers: European Commission - DG RTD  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Kütt Waldemar (Chair), Mr. Hornung Thorsten , Mr. Langendorff Julius , Mr. Mengal Philippe , Mr. Rozendal René , Mr. Veeken Adrie

The workshop will outline the optimal use of bio-waste for the production of a wide array of bio-based products. This value chain represents a high potential for regional innovation development in order to attract new productive investments, boost a zero-waste circular economy at local level, reduce resources depletion as well as create jobs opportunities at local level.

This workshop will present the European Commission's research and innovation initiative on this value chain (e.g. Bio-Based Industries JU) and its policy framework (e.g. Circular Economy Package.).

It will also outline the main regulation barriers, technical and financial hurdles for the development of this value chain. Finally, some case studies will be presented of bio-refineries turning bio-waste into a profitable renewable raw material for added value bio-based products, thus fostering their regional growth.

**11:15 - 13:00**

**11A27 - European Territorial Cooperation and the Role of Third Country Participation**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO and Urban Policy  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Eddy Jan (Chair), Ms. Andersson-Pench Lena , Ms. Ellingsen Grete , Ms. Helgesen Gunn-Marit , Ms. Jost Silvia

The topic is third countries' (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) participation in ETC. It will focus on commitments, outcomes and results of their participation, but also the EU experience of the participation. We would like to use the workshop as an input to the debate on the future of cohesion policy, but also as an input to the debate in the third countries with regard to their future participation in ETC, including future models for participation.

The workshop will start with four speakers followed by a moderated panel debate including the audience. The four speakers will be joined by two other panelists: one from CoR representing an EU-region and one from the Sami Parliament.

**11:15 - 13:00**

**11A28 - Silver economy and regional development: Examples of social and economic gains**

Organisers: European Commission - DG CONNECT  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Oliveira Alves Bruno (Chair), Ms. Carriazo Ana , Mr. Farrell John , Mr. Hajjam Jawad , Ms. Ilario Maddalena

Reference Sites of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing showcase the potential of the European Silver Economy.

The purpose of the workshop is to learn from leading regions and cities on how to exploit this potential and leverage new productive investment.

Representatives of new EIP on AHA Reference Sites will first present their cases, e.g. implementation of integrated care programmes, age-friendly building projects, senior tourism programmes.

Smaller groups will then discuss specific fields of interest.

Groups will report back to the plenary on lessons learned, measures for collaboration and in their respective regions.

**11:15 - 13:00**

**11A30 - Smarter Together – regions and higher education as partners for innovation and growth**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EAC, DG JRC and DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Reppel Katja (Chair), Mr. Edwards John , Mr. English Joe , Mr. Irujo Amezaga Mikel , Ms. Macoveiu Gabriela , Mr. Zsembera Gabor

This workshop sees the launch of a new Commission project to support regions in exploring and sharing experience in implementing their RIS. In particular we look at how best to work with higher education institutions as they can play a vital and even transformative role in the 'Knowledge Triangle' between business, academia and research.

A number of practical case studies will be presented. These should help inspire regions and cities to find solutions to their own specific challenges. Via the S3 Platform regions and cities can follow recent project outcomes and establish a Community of Practice.

**11:15 - 13:00**

**11A79 - Reassessing economic development policies for regions and cities**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2D + Room 2C (listening room)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Berkowitz Peter (Chair), Mrs. Iammarino Simona, Mr. Rodriguez-Pose Andres, Mr. Storper Michael

The objective of the workshop is to present and discuss with the participants the results of the conference "Reassessing Economic Development Policies for Regions and Cities: Growth and Equity; Institutions and Governance; People and Places", which took place in London on 21-22 April 2016 and was jointly organised by DG REGIO and the London School of Economics (LSE). The conference brought together leading academics and policymakers from Europe and North America for a dialogue and comparison of the state-of-the-art of urban and regional economic development theory, evidence and policy. The conference focused on three sets of questions: 1) How should policymakers understand the relationship between growth, equity and geography? 2) What is the role of institutions and economic governance as preconditions for successful economic development? 3) What are the cutting-edge practices and instruments of economic development policy? At the workshop, the main organisers of the conference: Simona Iammarino, Michael Storper and Andres Rodriguez-Pose from the LSE and Peter Berkowitz from DG REGIO will present its main results and the conclusions, in the context of the starting debate on post-2020 Cohesion policy. A report based on the proceedings of the conference will be also made available to the participants.

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**11B107 - EUSALP - a Laboratory for Transnational Governance**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO, together with the Lombardy region  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Mairate Andrea (Chair), Mr. Bussjaeger Peter, Ms. Capello Roberta, Mr. Galli Stefano Bruno, Ms. Paris, tbc Céline

The EUSALP is one of the 4 Macroregional strategies and the latest to be adopted. Process of developing the governance system for the Strategy has just started. The workshop will concentrate on how to better engage civil society of all participating countries and Regions in the Strategy and how better to organise multi-level governance. This workshop will promote a debate with the Strategy's key implementers on how the governance structures of EUSALP, at its different levels, can contribute to developing a well-performing system facilitating a successful accomplishment of the EUSALP objectives. Furthermore, debates will also concentrate on how to overcome national boundaries and sectoral and cultural barriers, reducing compartmentalisation between sectoral policies, different actors and different tiers of government.

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**11C15 - Inter-city approaches to funding and delivering Smart City Ambitions**

Organisers: Smart Cities – Smart Ambitions  
Venue: Scotland House

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Brynskov Martin (Chair), Mr. Boronat Marco, Mr. Brown Alastair, Mr. Gleesborg Torben, Mr. Nadolny Tomasz, Mrs. Urjankangas Hanna-Maria

In recognition of the opportunities for cities within a Member State if they cooperate on delivering their collective smart cities ambitions, this workshop will build upon the collective experience of city partnerships within a number of Member States to adopt an inter-city approach to the Smart Cities agenda. In particular, it will focus on sharing the experience of the Finnish 6Aika in using the integrated territory investment mechanism, and explore how other city partnerships are looking to develop a similar approach to funding their Smart City ambitions. The ultimate aim is to inspire other networks of cities to develop a similar approach and to make recommendations on how ESI Funds could be structured to make the inter-city approach more accessible to these inter-city partnerships.

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**INV11A14 - Funding sustainable TEN-T-related investments to improve regional competitiveness**

Organisers: Regions connecting territories  
Venue: Portuguese Permanent Representation to the European Union

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Cattaneo Raffaele (Chair), Mr. Bandeira Eduardo, Mr. Dana Przemyslaw, Mr. Gajšek Miran, Mr. Handa Radek, Mr. Romero Miranda Juan

TEN-T plays an important role in improving European territorial cohesion. Accurately planned investments and transport infrastructures are key factors for providing companies with access to global markets. A balanced dialogue between public and private sectors facilitates sustainable regional growth, especially relevant in border and/or less developed regions. There are many factors hindering development of regions and companies related to TEN-T, such as missing links, investment mismatches with the needs of local markets, and different priorities of the authorities involved. The event should promote initiatives to build efficient trans-European transport networks. Partner regions will showcase projects and exchange good practices with regard to TEN-T, addressing the needs of companies. We will also explore the potential complementarity of European, national and regional funding sources, generating synergies and maximising their impact and expected results.

**Target audience:**

EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**INV11A20 - Contribution of the European GNSS to the Smart Mobility in the Regions and Cities**

Organisers: European GNSS Agency (GSA)  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Calini Gian Gherardo (Chair), Mr. Burchell Craig, Mr. Dewandeleer Bart, Mrs. Diani Fiammetta, Mr. Ortuno Ribe Jordi

European Satellite navigation technologies (GNSS) bring innovative opportunities for the regions and cities to manage mobility in a more efficient and smarter way. With growing cities and increased public transport, location services and applications will secure a share of the massive GNSS global market that is estimated in EUR 36 billion as core revenue by 2018. A significant share of this market involves EGNOS and Galileo-related applications addressing opportunities for European businesses, SMEs and entrepreneurs. Gathering professionals using European GNSS, the workshop will demonstrate the economic and social added value to deploy this technology and the opportunities ahead.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**UNIV11A110 - Sustainable Societies of Tomorrow: Addressing the Demographic Challenge and the Dynamics of the Silver Economy.**

Organisers: Association of European Schools of Planning – AESOP, Committee of the Regions – SEDEC  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Debié Franck (Chair), Prof. Billari Francesco , Mr. Herrera Campo Juan Vicente , Mr. Kabisch Sigrun

The CoR (SEDEC commission) adopted in June an opinion on "The EU Response to the Demographic Challenge". A related comprehensive study of European demographic trends is currently in a process of being finalised and published. The workshop will build upon the findings of this set of documents and will discuss possible development scenarios and policy responses to the challenges arising from the demography. These include defining satisfactory social roles for each generation and the role of governments and economies in supporting development of the sustainable societies. In this context the workshop will look at the dynamics of the "silver economy" and its role in transforming future societies as one of possible responses to the demographic challenge.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**UNIV11B22 - The new self-employed in Europe. Do they contribute to territorial and social cohesion?**

Organisers: ERSA, in coop. with the Regional Studies Association:  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Van Dijk Jouke (Chair), Prof. Andersson Martin , Prof. Baptista Rui , Dr. Brixy Udo , Mr. Koster Sierdjan

One of the major employment developments in Europe is the rise of self-employment and entrepreneurship. Under the influence of spatial sorting of self-employed and distinct regional economic opportunities, regional inequality will be influenced by the shift towards self-employment. Partially, the rise reflects increasing opportunities to realize entrepreneurial ambitions. For some, it is a forced reaction to a labour market that demands flexibility. Given differences in economic opportunities, this dualism in self-employment can have important consequences for regional economic growth and territorial cohesion.

The central question of this workshop is how self-employment and entrepreneurship contribute to social and regional inequalities?

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**URB11A130 - The European Cities Report**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 63

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Clos Joan (Chair), Mrs. Brandmueller Teodora , Mrs. Cretu Corina , Dr. Dijkstra Lewis , Mr. Olbrycht Jan

The workshop will present the European Cities Report that was jointly prepared by the European Commission and UN-Habitat for the HABITAT III Conference in Quito on 23-26 October 2016.

The goal of the report is to:

- Stimulate the debate on the EU urban agenda
- Present the latest knowledge on European cities to the world
- Support the policy development of Cohesion Policy programmes in 2 cities

The workshop will also debate the importance of reliable and independent data for urban sustainable development. It will present the DG JRC and DG REGIO experience in developing the 'Urban Data Platform' (UDP) and its importance for EU, national and local policy makers.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**URB11C33 - Urban Innovative Actions: solutions for sustainable urban development from cities in the second call for proposals**

Organisers: Urban Innovative Actions (UIA)  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atrium 5

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Amodeo Francesco (Chair), Mr. Barbato Raffaele , Mr. Caulfield Tim , Mrs. Papadia Agnese , Mrs. Rincon-Lievana Maria , Mr. Volker Axel

This workshop will be an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative which provides urban areas throughout Europe with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges. The three topics of its second call for proposals will be presented: the integration of migrants and refugees, the circular economy and sustainable urban mobility.

Participants will have the opportunity to join networking corners divided by topic to discuss their innovative ideas as well as the main obstacles to implementing experimental solutions with European colleagues and members of the Permanent Secretariat.

**11:15 - 13:45**

**URB11E138 - Project visit: Community Land Trust Brussels, an innovative initiative for housing**

Organisers: Brussels-Capital Region  
Venue: Community Land Trust (CLT) Brussels

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert

This visit will enable participants to know more about Community Land Trust (CLT) Brussels, which is a very innovative project receiving support from the Brussels-Capital Region. It is a non-profit organisation that acquires and manages land and buildings. Its objective is to help low-income families to solve their housing problems by acquiring this property. CLT renovates or constructs buildings to facilitate the purchase of housing and to encourage the development of valuable activities in the neighbourhood. By separating ownership of the land from ownership of the building, the family can buy the building at an affordable price. CLT retains the ownership of the land and the family buys the building on its own.

**NB: transport and a light lunch will be provided**

**Meeting point: Committee of the Regions – rue du Remorqueur, 1000 Brussels**

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**Afternoon Sessions****14:30 - 17:00****11A34 - New Urban Mobility Services: Europe's Cities and Regions as engines for growth**

Organisers: Innovative cities and regions for new mobility services  
Venue: Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe (vleva)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tuffs Richard (Chair), Dr. Blanco-Davis Eddie , Mr. Lintusaari Jukka , Dr. Martínez-García Marina , Mrs. Val Susana

This event will showcase ERRIN members' activities across European regions and cities which support 2016's New Mobility Services Initiative, within the EIP on Smart Cities and Communities.

We will see how the Stuttgart Region is improving Park&Ride services, by informing travellers about free parking spaces in real time, how Malta is integrating various modes of transport to combat congestion, and how Tampere's Mobility as a Service project is utilising data and digitalisation for door-to-door transportation service. The event will also consider Liverpool's development as a playground for smart mobility services, and Aragon's expanding role as an international logistics hub.

**14:30 - 17:00****11A35 - Renaissance for Remote Rurban Regions through Research – the Case of Less Urban Areas in the North**

Organisers: Sustainable Innovation in Less Urban Areas in the North  
Venue: Scotland House

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Bergkvist Erik (Chair), Mrs. Bergvall-Kareborn Birgitta , Ms. Chisholm Donna , Mr. Garcilazo José Enrique , Mr. Malinen Harri , Mr. Nilsson Jens , Mr. Sorensen Tove

37.5% of the EU population lives in border regions and cross-border employment therefore represents huge untapped potential for growth. However, apart from the general challenges facing cross-border workers such as language, accessibility, recognition of qualifications and social security, they may also face difficulties in accessing private services.

DG REGIO and DG EMPL therefore want to place particular emphasis on the challenges and opportunities for cross-border workers through an interactive debate. The aim is to explore how to facilitate life for cross-border workers and encourage more people to cross the border for employment purposes. (93 words)

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00****11A39 - JASPERS advisory support to non-major projects, program schemes and horizontal actions – in smart urban development, RDI and energy efficiency**

Organisers: JASPERS/DG REGIO  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Kazamaki Ottersten Eugenia (Chair), Mr. Koziarkiewicz Adam , Ms. Wlodarska Karolina

JASPERS is well known for its preparation of major projects receiving EU Funds. This workshop will be devoted to the preparation of non-major projects, programme schemes and horizontal actions in smart development and energy sectors. The session will also present JASPERS support to capacity building. This workshop will focus on presentation of examples of JASPERS actions in the areas mentioned as well as presentation from the MS.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**14:30 - 17:00****11A40 - Climate change and major projects. Climate change related requirements and guidance for major projects in the 2014-2020 programming period**

Organisers: European Commission - DG CLIMA  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Yordi Beatriz (Chair), Mr. Claus Kondrup , Ms. Duff Sarah , Ms. Kovacs Camelia , Ms. Saich Nancy

- Welcome note - the moderator will welcome the participants, introduce the theme and the panellists, and give the floor to the first speaker (10 minutes).
- Speaker 1, DG CLIMA – presents the approach on including climate change aspects in project development (and introduce the fact sheet) with emphasis on adaptation to climate change (15 minutes).
- Speaker 2, EIB – presents the methodology on calculating the carbon footprint of projects (15 minutes).
- Speaker 3, JASPERS – presents from the project development point of view best practices and lessons learnt to date with regard to climate change aspects (15 minutes).
- Speaker 4, DG REGIO – presents from the programme management point of view lessons learnt, 'DOs' and 'DON'Ts' collected from the project applications received (15 minutes).
- Speaker 5, TBD – introduces the specific experience and perspective of a project promoter.
- Debate (approx.45 minutes) - the moderator opens the floor for debate, taking questions and comments from the audience and inviting speakers to answer.
- Wrap-up and conclusions (15 minutes) – main questions to be answered:
  - o What are the main lessons learned in terms of best practices or challenges in including climate change-related requirements in project development?
  - o What are the DOs and DON'Ts in project development? – on two components: climate change mitigation and adaptation to climate change
  - o What are the challenges and bottlenecks expressed by the audience?
  - o What are the main information sources for project developers and how can they get support?
  - o What is the way forward for developing successful project applications?
- Concluding remarks and way forward (5 minutes) – the moderator sums up the comments and concludes the workshop.



14:30 - 17:00

**11A44 - The final regional Social Progress Index**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Niessler Rudolf (Chair), Mr. Caputo Nicola , Mr. Fidrmuc Jan , Mr. Green Michael , Mr. Kwiecinski Jerzy

The workshop will present the final version of the EU regional Social Progress Index developed by the DG for Regional and Urban Policy in cooperation with the Social Progress Imperative and Orkestra. It customises the global Social Progress Index for the EU to measure social progress in a meaningful way for policy makers at multiple levels. The draft index was presented in 2015 and went through an extensive revision on the basis of consultations with 2 stakeholders. The goal is to foster the development of a network of European Regions sharing knowledge on social progress drivers and expertise on socially innovative policies.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

**11A45 - Smart Regions in Smart Europe: Digital Innovation Hubs shaping the Digitisation of European Industry**

Organisers: European Commission - DG CONNECT  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1C

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. tbc tbc

The EC strategy on Digitising European Industry plans to roll out "Digital Innovation Hubs" (DIH) - competitive ecosystems developed around regional digital competence centres – which will be networked EU-wide to make digital technologies accessible to any EU businesses, especially SMEs. Regions have an essential role to play in such strategy.

This workshop will present a study identifying EU regions' strengths and gaps in providing access to digital technologies and finance, important information for prioritising activities/investments.

The workshop will also address the role of clusters and DIH, consider robotics, smart miniaturised objects and systems as a guiding area in increasing Europe's competitiveness and in bringing solutions to Europe's societal challenges (e.g. healthcare, food quality, environment).

14:30 - 17:00

**11A49 - Policy learning lab: practical approaches for smart and sustainable regions**

Organisers: Interreg Europe  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atrium 5

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Kalnina Ieva (Chair), Mr. Delearde Philippe , Mr. Di Anselmo Andrea , Ms. Varbova Venelina , Ms. Zondag Marie-José

Do you have ideas on how to improve regional policies in Europe? We should talk! Interreg Europe is setting up Policy Learning Platforms: communities of like-minded policymakers, practitioners and experts working to improve structural funds and other policies. This interactive session will provide insight into the topics covered by platforms - Research and innovation, SME competitiveness, Low-carbon economy and Environment & resource efficiency. Be part of this session and contribute with ideas on particular challenges that platforms should prioritise and what services you would like to use.

14:30 - 17:00

11A80 -

**Cohesion policy support for the circular economy**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Wolfe Colin (Chair), Mr. Behin Leon , Mr. Happaerts Sander , Ms. Miladinova Gergana , Mr. Schally Hugo-Maria , Prof. Van Passel Steven , Ms. Vitcheva Charlina , Dr. de Graaf Daniel

The European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package to make the transition to a stronger economy where resources are used in a more sustainable way.

Cohesion policy is key to making this a reality. The investment framework for 2014-2020 brings opportunities in terms of innovation, resource efficiency, SME support and improved waste management. This will help regions, businesses and consumers to reach their recycling targets, create jobs and reduce costs.

Join this workshop to hear about the available funding and support for regions and cities, to learn from good examples and to share your own experiences.

14:30 - 17:00

**11B29 - The Skills Guarantee in your region**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EMPL  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2C

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Bachmann Dana , Mrs. Sagardui Goikoetxea Miren Gotzone , Mrs. Schauwers Myriam

A large share of the adult population is at risk of exclusion because they lack the basic literacy, numeracy and digital skills necessary for living and working in today's society.

The Commission has proposed the introduction of a Skills Guarantee to give every low-qualified adult a skills assessment, tailored courses to raise their skills to a minimum level and then acquire an upper secondary qualification or equivalent, and validation of the skills they have acquired.

The aim of the workshop is to discuss how cities and regions can implement such a guarantee through a partnership approach looking at such issues as finance, outreach, guidance and support.

14:30 - 17:00

**11B42 - Ensuring the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged through integrated Community-Led Local Development**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EMPL, Unit F1, ESF and FEAD Policy & Legislation Co-organised by REGIO H1, MARE A3 and AGRI H1  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Ocsko, tbc Edina (Chair), Mr. Derrick Iain, Mr. Di Pietrantonio Loris, Mr. Horváth Csilla, Mr. Poole Robert, Mr. Stalgren Hans-Olof

This workshop will help Managing Authorities and practitioners in sharing experience on the opportunities, obstacles and solutions on how to best use CLLD for the purpose of social inclusion of the most disadvantaged.  
Practical examples will be presented by Managing Authorities, National Networks and LAGs to showcase how social inclusion has been programmed and integrated into the CLLD Strategies/ LAGs composition as well as how to support LAGs in this field. These examples will either focus on mainstreaming or target group approaches (i.e. Roma, migrants/refugees, other disadvantaged communities in urban and rural areas....) depending on the social challenges identified.

**14:30 - 17:00**

**11B46 - Building bridges at the EU's external borders : growing together to find common solutions to common challenges through the ENI CBC**

Organisers: European Commission - DG NEAR  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Bolaños Carlos (Chair), Ms. Amra Fathiya Abu, Mr. Bousquet Mathieu, Ms. Kolodziejska Maria, Mr. Ruokangas Marko

In light of difficulties in Europe resulting from the current situation at its external borders, the European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross Border Cooperation (ENI CBC) 2014-2020 has the potential to act as a contributor to positive and stable borders between the EU and its neighbours.  
This workshop will look at the results and lessons learnt from the previous 2007-2013 period. Through the lens of social and economic development, programme representatives will show how borders are important areas of cooperation where Member States and Partner Countries can address common challenges. Projects in the field of social inclusion and entrepreneurship will show how these results are obtained on the ground.

**14:30 - 17:00**

**11C47 - The work of the Interact Programme on harmonised tools for the Interreg community**

Organisers: Interact  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Verschelde Nathalie (Chair), Ms. De Bruyn Vanessa, Ms. Glavan Ioana, Ms. Niitepõld Merike, Mr. Schneider Frank

The beginning of the programming period 2014–2020 offers a great opportunity for Interreg programmes and Member States to maximise the synergies between the different bodies. Against this background, Interact's work has undertaken an approach towards simplification and improvement of capacity in Interreg programmes. This is done through the design of harmonised tools: the development of KEEP, a database of projects and beneficiaries of Interreg projects; the production of HIT, a set of templates, fact sheets and model forms to support and guide Interreg programmes\* throughout the programme and project life cycles; the creation of eMS, an online monitoring system used by the Interreg community to record and store data of project and programme implementation; the joint branding of Interreg, a currently ongoing project that includes initiatives like European Cooperation Day.

**14:30 - 17:00**

**11C48 - Helping 99% of European businesses to grow their potential: working together to overcome the barriers for SMEs in accessing ESI Funds**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Gilland Moray (Chair), Mr. Sabatini Massimo (Chair), Ms. Adeline-Peix Marie, Ms. Hamilton Charles

More effort is needed at both the EU and national levels to address the administrative burden facing SMEs in accessing ESI Funds.

This workshop will take as its starting point the recommendations on access to EU funding for SMEs expected to be made by the High Level Group on simplification for beneficiaries of ESI Funds in June 2016. The workshop will allow regions and cities involved in managing ESI funds to explore good practice examples, engage with members of the High Level Group and representatives of the European Commission and discuss how the recommendations could be put in practice in their own regions.

**14:30 - 17:00**

**INV11A37 - Enhance Regional Innovation and Growth: possibilities for integrated funding through regional cooperation with Joint Undertakings (JUs)**

Organisers: EU-Representation Office of Carinthia  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 1

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Chatzimakakis Jorgo, Mr. Corvo Paolo, Mr. Kaiser Peter, Mr. Mastantuono Bruno, Mrs. Mol-Arts Mirjam

Enhance Regional Innovation and Growth: possibilities for integrated funding through regional cooperation with Joint Undertakings (JUs)

To boost innovation and growth in the regions, synergies between different funding mechanisms such as the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Horizon 2020 programme are crucial. Five public-private partnerships (BBI, Clean Sky, ECSEL, FCH, IMI) and their regional and industrial partners (Andalucia, Carinthia, Clariant GmbH, Noord-Brabant, Scotland, Valcea) come together to exchange best practices on enhancing regional innovation by combining public and private funding and explore new forms of cooperation. Speakers represent regions, JUs, industry and research project partners in the field of electronic components and systems, health, fuel cells and hydrogen, aeronautics and bio-based industries.

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**14:30 - 17:00**

**INV11C18 - Cross-border investments: Potential, achievements and challenges**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - COTER Commission  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Cattaneo Raffaele (Chair), Mr. Appel Stefan, Mr. Menet Pierre, Mr. Meyer Ralf, Mr. Peyrony Jean, Mr. Revéreaux Jean-Luc, Mr. Schibe Jean-Baptiste, Ms. Sodini Sandra

Cross-border territories have potential to implement investments under the umbrella of the European Investment Plan, supported by the European Investment Bank and national promotional banks.  
What kind of investment projects can emerge from cross-border cooperation? How can the Juncker Plan, European and national investment policies together with private sector fund them? Which tools and which governance models can be used?  
This workshop will examine examples of investment projects (transport, territorial development), specific tools (investment advisory hubs) and the governance structures (including the EGTC) that could be used for cross-border projects.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00****URB11A36 - The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy: tackling energy poverty in regions and cities**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions – ENVE Commission and Covenant of Mayors Office

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Pigliaru Francisco (Chair), Mr. Moreira Rui , Mr. Obersnel Vojko , Mr. Weerwind Franc , Mr. Zachariaš Istvan

All around Europe, Covenant of Mayors signatories implement local energy and climate action that on top of mitigating and adapting to climate change, help citizens afford adequate energy services. Many cities are already tackling energy poverty through local energy generation, district heating or energy cooperatives that facilitate access to energy (panel 1). Besides, actions to improve the energy performance of buildings as well as adaptation measures that reduce heating and cooling needs can also contribute to protect the most deprived households (panel 2). Local politicians will present successful solutions, point out challenges encountered on the ground, and discuss on the type of support needed, in particular from the EU cohesion policy.

**14:30 - 17:00****URB11A41 - Cities as actors of open innovation: Accelerating Transition towards Sustainable and Low-carbon Societies**

Organisers: European Commission - DG RTD

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Frantzeskaki Niki (Chair), Dr. Berg Holge , Dr. Holsten Anne , Dr. Kern Florian , Dr. O'Hara Eamon , Mrs. Rok Ania , Dr. Strenchock Logan

Cities are facing a whole range of challenges on the social, environmental and economic fronts. Fundamental societal transformations are thus required in order to move towards sustainable, inclusive, resource-efficient and climate resilient cities. To accelerate these transition pathways, cities need Research and Innovation (R&I) strategies to break down silos and push for a systemic approach able to optimize synergies between sectors. Social innovation is also crucial for societal transformation: citizens are indeed taking promising initiatives to foster sustainable urban development. They are inventing new and more sustainable solutions to solve their day-to-day problems. They are engaging in the lives of their neighbourhoods and regenerating the social fabric around them. With the new configurations of actors from cooperatives to civic-public partnerships to platform networks and with the changing roles of civil society from advocating to innovating and to knowledge brokerage, also trigger and require new governance constellations and policy tools. Cities and city administrations take up new types of roles broadening their scope as facilitators of social innovation, as innovators themselves and as intermediaries of city-making practice and knowledge across city borders. Together with social innovation initiatives, cities become the centre nodes of transitions and play a role in how transition dynamics can be ignited, facilitated or even, shadowed. With this point of departure of cities as knowledgeable innovators and cross-case comparative research examining how knowledge and innovation come together in changing the cities in the making, we bring together researchers and community initiatives – social innovators – to present key messages for policy, communities, businesses and universities. The workshop will thus tackle three main issues:

- The application of market-based mechanisms and innovative financing strategies for the deployment of nature-based solutions and green, low-carbon technologies;
- Behavioural changes and multilevel governance frameworks needed for a wider acceptance of innovative solutions for cities;
- The role of citizens in raising awareness on the most interesting transition initiatives implemented at the local level, by using communication strategies and tools able to catch the attention of local authorities.

The proposed workshop will be organised as a panel discussion with 4-5 speakers, followed by an interactive discussion with the audience. It will bring together policy-makers, scientists, innovators, city authorities and end-users from different European contexts. 2.5 hours workshop (10 slides, 6 minutes, only pictures). Session I: Interactive Session to discuss policy oriented messages for new forms of multi-level governance approaches to scale low-carbon innovations in cities also considering the new forms of engagement and activation of cities, universities and market actors.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00****URB11B38 - Creating inclusive cities and combating urban poverty**

Organisers: Métropole de Lyon

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tosics Ivan (Chair), Mr. Attenius Jonas , Mr. Barde Hanns Ulrich , Ms. Brenner Kati , Mr. Broad Llyod , Mr. Kimelfeld David , Mrs. Lapenne Valérie , Ms. Lohof Stijnie , Ms. Ortiz Laia , Mr. Pacente Carmine , Mr. Readman John , Mr. Vercamer Francis

The event will start with an introduction from both the European Commission on the EU initiatives on urban policies linked to urban poverty and the partnership for the EU on urban poverty. The workshop will provide participants with examples of how cities in Europe are combating urban poverty. Cities will be divided into two panels according to the type of solutions they are offering: people-based solutions that focus on socio-economic integration of people living in deprived neighbourhoods, and territorial-based solutions and more specifically the urban regeneration of deprived areas. There will be time for interaction with the audience.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

The workshop will be followed-up by a networking session from 17:00 to 18:00, in front of the Room JDE62, where partners will showcase some of their EU funded projects. Drinks and finger food will be provided.

**14:30 - 17:00****URB11E136 - Project visit: Port Sud, a valorisation of intangible heritage for a sustainable quality of life & Bruxelles-Ecopôle/RECY-K, a recycling project**

Organisers: Brussels-Capital Region

Venue: Port Sud (Brussels canal zone)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert

During the tour, participants will visit PORT SUD. The purpose of PORT SUD is to contribute to the development of dynamic value in the canal area.

This ERDF co-funded project promotes heritage and will generate employment activity. PORT SUD will add value and improve services to the population. The project includes the renovation of emblematic buildings, one of which will be used to accommodate companies while another will host a centre for research and innovation.

After PORT SUD, participants will have the opportunity to visit Bruxelles-Ecopôle/Recy-K. This project aims to set up a platform bringing together different actors active in the fields of circular and social economy, and which specialise in the reuse, repair, reduction and recycling of waste/resources, as well as training and professional reintegration.

**NB: transport will be provided**

**Meeting point: Committee of the Regions – rue du Remorqueur, 1000 Brussels**

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**19:00 - 22:30**

**11E50 - EWRC Official reception and RegioStars Award Ceremony**

Organisers: The European Commission - DG REGIO & The European Committee of the Regions

Venue: Bozar, Centre of Fine Arts

Speakers and chair(s): distinguished guests

The Official reception takes place at BOZAR and it is open to all event partners and participants upon prior registration on a 'first come, first served' basis. This major social and networking event is the occasion to discover the winners of the RegioStars Awards. A trophy will be presented to the winning projects by EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu and the President of the RegioStars Awards jury MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij. The cocktail reception afterwards is the place to continue networking and to visit the exhibition *'The power of the avant-garde'*.

## Morning Sessions

09:00 - 10:45

**12A55 - Harnessing the benefits of international cooperation in the frame of the Slovene Smart Specialization Strategy (Macroregional approach)**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lesjak Iztok , Mr. Vrtič Peter , Mr. Wostner Peter

The workshop will focus on the importance and specific approach of building on the Slovene Smart Specialization strategy with specific national niche areas and synergizing those on a macroregional level with the aim of achieving a higher level of innovation. Specific emphasis will be on the collaboration within the ADRION programme and the EU Strategy for the Danube region, with several key stakeholders from Slovenia who actively work towards building this kind of synergies. Participants can expect to get first hand knowledge and insight into the process of developing a national smart specialization strategy, great collaboration with stakeholders in the entrepreneurial discovery process and collaboration on an international level, ensuring that a small country or region, with limited resources, can aim to become the co-creator of global trends.

09:00 - 10:45

**12A56 - Open Data for Macro-Regional Development. How to make the most out of an underused resource?**

Organisers: European Commission - DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Danube Strategy Point (DSP)  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Dusart Jean (Chair), Dr. Kotsev, (tbd) Alexander (Chair), Dr. Smith Robin (Chair), Prof. Veskovc Miroslav (Chair), Mr. Vilfan Matija (Chair), Ms. Chiozza Enrica , Mr. Mairate Andrea , Dr. Mildorf Tomas , Prof. Petrescu Florian , Mr. Seifert Marcus , Ms. Tonchovska Romyana , Mr. Vrečar Simon

Data drives good management and increasingly the economy. The open data movement not only helps the free flow of data within and between organisations, but also can aid innovation, transparency and growth. That is why the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Danube Strategy Point (DSP) are co-organizing a workshop which would approach open data from a macro-regional perspective. Lessons learned from the implementation of the Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI) - an open data infrastructure in support of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) - will be provided (incl. technological, organisational and semantic aspects). By bringing together heterogeneous stakeholders, the workshop aims to trigger a discussion which would ultimately lead to the transfer of good practices, technological innovation, stakeholder engagement and public sector modernisation. The workshop will outline the benefits of open data and showcase the results of the DRDSI. This will be followed by flash presentations covering their experience and the opportunities they see related to open data and innovation within the context of selected Priority Areas of the EUSDR. The session will close with an open mic, where the audience will be given the opportunity to propose additional topics for networking (to be addressed during the coffee break afterwards)

09:00 - 10:45

**12A57 - Building European value-chains based on regional specialisations for circular economy, the role of research and innovation policy**

Organisers: European Commission - DG Research and Innovation, Unit I.2 Eco-Innovation  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Prista Luisa (Chair), Ms. Bonnet Françoise , Mr. Larosse Jan , Dr. Levêque Christine , Mr. Podgórski Marcin , Prof. Ruggieri Alessandro

For their geographical dimension and the number and variety of stakeholders they represent, European regions qualify as the place where innovative solutions in support of the circular economy can be tested and implemented. Some regional authorities have already been taking some steps in this direction and the purpose of this workshop is i) to encourage European regions to exchange best-practice and knowledge in the field of R&I for circular economy and ii) to showcase the importance of R&I in the field of circular economy as a tool to re-industrialise Europe and its regions (thus creating new job opportunities)

09:00 - 10:45

**12A58 - Boosting the development of information products and services based on the re-use and combination of open public data across the EU**

Organisers: European Commission - DG CONNECT  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Carrara Wendy (Chair), Ms. Gleria Francesca , Mr. Olmos Carlos , Mr. Rees Tom , Ms. Torppa Minna

Improved access to public sector information is an essential component of the EU strategy for stimulating new business opportunities and addressing societal challenges, with a huge potential for cross-border and cross-sectoral data re-use in regions and cities. The workshop will present best practices of re-use of local and regional public sector data made available through the European Data Portal, as well as how regional and local public administrations can facilitate the discovery and re-use of their own data.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 11:15

**12A61 - Pathways to a circular economy in cities and regions**

Organisers: ESPON, INTERACT, INTERREG EUROPE, URBACT III  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atrium 5

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. O'Loughlin Eilish (Chair), Mr. Böhme Kai , Mr. Caputova Zuzana , Mr. Kállay Tamás , Mrs. Rok Ania

The transition to a circular economy is a priority of the European agenda. Policymakers seek to encourage the shift from traditional linear 'take-make-consume-throw away' economic patterns to a more sustainable closed-loop system of production, distribution and consumption, and at the same time to develop the green economy in their cities and regions.

ESPON, INTERACT, Interreg Europe and URBACT have joined forces to explore and share with participants in an interactive session:

- The European diversity of challenges and potential for moving to a circular economy
- The practical meaning of circular economy for cities and regions
- Good practices in circular economy approaches.

09:00 - 13:00

**12A63 - EUSALP: an engine for Europe growth**

Organisers: 5 - EUSALP: Innovation and tradition  
Venue: Lombardy Region, Brussels Delegation to the EU

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tuffs Richard (Chair), Mr. Venineaux Jean-Marc (Chair), Mr. Brežan Uros , Mr. Chiamparino Sergio , Mr. Corazza Carlo , Mrs. Fenyvesi Kiss Boglarka , Mrs. Giorgi Anna , Mrs. Jerina Andreja , Mr. Kaiser Peter , Mr. Kompatscher Arno , Mr. Maroni Roberto , Mrs. Plemel Brigitte , Mr. Rollandin Augusto , Mr. Salletmaier Christian

Panel 1- The impact of Eusalp implementation on growth and sustainable development in the Alpine region

Panel 2 - Innovative tourism as a key factor for cultural heritage development and youth employment

The debate aims to compare views on the main challenges in the Alpine area: how to reconcile even greater economic development with sustainable management of natural resources, and how to harmonise innovation with tradition. The debate will consider growth prospects of an area that is virtually the first in Europe by population, surface and GDP, a culturally heterogeneous area that can be the real engine of a new renaissance for the European Union. In this framework, tourism is one of the best assets of this area as regards experimenting with innovation and tradition.

09:00 - 10:45

**12B59 - Smart Homes for Independent Living – Opportunities for the growing Silver Economy**

Organisers: European Commission - DG CONNECT  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Krämer Horst (Chair), Ms. Adams Sue , Prof. Gilroy Rose , Mr. Wintlev Jensen Peter

Connected homes can support people to stay independent in their homes as they age, thereby improving quality of life, inclusion, supporting sustainable care and creating growth and job opportunities in the building and ICT sectors.

This workshop will bring together leaders in the field of connected homes and active and healthy ageing. It will consist of 3 consecutive sessions:

- 1) Presentations from demand and supply sides
- 2) Intervention from a regional policy maker
- 3) Discussion among experts and audience

The workshop will offer an overview of the latest developments for smart and age-friendly homes, including interoperability and standards and "Internet of Things"-based services supporting independent living in European regions.

The aims are to learn from leaders, to identify benefits for citizens and regions and to pave the way for large-scale implementation.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

**12B60 - Accelerating the digital transformation of government**

Organisers: European Commission - DG CONNECT  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1C

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Junger Jean Francois (Chair), Ms. Da Rosa Isabel Maria , Ms. Halmos Andrea , Mr. Joran Frik , Mr. Rodrigues Frade Joao

The Workshop will present the new eGovernment Action Plan 2016 -2020, which aims to accelerate the digital transformation of government in the EU. The 20 pre-defined actions already in the action plan are addressing the modernisation of public administrations using ICT, the mobility of citizens and businesses in the EU and facilitating the digital interaction with administrations for high-quality public services. In addition, further actions may be proposed during the lifetime of the action plan, which could be of particular interest to regions and local authorities.

The aim of the workshop is to present the eGovernment Actions Plan and inform regional and local authorities about how they can contribute to achieving the overall vision of the plan by suggesting additional actions.

The workshop will also showcase eGovernment initiatives at the regional and the local level that may be replicated by other regions and local authorities.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

**12B75 - EU Regions - Partners for Youth**

Organisers: Harghita County Council, co-organizer: Assembly of European Regions  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Nica Alin-Adrian (Chair), Mrs. Bocskor Andrea , Mr. Borboly Csaba , Dr. Csak László , Mr. O'Neill Connor , Mr. Sesztak Oszkár , Mr. Soler Marti Roger , Mr. Szabo Róbert , Mrs. Vilalta Torres Marta , Ms. Vitaly Gloria

The workshop entitled **EU Regions- Partners for Youth** - organized by Harghita County Council, in cooperation with the Assembly of European Regions (AER) as co-organizer- will be a highly professional and practical event, focusing on those priorities set up by our partnership that represent the support of youth not only in our regions, but on European level as well. The program will provide a clear picture on how the partnership tries to overcome the challenges faced by youth in their every-day life and what are the proposed solutions to successfully implement the Europe 2020 Strategy on this issue. Furthermore, since European societies face deep transformations with a particular impact on youth, the workshop will try to raise awareness on all levels on the necessity to commonly elaborate practical and reasonable solutions for the future of young generations in the area of workforce integration, education and social inclusion. The theme of the event will also focus on important EU core documents, such as the EU level report entitled **Implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)**, which gave the opportunity and responsibility to implement the proposed practical solutions, having in consideration the dangers, necessities and challenges youth face now-a-days both in urban and rural areas.

This will be the Meeting Place of Young Generations notably with the presence of the Assembly of European Regions' Youth Regional Network, the Youth Forum, as well as further institutions and specialists in this field of great interest. Let's help them in their future realizations!

The workshop will be followed by a networking session.

The workshop will be followed by a networking session

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

**12B76 - Achieving social inclusion in Community-Led Local Development in the context of the results orientation of the ESI Funds**

Organisers: LDnet (Local Development Network - LDnet Association)

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 70

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Budzich-Tabor Urszula (Chair), Dr. Humphreys Eileen , Mr. Kaminski Ryszard , Mr. Perimenis Anastasios , Mr. Stalgren Hans-Olof

A 'problem-oriented' workshop focusing on the challenges facing CLLD in pursuing social inclusion while meeting the requirements of the results-oriented approach of the ESI Funds. These challenges have been growing throughout Europe with the rise of at risk populations, including migrants and refugees. Local development actors from countries which have experienced economic crises and the resulting implications for society (Greece, Ireland), countries with a track record in integrating inclusion into the local development process (Sweden) and other countries addressing social inclusion in multi-funded CLLD initiatives (Poland) will present relevant experiences and lead an open debate on EU-wide lessons.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

**12C32 - Public Procurement Meets Open Data**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boijmans Pascal (Chair), Ms. Cingolani Luciana , Mr. Hercher Jachym , Mr. Skuhrovec Jifí , Ms. Vilytė Diana

Nearly half of the ESI Funds is spent through public procurement. Thus, efficiency and effectiveness of these investments depends to a large degree on the quality of public procurement processes. Transparency is a core principle of high-quality procurement. This workshop will discuss good practices and concrete examples of how increased transparency can be achieved in public procurement. Special attention will be paid to new Open Data solutions both at EU level and in selected Member States.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

**INV12A52 - The need for investment in social infrastructures**

Organisers: Association européenne des investisseurs de long terme (ELTI)

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Crayencour Dominique (Chair), Mr. Zylberberg Laurent

Due to current pressure from demographic change, unemployment and social exclusion, the demand for high quality health, education and other public services is increasing. While the need for social investments is growing, the availability of public spending is shrinking. In this context, there will be a greater need for investments in social infrastructures in the future.

It is increasingly acknowledged that resilient social infrastructures are essential for creating the inclusive growth for which Europe is striving. The demand for long-term investment is strong, yet the Juncker Plan's investment chapter does not target social infrastructures effectively. Revising the regulation could be one way to implement the European fund for strategic investments in such a way as to benefit social infrastructures in the same way as energy or digital infra.

Our workshop will focus on how to enhance the financing of social infrastructures, presenting the contribution of "National promotional banks and institutions (NPBIs)" to the social infrastructures project.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 13:00

**INV12A64 - Investing into the Future - Local and Regional Authorities and their Stakeholders searching for sustainable solution for economic growth in the field of circular economy**

Organisers: Regional Partnership for Sustainable Solutions in the Field of Circular Economy regarding the Strategy of Europe 2020

Venue: Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Mastantuono Alena (Chair), Mr. Bastin Marc , Dr. Bondaruk Jan , Ms. Firquet Katty , Mr. Hubáček Martin , Dr. Lehmann Axel , Ms. Raskop Simone , Mr. Respaud Jacques , Prof. Wittberg Volker

In two debates the local and regional authorities and their stakeholders discuss strategic perspectives which focus on environmental and social aspects. The attendants are responsible actors in the decision-making process focusing on issues like circular economy and inclusion. The event is an excellent opportunity for a profound exchange of ideas and best practices regarding the different decision-making procedures. So the debates provide impetus to work out perspectives and strategies for ideal long-term solutions. The debate will be followed by a presentation of the municipal authorities and their regional and local specialities.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers



**09:00 - 10:45****URB12A51 - Medium sized cities: An opportunity for sustainable inward investment and enterprise growth in a global economy**

Organisers: City of Schiedam/Eurotowns

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lamers Cor (Chair), Mr. Daamen Tom , Mr. Mayol Gerard , Mr. Torri Luca , Mrs. Viétor Birte

Medium-sized cities face multiple challenges in an environment where public resources are diminishing and the expectations of citizens are increasing. In this context, it is even more important for cities to attract inward investment to ensure sustainable economies and a good quality of life for local inhabitants. This workshop sets out the role of medium-sized cities in attracting international private-sector investment and promoting innovation for sustainable urbanisation. It shows that urban-planning developments are important for attracting investments and that projects carried out by a number of cities are relevant to innovations in sustainable urbanisation.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45****URB12B131 - Urban Agenda for the EU – Partnership on Housing**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Haapakka Merja (Chair), Mrs. Kauer Michaela , Mrs. Szolgayová Elena

Partnerships are a key delivery mechanism within the EU Urban Agenda and develop a multilevel and cross-sectoral governance approach in an open and transparent way. The partnership on housing is formulating concrete proposals for better regulation, better funding and better exchange of knowledge, which can be regarded as contributions to the design of future and the revision of existing EU legislation, instruments and initiatives. The partnership will present its first outcomes to the wider audience for discussion and improvements.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45****URB12B132 - Urban Agenda for the EU – Partnership on Air Quality**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 63

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Amodeo Francesco (Chair), Mr. Bedogni Marco , Mr. Korenromp René , Mr. Schenkels Jeroen , Mr. Treharne Elliot , Mrs. Väkevä Outi Kaarina

Partnerships are a key delivery mechanism within the Urban Agenda for the EU and develop a multilevel and cross-sectoral governance approach in an open and transparent way. The partnership on air quality is formulating concrete proposals for better regulation, better funding and better exchange of knowledge, which can be regarded as contributions to the design of future and the revision of existing EU legislation, instruments and initiatives. The partnership will deliver an Action Plan which will be implemented in the following years. The Partnership will present its first outcomes (draft Action Plan) to the wider audience for discussion and improvements.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 13:00****URB12B70 - Urban regeneration as a tool in creating sustainable Europe**

Organisers: Regional partnership "EU urban regeneration - sustainable cities for better future"

Venue: Art56, Avenue des Arts 56

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Olbrycht Jan (Chair), Ms. Cercioğlu Ozlem , Mr. Fokke Henrik , Mrs. Ionescu Claudia , Mr. JAKUBIEC Tomasz , Ms. Krzyżanowska-Orlik Anna , Mr. Matesic Miroslav , Mr. Nowicki Maciej , Ms. Zajaczkowska Alicja

To be willing to live in a city, you need to understand it and fall in love with it, during the regeneration process our main goal is to make citizens re-love their cities

Urban regeneration in the European Union is extremely important in context of founding effective solutions by implementing inclusion policies for disadvantaged sections of the cities. It is one of main trends in the actions of urban areas, which enables the social and investment development. Regeneration is not only the work of authorities; it demands also the involvement of the citizens and private entities. Strengthening local small and medium-sized companies and creating good quality jobs are other challenges which should be tackled with the help of EU measures.

How can local and regional authorities contribute to the changes of local dynamic, of investors', entrepreneurs' and inhabitants' perceptions thanks to regeneration strategies? How can regeneration enhance the competitiveness of cities and regions, making them places worth to live, to work and to invest?

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**09:00 - 10:45****URB12B78 - Holistic & Integrated urban development as a pathway to resilient and inclusive cities**



Organisers: 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 1

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Fragola Cristiana (Chair), Mrs. Boni Anna Lisa , Mr. Kulikaukas Paulius , Ms. Liakou Lina , Mr. Maire Sebastien , Mr. Molenaar Arnoud

Whether metropolitan capitals or mid and small-size urban regions, cities are gaining momentum and power: their democratic legitimacy and secular character is highlighted, their innovation potential increasing by the day and their global breadth enhanced. This global process of rapid urbanization and change is taking place in the context of steep climate changes and recurring social tensions. A globalized world with the economic and social challenges it entails is our reality and the consequences are local.

The proposed workshop aims to highlight examples of holistic city resilience planning approaches beyond disaster and risk reduction and explore the multi-dimensional ways in which governance can be oriented around resilience.

Reflecting the two pillars the workshop is divided in two sections:

- a) How cities in Europe tackle issues of inclusive urban development through the lens of resilience (examples from URBACT III and Horizon 2020) – the URBACT III Resilience Europe methodology. From integrated cycling policies to social inclusion cities in Europe implement new holistic strategies of resilience governance promoting new modes of entrepreneurship and economic growth in the cities.
- b) Multi-dimensional approaches in financing resilience: Examples of resource optimization and mobilization from the private, social and international, and academia sectors from cities members of the 100 Resilient Cities

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45**

**URB12C53 - Cities as poles of up-to-date economic development**

Organisers: EESC

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Van Iersel Joost (Chair), Mr. Carvalho Paulo , Dr. Eleftheriadou Dana , Mr. Hilton Stephen , Ms. Sobieszek Agnieszka

The Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is planning to organise a workshop on Cities as poles of up-to-date economic development presenting three cities: Lisbon, Bristol, and Lodz. These cities, recognised in the European Commission's newly published Blueprint for cities and regions as launch-pads for digital transformation for pioneering digital transformation and restoring spectacular economic growth, are great examples of how proper strategy, vision and ambition, building on innovative forces, can create poles of up-to-date economic development.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**12A65 - The benefits of a modern circular Economy for regions, cities and business**

Organisers: Active regional Co-operation in circular economy

Venue: Joint Representation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the State of Schleswig-Holstein to the EU

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tuffs Richard (Chair), Ms. Falch Fladmark Helene , Ms. Hamdouch Elisabeth , Mr. Kowalczyk Wiktor , Mr. Larsen Tor Martin , Mr. Puerto Navarro Olsen Lasse , Mr. Schäfer Lukas , Dr. Sieverdingbeck Andreas , Mr. Williams Ian , Mr. de Rouwe Sander

In the context of the EC's Circular Economy Package, the debate will address how a modern circular economy can contribute to a more sustainable society and provide resource-related, environmental, economic and social benefits for European regions. This holistic and cross-sectoral approach has huge potential for creating sustainable economic growth and a cleaner European economy.

New regulations and programme implementation should address the practical needs of regions, cities and businesses in order to help successful transition to a circular economy.

By providing good practices and useful lessons learned in the field, European regions can contribute to further development of the circular economy in Europe.

The debate will showcase and discuss advanced and innovative practices and visions of regions and business in various corners of Europe.

**11:15 - 13:00**

**12A66 - Innofest – Festival Driven Innovation**

Organisers: Innofest – Consortium of festivals

Venue: Résidence Palace - Polak Room

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Brezet Han (Chair), Mr. Bews Stuart , Ms. Kuhfuß Andrea , Mr. Ruth Erik , Ms. Van Nunen Anna

In 2017, an international consortium of economic development agencies, start-up centres, universities and festivals will host a programme for Innofest - a start-up support project where festivals are a testing ground for cross-over innovations in creative and technological markets. This regional eco-innovation system brings innovations to the market faster and unites start-ups with potential customers. Products and ideas can be developed and tested in a living lab situation, with thousands of festival-goers playing an integral and essential role.

At EWRC 2016, we want to share our enthusiasm for this concept, interact with participants and discover more innovations for our programme.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**12A67 - Role of regions and cities in transition to circular economy**

Organisers: Regions and cities for circular economy  
Venue: Permanent Representation of Republic of Slovenia

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tost i Borrás Josep Maria (Chair), Prof. Abrunhosa Anna , Mr. Guerrero Montse , Mr. Kos Igor , Mr. Schally Hugo-Maria , Mr. Tasdelen Alper , Mr. Thim Martin

By adopting the Circular Economy Package in December 2015, Europe recognised the need to build its competitiveness and growth on a stronger and more circular economy where resources are used in a sustainable way. Regions and cities have the important task of adopting policies and strategies and organising circular economy models in regions and cities in order to promote sustainable growth and competitiveness. The debate will focus on regional models and practices promoting the transition to a circular economy that should cover the full lifecycle: from production and consumption of waste, to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**12A81 -**

**Renewable energy and circular economy: new job opportunities in the outermost regions**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Constantinescu Tudor (Chair), Mrs. Covisa Rubia Maria Teresa , Mrs. Donnelly Marie , Mr. Filipe Nunes de Oliveira José , Mrs. Izabel Yvette

Renewable energy and the circular economy are important sources of qualified jobs in the outermost regions: launching experiments and developing activities in these fields will lower their dependence on the outside world, offer solutions for sustainable growth and develop know-how that could provide them with a competitive advantage over their neighbour countries. This workshop will exchange good practices, identify the constraints faced by the outermost regions and provide ideas to unlock them

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**11:15 - 13:00**

**12A82 - How Interreg IPA cross border cooperation has coloured the grey spots of the Western Balkans on the map of Europe**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO, Interact Programme  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Lazic Ivana (Chair), Mrs. Bircic Melita , Mrs. Geras Dochovska Marija , Mrs. Hristeva Marina , Mrs. Ilic Ana

Have you ever wondered how EU money is changing regions and cities at the EU's external borders? Or how the cooperation between Member States and Accession countries looks at the project level? At the workshop "How Interreg IPA cross border cooperation has painted grey spots on the Western Balkans map of Europe" not only you will learn about the concrete examples of cross-border cooperation projects in the Western Balkans financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession, but also you will see how EU money is already fostering energy efficiency and sustainable growth in the Accession countries. Finally, the workshop will also provide an opportunity to discuss the future improvements of cooperation between these countries and Member States. The workshop is jointly organized by DG Regio and Interact Programme.

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**11:15 - 13:00**

**12A83 - Integrating funds and policies towards active inclusion**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EMPL, DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Gligor Ioana Maria (Chair), Mrs. Krysiac Irma , Ms. Moreau Chantal , Mr. Nicolae Valeriu , Mr. Urmos Andor

An integrated approach, combining policy strategic measures and support from EU funds is essential to acquire an efficient active inclusion and labour activation. Such approaches can help Member States address at the same time employment, education and social challenges while working towards achieving the EU 2020 targets by using both EU funds and national budgets. Romania and France will explain their integrated schemes and how they face and overcome specific but sometimes similar challenges.

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**12A84 - Universities as launching hubs for entrepreneurial learning in cities**

Organisers: European Commission – DG EAC, EUniverCities  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Hofer Andrea-Rosalinde (Chair), Dr. Kálmán Liptai , Ms. Lombardi Lisa , Dr. Papaderos Alexandros , Ms. Thomlison Jaya , Mr. Van Geffen Marcel

Looking for ideas on how to boost entrepreneurship and innovation at local and regional levels? This workshop will give you a unique chance to learn about how to create a favourable environment for this.

Cities, higher education institutions and businesses can expend huge effort in aligning education to societal and labour market needs. They look at ways to tackle current challenges, preserve social well-being, prepare for future business opportunities, and build resilient urban and metropolitan communities.

Case studies cover a broad range of on-going initiatives where universities and cities come together to bolster entrepreneurship – several of these are EU funded. Through a set of guiding questions we will seek out effective and sustainable patterns of collaboration.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

**12B10 - Contribution of non-agricultural geographically-rooted products to regional inclusive economic development**

Organisers: European Commission - DG GROW

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tokarski Slawomir (Chair), Mr. Bernard-Brunet Patrick, Mr. Labarthe Vincent, Mr. Servadei Davide, Ms. Walker-Shaw Kathleen

The workshop will explore the contribution of non-agricultural geographically-rooted products using "geographical indications" to regional inclusive economic development: e.g. (a) creation of small-scale businesses; (b) helping the integration of women and youth into the labour market; (c) maintaining jobs in remote and less-favoured areas; (d) effects on related activities (tourism, creative industries, etc.); (e) promoting regional identity/self-esteem and preserving cultural heritage, local traditions and know-how.

It will also review how EU Cohesion policy can support activities related to such geographically-rooted products.

Cf. 2015 Commission Communication on the Single Market (p.15) and 2014 Green Paper on geographical indications.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

**12B85 - Practical ways for local communities to foster inclusion of EU mobile citizens**

Organisers: European Commission - DG JUST

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1C

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Boulanger Marie-Hélène (Chair), Mr. Doggen Brendan

The workshop will be an opportunity to discuss best practices regarding socio-economic inclusion of mobile EU citizens. Access to housing, the labour market and education, and social, political and civic inclusion will be addressed. Regional and local authorities are best placed to know how challenges in their city or region can be met effectively. Many local authorities have developed innovative and inspiring inclusion policies. In this workshop, three European cities will explain how they worked together to develop their local policies.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

**12B86 - Jobs at the borders: how border regions can boost employment opportunities**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EMPL, DG REGIO

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Andersson-Pench Lena (Chair), Mr. Abrecht Oliver, Mr. Beunens Francis, Mr. Boye Niels, Mr. Curell Gotor Jordi, Ms. Distler Katrin

37.5% of the EU-population lives in border regions and cross-border employment therefore represents huge untapped potential for growth. However, apart from the general challenges facing cross-border workers such as language, accessibility, recognition of qualifications and social security, they may also face difficulties in accessing private services.

DG REGIO and DG EMPL therefore want place particular emphasis on the challenges and opportunities for cross-border workers through an interactive debate. The aim is to explore together how to facilitate life for cross-border workers and encourage more people to cross the border for employment purposes.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

**12C87 - How to efficiently apply for EU funds? Good practices with major projects' application forms.**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Willak Witold (Chair), Mr. Engel Pawel, Mr. Gonzalez-Finat Carlos, Mr. Kondrup Claus, Ms. Kovacs Camelia, Mr. Kremlis Georges-Stavros

Major projects represent important investments in the 2014-2020. They require important resources and time to prepare at appropriate quality and are subject to different appraisal procedures before a final conclusion is made about their EU funding. If you prepare, perform quality checks of major projects or are a managing authority of ESF funds, this workshop is for you. The workshop will focus on the application form and present good examples to ensure its completeness and acceptable quality for a quick decision by the European Commission. DG CLIMA, DG COMP, DG ENV, JASPERS and one MS will be in the panel to contribute to the discussion with the audience, who is expected to share their own experience.

**Target audience**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

**12C88 - Simplification: key to success for a performant programme (focus on simplified cost options)**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EMPL  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Merchan Cantos Francisco (Chair), Mr. Vervloet Louis , Mr. Weber Martin

One of the top priorities of the Commission's implementation of the EU Budget is the concept of 'Budget focussed on results'. In the context of increasing scarcity of public finance, the Commission has to ensure that available resources are used in an optimal way and that the best possible results are achieved by the EU policies through the budgetary allocations. Simplification plays an important role in this regard by reducing red tape and enabling management to focus on results. Furthermore, this has resulted in a decrease of errors and irregularities in the operational programmes.

The ESIF Funds are in the forefront of developing and implementing a wide range of Simplification measures, including e-Cohesion, access to funding for SMEs, financial instruments and Simplified Cost Options (SCO), among others.

In particular, with the entry into force of the 2014-2020 ESIF regulations, additional SCOs and methodologies to simplify costs and reduce bureaucracy have been created. Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) can play a key role by:

- Focusing funding on achieving results (rather than on the process involved),
- Reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries and national authorities,
- Reducing error rates, and
- Speeding up the reimbursement of expenditure to beneficiaries.

The workshop will present the current state of play of the above simplification measures, including the recommendations recently made by the High Level Group on Simplification, and the way forward.

*Target audience:*

Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

**11:15 - 13:00**

**INV12A68 - Rail Baltica - driving growth to the regions and cities**

Organisers: Rail Baltica  
Venue: Permanent Representation of Lithuania

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Morsi Helmut (Chair), Mr. Kramer Michael , Mrs. Rubesa Baiba , Mr. Savolainen Ossi , Mr. Sinkevičius Mindaugas , Mrs. Trautmann Catherine

Rail Baltica is a cornerstone of sustainable economic growth as it is creating connections to drive trade and the economy as well as employment and prosperity for the regions and cities in the Rail Baltic States. Rail Baltica improves social and economic opportunities and is therefore a major future priority for all of the stakeholders involved. The workshop will focus on the socio-economic and environmental impacts of Rail Baltica and will demonstrate the economic growth potential of this multimodal transport corridor. The workshop will present examples of smart, innovative and energy-efficient transportation that are contributing to a thriving low-carbon economy, with better connections between people and jobs.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

*The opening words will be given by Mr. Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions.*

*The workshop will be followed by a networking lunch.*

**11:15 - 13:00**

**INV12B19 - Promoting young entrepreneurship at regional and local level: The European Entrepreneurial Region experience**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - ECON commission  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Balas Torres Rosa (Chair), Mrs. Chang Christine , Mrs. Domańska Joanna , Mr. Redford Dana , Mrs. Schreiber Kristin , Mr. Smith Graham , Mr. Álvarez Molina Francisco

Entrepreneurial learning allows young people acquire essential skills and attitudes such as creativity, initiative, and understanding of risk. It encourages business creation, while also promoting entrepreneurial mind-sets that significantly increase employability. Linking entrepreneurship education with support for early-stage entrepreneurs can help maximise the impact of regional and local entrepreneurship policies.

Several EER regions have developed integrated schemes to boost young entrepreneurship. This workshop will showcase their successful good practices, identify the support that regional and local actors need from the EU, and explore how regions and cities can better promote entrepreneurial mind-sets and business creation among young people.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**INV12B72 - Mapping the Entrepreneurial DNA of the European Regions and Cities**

Organisers: Entreprs, International Board of Entrepreneurs & Business Owners (AISBL)  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boston Joaquin (Chair), Mr. Abruzzini Arnaldo , Mr. Barry Matherly , Dr. Belniak Magdalena , Mr. Bishop Ken , Mrs. Golčić Martina , Mr. Markkula Markku , Mr. Muñoz Jose Luis , Mr. Peltomäki Antti

To boost growth and job creation, EU regions and cities must nurture entrepreneurial skills at an early stage among pupils and students, and reach out to groups such as migrants, women or the unemployed, whose entrepreneurial potential is not yet fully tapped. Mapping the entrepreneurial DNA of these different groups can help regional and local decision-makers assess key skills and competences that are already present in their territories, while also identifying some of the main skills needs that should be tackled through entrepreneurship education, start-up support programmes, awareness raising and outreach activities and other actions.

The workshop will present a methodology to map the entrepreneurial DNA that has been developed for the needs of businesses (primarily micro-businesses and small enterprises). By bringing together successful entrepreneurs and researchers in entrepreneurship with regional, local and EU decision-makers, it will explore how this methodology can best be used and adapted to the specific needs of regions and cities. As a result, it will produce a toolbox for regional and local policy-makers, which will first be tested in 20 regions and cities.

The workshop thus aims to contribute to implementing the European Commission's Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan and to achieving the Committee of the Regions' objective of boosting entrepreneurship in regions and cities by taking the needs of the stakeholders within the local entrepreneurial

ecosystems as its starting point.

Gaining real business experience before the age of 25, massive certain-skill in-company programmes, and inter-regional business competitions and awards would really make a difference.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**INV12C73 - Financial Instruments under ESIF (2014-2020) – Public banks sharing experiences and best practices**

Organisers: European Association of Public Banks (EAPB)  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. tbc tbc

The workshop will aim to showcase experience and good practices of public banks in implementing programmes supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds. The workshop intends to present best practices in urban development, integrated territorial investment programmes and community-led local development. For this purpose, EAPB will bring together high-level representatives from its member organisations who will provide an overview of their related activities and the challenges they are facing. The workshop panel will include delegates from the Hungarian Development Bank (MFB) and the State Development Bank of Poland (BGK). The workshop will follow a networking lunch, which will provide ample networking opportunities with industry professionals and policy makers.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**11:15 - 13:00**

**INV12C77 - CLLD – How does it really work?**

Organisers: ELARD - European LEADER Association for Rural Development  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 1

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Chaves Luis , Mr. Srsen Radim , Mrs. Tammets Kristiina

The workshop will give priority to the theme “**Making ESI Funds easy**”. The LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) see the possibility of supporting Local Development Strategies through several ESI Funds as the biggest assets of the creation of the CLLD tool for the 2014-2020 period. All over Europe, this has been seen as the EU wanting to support the area-based, integrated and multi-sectoral bottom-up development processes, embedded into a broader approach for territorial development laid down in the Partnership Agreements.

**But does this approach really deliver on its promises?**

At this stage of the programming period, it is already possible to show some experience with the implementation of the multi-funded approach in the rural context. The examples chosen for this workshop are from Member States and regions that have accepted this challenge. Practitioners will present these examples.

Participants will be able to discuss and share knowledge on the effectiveness of programming and implementation of multi-funded CLLD and to develop recommendations on how to improve programming approaches and implementation, while already thinking beyond 2020. The workshop will be followed by a networking session providing more opportunities for exchanging views and experiences.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**UNIV13A123 - Sustained and sustainable economic growth: Balancing economic and ecological development in cities and regions**

Organisers: EWRC University  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lintz Gerd (Chair), Prof. Naess Petter , Mr. Stepa Marek , Dr. Voytenko Palgan Yuliya

For more than 20 years the concept of sustainable development has suggested the reconciliation of economic, social and ecological goals at a global scale. However, it is obvious that the right balance has not yet been found. Cities and regions do have a certain capacity to act. How can they support particularly achieving the right compromise between some kind of economic material or non-material progress on the one hand and retaining appreciated and essential ecosystem services on the other hand? This session aims to explore this complex problem and will show ways which may solve multiple dilemmas.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**URB12A71 - Sustained and sustainable growth strategies around major urban centres**

Organisers: Sustained and sustainable growth strategies in areas around major urban centres  
Venue: Press Club Brussels Europe

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. O'Connell Vincent (Chair), Mr. Cattaneo Raffaele , Mrs. Clack Helyn , Mr. Jakovcic Ivan

The workshop will address challenges facing regions surrounding major urban centres which serve as key drivers in the EU economy. The debate will draw attention to the ways in which such peri-urban areas can stimulate economic growth and the potential role of cohesion policy. The organisers, supported by the PURPLE network, the voice of peri-urban territories in Europe, share a common interest in growth and development in areas around and at the edges of urban centres and metropolitan areas, where links between urban and rural territories are at their most practical; and where the two overlap and coincide.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

11:15 - 13:00

**URB12A74 - Succeeding locally in a circular economy**

Organisers: UDITE/European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Meade Geoff (Chair), Mr. Buis Filip , Mr. Crawford Gary , Mr. Deviers Sébastien , Mr. Frederickx Ronny , Mr. Henry Pierre

Through a series of case studies, our lively workshop debate will seek identify the drivers for a shift to the circular economy and reduced consumption of raw materials within our communities. Successful solutions a have been developed throughout the EU locally which are informative in helping other communities make the move. Financing the circular economy though requires upfront investment in innovative partnerships and business models that include recycling and separation schemes, awareness campaigns, industrial symbiosis, waste to energy platforms and district heating networks.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

**URB12A89 - How can cities use smart technology to encourage a circular chain of local production, distribution and consumption?**

Organisers: URBACT III Programme  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atrium 5

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. von Radecki Alanus (Chair), Mr. Ast Maximilien , Mrs. Enarsson Lisa , Mr. Nylund Thomas , Mr. Sánchez David

Open data, match-making applications among enterprises, web platforms for citizens... social media have enormous potential for changing a city's local economy and people' attitude to consumption. They provide improved knowledge of available local resources, facilitate connections and cooperation among local stakeholders with common interests which in turn contribute to smarter use of local resources and assets. Cities have a key role to play in making these technologies available to their people and the private sector.

Building on the assets of cities involved in URBACT networks, this workshop will present examples of how cities are exploiting smart technologies, connected to local food policies, enterprise waste and others, in order to contribute to local economic growth. The workshop will also provide guidance and recommendations for cities willing to develop or adapt similar solutions to their local contexts.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

11:15 - 13:00

**URB12B133 - Urban Agenda for the EU – Partnership on inclusion of migrants and refugees**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO, DG HOME and the city of Amsterdam in cooperation with the Partnership on integration of migrants and refugees

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 63

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boekwijt Mark (Chair), Mrs. Agro Ludovica , Mr. Jezequel Thomas , Mr. Munderloh Moritz , Mrs. Papadia Agnese

Partnerships are a key delivery mechanism within the EU Urban Agenda and develop a multilevel and cross-sectoral governance approach in an open and transparent way. The partnership on integration of migrants and refugees is formulating concrete proposals for better regulation, better funding and better exchange of knowledge, which can be regarded as contributions to the design of future and the revision of existing EU legislation, instruments and initiatives. The partnership will present its first outcomes to the wider audience for discussion and improvements.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:45

**URB12E135 - Project visit: Greenbizz, a new development hub for the green economy, sustainable development and environmental entrepreneurship**

Organisers: Brussels-Capital Region  
Venue: Greenbizz (Brussels canal zone)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert

This visit will allow participants to learn about Greenbizz, which provides companies and start-ups with facilities and services to create and develop their sustainable economy project. It is a new development hub for the green economy, sustainable development and environmental entrepreneurship. On a total floor space of 5000 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the low-energy standards, the infrastructure is flexible and defined as a modular incubator and modular workspaces. The aim of Greenbizz is to help new entrepreneurs to get their project off the ground at once as soon as they arrive at Greenbizz. Greenbizz is an ERDF co-funded project. <http://www.greenbizz.be>.

**NB: transport and light lunch will be provided**

**Meeting point: Committee of the Regions – rue du Remorqueur, 1000 Brussels**

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**Afternoon Sessions**

14:00 - 18:00

**12A90 - Smart Specialization Strategy: from planning to funding**

Organisers: Europe of Traditions  
Venue: Fundación Galicia Europa

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Calheiros Francisco (Chair), Ms. Bellotti Rosanna , Mrs. Bosich Patrizia , Mr. Burtny Przemyslaw , Mr. Désiré Rodolphe , Mr. Gomes Emidio , Mr. Korolko Michal , Mr. Larcher Eugène , Mr. Liberali Raffaele , Mr. Manzella Gian Paolo , Mr. Marchese Giandomenico , Mr. Norvoll Tomas , Mr. Olsson Anders , Mr. Pavlis Dimitrios , Ms. Sjørbotten Una , Mr. Tkocz Arkadiusz , Mr. Varela Manuel , Mr. Zaia Luca

"Smart specialization" is a territorial innovation strategy aiming to make efficient use of public funds. Instead of distributing them on too many sectors, thus reducing the effectiveness of the Operational Programs, smart specialization identifies and focuses the strengths of a territory. The areas of specialization are the drivers to be switched on in order to evolve the regional system. The debate will compare the different areas of smart specialization of each partner: moreover, speakers will focus on a specific area sharing information on policies adopted in the current programming period.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

**14:00 - 17:00**

**URB12B98 - Political event on the Urban Agenda for the EU: debates on the progress made driving the Agenda forward and launch of next Partnerships and the approved Urban Innovative Actions.**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Alcide de Gasperi

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Maes Ruben (Chair), Mrs. Cretu Corina , Mr. Häupl Michael , Mr. Markkula Markku , Mr. Olbrycht Jan , Mr. Van der Laan (tbc) Eberhard

Commissioner CRETU (DGREGIO) and the President of the Committee of the Regions MARKKULA will open debates on the Urban Agenda for Europe between high level representatives from a wide range of involved stakeholders. Mayors representing the Partnerships of the Urban Agenda will discuss its current partnerships challenges, followed by the announcement of the next generation of partnerships. Another debate will bring politicians together to reflect upon the progress made and the next steps to be taken to move the Urban Agenda forward. The one-stop-shop will be launched as well as the approved projects under the Urban Innovative Actions.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00**

**12A101 - Integrity Pacts – a tool to increase transparency, accountability and EU funds implementation**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO, Regional partnership "EU urban regeneration - sustainable cities for better future"  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Kramiņa Inguna (Chair), Mr. Nagy Gabriella , Mr. Porcu Ernesto , Ms. Putaturo Chiara , Ms. Rajkova Michaela

The objective of the workshop is to exchange experience on the use of Integrity Pacts for safeguarding EU funds against fraud and corruption and as a tool to increase transparency, accountability and good governance in EU Funds implementation. An Integrity Pact (IP) is a tool developed by Transparency International during the 1990s.

Read more:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/)

DG Regional and Urban Policy funded project "Integrity Pacts - civil control mechanisms for safeguarding EU funds" will pilot IP for 17 projects co-financed by the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds in 11 EU Member States with the objective of ensuring that Regional Policy funds are well spent for the real benefit of the people. This is one in a series of new measures the Commission is taking to help Member States, regions and cities effectively manage EU investments. By increasing transparency and accountability, enhancing trust in public authorities, contributing to the reputation of contracting authorities, bringing down costs and improving competition through better procurement Integrity Pacts can play an important role in safeguarding EU funds, promoting cost efficiency and good governance of ESI Fund implementation. Integrity pacts also can encourage institutional changes, such as the increased use of e-procurement systems, simplified administrative procedures, and improvements within the regulatory environment. The workshop will provide insight in the lessons learned on the experience with using IP tool until now.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00**

**12A139 - Engaging regions and cities in the Investment Plan for Europe**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Atrium 5

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Lockett Tony (Chair), Ms. Dajka Bela

Since the global economic and financial crisis, the EU has been suffering from low levels of investment. In November 2014, the Commission launched the Investment Plan for Europe, an unprecedented EU investment offensive to drive economic recovery and boost job creation. The Investment Plan is an essential part of the EU's broader efforts in favour of jobs, growth and investment (including the European Structural and Investment Funds). A major public communication campaign on the Investment Plan and other EU jobs and growth initiatives will be launched in summer 2016 and last until mid-2017. This workshop will be designed to engage regions, cities and other regional policy stakeholders in the campaign.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 18:30**

**12A62 - Delivering EUSAIR : Time to Invest**



Organisers: Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion  
Venue: Emilia-Romagna Region Representation

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Mairate Andrea (Chair), Mr. Bonacchini Stefano , Mr. Bricelj Mitja , Mr. Ceriscioli Luca , Ms. Crocetta Rosario , Mr. Di Laura Frattura Paolo , Mr. Dobroslavic Nikola , Mr. D'Alfonso Luciano , Mr. Emiliano Michele , Mr. Gozi Sandro

Since the launch of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region in November 2014, much has been done to set up governance and identify projects to be implemented in order to effectively deliver the strategy across all its pillars. The area has been recognised as key for ensuring growth and stabilisation for Europe.

The ambition of the strategy requires investments that go beyond classic territorial cooperation measures and structural funds. In this respect, the relevant actors are now asked to cooperate with financial institutions and private investors.

The conglomerate will be organising a debate made up of two panels, at political and technical level, to discuss how to attract and implement investments in the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, within the framework of the four EUSAIR pillars. The debate will bring together political representatives, regional policy experts, a representative of the European Investment Bank and EU institutions.

14:30 - 17:00

**12A96 - Agriculture and Innovation in the Mediterranean Regions: High potential for boosting rural areas"**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions (NAT Commission) in partnership with regional Council Languedoc Roussillon Midi Pyrénées & ACTA  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 70

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Cuevas Rubio Vanessa (Chair), Mr. Guichaou Adrien (Chair), Mr. Lants Randel (Chair), Mr. tbc tbc

The 2014-2020 European programming period, led by the flagship initiative 'The Innovation Union' for 'smart, inclusive and sustainable growth' is characterized by a huge potential in innovation for Agriculture and Rural Development. Sustainable use of natural resources and preservation of the environment while enhancing productivity and creating jobs in rural areas are common objectives of the EU Mediterranean regions allowed by EU policies and their related funding mechanisms.

With the intention of entering the discussion on the future of the cohesion but also the research and innovation policies after 2020, the Region LRMP and ACTA will emphasis on the current actions implemented in the rural areas of the Mediterranean regions but also underline the first results of the programming period 2014-2020.

Particularly, the MED region is an innovative territory by diversifying tools to support rural and agricultural development and innovations. The stakeholder's panel has been chosen to reflect these innovations across all sectors (digital, organizational, disadvantaged geographical areas, quality of the products, competitiveness...).

The evidence and the shared experiences gathered during this debate will feed the vision of a Rural Agenda, based on land approach, territorial vision and public and private needs.

*Interpretation:*  
FR/EN/ES/IT/EE

14:30 - 17:00

**12B106 - Integration of migrants in the labour market: challenges and opportunities**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EMPL and DG HOME  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Pyke Belinda

Approaches to assessing and recognising the skills of migrants are just as crucial as approaches addressed at citizens if Europe is to ensure its competitiveness, avoid further unemployment and pursue fair and balanced growth.

The skills issue is of particular importance for migrants and can act as a key barrier to labour market access and to achieve their integration within the host society.

The workshop will discuss processes and tools for up-skilling/re-skilling and skills validation in order to respond to the needs of migrants in an ad-hoc way and allow them to integrate into the labour market and remain therein. It will aim to shed light on existing national level recognition processes and service delivery that varies hugely and very often is not attuned to the needs of migrants.

*Target audience:*  
- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers  
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects  
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations  
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

**12B92 - Europe's demographic – from challenges to local and regional opportunities**

Organisers: EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Abramavicius Arnoldas , Mrs. Bienkowska Elzbieta , Mr. Buła Andrzej , Mrs. Campbell Helen , Mr. Schneider Michael , Mrs. de Diego Durántez Maria

Demographic change is a major challenge facing Europe's regions and cities. It affects the sustainability of pension systems and dictates the evolution of the welfare state, due to pressure on health and social care systems. While the characteristics of some areas or regions mean they will be affected later or to a lesser extent, it is indisputable that the effects will be felt across the entire EU. This workshop aims to turn the perception of demographic change on its head by showcasing European regions and cities that are turning the challenges into opportunities.

*Target audience:*  
- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers  
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects  
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations  
- Academics, students and researchers

14:30 - 17:00

**12B97 - Interact Talks "The role of European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) in addressing current territorial challenges: the use of ESI funds tackling labour market inclusion, migration and refugee crisis"**



Organisers: Interact  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 1

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Magazzu Ivano (Chair), Mr. Terrien Guillaume , Mr. Wikström Ulf

The workshop will focus on labour market and social inclusion policies for disadvantaged sections of the population (migrants and refugees); sharing experiences on the use of ESI funds to address issues such as the migration and refugee crisis.

The workshop aims to promote Interreg results and the added value of cooperation; demonstrating how Interreg works and how this model could be enlarged and applied for the benefit of people and territories in Europe.

The projects and their results (achieved thanks to cooperation) will be presented by their stakeholders through an extensive talk and interaction with the audience.

**14:30 - 17:00**

**12C108 - Maximising the potential of e-Governance: how to build on the experience of 2014-20 to deliver a more user friendly approach to accessing ESI Funds**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Gilland Moray (Chair), Mr. Thomas Terri (Chair), Mrs. Seier Katri , Mrs. Stephens Rachel

E-Governance aims at simplifying the implementation of ESI Funds by promoting the electronic exchange of information between beneficiaries and programme authorities to reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries.

This workshop will take as its starting point the recommendations on e-Governance made by the High Level Group on simplification for beneficiaries of ESI Funds in March 2016. The workshop will allow regions and cities involved in managing ESI funds to explore good practice examples, engage with members of the High Level Group and representatives of the European Commission and discuss how the recommendations could be put in practice in their own regions.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**14:30 - 17:00**

**12C54 -**

**Cross-border rural areas and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes**

Organisers: Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Van Maerlant, Room 3

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Denert Olivier (Chair), Mr. Evrard Nicolas , Ms. Monfret Agnès , Ms. Sodini Sandra , Mr. Stampfer Christian , Mrs. Weich Silke , Mrs. Zarlenga Isabelle

Rural border regions, peripheral in their country's organisation, face challenges such as difficulties in maintaining facilities (such as health, management of natural hazards and public services) or combining development and environmental protection. Cross-border cooperation helps to meet such challenges, but their lack of recognition by domestic actors and inadequate engineering capacity make it more difficult.

The debate presents cross-border rural areas which have used or will use tools provided by ETC (integrated territorial development, including ITI and CLLD). The actors will discuss their experiences and needs with the European Commission and other stakeholders at European level.

**Target audience**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00**

**12C91 - Supporting S3 strategies through H2020 and ERDF: synergies, barriers and best practices**

Organisers: Local authorities promoting synergies between ESI Funds and H2020  
Venue: Atrium

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boudard Emmanuel (Chair), Mrs. Alfonso Romero Sara , Mr. Dangreau Geert , Ms. Macoveiu Gabriela , Mr. Richez (tbc) Vincent , Mr. Ross Gill , Mr. van Vught Frans

Smart specialisation provides a strategic tool for guiding innovation and economic development spending towards regional needs. Although the European Regional Development Fund requires smart specialisation to be used in setting spending priorities, other local, national and European programmes also fund innovation and there are clearly opportunities for better alignment. Under the Horizon 2020 programme, for example, ERA Nets are schemes to coordinate regional and national programmes to create single themed, open calls for cross-border research and innovation.

This seminar, organised in partnership with the H2020-funded project SYNAMERA, will look at how research and innovation and smart specialisation strategies can be supported by different EU programmes and how national and EU sources can be aligned to maximise return on investment. Participants will take part in an interactive session to share case studies, best practices and understand barriers that may need to be tackled.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**14:30 - 17:00**

**12C95 - Joint REGI-COTER meeting: Achieving better performance in Cohesion Policy**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - COTER Commission  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Cattaneo Raffaele (Chair), Ms. Mihaylova Iskra (Chair), Mrs. Cretu Corina , Mr. Lemaitre Marc

The Joint REGI-COTER annual meeting will be focused on the implementation of the new Operational programmes and the implication for local and regional authorities, including also their relevance for the EU Urban Agenda. The first findings of the ex-post evaluations for the period 2007-2013 of the Cohesion policy have shown that assessing the delivery of results is a challenging task. The EU Cohesion policy aims to achieve balanced economic, social and territorial development. The discussions would be focused on the oriented results approach and the key challenges for the cohesion policy.

**Target audience**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

*Interpretation languages*

From BG CS DE EN ES FR HR IT NL PL RO SL SV  
into BG CS DE EL EN ES FI FR HR HU IT LT LV NL PL PT RO SK SL SV

**14:30 - 17:00**

**INV12A69 - Multilingualism as an Economic Chance: Early Start in the Neighbouring Language**

Organisers: Border Competence - Early Start in the Neighbouring Language

Venue: Saxony Liaison Office

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Cunningham Kristina (Chair), Mr. Bollmann Sören , Mr. Gellrich Regina , Mr. Gronicz Rafał , Mr. Horinka Josef , Dr. Pyrgiel Joanna , Mrs. Wessely Bettina

Language acquisition and multilingualism are key competencies in border regions for successful and inclusive economic growth. It is important to convey language skills from kindergarten onwards. The development of a cross-border education and training system is only possible through greater knowledge and deeper mutual understanding. Therefore we first need to overcome existing language barriers. This workshop invites key actors from different European border regions to engage in a professional dialogue and discuss effective approaches and best practices for the development of an integrated strategy for the early learning of languages from neighbouring countries.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers

**14:30 - 17:00**

**INV12A93 - EU LIFE programme: A chance for green business, innovation and job creation preserving the environment**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions, ENVE Commission & European Commission, DG Environment

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Ms. Winter Babette (Chair), Mr. Andries Tom , Mrs. Bonnet Francoise , Mr. Delgado Rosa Humberto , Mr. Martin Herve , Mr. Pietrusiak Tomasz

LIFE is the EU's dedicated funding programme for environment and climate action.

The workshop will showcase best practices of LIFE projects, including the new LIFE integrated projects, carried out or supported by local and regional authorities, and discuss how they successfully managed to make these projects support local and regional green business, innovation and job creation, and the implementation of EU environment legislation. Moreover, the European Commission will provide with an overview of the ongoing mid-term evaluation of the programme and an outlook on its future perspective. This workshop forms the 7th meeting of the CoR/EC Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers  
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects  
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**14:30 - 17:00**

**INV12A94 - Overcoming obstacles to investments: presentation of the 7th CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020 and the European Semester**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - ECON commission

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Markkula Markku (Chair), Mr. Claeys Gregory , Ms. Kiviniemi Mari , Mr. Martinos Haris , Mr. Thöne Michael

The usual presentation of the annual CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020 and the European Semester will focus this year on the top EU political priority of overcoming obstacles to investments. The new CoR survey on obstacles to investment at local and regional level, a study commissioned by the CoR on the same topic and an EPRS briefing investments most conducive to long-term growth and job creation will feed into the debate. Participants will discuss on the contribution EU cities and regions can give to boosting investments, growth and jobs within the context of the European Semester.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers  
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**14:30 - 17:00**

**UNIV12A100 - Challenges and opportunities of climate change: focus on smart transport**

Organisers: EWRC University

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Kebir Leïla (Chair), Dr. Mignot Dominique (Chair), Prof. Davoudi Simin , Mr. Klimke Torsten , Dr. Perrin Mathieu , Mr. Pronello Christina , Dr. Sykes Oli , Prof. Torre André

Territories are nowadays key places in the development of actions dealing with global warming. This workshop addresses the issue of territorial implications of climate change. It starts with a round table on the challenges faced by EU regions and cities and how they mobilize to cope with them, with a particular attention to environmental and socio-economic impacts on the development of EU territories. The purpose of the second round table is about the mobilization on the transport issue and in particular the impacts of the roadmap about accessibility and connectivity developed by the JPI Urban Europe (2015).

**Target audience:**

EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers  
 Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects  
 Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations  
 Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00**

**UNIV12B99 - Moving micro-businesses towards the productivity frontier**

Organisers: EWRC University  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Prof. Roper Stephen (Chair), Dr. Hampel-Milagrosa Aimée , Dr. Oliveira Martins Joaquim , Prof. Rivera Rene

Relatively little policy attention has focussed on productivity upgrading of micro firms. Recent research has suggested a 1:5 ratio between productivity in micro and leading-edge firms, a gap which is larger in many developing economies. In countries such as Mexico this has led to concerns about a two-speed economy and the resultant income disparities. This session will examine sustainable strategies to upgrade the productivity of micro-enterprises in developing and developed economies. Speakers will focus on policy initiatives in Mexico, the Philippines and other developing economies. Discussion will focus on the robustness of these initiatives and the transferrable policy lessons.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00**

**URB12A105 - Supporting urban climate change adaptation with Cohesion policy funds and the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**

Organisers: European Commission - DG CLIMA  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Yordi Beatriz (Chair), Mr. Happaerts Sander

Urban areas are increasingly hit by the already visible negative impacts of climate change. Both gradual climatic processes (such as rising sea levels) and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events (such as heat waves or floods) cause damage to urban infrastructures and cost lives.

To prepare cities for a changing climate the Commission launched the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in 2015. Moreover, significant EU funds have been allocated to urban climate adaptation actions.

What is needed for cities to become better prepared? What support does the EU provide? What funding is available? What good practice examples can local and regional authorities share? These are questions which will be at the heart of the workshop's discussion.

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**14:30 - 17:00**

**URB12E137 - Project visit: Port Sud, a valorisation of intangible heritage for a sustainable quality of life & Bruxelles-Ecopôle/RECY-K, a recycling project**

Organisers: Brussels-Capital Region  
Venue: Port Sud (Brussels canal zone)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. De Roep Geert

During the tour, participants will visit PORT SUD. The purpose of PORT SUD is to contribute to the development of dynamic value in the canal area.

This ERDF co-funded project promotes heritage and will generate employment activity. PORT SUD will add value and improve services to the population. The project includes the renovation of emblematic buildings, one of which will be used to accommodate companies while another will host a centre for research and innovation.

After PORT SUD, participants will have the opportunity to visit Bruxelles-Ecopôle/Recy-K. This project aims to set up a platform bringing together different actors active in the fields of circular and social economy, and which specialise in the reuse, repair, reduction and recycling of waste/resources, as well as training and professional reintegration.

**NB: transport will be provided**

**Meeting point: Committee of the Regions – rue du Remorqueur, 1000 Brussels**

Target audience:

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

## Morning Sessions

09:00 - 10:45

**13A109 - Intermediate Authorities for waste to energy**

Organisers: PARTENALIA "Intermediate Authorities for waste to energy"  
Venue: Spanish Office for Science and Technology (SOST)

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Revuelta Juan Manuel (Chair), Ms. Hübner Danuta María , Mr. Moliner Javier , Mr. Oustache Serge , Mr. Valcarcel Siso Ramón Luis

In December 2015, the European Commission launched the Circular Economy Package, which aims to bring about a major shift in waste management, product and process design policies and consumption patterns that minimise the landfill and incineration of waste. One of the more important actions of the circular economy is exploiting the potential of waste to energy(2016/ENV/086).

Waste to Energy offers the possibility of generating large amounts of energy without the use of fossil fuels, using biomass and waste with high calorific power.

In this workshop, we endeavour to show the role of local authorities in energy recovery from waste produced in their regions. Local authorities often have access to or are responsible for waste streams that can be used to produce renewable energy. Local authorities are seeing costs escalate, traditional options diminish and social and budgetary pressures mount. They are constantly under pressure to increase efficiency and reduce the environmental impacts of their activities. Waste to energy is an opportunity for local authorities to potentially manage risks and/or costs whilst improving environmental outcomes.

The workshop will address the following topics:

1. Legal framework of waste to energy
2. Innovative technologies and European funding
3. Best practices and case studies

The following actors will be invited as speakers:

- Partenalia (Association of local intermediate authorities in the European Union). Representing local intermediate authorities from Spain, Belgium, Italy, France, Croatia and the UK.
- FINNOVA (Finnovaregio foundation)
- ClimateKIC. This is one of three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) created in 2010 by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The EIT is an EU body whose mission is to create sustainable growth.

We will also hold a networking session demonstrating results using images and videos, prototypes, files, interviews with media resources, etc. There will also be a Panel of Examples and Goods Practices from:

- European Entrepreneurs in Waste to Energy: biostabilisation of urban waste
- Startup Europe Accelerator: (for financing innovation PPP & EU funding), case study: High Technology Waste Treatment (HTWT), Nobel Grid, Life ecobus/ Life ecoglaucua

With commitments to exchange ideas, establish contacts and share common interest.

Finally, we will have a cultural rendezvous between Belgium and Spain, as a good practice in creative industries and the environment.

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

09:00 - 10:45

**13A113 - Culture and creative industries in the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (R3S): how are regions handling it?"**

Organisers: European Commission - DG EAC, in coop. with DG GROW  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Zampieri Walter (Chair), Mrs. Chotard Françoise , Mr. Corazza Carlo , Mrs. De Voldere Isabelle , Mrs. Del Bianco Anna , Mr. Lepage Vincent , Mrs. Nigge Dorota

Developing a smart specialisation strategy is one of the prerequisites for the management of the structural funds in the period 2014-20. More than 70 European Regions have included culture and creative industries in their regional development strategies.

Through this workshop, we would like to analyse how EU regions can in practice support culture and creativity using structural funds. The objective is also to take a wider look at other EU initiatives which benefit creativity on the territories, including the Guarantee Facility under the Creative Europe Programme, European Capitals of Culture, the Platform for Modernisation of the EU industry, the project on culture for cities and regions and other projects funded under Creative Europe, H2020, COSME, the INTERREG programme and the EU Investment Plan.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

09:00 - 10:45

**13A114 - Mind the gap! Cross-border rail investment in EU border regions**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. TBC TBC

Accessibility and connectivity are key issues in many border regions. Missing infrastructure or incompatible national systems can substantially limit cross-border mobility and hinder regional development and joint labour markets. While significant progress is being made along TEN-T corridors, many regional rail connections – especially along the former Iron Curtain – remain disrupted through national borders. So how can we ensure that we continue to provide these regional cross-border connections for citizens? How can we overcome existing obstacles? What are ways to make it worth the financial investment? These are only some of the questions to be discussed during the workshop.

09:00 - 10:45

**13A115 - From smart specialisation to investment projects for industry modernisation**

Organisers: European Commission - DG GROW  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0C

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Pantalos Nikos

The workshop will aim at stimulating an interactive debate with policy makers at all levels with the participation of cluster and industry stakeholders about strengthening interregional cooperation through the recently launched Thematic Smart Specialisation Platform for Industrial modernisation and investment (S3P-Industry) and the related mobilisation of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for smart specialisation investments. Based on an integrated approach to smart specialisation strategies, industrial modernisation and clusters, S3P-Industry aims to boost innovative projects and investment in Europe. To achieve this, S3P-Industry looks to associate regional authorities, which have a shared interest in the joint implementation of smart specialisation priorities, together with clusters and industry with a view to developing a pipeline of quality joint projects for EU funding programmes, including the Investment Plan. Industry participation in S3P-Industry will be stimulated in parallel through European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for smart specialisation investments on different industrial topics, which have been recently selected following a bottom-up approach. The workshop will present the policy objectives and the role that the SP3-Industry and the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships can play to stimulate industry participation and private investments. Participants will hear and discuss concrete examples of how smart specialisation strategies and interregional cooperation both at policy and operational level can be used to boost investment projects supporting industry modernisation. This will help EU regions that have an interest in industry-related areas to better understand the challenges and new opportunities offered by joining the S3P-Industry Platform.

**09:00 - 10:45**

**13A116**

**- Smart Specialisation and Energy Platform: Energy and innovation tendencies of European regions**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO-JRC-ENER  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0D

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. TBC TBC

Smart Specialisation on Energy was launched in May 2015 as a joint initiative of the Directorates-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Energy, and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). S3P-Energy aims to bring together representatives from EU institutions, Member States and their regions, energy experts and stakeholders to reflect on and discuss the relevance of Smart Specialisation to the energy sector. The European Energy Union aims to integrate 28 European energy markets into one Energy Union, thereby increasing Europe's energy security and giving the stability that investors need to invest in growth and jobs. In this context Cohesion Policy, through the European Structural and Investment Funds, plans to invest about EUR 38 billion in the period 2014-2020 to facilitate the shift towards a low-carbon economy at local level by supporting innovation in the field of energy. This workshop is conceived as a forum for exchanging experiences between the participating European regions, around the main topics in energy and smart specialisation. The event aims to reach a shared vision on knowledge-based energy policy priorities in Member States and regions and will discuss a strategic agenda for design and implementation of Smart Specialisation in the field of energy. This event is also an effort to promote awareness and strategic cooperation between European regions aimed at increasing their capacity for innovation and the development of a strategic market for Europe.

**09:00 - 13:00**

**13A120 - Industrial Technologies for Inter-regional Cooperation and Growth**

Organisers: European Commission - DG RTD, Committee of the Regions – SEDEC  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 51

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Dröll Peter (Chair), Ms. Schroecker Doris (Chair), Mr. Fedrizzi Roberto , Mr. Granholm Goran , Mr. Hartmann Pedersen Hans , Ms. Irazustabarrena Ane , Mr. Van den Berg Bart

The workshop will be organised under the umbrella of the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP). Industrial Technologies provide the basis for innovation in a range of products across industrial sectors such as automotive, food, chemicals, electronics, energy, pharmaceuticals, construction, aviation and telecommunications. They have a huge potential for growth and employment. Countries and regions that fully exploit them will be in the lead of creating advanced and sustainable economies. The aim of the workshop is to discuss with the regions which are the best ways to exploit the new technologies made available through technological research and product demonstration activities. These new technological gaps and inequalities should be highlighted and analysed from a regional and urban perspective too.

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45**

**13C117 - Gold plating: a stumbling block to beneficiary-friendly ESIF Funds? Finding the balance between ESIF regulations, EU rules, national rules and audits recommendations in order to attract the best projects.**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 2D

Speakers and chair(s): Mrs. Boni Anna Lisa (Chair), Mr. Choraży Pawel (Chair), Mr. Gilland Moray (Chair), Mrs. Moreau Chantal

Gold plating (additional rules over and above the requirements set out in EU legislation) is an often quoted criticism of the implementation of ESIF Funds in regions and cities, but is it really a problem in most regions and cities?

This workshop will complement the work of the High Level Group on simplification for beneficiaries of ESIF Funds by considering a number of case studies that examine the impact of ESIF regulations, EU rules such as public procurement and state aid, national rules and audits recommendations on the management of ESIF programmes in a particular region as well as consequences in terms of administrative burden on beneficiaries.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**09:00 - 10:45**

**13C118 - EU Regional Innovation Policies looking forward Post-2020: RIS3 & Simplification**

Organisers: EARTO  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Treppe Frank (Chair), Mr. Dzieciolowski Jan Mikołaj , Mr. Markkula Markku , Mr. Sabatini Massimo , Mr. Tufts Richard , Mr. Van Nistelrooij Lambert , Mr. Vanrie Philippe

The debate will cover RIS3 implementation, parallel efforts by the EU institutions to simplify the ESIF, and the post-2020 regional innovation landscape. EARTO, EBN & ERRIN members, as regional actors implementing RIS3, consider the European Commission and European Parliament's efforts in terms of RIS3 implementation and ESIF simplification to be essential. Simplification should mean easier and faster access to ESIF to support regional development and may be a powerful tool supporting regional innovation policies post-2020. Regional authorities and R&I actors also try to find ways to fund and support RIS3 implementation, using new tools and business models (Vanguard pilots, EFSI funds, ...).

*Target audience:*

- ☒ EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- ☒ Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- ☒ Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- ☒ Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45****13C43 - Policy Lab for Managing Authorities I – Working together to develop arenas for exchange between managing authorities/intermediate bodies**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO

Venue: European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy - BU-1 RDC/046

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boijmans Pascal (Chair), Mr. Kroumova Malina , Mr. Seidl Markus , Mr. Troussard Xavier

This is the first of three workshops for managing authorities/intermediate bodies of Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes financed by ERDF/Cohesion Fund. It will provide information on work by DG REGIO and the Joint Research Centre EU Policy Lab in close cooperation with representatives of different authorities to explore possibilities for developing arenas for exchange of experience and good practice between managing authorities and intermediate bodies. The innovative working method (policy lab) which was applied will be explained. A dialogue with the audience will collect feedback and ideas/topics for future work. More information on specific day for managing authorities:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/....\\*](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/....)

\*) Page to be developed and opened in June

*Target audience:*

- ☒ Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

**09:00 - 10:45****UNIV13A111 - Smart Specialisation Five Years on: from Design to Implementation**

Organisers: EWRC University

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Grillo Francesco (Chair), Mrs. Ciampi Stancova Katerina , Dr. Magro Edurn , Dr. Matusiak Monika , Prof. McCann Philip

Smart Specialisation represents the most comprehensive industrial policy experience in contemporary Europe and it is a cornerstone in the European Union effort to drive countries and regions out of the crisis and guarantee opportunities for growth for all its territories. The next big challenge for S3 lies in the effectively translating strategies and priorities into actual projects. The aim of the session is to introduce some of the most recent reflections on the challenges posed by S3 implementation and propose possible ways forward based on selected current experiences and good practices from across Europe as well as on theoretical elaboration.

*Target audience:*

- ☒ EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- ☒ Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- ☒ Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- ☒ Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45****UNIV13A23 - Is EU manufacturing ready for Industry 4.0?**

Organisers: EWRC University

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Alcide de Gasperi

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Tbc Tbc

In 2015, the European Commission (DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) and the European Parliament started to raise awareness that a new manufacturing model was emerging: this is referred to as Industry 4.0 , or smart manufacturing. Technological change, digitalization, and a new demand are driving a 'production organisation revolution' that is redefining the nature of the manufacturing sector and its contribution to the wider economy. Industry 4.0 is argued to mean more servitised and customized manufacturing goods and the pervasive exploitation of key enabling technology across all sectors. Industry 4.0 offers a unique opportunity to upgrade EU industrial capability, to reshore competences and functions, and to repopulate advanced industry systems across regions to secure jobs and prosperity. Despite the hype on Industry 4.0, it is still unclear, in the EU context, what the triggers and drivers are, but also what its constraints and headwinds might be. Speakers will be asked to discuss what it means and what it will take to align EU regions and EU manufacturing sectors to Industry 4.0.

**09:00 - 10:45****UNIV13C112 - Spatial Data Requirements for Effective Spatial Policy**

Organisers: EWRC University

Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Jenkins

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Rae Alasdair (Chair), Prof. Dühr Stefanie , Mr. Gauk Martin , Prof. Martin Ron , Mr. Mueller Olivier

Recent years have seen an increasing policy emphasis on the local dimensions of economic growth and competitiveness. Fostering the development of regional and urban economies is also an effective means of securing national economic objectives, such as an improved rate of national growth, productivity advance and trade performance. To devise effective 'evidence-based' policies requires a 'fit-for-purpose' database. While national level data are relatively rich in range and detail, the economic data available for sub-national areas remain limited in scope and range. This session will consider the state of regional and city data, and the major information gaps that exist.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**09:00 - 10:45****URB13C119 - Urban Impact Assessments - A tool for better law making**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - COTER Commission  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Cattaneo Raffaele (Chair), Mr. Lavalle Carlo , Ms. Raugze Ilona , Ms. Torokne-Rozsa Judit

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is engaged actively in promoting and carrying out territorial and urban impact assessments with an aim of having a better and more efficient EU legislation, that takes into account the needs and unique characteristics of EU's regions and cities. As the large majority of the EU population lives in cities, it is important that the impacts of EU legislation on urban areas are carefully assessed.

In November 2015, the CoR, in cooperation with the European Commission's DG REGIO, Eurocities, CEMR and ESPON carried out a pilot Urban Impact Assessment (UIA) of the "Energy performance of building" Directive (2010/31/EU) in view of its ongoing evaluation and a possible revision. The assessment gathered energy efficiency experts from cities administrations, representing different types and sizes of European Union's cities. This assessment detected both positive and negative asymmetric territorial impacts at the urban level, even within the same member states proving that there is a concrete need to evaluate EU legislation on a sub national level.

The workshop will present the findings of our pilot studies and we will discuss the plans for the future of the CoR, the European Commission and ESPON.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

**13A126 - Sustainable Research Infrastructures and socio-economic impact: opportunities and challenges for the regions**

Organisers: European Commission - DG RTD  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1A

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Burtscher Wolfgang (Chair), Dr. De Iulius Simona , Mr. Di Giulio Antonio , Dr. Kazamaki Ottersten Eugenia , Dr. Kolar Jana , Dr. La Rosa Salvatore , Dr. Niessen Sylvie , Dr. Novotná Zlatus , Dr. Stammaing Mikael , Dr. Uchytíl Jakub , Ms. Willak Witold

The integration of research infrastructures into local, regional and pan-European innovation systems is essential, as they can become a catalyst for significant regional economic and social development for the regions hosting the infrastructure. Maximising the economic and societal impact of investments in large-scale RIs requires the active involvement of regions, stakeholders and research infrastructures themselves.

This workshop aims to: stimulate discussion on the impact of RIs on the regions and exchange experiences on policy and planning cycles at national and regional level; showcase examples and methodologies to assess socio-economic impact generated by RIs; discuss the pre-conditions and main factors attracting productive investments in the regions and their relevance for RIs.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

**13A128 - The Importance of Marine data for the Development of the Blue Economy on Local and Regional Level**

Organisers: CoR NAT Commission and CPMR  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 52

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Perisse Damien (Chair), Mrs. Lochet Corine , Mr. Moccia Jacopo , Mr. Montanari Roberto , Mr. Shepherd Iain

Collection, quality and availability of marine data have been identified as major issue for further development of EU policies on maritime affairs and fisheries, including all aspects of Blue growth. The goal of the seminar is to discuss how policy in this field can potentially catch up with latest developments and which approach is the most suitable for local and regional authorities throughout Europe, identifying possible solutions.

*Target audience*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

11:15 - 13:00

**13A129 - Improving the capacity to deal with waste management: the Libyan case**

Organisers: Committee of the Regions - CIVEX Commission  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 53

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. zz zz

Waste management is one of the most important typical services delivered by local authorities. With waste increasing constantly in the developing world, local authorities there face even more challenges in urban solid waste management than their European counterparts. Local authorities in Libya have to assure service delivery to local population without a functioning national level. Focusing on the case of Libya, this workshop will try to explore the extent to which decentralized cooperation can help to improve the waste management in cities of the developing world in terms of collection and use of waste, as well as financing.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

*Interpretation:*

EN, FR, AR

11:15 - 13:00

**13B127 - Integrated services to NEET's, long-term unemployed and other vulnerable groups**



Organisers: European Commission - DG EMPL  
Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 1B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Uebe Max (Chair), Mr. Eskonen Tommi , Mrs. Haahtela Ilkka

Public services throughout Europe are facing challenges in finding synergies, increasing their efficiency and ensuring their quality as well as equal access to these services. This workshop will discuss how integrated services can answer these challenges. The workshop will present three different integrated service models from three regions: One-Stop Guidance Centre for Youth from the City of Helsinki, Multidisciplinary joint service for long-term unemployed from the City of Tampere and Social Community Team model from the Netherlands. The aim of the workshop is also to give a comprehensive picture of the performance and outcomes of the integrated service model by showcasing these practices.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**13C104 - Policy Lab for Managing Authorities II – Knowledge mapping on State Aid in the R&D sector**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO  
Venue: European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy - BU-1 RDC/046

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boijmans Pascal (Chair), Mr. Gouache Christophe , Ms. Muñoz Morquilla Palma

This is the second of three workshops for managing authorities/implementing bodies of Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes financed by ERDF/Cohesion Fund. It will demonstrate results of knowledge mapping on State Aid in R&D done by experts from different authorities using a mapping method applied in a policy lab environment. Together they have identified the main documents related to state aid that they use at work in order to produce a practical, hands-on map of documents relevant for everyone working on this topic. Audience feedback will help to further develop the map. More information on specific day for managing authorities:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/.....](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/.....)\*

\*) Page to be developed and opened in June

**Target audience:**

- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**INV13A21 - How to aggregate small energy investments into a big regional project?**

Organisers: Regions for simplification  
Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors, Room 62

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Togonal Mislav (Chair), Mr. Domac Julije , Mr. Doubrava Roman , Mr. Goldmann Ralf , Mrs. Jahn Anette , Mr. Kenny Paul , Mr. Pigliaru Francesco

As public funds alone are not sufficient for delivering ambitious EU energy targets, a different, concentrated approach relying on more market based solutions is required. The event intends to explore options in supporting the creation of regional platforms aiming at aggregating small energy efficiency projects to maximise the use of and access to the EFSI. The event will build upon most recent successful examples like ELENA supported NEWLIGHT project: the aggregation of street lighting reconstruction projects in 57 cities and municipalities from different regional authorities into a single project where total investment exceeded 20 million euros.

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**UNIV13A122 - Sustainable Innovation within the European Digital Agenda: Exploiting regional smart specialisations through an inter-regional Joint Action Plan**

Organisers: EWRC University  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Mansholt

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Brunet Olivier (Chair), Prof. López Juan Carlos , Dr. Mitroi Marius Alexandru , Ms. Nemeth Edina , Prof. O'Gorman Bill

The workshop presents how four diverse regions collaborated within the European Digital Agenda domain, to co-design an inter-regional Smart Specialisation strategy to enhance the creation and development of their regional and inter-regional enterprise and innovation ecosystems through growth, education, job creation and investment. Building on the experiences of developing an Inter-regional Joint Action Plan, as part of the EU FP7 "Regions of Knowledge" funded project, eDIGIREGION, the workshop introduces how developing a digital technology-focused inter-regional Joint Action Plan can have direct impacts on the socio-economic development of regions and support the exploitation of inter-regional smart specialisation synergies. Details at [www.edigiregion.eu/EWRC2016](http://www.edigiregion.eu/EWRC2016)

**Target audience:**

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**  
**UNIV13B121 - Migration and Cities: Territorial Aspects of Migration**

Organisers: Association of European Schools of Planning – AESOP, EWRC University  
Venue: European Commission, Charlemagne, Room Alcide de Gasperi

Speakers and chair(s): Dr. Mironowicz Izabela (Chair), Mr. Aboutaleb Ahmed , Dr. Franz Yvonne , Prof. Gospodini Aspa

The World Migration Report 2015 (International Organisation for Migration, 2015) focuses especially on urban dimension of migration. Although migration affects almost exclusively urban areas, the issues of migration and urban policies tend to be discussed separately.

The aim of the workshop is to present some practical experience and research results and on three aspects of interdependencies between migrants and cities/urban areas: (1) delivery of public services, (2) changes in land use, including temporary land use and (3) housing policies as well as to suggest and discuss a set of recommendations on how urban strategies, planning and governance shall adapt to the migration challenge.

**Target audience:**



- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects
- Other stakeholders: private companies, financial institutions, European and national associations
- Academics, students and researchers

**11:15 - 13:00**

**URB13A124 - Building capacity for Smart Specialisation in Urban areas**

Organisers: JRC-IPTS

Venue: European Commission, Centre Borschette, Room 0B

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Ariño Arturo , Mr. Karapchanski Strahil , Mr. Karsai Tamás , Mr. Verdounk Hans

Over the past five years the introduction and application of Smart Specialisation has generated significant changes in how regional innovation policy is planned and managed. Whilst much attention has been placed on the regional dimension, less is known of the challenges arising, when the urban dimension is taken into account. Urbanisation has accelerated over past decades at a rate unparalleled in history, and this trend is expected to continue. Cities face critical global issues (such as climate change, mobility of goods and people, security, mix in cultural traditions and values, etc.) while also hosting high concentrations of diversity and entrepreneurial dynamism. Smart specialisation as a concept may have strong potential in enabling cities to address some of the challenges they face, not at least because it aims to foster constructive interaction of the quadruple helix of the territory to identify innovative solutions based on strengths and weaknesses inherent to the territory. In order to explore the urban potential of RIS3, this session will focus on selected cases of regional innovation policies, with a particular focus on cities:

- The case of regions dominated by a large city (e.g. Lazio, Madrid),
- The case of Member States where regions lack strong institutions, placing the burden of RIS3 development and implementation onto cities (e.g. Hungary)

The workshop will build on the experiences developed within the Lagging Regions project in IPTS, as well as on cases from major urban areas. This session will take stock of this relatively new area of analysis and practice and contribute to further learning through the exchange of experiences. The outcomes of the workshops will form the basis of a JRC-IPTS policy brief.

*Target audience:*

- EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers
- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects

## Afternoon Sessions

**14:00 - 16:30**

**13C129 - Policy Lab for Managing Authorities III – How to support beneficiaries, the policy lab working method in practice**

Organisers: European Commission - DG REGIO

Venue: European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy - BU-1 RDC/046

Speakers and chair(s): Mr. Boijmans Pascal (Chair), Mr. Aulak Maciej , Mr. Jégou François , Mr. Ryland Peter

This is the last of three workshops for managing authorities/implementing bodies of Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes financed by ERDF/Cohesion Fund. Representatives of authorities will share their experience related to support to beneficiaries. Supported by policy lab designers participants will then be given an opportunity to discuss and exchange on how to best support beneficiaries using a policy lab approach. The 'journey of beneficiaries' from development of project ideas until project closure serves as background for this workshop. The output will be concrete proposals that can be shared between programmes. More information on specific day for managing authorities:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/.....\\*](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/.....)

\*) Page to be developed and opened in June

**Target audience:**

- Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects