



Knowledge valorisation *for the regional and local R&I ecosystems*

Thematic seminar of the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP 2.0)

Tuesday, 14 May 2024, 14:00 – 17:30

European Committee of the Regions

(rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels, JDE53)

One of the flagship areas of the New European Innovation Agenda, established in 2022 to set a comprehensive European strategy for innovation, is accelerating and strengthening innovation in R&I ecosystems across the EU and addressing the persistent innovation divide across Europe despite various EU and national actions.

Enhanced diffusion of knowledge is among the complementarity actions that can generate innovation potential and strengthen regional innovation ecosystems, thereby improving the daily lives of citizens and offering innovative solutions to the challenges and opportunities currently facing Europe.

What do we mean by knowledge valorisation? As outlined in the Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation¹ adopted in December 2022, knowledge valorisation aims to generate social and economic value from knowledge by integrating various sectors and transforming data, expertise, and research findings into sustainable products, services, solutions, and evidence-based policies.

The Council recommendation sets out common policy principles and measures for national, regional and local policy makers to transform R&I results into solutions that benefit society. The guiding principles are: (i) engaging all actors in R&I ecosystems; (ii) focusing on connections and co-creation between actors; and (iii) emphasising entrepreneurial skills and practices.

Moreover, in line with European Research Area (ERA) action 7, the European Commission has launched a Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on Knowledge Valorisation which started on 24 March 2023, financed by the Horizon Europe Policy Support Facility (PSF).

This thematic seminar, jointly organised by the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions, will focus on how regional and local authorities can foster knowledge valorisation and boost innovation ecosystems translating knowledge into practical and innovative solutions. The workshop will explore this question, drawing upon experiences and practical insights gained from the Mutual Learning Exercise on Knowledge Valorisation and from the Committee's Members.

¹ [Council Recommendation \(EU\) 2022/2415 of 2 December 2022 on the Guiding Principles for knowledge valorisation](#)

DRAFT agenda

Moderator: Magda de Carli, Head of Unit, Deputy-Director, European Semester and Country Intelligence, DG Research & Innovation

14:00 **Introductory remarks**

Tanya Hristova (BG/EPP), Chair of the CoR's SEDEC Commission, Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality

DG R&I (TBC)

14:20 **Setting the scene on knowledge valorisation: The role of Codes of Practice for strengthening knowledge valorisation capacities in R&I ecosystems**

Kirsi Haavisto, Head of Unit, RTD.E2

14:35 **Mutual Learning Exercise on Knowledge Valorisation – main recommendations and toolbox for policy makers at national and regional level**

Katiuska Cruz, MLE expert group

14:50 **Panel discussion I: Exemplary Practices - Fostering knowledge valorisation in Local Ecosystems**

Moderator: Ioannis Sagias, Deputy Head of Unit, RTD.E2

1. **Tomas Häyry**, Mayor of Vaasa, Vaasa Energy Cluster (Finland) – regional ecosystem for industry-academia collaboration
2. **Tobias Reckling**, Team Manager Technology Transfer at University of Vienna, Regional Knowledge Transfer Centers (Austria) – intermediaries as key players and connectors in regional ecosystems (*online participation*)
3. **Saša Zelenika**, Vice Rector for Strategic Projects, University of Rijeka, RIMAP - regional online innovation platform for knowledge transfer between the academic community and businesses, the local government, and the NGOs in the Primorje - Gorski Kotar County of Croatia and beyond
4. **Vilma Purienė**, Director of Knowledge and Technology Transfer Centre Vilnius Gediminas technical university, 'sandbox' /connections of Vilnius city (region) and VILNIUS TECH (Lithuania)
5. **Ricardo Rio** (PT/EPP), CoR member, Mayor of Braga Municipality (*online participation*)

15:35 **Q&A Session**

15:50 **Coffee break (20')**

16:10 **Panel discussion II: Unlocking Potential: Regional Perspectives on Knowledge Valorisation (45')**

Moderator: Astrid Hannes, Project and policy manager, ERRIN Network

1. **Markku Markkula** (FI/EPP), Vice-President of the CoR, President of the Helsinki Region
2. **Sergio Pérez García** (ES/EA), CoR member, Director-General for External Action, Government of Navarra
3. **Anne Besnier** (FR/PES), CoR member, Vice-president of the Centre-Val de Loire region
4. **Stefano Palmieri** (IT/Group II), Vice-President, EESC (*tbc*)

16:55 **Q&A Session (15')**

17:10 **Closing remarks**

Magda de Carli, Head of Unit, Deputy-Director, European Semester and Country Intelligence, DG Research & Innovation