

iEER Final conference as part of European Week of Regions and Cities

The Hacking Growth – boosting entrepreneurial ecosystems in European regions

Date:	10 October 2019
Time:	9.15 – 13.00
Room:	JDE 62
Place:	European Committee of the Regions

Overview

What are crucial elements in developing a conducive entrepreneurship ecosystem in the regions and cities? How can EU policy enable it to happen? In this workshop consisting of two sessions, we look into the development of a regional ecosystem for innovative companies, start-ups and scale-ups and recommendations of the European Entrepreneurial Regions to the EU in the next EU policy framework.

Successful stories from entrepreneurial regions in Europe will be presented to boost cooperation between European regions and cities and prepare them for a better policy design to create condition and support for innovative SMEs and startups. Find out more at interregeurope.eu/iEER.

Draft programme

Session I: 9.15-10.45

Hacking Growth: building a conducive regional entrepreneurial ecosystem – learning from iEER regions

Chair: Mr. Michael Murphy, Tipperary County Council, member of the ECON commission, European Committee of the Regions

- Welcome by the chair: 10 years of EER award (7')
- Interreg Europe supporting SMEs and young entrepreneurs, **Mr. Erwin Siweris**, Programme Director, Interreg Europe (10'')

- Case: From strategy to implementation boosting entrepreneurial spirit in regions- iEER experience, **Ms. Christine Chang**, Head of Project, iEER Interreg Europe, Helsinki-Uusimaa (7’)
- Panel: Elements of developing a conducive entrepreneurial ecosystem (50’)
 - Entrepreneurial education and mindset, **Prof. Dr. Andreas Wilms**, President, University of Applied Sciences Brandenburg
 - Startup ecosystem coordination, **Mrs. Teresa García Muñoz**, General Director of Entrepreneurship and Cooperativism, Valencia Region
 - Scaling up via RIS3 and cluster policy, **Mrs. Helle Knudsen**, Chief Consultant, Region of Southern Denmark
 - Support for startups and business in outlying areas, **Mr. Michael McQuillan**, Chief Executive at Enterprise Northern Ireland
 - Utilizing regional development policy supporting startups and young entrepreneurs, **Mrs. Daniela Copaci**, Project Manager, West Region Romania
 - Q & A session
- Moderator: **Ms. Breda O Dwyer**, Head of CEEA, Kerry Institute of Technology Tralee, Kerry Region

Coffee break 10:45-11.30

Session II: 11.30-13.00

Hacking Growth: regions and cities for startups, scale-ups and SME innovation in the next EU policy framework

Chair: Mr. Richard Tuffs, former Director of the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)

- Welcome by the chair (5’)
- Contribution of cities and regions to the new EU policy framework on SMEs: **Mr. Tadeusz Truskolaski**, member of the ECON commission, European Committee of the Regions (10’)
- Regional experience and Policy recommendation for growth in next EU policy framework – perspectives from the regions (30’)
 - **Mr. Jacek Wójcikowski**, Director of the Center for Economic Initiatives, Westpomerania Region
 - **Mr. Francesco Giacinti**, Member of Marche Regional Parliament
 - **Mr. Alain Storck**, President of Hauts-de-France Innovation Development
 - **Mr. Ossi Savolainen**, Regional Mayor, Helsinki-Uusimaa Region
- Perspectives: Responses to iEER policy recommendation:
 - **Mrs. Katja Reppel**, Deputy Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG Regio, European Commission (7’)
 - **Mrs. Birgit Weidel**, Head of Unit for the COSME programme, DG Grow, European Commission (7’)

- Conclusion and ways forward: **Mr. Markku Markkula**, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, 1st Vice President of the European Committee of the Regions (10’)

The event will end with a networking lunch outside the workshop venue.

Additional information

- **Working languages:** EN, FR, ES, IT, PL
- **Networking lunch:** As of 13:00
- **Contact:** EER Secretariat, Tel.: +32 282 24 01, E-mail: eer-cdr@cor.europa.eu

European Entrepreneurial Region (EER)

The EER award is an initiative of the Committee of the Regions identifying and rewarding EU regions with outstanding, future-oriented entrepreneurial strategies. The regions with the most visible, credible, forward-looking and promising political vision are granted the label “European Entrepreneurial Region” (EER) for a specific year. The objectives of the EER scheme are twofold: implementing the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA) at regional and local level and demonstrating optimal use of EU and other public funds oriented towards the development of an entrepreneurial policy within the region.

iEER Interreg project

The iEER – Boosting Innovative Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Regions for Young Entrepreneurs – is a flagship project gathering together ten regions around Europe. Funded by the Interreg Europe in 2016-2020, the iEER aims to strengthen the European single market by encouraging the integration of structural fund investment across Europe supporting young entrepreneurs. The iEER initiative is driven by a majority of “European Entrepreneurial Region” award winning regions – Helsinki-Uusimaa, Brandenburg, Hauts de France, Kerry, Marche, Southern Denmark, Northern Ireland, Valencia, West Pomerania and West Region Romania.