



Building Synergies for Successful Green and Digital Transitions – The Way Ahead

***Implementing policy and programme synergies to deliver on
the EU Missions and foster breakthrough innovation***

Workshop under the Knowledge Exchange Platform Workshop (KEP)

Wednesday, 22 June 2022 – 9.30 to 13.00

Format & venue: In person, CoR headquarters

(Rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels, room JDE 52)¹

Organisers: European Committee of the Regions &

DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission

The European Commission Directorates General for Research and Innovation and Regional and Urban Policy are cooperating to ensure that the new opportunities to create and maximise different types of synergy are seized by ERDF Managing Authorities and R&I stakeholders. The current phase of Cohesion Policy programming provides a unique opportunity to further strengthen the direction and impact of R&I-related cohesion investment and reforms, as well as to boost synergies with Horizon Europe. In this dynamic context, a guidance note on synergies between the ERDF and Horizon Europe will be adopted shortly. The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, which will start on 1st July 2022, will dedicate its first major conference to synergies, which is a key priority of the Presidency.

Existing local innovation ecosystems need further reinforcement and better connections. It is known that many national and European initiatives and funding instruments already focus on the consolidation of innovation ecosystems in Europe, but more needs to be done to strengthen them, and to avoid the fragmentation of the European Research Area (ERA) due to a lack of sufficient linkages. Using different sources of funding, notably Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy, those future synergies will support stronger regional ecosystems also through the newly announced Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRIs).

¹ Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Dutch.

9:30 Introduction and Keynote speech

- **Markku Markkula** (FI/EPP), Vice-President of the CoR, Rapporteur on 'European Missions' (President of the Helsinki Region)
- **Patrick Brenier**, Advisor to the Director on the European Research Area and Open Science, DG Research and Innovation

Moderator: **Magda De Carli**, Head of Unit, DG Research & Innovation

9:50 Session 1: "Ongoing or future strategies and initiatives"

Moderator: **Pirita Lindholm**, Director, European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)

- ***Innovation Agenda for Europe***
 - Speaker: **András Inotai**, Head of Unit, Unit for Innovation Policy and Access to Finance, DG Research and Innovation
- ***Synergies for Sustainability – Partnerships for Regional Innovation***
 - Speaker: **Guia Bianchi**, Unit for Knowledge for Finance, Innovation and Growth, Joint Research Centre, Brussels
- ***How to exploit synergies to increase the R&I funding intensity?***
 - Speaker: **Karolina Tilman**, Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG Regional and Urban Policy
- ***Regions deploying innovative R&I results from Horizon Europe***
 - Speaker: **Daniel Szmytkowski**, Unit for Common Knowledge and Data Management Service, DG Research and Innovation
- **Q&A session**

11:10 Networking coffee

11:30 Session 2: "Learning from cities' and regions' innovative practices - concrete examples"

Moderator: **Bogdan Chelariu**, Vice-President, European Association of Development Agencies (EURADA)

- **Case study 1: *Synergies for a green & digital transition and the New European Bauhaus***

- Speaker: **Kieran McCarthy** (IE/EA), CoR member (Member of Cork City Council)
- **Case study 2: Experiences from a region selected for the '100 Climate-neutral & smart cities' Mission Call**
 - Speaker: **Emile Boc** (RO/EPP), CoR member (Mayor of Cluj-Napoca)
- **Case study 3: Partnerships for Regional Innovation - Commitment and expectations of regions and cities**
 - Speaker: **Tanya Hristova** (BG/EPP), CoR member (Mayor of Gabrovo)
- **Case study 4: Developing a regional innovation ecosystem**
 - Speaker: **Viorika Dishnica**, ART-ER - Research and Innovation Agency of the Emilia-Romagna Region
- **Case study 5: Innovative, green solutions – Experiences from a 'Smart city' project**
 - Speaker: **János Ádám Karácsony** (HU/ECR), CoR member (Member of Pest County Council)
- **Q&A session**

12:50 Concluding remarks

- **Markku Markkula** (FI/EPP), Vice-President of the CoR, Rapporteur on 'European Missions' (President of the Helsinki Region)
- **Magda De Carli**, Head of Unit, Unit for European Semester and Country Intelligence, DG Research and Innovation