



**ERRIN** European Regions  
Research and Innovation Network



# European Regions in Critical Raw Materials Strategy and the Circular Economy

27<sup>th</sup> October 2016

[www.errin.eu](http://www.errin.eu)



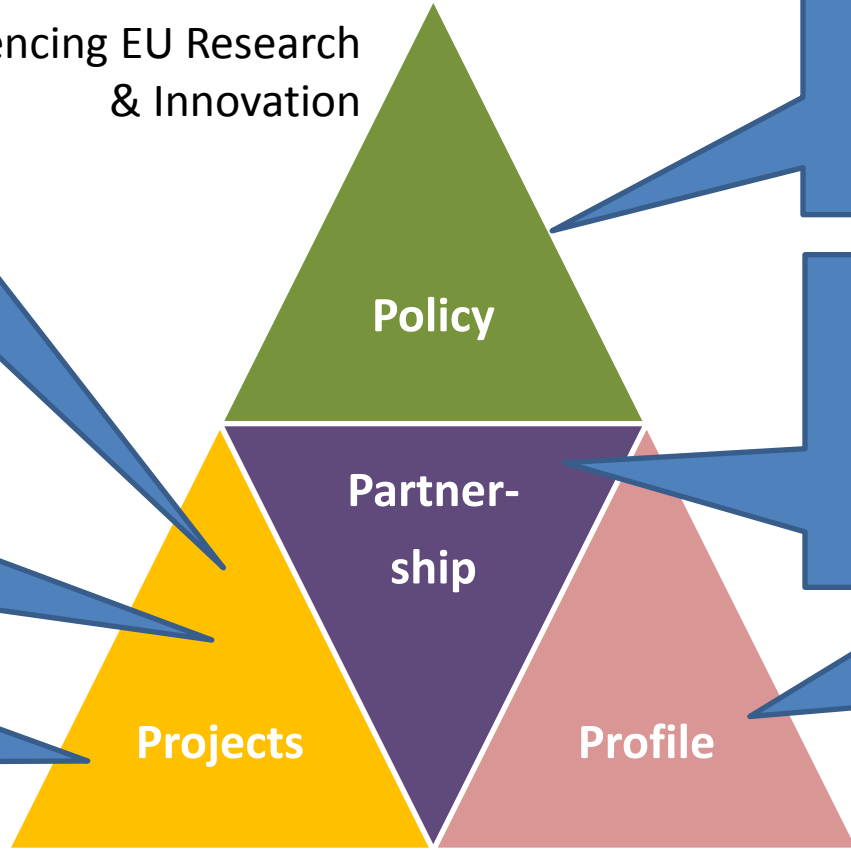
# ERRIN Four Ps

Influencing EU Research & Innovation

Project Brokerage sessions:  
Interreg-Europe  
March 17th  
ICT/KETS /Health and SSH  
June 21st-22nd  
Energy 25th Oct

Partner Searches on website  
[www.errin.eu](http://www.errin.eu)

ERRIN in 'SmartSpec Project' with ten ERRIN regions



Juncker Plan  
Synergies  
Smart Specialisation  
Innovation Council

Working with our members  
Joint events –  
EURADA/ERRIN and  
CEFIC/ERRIN  
MoUs

Average of +2  
events/invitations to  
speak per week

Supporting project development and engaging ERRIN regions in EU projects

Raising the profile of ERRIN and member regions in Brussels

# ERRIN Working Groups 2016

Strategic	Cross-cutting	Societal Challenges	Industrial Competitive-ness	Innovation
Policy	Smart Specialisation	Health	ICT photonics robotics	Innovation & Investment
Projects	Smart Cities	Opening Science	Adv. manu- facturing & nano	Tourism
	Blue Innovation & Growth	Energy and Climate Change	Bio- economy, food & agriculture	Design & Creativity
		Transport		
		Water		

# Working Groups and Leaders 2016

40 regions involved in leading Working Groups

## Strategic

- Policy – *Scotland Europa, East & North Finland & South Tyrol*
- Projects – *West Midlands, Eindhoven & Lombardy*

## Societal

- Energy – *Scotland Europa, Flanders, West Finland & South Denmark*
- Health – *Stavanger, South Denmark, Skåne & Lombardy*
- Opening Science – *Bremen, Berlin, Capital Region DK, Wales Higher Education & South Norway*
- Transport & Logistics – *Aragon, Ile de France & Scotland*
- Water – *Fryslan & Puglia*

## Industry

- Advanced manufacturing & nano – *Twente University, Rhone-Alpes, West Mids & Basque Country*
- Bio economy, food & sustainable agriculture – *West Finland, Northern Ireland, Navarra, Pays de la Loire & Veneto*
- Design & creativity – *Central Denmark, Lombardy & Stuttgart*
- ICT – *Zealand, Berlin & Extremadura*
- Innovation & investment – *Cantabria, Eindhoven, KEPA & Trento*
- Tourism – *Valencia, Crete, Lombardy & Saxony Anhalt*

## X-cutting

- Smart Cities Communities & Regions – *Eindhoven, East & North Finland, North Sweden, Noord Regio & Stavanger*
- Smart Specialisation – *Scotland Europa, PACA, Helsinki & Malta*
- Blue Innovation & Growth – *Brittany, Pomorskie & Emilia Romagna*

# Working Groups



# Policy issues

**BREXIT!**

New kids on the block – migration and security

Research and Innovation – post 2020

ERA

Synergies

Smart Specialisation

Cluster policy

Horizon 2020

EIC

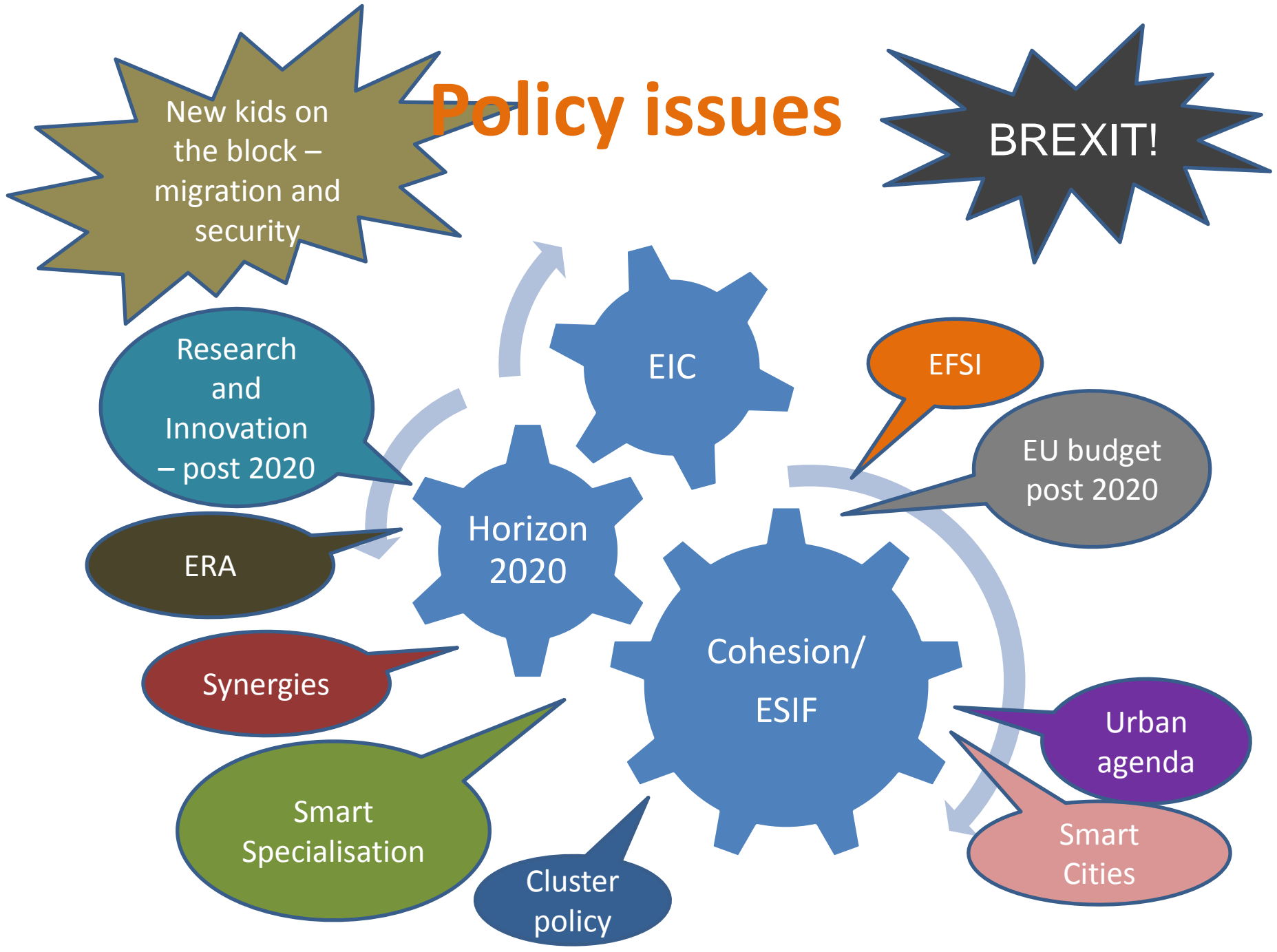
Cohesion/ ESIF

EFSI

EU budget post 2020

Urban agenda

Smart Cities



# Policy positions



## ERRIN Response to the Call for Ideas on European Innovation Council (EIC)

Innovation is most often driven at the local and regional level through downstream, proximity-driven ecosystems supported by a range of local and regional actors and organisations all contributing to regional innovation ecosystems. Thanks to **smart specialisation strategies**, all regions have had to go through an 'entrepreneurial discovery process' to select strategic priorities and innovation strategies and so all regions have the basis of an innovation ecosystem. Through a range of regional and innovation networks, most regions are connected and have access to knowledge, technologies and expertise. Therefore, **one of the key roles of a possible EIC should be to support, strengthen and to add value to regional innovation ecosystems so that they all contribute to enhanced regional and EU competitiveness across all regions in the EU.**

Support for innovation also involves a wider dimension of building new entrepreneurial and innovation-focused mind sets and stimulating new ideas and creative thinking across Europe and more focus on reducing fragmentation and regulation hurdles within the single market.

### ERRIN proposes a two phase approach for a proposed EIC.

**The first phase (2017-2020)** is made under the assumption that there will be no specific EIC funding programme in place before 2020 within the current EU budget. ERRIN would be against any reduction in the current Horizon 2020 budget. The first phase involves setting up an expert group to act as a think-tank on innovation and develop a solution-focused approach to bottlenecks and gaps in EU innovation policy and funding. The EIC should be seen as a pilot activity featuring a more incremental approach until 2020, and then, building on this pilot, **the second phase** would be a more radical overhaul of the European research and innovation landscape post-2020 with a dedicated budget for a possible EIC that would not reduce funding for future research and innovation programmes.

The following seven points outline in more detail the above thinking.

#### Phase 1

1. The EIC should be entrusted to implement and steer specific parts of the EU's innovation policy commitments, playing the role of a practically-focused **think-tank on open innovation** which aims, in particular, to evaluate existing innovation activity across Europe and judge where exactly Europe needs to invest/take action in order to reduce fragmentation of innovation efforts. Specific attention should be placed on **synergies** between existing funding programmes at the regional level which will also require better quality regional data. This is an action that can be taken up as a pilot activity 2018-2020 and feed into a stronger and well-resourced EIC post-2020.
2. One of the early tasks of the EIC should be to identify how Europe could **simplify, restructure and streamline** EU funding instruments for innovation both in the ESIF and Horizon programmes, in particular, those which are based on the excellence criterion where it should be made easier for companies and other innovation actors to access funds for innovation. The EIC should investigate how funding to support innovation, while linked to EU objectives, could be decided as close to the user as possible and delivered as quickly as possible. This would enable the EIC to become a real 'mirror' organisation to the ERC with a core role of **stimulating disruptive market creating innovations** in Europe. Funding for individual actors (as in the SME Instrument) would be acceptable with an emphasis on scaling up and an awareness of the importance of people in the innovation process. Other tasks should only be assigned when there is no duplication of roles already performed by other European, national or regional bodies.
3. Another early task of an EIC remit should be to find **solutions** to identified gaps in both EU competitive and regional innovation funding programmes (e.g. emerging technologies, incomplete value chains, research infrastructure and less-effective funding instruments) and provide a strategic and operational lead role on **EU-level coordination and consolidation of investments** in innovation, systematically taking into account regional innovation systems and value-chains. Practically speaking, this could include surveying what regions are doing

## *No progress in Europe (jobs and growth) without excellent regional research and innovation ecosystems*

### HORIZON 2020 INTERIM EVALUATION

#### ERRIN DRAFT Position

ERRIN (European Regions Research and Innovation Network [www.errin.eu](http://www.errin.eu)) promotes networking and cooperation within innovation and research activities in European regions. For these activities the EU programme HORIZON 2020 is one of the most important and valued funding sources.

The European Research Programmes are of utmost importance to the European research and innovation landscape and is essential to encourage collaborative research and innovation. We acknowledge the contribution and opportunities the current programme Horizon 2020 is providing for all stakeholders. It is therefore important that the programme addresses its weaknesses for the next generation of European research and innovation funding and enhances the powerful instruments already in place.

In this context we wish to raise twelve points:

#### 1. Regional Innovation Ecosystems

Innovation is key to retain a competitive Europe which will support growth and jobs. Thus innovation must be at the forefront of European policy. Innovation requires the strong collaboration of four actors: regions, research institutions, industry and citizens – the quadruple helix. A recent European Commission report on innovation<sup>1</sup>, argues that innovation happens in complex ecosystems. 'Too often, we imagine innovation in a linear way, as a pipe-line with inputs and outputs. But the pipeline theory is too simple and leads to policy over-simplification. In reality, our innovation economy is not a Roman aqueduct but a "muddy pond". Rich but obscure. Innovation requires of all actors, corporate, academic, civic and political to collaborate together. Europe must support this collaboration both within the region and between regions.

#### 2. Research supporting regional innovation strategies

Strengthening the regional innovation ecosystem does not mean jettisoning support for research. But, it means, at the European level, encouraging researchers to contribute to and engage with regional innovation strategies and smart specialisation strategies as well as encouraging universities to play a strong leadership role at the regional level. This means innovation in academic reward systems.

#### 3. Simplification

A well-structured and simplified programme stimulating participation. The whole set of sub-programmes (JPIs, JTI PPPs, EIPs, EIT and KICs Art 185, ...) implemented after the approval of Horizon 2020 – covers mostly the same topics and obscures the funding opportunities and the specific rule to the participants.

#### 4. Increased funding

The limited availability of funding has led to a situation in which projects evaluated even with high or top scores are not funded. In response to a specific call often only one project and subsequently only one technical solution is funded. This is not only discouraging for the community. It also leads in the mid- and long run to monopolies in certain fields of innovation. In addition, we face the problem of depleting the pool that nurtures innovation and product development. Limiting scientific approaches to a large extent do not provide a sufficient basis for a competition of the best ideas in a field.

A close-up photograph of a computer keyboard. The central focus is a bright green key with the word "ACTIVITIES" printed in white, bold, uppercase letters. The key is slightly raised and has a glossy finish. Surrounding it are other white keys, including one with a vertical line and dash symbol, and a "Shift" key with an upward arrow. The background is a blurred grey keyboard surface.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Over 3  
activities  
per week**



# Design Days 2016

**BMW Concept Store  
+150  
participants**



# ERRIN activities Oct 2016 (1)

- 4<sup>th</sup> Oct: ERRIN presents at Swedish national S3 Conference
- 6<sup>th</sup> Oct: ERRIN to moderate session at Lodz Bioeconomy Conference
- 10<sup>th</sup> Oct: ERRIN at SWAFS Expert Group Meeting
- Week of cities and regions (Open Days)
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Oct – ERRIN to moderate session on ESIF Saxony-Anhalt
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Oct – ERRIN to moderate Smart Cities event
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Oct – ERRIN to moderate session on EUSALP: an engine for Europe growth – Lombardy
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Oct – ERRIN to moderate session on Circular Economy for South Norway
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Oct – ERRIN presentation at EARTO/EBN/ERRIN event

# ERRIN activities Oct 2016 (2)

- 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Oct: ERRIN stands at FOOD 2030 'Food Village'
  - 4 ERRIN regions able to present with one paid travel and accommodation for each region
- 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Oct: ERRIN moderating session at Bratislava Bioeconomy Conference with three ERRIN regions in session
- 24<sup>th</sup> Oct: Innovation and Investment WG – Innovative Public Procurement with EAFIP
- 24<sup>th</sup> Oct: Transport WG
- 25<sup>th</sup> Oct: Energy WG Brokerage Session
- 25<sup>th</sup> Oct: Opening Science WG
- 26<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> Oct: ERRIN moderating session at CRM Conference Burgos

# ERRIN activities Nov 2016>

- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov: RIM Plus Event on advanced manufacturing
- **24<sup>th</sup> Nov: ERRIN event (with ERA Stakeholder Platform) on knowledge transfer**
- 1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: ERRIN at Cluster Conference
- Dec: ERRIN AGM
- Dec: RIM Plus Final event (mid-December)
  
- Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2017: 'Going Green in Seventeen' – energy efficiency project brokerage event with AER

# ICCRAM: Introduction to regional case studies

1. Regional innovation ecosystems now accepted as key dimension of research and innovation
  - On the ground
  - Pipeline approach to innovation less accepted – innovation ‘more a muddy pond than an aqueduct’ (Robert Madelin Innovation Report July 2016)
  - Need to build triple>quadruple>quintuple helix model in regions
2. Regions need to collaborate where:
  - Share similar priorities in their smart specialisation strategies
  - Share best practice on key areas of interest
  - Identify links in value chains

# Introduction to regional case studies

## 4. Collaboration is supported by 'leading' or 'pioneering' regions

- Ambition – clear long term strategies
- Action – concrete actions on the ground / good practice examples
- Awareness – communicating to a wide public inside and outside region

## 5. Pioneering regions can increase speed and depth of change but need:

- Commitment – long term and possible political backing (e.g. Vanguard Initiative)
- Content – something to show
- Communication - telling

6.

# Introduction to regional case studies

6. Pioneering regions with a clear strategy can influence future EU policy:

- FP9
- Cohesion policy (ESIF

7. Future challenges will be to bring together various funding streams

- Local/regional (via State or ERDF Funding )
- EU competitive funding (FP9 / COSME / Interreg, etc. )

# Conclusions after case studies

1. Need to seek vertical and horizontal collaboration (V = EU/MS/region/local) (H= other regions)
2. Clear interest in all regions regarding mining and environmental protection and citizens – how to enable a symbiosis between mining and tourism (e.g. Lapland)
3. CRM and mining will be key players in the Circular Economy policy and brings some low density/periphery regions centre stage
4. Still issues of moving from the theory of Smart Specialisation and clusters to practical implementation – how do we engage industry?
5. The Czech example of ‘mining diplomacy’ may be worth investigating within Commissioner Moedas’ 3 O strategy – open to the world as well as the Responsible Research and Innovation agendas being developed in the EU



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