



Fostering Innovation in SMEs

ERMIS Newsletter Issue 1 July 2010



Keeping you regularly up-to-date with the ERMIS Project!

Now that the ERMIS project is well and truly underway we want to make sure you are well informed on the project's progress. For more details on ERMIS objectives and deliverables have a look at our website: www.ermisproject.eu.

ERMIS Activities

The project is now in full swing after establishing project teams among 15 partners from 9 member states.

Working guidelines have been designed among teams, schedules are defined, and lines of communication have been put in place. The first steering committee was held in Sophia Antipolis, France in February 2010 and marked a move towards a step by step pre-modelisation of Local Innovation Systems (LIS), based on existing research, SWOT analyses and assessment of partners' LIS governance.

A benchmark will be carried out and the formalisation of best practices and a set of governance for an Effective Reproducible Model of Innovation System (ERMIS) will be prepared ready for transfer and implementation in partner countries.

Work to date has focused on identifying the best proven transferable practices and methods of governance of partner's local innovation systems (LIS).



Looking ahead! Working groups will be organized by the ERMIS team of innovation experts and first outputs analysed. These shared outcomes will be used for designing the research methodology for the following data collection. This investigation will be conducted on the basis of a meta-analysis of research literature on the topic and regional inputs provided by ERMIS innovation experts.

Cross fertilization between partners over the next 36 months together with the support of major European stakeholders, will ensure the interoperability of ERMIS project results.

The ERMIS Project Launch in Sophia Antipolis, France 22nd & 23rd April 2010

Day 1 was attended by key institutional, local public bodies, major industrial figures and project partners from across Europe. Distinguished speakers addressed the main objectives and issues of ERMIS and the challenges faced by partner countries.

M. Dominique Estève, President of the French Riviera Chamber of Commerce, lead partner of the ERMIS project commented, «We are excited that the launching conference of ERMIS and the first interregional workshops are being held in France, bringing together innovation specialists from around Europe and allowing connections to be made and strengthened.

The Sophia Antipolis Science Park is the perfect venue to kick off this enjoyable and productive 2-day event. We are more than happy to welcome the 120 attendees and provide a memorable platform for connecting with our European counterparts and introducing the ERMIS project to the greater public».

The official launch event of ERMIS included 2 panel sessions and 3 workshops, providing a focused view on specific topics of innovation and knowledge transfer, reflected by the following presentations chaired by Pierre Laffitte, Honorary Senator, and President Foundation Sophia Antipolis:

- Ludovic Dibiaggio, Dean of Research of Skema Business School on the « Challenges of Innovation »,
- Marc Daunis, Senator Mayor, Vice President of the Communauté d'Agglomération Sophia Antipolis on « The Sophia Antipolis Paradigm ».
- Jean Noel Durvy, DG Entreprise & Industry, EU, on « How EU fosters Innovation in SMEs ».



On the left, Marc DAUNIS, Senator Mayor, Vice President of the Communauté d'Agglomération Sophia Antipolis, France. On the right, Dominique ESTEVE, President of the French Riviera Chamber of Commerce.

This was followed by our first interregional innovation workshop discussions which cut across specific innovation topics with:

- Marc Barret, INRIA
- Sophie Monteil, Incubateur Paca Est
- Philippe Perez, Méditerranée Technologies and testimonials from local SMEs
- Thomas Herlin, founder of Keeneo
- Michel Gschwind, CEO ARECO

International innovation experts such as Jorge Izquierdo Zubiato, General Director of ADEuropa, Spain and Lorenzo Ciapetti, Director from the University of Bologna also contributed to this debate. Their presentations and a video covering the event can be viewed on the ERMIS website: www.ermisproject.eu

Having set the scene and covered the wider context, the conference proceeded on Day 2 to provide working sessions for Political Board Members who voted proposals concerning the partnership agreements and its rules of procedures and various other official documents, allowing the project to get well underway.

The LEAD PARTNER Innovation Expert



Ludovic Dibiaggio, Dean of Research of Skema Business School on the "Challenges of Innovation" and ERMIS innovation expert comments: «In order to compare the abilities of territories to support SMEs' innovation capacities, the first step is to understand the properties of regional innovation systems

(RIS), how and why they play a key role in developing innovative capacities and whether their structure and organization matter.

However, one size does not fit all... Does it make sense to compare Silicon Valley, in California with Emilia Romagna in Italy or North Jutland in Denmark? The dynamics of a RIS in a metropolitan area is different than an isolated science park. The organization of activities are sometimes opposite between RIS relying on mature industries than those relying on nascent industries, etc.

The ERMIS website is now on-line and is regularly updated to include a description of the project as well as expected outputs, presentations and information about upcoming events

www.ermisproject.eu

Further, innovation is a complex process and the literature has extensively insisted on systemic interrelationships between all players of the innovation value chain such as companies, universities and local authorities. The recognition of this complexity has provided a strong descriptive power and enabled drawing a finer picture of the mechanisms underlying innovation processes. This does not really help to underline the most important determinants of the system and whether they can be transferred and reproduced elsewhere. This is the challenge. Relying on previous works, the aim is to characterize the factors that not only significantly matter but that may also be transferred and reproduced in different regions. Beyond this analytical step, the results will rely on partners who will fuel the discussion providing their experience and thus test and refine ideas generated by the study».

Meet one of our partners from Iasi Municipality, Romania !



Cosmin COMAN holds the position of Director of Community Services and Programs Department for Iasi Municipality and has a Ph.D. in Economics and Marketing. His Doctoral thesis focused on the marketing management of public services.

After 13 years holding positions as economist and development coordinator within marketing and strategy departments, he served as Secretary of State Minister in the Ministry of Public Finance in the Romanian Government. He has undertaken activities as project manager in the project of the City Hall and the French Cultural Center, funded by EU DG Education and Culture – Twinning Program.

He led the team that worked on developing the Strategy for Iasi "Horizon 2020" in 2007. He is currently coordinating activities of the team working on the Integrated Development Plan for the Economic Growth Pole of Iasi. He is also local Project Manager for the RETINA project, funded by the Transnational Cooperation Program South East Europe. In addition to his current responsibilities, he was appointed by the municipal leadership as Iasi Municipality's Member in the ERMIS Project Political Board.

Up coming events!

ERMIS Brussels Briefing in November 2010

1st information platform for European policy makers and the press.

2nd Interregional Innovation Workshop in Miskolc, Hungary, February 2011.

For more information about upcoming events please log onto the ERMIS website:

www.ermisproject.eu

Future newsletters will detail recent project activities and outputs highlighting a partner involved in the ERMIS project.

Sign up for future ERMIS newsletters by logging onto:

www.ermisproject.eu



European Union
European Regional Development Fund



This project is partially funded by the [European Commission](http://www.europa.eu).