

A contribution from the Navarre Region

**NAVARRA REGIONAL PROGRAM  
OF INNOVATIVE ACTIONS SEMINAR:  
'LISBON 2010: CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGIES'  
20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008 in Pamplona, Spain**



Photo from left to right: **Orjan Sölvell**, Stockholm, School of Economics, **Beatriz Blasco**, Navarre European Innovation Centre, **Vanessa Van Hest**, Project Consultant, **José Ángel García Mera**, Chairman of Economical Development Agency of La Rioja.

The Regional Program of Innovative Actions (RPIA), co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was specifically formulated to **give regions the opportunity to experiment in the Innovation Policy field**. As the opportunities for experimentation are often limited under the main support of the Structural Funds, the innovative actions provided regional actors with the "risk space" needed to respond to the challenges set by the new Knowledge Economy.

Under this initiative more than 173 such regional programs have been implemented on the last 7 years, providing a **huge pool of Best Practices and experiences leading to the improvement of Regional Innovative Strategies** all over Europe. Regional Innovation Strategies are at present time a consolidated tool allowing EU regions to plan, implement and evaluate their policies on this field taking into consideration the regional and international economic development contexts.

European regions vary considerably in their capacity to develop knowledge and technology, and at the same time, they do also compete among themselves as they try to attract money, brains and resources. Many regions acting alone

can not develop the critical mass that will produce the innovations needed to compete on the world market, but there is enormous potential in Europe to build on the complementary strengths of different regions. In this context, European innovation governance urgently needs to anticipate changes, into which some have named the shift **from a "closed" to an "open and collaborative" innovation paradigm**.

Regional Program of Innovative Actions have been in the previous Programming Period (2000-2006) an effective means to increase the shift of many EU regions to Knowledge based Economies. At this time when such Programs are wrapping up, the RPIA seminar was intended to:

- Reconsider the **current challenges** facing Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) at the new period in terms of collaborative and interregional strategies (Open Innovation, Networking, Clustering);
- Assess the **solutions** provided by RPIAs and other EU Programs to such challenges;
- Promote the **new tools** available to regions to capitalise existing best Practices and experiences.

The RPIA seminar focused on the conclusions drawn from its experiences and on the future challenges for European regional innovation strategies with regard to the Lisbon Strategy. **Navarre region is a perfect demonstration of this innovative dynamic**, as it appears as the second Spanish region in terms of R&D investment. This commitment to innovation lead the region to the best positioning also at European level.

During the seminar, the audience could have been introduced to the Regional Program of Innovative Actions' experiences at national and international level, in sectors such as biotechnology and food sector. Participants have also learnt more about the **new patterns currently worked on for European Innovation: Networking, Social Networks, Partnerships, etc.** through showcases from 19 projects of these programs.

**Euroinnova** is an example of those programs implemented in Navarre. It implemented 15 projects lead by 95 entities. According to Begoña Urien, Directorate General of Enterprise in the Navarre Government, Euroinnova 'helped our community to know what are the opportunities for social and economic development'. Euroinnova is about to conclude its third and last year of imple-

mentation of the Regional Program of Innovative Actions in Navarre, which allowed to reach successfully the planned objectives in the three areas of interest: Poles of Excellence, Innovative and Innovanetworks.

Euroinnova program was focused on **contributing to the European objective of reaching an investment rate of 3% of the GDP**. This three-year programme is supported by a total budget of 4.8 million euro, in which the European Regional Development Fund contributed bringing about 1.7 million euro. The rest of the budget was subsidized by public or private entities of Navarre. This is exactly one of the Program's outcomes, as the program aimed, among other objectives, to **achieve the needed cooperation between enterprises, Techno-**

**logical Centres and Universities of Navarre.**

Euroinnova seeks cooperation between regions and relevant stakeholders, on three emerging sectors (biotechnology, nanotechnology, renewable energies) and another one, more cross-sectional, ICTs, as an innovation's accelerator. For this purpose, three actions were implemented: **Excellence Poles, Innovative e Innovanetworks**. This program came to life because 'cooperation and internationalization ideas were not as successful in Navarre as it was claimed in the technological plans', as explained Rafael Mugerza, Director of Innovation and Technology Department of the Navarre Government, while presenting the outcomes of the program.

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## INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON TALENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE AGE: TALENTIA AGORA 11-12<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Pamplona, Spain

The Regional Government of Navarre, the Navarre Innovation Agency (ANAIN) and the Navarre Foundation for Diversification (FND) are organizing the **first International Forum on Talent in the Knowledge Age**, the first edition of an unprecedented event on a global scale. Talentia is:

- Creating an **international forum and meeting place** to foster debate and exchange information about the trends and concerns regarding talent in the future;
- Promoting **networking between companies and institutions** and the talent developers;
- Positioning Navarre as a region with **strong appeal for professional development linked with quality of life**;
- Obtaining the consensus and signature of leading international actors to draw up a **declaration about "the development of talent in the knowledge age"**.

The Talentia Forum aims to identify new challenges to the **attraction, development and retention of talent** and to discuss the main aspects that turn a place into a point of reference for talent. Essentially, **AGORA TALENTIA** will be

a forum for interaction, knowledge exchange and making the most of collective thought.

Pamplona was chosen to host the Forum because of the commitment shown by the Region of Navarre to launch and promote **actions aimed at developing talent, its privileged position** as one of the best places to live, according to the Organisation of Consumers and Users (OCU), and its **exceptional commitment to innovation, people and knowledge**.

**AGORA TALENTIA** is one of the activities included in the Global Plan for Talent, a model of **public/private cooperation** promoted by the Departments of Economics, Health, Education and Innovation in the Regional Government of Navarre, ANAIN and the FND. Within this framework, and bearing in mind Navarre's situation in terms of social welfare, economic development, education and training of its citizens and commitment to R&D, as well as the global business reality, this Forum aspires to achieve anticipation and commitment in order to ensure the development and competitiveness of Navarre by identify-

ing new ways of **attracting, developing and retaining talent**.

The program of the Forum is structured in three content blocks in accordance with three levels that related to the talent: **people, institutions and context**. International experts such as Richard Florida and Sir Ken Robinson will share with the participants their knowledge about the "Creative class" and the "Gifted people". There will be also representatives experts from leading regions in the world (Massachusetts) and important institutions that care for the talent (European Commission)

It is important to remark that this **unprecedented forum** has the sponsor from the European Parliament and the 2009 European Year Innovation and Creativity.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.agoratalentia.es/en/presentacion/presentacion.asp>