Member Services

eris@ is an established European network that provides its members with access to :

- **project** partnership and brokering ;
- assistance with attaining EU **funding** ;
- **learning** opportunities relating to regional information society and knowledge-based economy development ;
- guides to **good practice** and access to experts ;
- opportunities for EU-wide **promotion** of regions' successes and flagships projects ;
- concertation of shared regional concerns and **lobbying** EU institutions ;
- regular **events** including an annual conference, policy seminars and thematic workshops;
- thematic **work groups** in key domains ;
- **web portal** that acts as both a repository of intelligence and a focus for collaborative work using Web 2.0 technology tools including ;
- regularly updated **news service** ;
- searchable **databases** of ICT projects and regional experts.

eris@ offers a warm and 'family' style of membership, supported by its very friendly and professional staff.

FAQs

What is required to become a new member?
You will have to complete the Membership Application Form (MAF – available to download from www.erisa.be) and get it signed by your regional authority (or equivalent institution). Approval takes approximately 8 weeks.
Can a new member join at any time?
Yes.
Apart from the annual subscription for membership, are there any other costs?
Only for travel and subsistence and time to participate at events.
How long a commitment are we making and can we resign at any time?
Your commitment is for one year at a time.

Further Information

contact :

The eris@ Office

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We would be delighted to meet you to enable you to find out more about eris@ and the benefits of membership.

erisa

European Regional Information Society Association

(Founded 1998)

… informing, supporting and representing European regions on their road to the knowledge-based society

www.erisa.be

eREGION HUB

European Regional Information Society Association

Our Focus

Our focus is to provide support for the economic and social development of our member regions through the tools of the information society – information and communications technologies (ICTs).

These technologies provide a paradigm shift for regional development. ICTs offer the opportunity for regions to catch up with their richer counterparts whilst regions that are advanced in terms of ICT adoption can compete globally with the best-in-class.

Our member regions are committed to :
- **Improving the competitiveness of their enterprises**
- **Improving the quality of life of their citizens**

We at eris@ are committed to helping members to exploit the potential of ICT to achieve these goals. In particular, eris@ stresses the importance of innovation and the critical role that ICT plays in the innovation process. It is often very challenging for regions to go it alone. Cooperation, collaboration and networking are vital aspects of working in the knowledge-based economy and play a critical part in developing Learning Regions.

eris@ exploits the tools of the information age to enable its members to share their experiences and approaches helping them to accelerate their development with less risk and at lower cost.

Our Aims

We offer our members a supportive environment for regional learning and for inter-regional collaboration. Our expertise is in identifying, capturing and exchanging good practices to help meet their development goals. We offer a tailored portfolio of services and responses to meet their individual needs. Our expertise in the information society spans policy, programmes and projects.

We aim to support our member regions to :
- accelerate their progress in terms of innovation and competitiveness – and the other Lisbon goals (jobs, inclusion, etc.) – through the exploitation of ICTs.
- modernise their public systems and services so as to become more attractive, dynamic regions.
- transform themselves through ICT and make a successful transition to the knowledge economy and society.

eris@'s strategy and business objectives are concentrated on :
- providing a growing but flexible portfolio of relevant, quality, value-added services, adapting suitably to our members' changing needs .
- helping members to **learn**, **promote** themselves and their good practices, and to help them secure project-based EC **co-finance**.
- acting as an internal consultancy resource for members, in particular by analyzing information about regional activities and developments.

Membership & Governance

Membership of eris@ can benefit regions, institutions, or private corporations. It helps members to share objectives and for them to grow and shape activities more effectively.

Regional Membership
- eris@'s membership is drawn from all over the European Union. We actively welcome members from the New Member States and Accession Countries.
- the annual subscription is determined each year by eris@'s General Assembly which normally meets once a year, typically in June.
- all full regional members are entitled to be represented and to vote at the Association's General Assembly meetings.
- full member regions are entitled each year to nominate a representative for the election of President, Vice-President and as Members of the eris@ Board of Directors.

Corporate Membership
In light of the importance of building public-private partnerships, eris@ warmly welcomes membership of private corporations and other institutions that its share aims and objectives.

For private sector partners, the benefits of membership of eris@ include :
- an expert interface with European policy.
- access to eris@'s growing research capacity and databases.
- brokerage of partners and introductions to potential client groups and the development and implementation of significant ICT projects.

What some members say …

✓ "… membership enables us to disseminate regional activities at the European level and to promote our region on a bigger stage";

✓ "… joining eris@ has given us access to good practices and examples of projects that can be replicated at regional level";

✓ "… being part of eris@ means we have knowledge of the IS policies of other regions in the EU and it helps us keep an open mind to upgrade our own strategy";

✓ "… the topics we deal with are complex, and rapidly changing. There is a need for "career long learning" but, in the absence of relevant training courses, the debating, sharing, confronting, peer-to-peer teaching offered by the eris@ network is the next best thing that allows us to stay on top of our game";

✓ "… eris@ membership offers combined clout when in need to seriously bring an issue to the EC's attention";

✓ "… being an eris@ member has allowed us to know the state of the art on ICT and to avoid reinventing the wheel".

eris@ is the only European regional network association with a critical mass committed to supporting members' regional economic and social development through the tools of the information society and ICT, based innovation, thereby helping their transformation to compete successfully in the knowledge-based global economy and to become more inclusive.