



## The Research Potential Network in FP7

Working together to strengthen research capacities in convergence and outermost regions of the EU

## eNewsletter

### Events

30 Aug-3 Sep 2011 - [ERSA, European Regional Studies Association Congress](#), Brussels, Belgium

22 Sep 2011 - [ResPotNet Info-day & Brokerage Event](#), Brussels, Belgium

10-13 Oct 2011 - [Open Days, 9th European week of Regions and Cities](#), Brussels, Belgium

13-14 Oct 2011 - Annual forum for Regional NCPs Istanbul, Turkey

### ResPotNet Info-Day & Brokerage Event

The Research Potential NCP network is organising a stakeholders' and brokerage event in Brussels on September 22, 2011. It will be a great opportunity for all stakeholders interested in the regional FP7 Programmes to receive information about the forthcoming calls and to meet other relevant parties. There will also be the opportunity to meet the Regional NCPs.

Dimitri Corpakis, Head of Unit Regional Dimension of Innovation (DG R&I) and other speakers from the EC, will present the priorities for regional innovation strategies and give an overview of 2012 calls. Profiles of successful organisations funded by RegPot will also be disseminated. A networking lunch will conclude the meeting. After the lunch, however a number of NCPs will be available for a couple of hours to assist participants who may have queries on the subject.

To facilitate participation, the event has been organised the day after the NCP meeting. More information and a draft agenda are available on the [ResPotNet website](#).

### ResPotNet Workshop

The workshop on the assessment and new challenges of Research Potential brought together PC members, Project coordinators and NCPs of both the Regional and RIs FP7 programmes. A total of 45 participants took an active interest in the discussions held during the event organised by ResPotNet. The event, a spin-off of the WIRE 2011 Conference held last June in Hungary, began with a discussion on the future of FP7 regional programmes. Mr Brunet also spoke about the next call which will be a joint one between 2012 and 2013.

Coordinators from 3 Regpot projects then explained how they have dealt with the implementation and results of projects. This was followed by an interactive exchange of views and the opportunity to look at the challenges that projects face during their life span.

The fruitful debate was followed by a session on the possible synergies among EC programmes that promote R&I. Once again project coordinators were called upon to give their experiences and views. The conclusion was that Research Potential has a significant role in helping the regions as it can stimulate international cooperation and has a strong impact on research infrastructure development. It is believed that research potential is strategic for the regions as it helps define the long-term sustainable regional strategy.

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### WIRE 2011 Conclusions

The WIRE 2011 conference held in June in Debrecen, Hungary aimed to connect cluster development and research infrastructures to enhance innovation and regional development.

The plenary session raised a number of issues, such as the need to reduce fragmentation of innovation policies, while ensuring they reflect the orientations of Europe 2020. Promoting competitiveness at EU level, while addressing sustainability issues at regional level was also deemed important. As was continuing REGPOT activities that aim to increase research potential of excellent research org. Resources of the MS and EC should be more in sync, while awareness on the importance of high-risk, high-gain R&I should be increased. It was also decided to enhance adequate support for RoK activities, increase capital for policy innovation in regional partnerships and strengthen support for networks of research-driven clusters.

The Experts present during the session gave the following recommendations:

- Encourage networking and put construction of RIs and Regional Partner Facilities on the agenda of regional research and innovation strategies,
- Most of the ESFRI projects have 3 categories of funding: convergence, competitiveness and employment and territorial cooperation,
- Keep distinct features of RegPot activities and promote smart specialisation of regions,
- Use at least 30% of SF for the RDI,
- Promote partnerships between "strong" and MS with a weaker performance
- Provide competitive funding for future Innovative Actions that demonstrate a truly innovative and risk-taking approach,
- Develop long-term relationships between clusters at EU level,
- Promote full utilisation of intellectual capital of all regions in Europe.

For more details on the Roundtable sessions held during the conference [click here](#)

### Expert group on the future of Research Potential

Regpot is a very effective programme and capable of maximising its impact with relatively few economic resources. The experts hailed the simplicity and mono-contractor approach of the "Research Potential" activity as points in its favour. This CSA funding scheme offers clear advantages to potential applicants. The activity, they believe should also support IP-oriented and innovation activities by requesting specific work packages to be submitted in the proposals and applying adequate measures in the evaluation process. More importantly, it was pointed out that Research Potential should become a distinctive and important part of the next Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation.

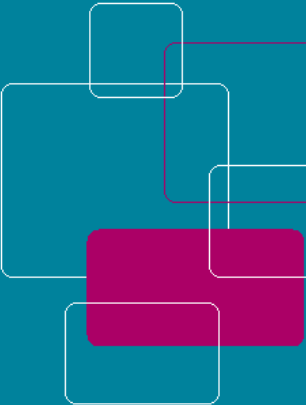
The experts recommended that REGPOT proposals should include mutual commitments between the applicant and partner organisations during the lifetime of the project. they should also incorporate specific commitments from the institution and/or regional or national authorities to ensure the sustainability of the positions of a number of recruited researchers if evaluated positively. Recommendation number 6 specifically calls on the authorities to increase the overall budget for the REGPOT programme to meet the demand and also the budget of the individual projects to cover the costs of IP Plan to max €5m.

For more details [click here](#)

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**Success Story:** MoBiLi-Strengthening and Sustaining the European perspective of Molecular Biotechnology in Lithuania, is coordinated by the Vilnius University (LT).

The strategic goal of Institute of Biotechnology is, its integration into the European Research Area and strengthening its role as a leader in molecular biotechnology. The 3 year project MoBiLi, which began on December 1, 2009 has been conceived as a support action to strengthen the research capacities and to mobilise human resources in molecular biotechnology at the Institute of Biotechnology Vilnius, Lithuania, thereby transforming it into an excellence centre in molecular biotechnology and a significant player in the European Research Area.

The Purpose of the project is to build up scientific excellence and human potential of IBT thereby transforming it into an excellence centre in molecular biotechnology and a significant player in the European Research Area.

The major objectives:

- Human capital building for research and technological development (RTD) in the field of state-of-the-art molecular biotechnology;
- Networking of IBT with major centres of excellence in the EU via joint research and mobility of researchers;
- Upgrading and modernisation of research infrastructure in line with emerging thematic priorities in the field.

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### **New Partner Search service on Cordis**

A whopping 3959 partner profiles and over 200 partner requests are all part of this revamped service that has been set up to bring together profiles, scientific publications and Cordis news. The new service promotes expertise and organisations to help in the quest of finding the research and business partners necessary for certain calls. It helps foster collaborations for the different funding opportunities in FP7. It also supports the creation of various groups and networks.

The New Partner Search service is available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/partners>

### **New commission website for FP7 calls**

The new calls have been published exclusively in the participant portal which is now the Commission's single authoritative website for FP7 calls. The 'find a call' section of cordis now redirects to the relevant pages of '[FP7 calls](#)' section of the participant portal



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