



# Building Europe 2020 in Partnership

Best Practices from Europe's Regions and Cities



EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY GROUP  
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS



# Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives



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*The EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions is determined to make the Europe 2020 Strategy a success for all the citizens of Europe. We need a more competitive Europe, which puts people first and ensures that they have first class employment possibilities and a good quality of life. For this to happen, we need to ensure that local and regional authorities are not only involved, but also feel a sense of the ownership for the Strategy.*

*Under the leadership of Markku Markkula, the EPP Task Force on Europe 2020 has been tracking the evolution of the flagship initiatives as well as promoting the use of Territorial Pacts. We are sure that these agreements will enable regions and cities to play to their strengths and develop in a truly innovative way.*

*This brochure therefore aims to showcase concrete examples of the work that local and regional authorities are already doing to ensure smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. I thank my colleagues in the EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions for sharing their experiences and best practises on the ground and hope this will give encouragement to others so that they too may begin to work towards a more competitive Europe.*

*Together we are stronger. I therefore look forward to continued work with the European People's Party and our Group in the European Parliament to give regions and cities a voice in the Europe of the next decade and beyond.*

**Michael Schneider,**

President of the EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions



*"I warmly welcome the initiative of our EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions, showing how regions and cities can contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy in very concrete terms. I believe we should involve all levels of policy-making into the implementation of the Strategy and build synergies between local, national and European levels, in the framework of subsidiarity. Guided by the principles of the social market economy, these efforts will enable us to reach our core objectives: sustainable economic growth, job creation and social cohesion, leading to a competitive knowledge society.."*

Wilfried Martens, President of the European People's Party



*"If we are serious about renewing growth and employment under the Europe 2020 Strategy, we must understand that innovative regions and cities are a powerful lever for action. By working together with the Committee of the Regions, we can give Europe a chance in a globalised world."*

Joseph Daul, Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

# Europe 2020 Overview

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**The Europe 2020 Strategy** is designed to boost economic and financial growth in the European Union over the next decade. The rapidly changing global context means that the EU must become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. The strategy will therefore help Europe's regions to achieve high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

The European Council endorsed the plan in June 2010 and committed to its five ambitious objectives:

- Employment – to ensure that 75% of 20-64 year-olds are employed;
- Research and innovation: 3% of the EU's GDP (public and private combined) is invested;
- Climate change/energy: reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%; attain 20% of energy from renewable sources and reach a 20% increase in energy efficiency;
- Education: reduce school drop-out rates to under 10%; ensure that at least 40% of 30-34 year-olds complete third level education;
- Poverty/social exclusion: lifting at least 20 million people out of poverty and exclusion.

Each Member State adopted its own national targets in each of these areas and the regions and cities of Europe have a key role in the implementation of these National Reform Programmes. Concrete actions at EU, national and local level underpin the strategy. The recommendations are based on a thorough assessment of every Member State's plans for sound public finances and policy measures to boost growth and jobs.

Country specific recommendations were published by the European Commission on 7 June 2011. Details can be found at: [www.ec.europa.eu/europe2020/tools/monitoring/recommendations\\_2011](http://www.ec.europa.eu/europe2020/tools/monitoring/recommendations_2011)



*"We are very much in favour of your idea of territorial pacts. I will push member states to accept involvement of all parties in territorial pacts."*

José Manuel Barroso – President of the European Commission



*"The European Parliament's resolution on Europe 2020 recognises that, in order to achieve visible results, European tasks and responsibilities must be shared in a well orchestrated way between European, national, regional and local levels of governance."*

Jerzy Buzek- President of the European Parliament



*"The idea of Territorial Pacts "(...) is a valuable contribution to our reflections on the Europe 2020 Strategy and has enormous potential for its implementation."*

Herman Van Rompuy – President of the European Council

# Territorial Pacts on Europe 2020

Territorial Pacts on Europe 2020 are voluntary political commitments, agreements or contracts between the different tiers of a country's government (local, regional, national). Parties signing up to a Territorial Pact commit to coordinate and synchronise their policy agendas in order to focus their actions and financial resources on the Europe 2020 Strategy goals and targets.

Each of the EU's 27 member states has its own socio-economic, territorial situation as well as its own constitutional structure and distribution of powers between the various tiers of government. Territorial Pacts could therefore represent natural components inside the National Reform Programmes allowing all levels of government to draft, implement and monitor the progress of the Programme in partnership. In this way, they would not create extra bureaucracy, but instead the Territorial Pact would ensure respect of the principals of multi-level governance and partnership within the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The Pacts should be developed in policy areas where regional and local authorities are legally responsible and are thus key actors in the Europe 2020 targets and flagships. Areas for collaboration in the local, regional and national government could include:

- setting national and possibly regional targets, with recourse to indicators and targets other than GDP;
- implementing one or several flagship initiatives;
- identifying obstacles to the achievement of the targets at national level
- making compatible policies and resources at EU, national and sub-national level, that are needed for the implementation of the Strategy;
- raising awareness among citizens living in cities and regions;
- building regional innovation capacity on the basis of smart specialisation and complementarities in neighbouring regions;
- setting-up pioneering regions which could form European consortiums integrating different capabilities to create ground-breaking societal innovations for Europe-wide use.

This initiative is officially endorsed by the Committee of the Regions and by the European Parliament and has so far received political support from the European Commission, the European Council and the Belgian, Hungarian and Polish Presidencies of the EU.



<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Pages/welcome.aspx>

## Examples of Territorial Pacts



### FRANCE

State-Region Projects Contracts (Contrats de Projets État-Région - CPER)

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In France, a project contract between the state and a region is a document under which the State and a region commit themselves to ensure multi-annual funding for projects such as building infrastructure or support for future pathways. Other communities (councils, urban communities) may join a CPER if they fund projects.



### GERMANY

Joint tasks (Gemeinschaftsaufgaben)

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According to Articles 91a and 91b of the German constitution, the following are considered to be joint tasks, falling under the responsibility of both federal and Land level (Gemeinschaftsaufgaben): the improvement of regional economic infrastructure; the improvement of rural structure and coastal protection; assessment through international comparison and reporting of the performance of the education system.



### ITALY

Framework Programme Agreement (Accordo di Programma Quadro - APQ)

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The Framework Programme Agreement (APQ) may be considered to be one of the most important instruments for the participation of the State and Regions in Italian regional development policies. An APQ is signed by the region in question, the Ministry of Economics and Finance and one or more central administrations. The APQ's primary purpose is to co-ordinate the actions of the many public and private agents (vertically or functionally specialised) that are involved in the definition of territorial development policies in order to achieve greater consistency, quality and speed of intervention. (OECD 2007)



### POLAND

Territorial Contracts

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Territorial Contracts between the voivodships and central government open up new perspectives for the regions, providing them with the opportunity to negotiate issues related to the implementation of priority programmes and their financial support directly with central government. Territorial Contracts, which are governed by civil law, aim to create synergies between all regional policy instruments in which have a territorial dimension.



### ROMANIA

Given the fact that the Territorial Pact requires the agreement of various levels of government (national, regional and local), the concerned parties in Romania must act in a coordinated manner - taking into account territorial potential - both in identifying appropriate policies and in determining the way in which they can be adjusted to ensure more effective achievement of the necessary structural reforms and in terms of financial resources that will be used to achieve objectives.



### SPAIN

Collaboration agreement (Convenio de Colaboración)

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The Collaboration agreement is an instrument which exists under Spanish law (Ley 30/1992) for the purpose of ensuring the closer and more effective implementation of projects or strategies at regional level. The Collaboration agreement is an Agreement between the General State Administration or one of its departments and the corresponding department of an autonomous community that agree to join forces to deliver a project.

# Europe 2020 EPP Task Force

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Seven “flagship initiatives” have been launched as primary tools to put the strategy into practice, according to the three objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth:

- **Smart growth:** Innovation Union, Youth on the Move, a Digital Agenda for Europe;
- **Sustainable growth:** Resource Efficient Europe, an Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era;
- **Inclusive growth:** an Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, and European Platform Against Poverty

During its Group meeting in December 2010, the EPP Group set up a task force under the chairmanship of Markku Markkula to monitor the strategy’s progress and its flagship initiatives at EU and Member State level.



## Innovation Union

**Marialuisa Coppola,**

Councillor of the Veneto Region and Regional Councillor with lead responsibility for economy and development, research and innovation of the Veneto Region, Italy

*“Investing in research and innovation is the only means to ensure growth and stability. Regions and cities must strive for innovation in all sectors so that results can be deployed for scientific research, business solutions and future planning in a globalised world.”*



## Youth on the Move

**Malcolm Mifsud,**

Mayor of Pietá, Malta

*“Europe’s regions and cities should be an integral part of the Youth on the Move flagship because it is in the interest of our regions to ensure that young people can find jobs, be competitive and find a place to grow in the economic market. Not only should cities and regions implement this strategy; they must actively promote it.”*



## A Digital Agenda for Europe

**Markku Markkula,**

Member of the Espoo City Council, Finland

*“A truly digital Europe would transform us into an international powerhouse. This flagship is essential to ensure there is knowledge flow across borders and more collaboration between cities and regions. In our globalised world, information cannot stop at borders!”*



## Resource Efficient Europe

**Michel Lebrun,**

Member of the Parliament of the French-speaking Community, Belgium

*"It is clear that local and regional authorities, cities and regions, are extremely important levers in resource efficiency. Indeed, they are usually in charge of transport policy, waste management policies, energy efficiency policies and policies which favour renewable energy production. We must ensure that we too are playing our role in the fight for a resource efficient Europe."*



## An Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era

**Emilia Müller,**

Minister for Federal and European Affairs in the Bavarian State Chancellery, Germany

*"Europe's economy represents 500 million people, 200 million jobs and 20 million companies. It is also absolutely crucial for competitiveness in our regions and cities that we can support innovative small and medium-sized enterprises and help them succeed on the global market."*



## An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs

**Constance Hanniffy,**

Offaly County Council and Midland Regional Authority, Ireland

*"For our economy to grow and remain competitive we need more jobs and we need to give people the right skills for the jobs of the future. Providing education, training and employment for all will be a key challenge for the next decade, but we must succeed in supporting our citizens if we want to stay ahead."*



## European Platform Against Poverty

**Marek Woźniak,**

Marshall of the Wielkopolska region, Poland

*"We have a responsibility to help the most vulnerable people in our society; the minorities, migrants, young people and all who live with disadvantages. We need to let them benefit fully from being in the EU, to find their proper place. We cannot just carry on when there are areas of social exclusion – let's fight for cohesion together."*

# Innovation Union



## **Linking** local government, universities and business

Following joint efforts between Covilhã city hall, the University of Beira Interior and other public-private entities, the Parkurbis Science and Technology Park provides firms and companies with the means to bolster innovation and sustainable development throughout the city of Covilhã and to reach their global potential

[www.parkurbis.pt](http://www.parkurbis.pt)



## **Promoting** the integration of skilled, young people and **offering** incentives to companies and businesses

The master's degree in biotechnology for the enterprise, offered by the Fondazione Master Cuoa and the National Board of Research in Veneto, provides students with the knowledge, experience and skills to ensure effective business management. This is achieved through scientific training and internships with companies and organisations in the biotech sector

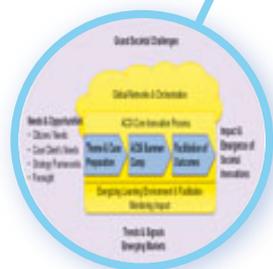
[www.cuoa.it](http://www.cuoa.it)



## **Assisting** clusters for growth and competitiveness

The SLIM project supports the development of clusters and innovative environments in the Värmland, Dalarna and Gävleborg Regions. These clusters provide competitive platforms for new business concepts, research and development and can encourage the establishment of companies, products and services as well as job opportunities for the region

[www.regionvarmland.se](http://www.regionvarmland.se)



## **Reinforcing** the connection between innovation and the market

The Aalto Camp for Societal Innovation provides solutions for societal demands by working on specific cases with clients from the public and private sector. This method of continuous collaboration leads to rapid prototypes which can be quickly deployed to the market

[www.acsi.aalto.fi](http://www.acsi.aalto.fi)



*"The flagship initiative Innovation Union is a key answer for Europe's competitiveness and raising societal challenges. To ensure its successful implementation, we need to include all European stakeholders involved, beginning at the regional level. It is only through combined effort that Europe has the capability to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth".*

**Herbert Reul**, MEP, Chair of the Industry, Energy and Research Committee



## **Providing** innovative funding tools for SMEs

Financial instruments have been deployed by the Pomorskie Voivodeship as part of the JEREMIE Initiative to support the development of micro and small enterprises with difficulty accessing credit, loans and guarantees

[www.dpr-en.pomorskie.eu](http://www.dpr-en.pomorskie.eu)



## **Helping** SMEs with application-oriented research

Through the participation of various universities, companies and research institutes, the cluster for nanotechnologies in the Veneto region aims at promoting and encouraging research and innovation in SMEs

[www.venetonanotech.it](http://www.venetonanotech.it)



## **Establishing** international contacts with market leaders

The manufacturing industry in Steyr needs intelligent and sustainable products, which can be provided by the PROFACTOR association. Initially aimed at modernising the production of technology in Austria, the scientists have also established an extensive network throughout Europe and beyond

[www.profactor.at](http://www.profactor.at)

## **Increasing** the use of EU Structural Funds

The BalticSupply project makes use of structural funds to create partnerships between SMEs and suppliers in the energy, maritime and food sector to ensure competitiveness and generate new business opportunities for the Baltic Sea Region. Business Kolding and the South Denmark European Office are part of the project with emphasis on the food sector, which aims at ensuring a healthy, safe and high quality food supply in the Baltic Sea Region

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



## **Benefiting** from and **sharing** in regional partner facilities

The region of Veneto is a partner in the PERIA project, which aims at improving the implementation of regional innovation policies through the networking activities amongst Regional Innovation Agencies and Regional authorities in the area

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

# Youth on the Move



## Setting the curriculum

The Valencian Regional Government took the initiative to teach secondary school children about the European Union including its mobility, languages and culture as part of its regional education plan. The subject “European Union: Organisation and Operation” is now taught to students aged 16-18 throughout the community

[www.gva.es](http://www.gva.es)



## Utilising the European Social Fund for better education

Young women from ethnic backgrounds can take part in the VIA Produktionsschule in Tirol thanks to the ESF. By studying subjects such as woodworking, textiles and the media, their job chances are significantly improved

[www.via-produktionsschule.at](http://www.via-produktionsschule.at)



## Promoting mobility and youth policies

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is a Maltese youth agency. Working in the areas of youth empowerment, policy mainstreaming and research, it aims to enable young Maltese people to influence youth policies, and their implementation, as well as the strategies of Member States in the youth field.

[www.agenzjazghazagh.gov.mt/](http://www.agenzjazghazagh.gov.mt/)



## Twinning with European towns and cities

A partnership between Emanoil Ungureanu High School in Timișoara and Engelbert-Bohn-Schule in Karlsruhe exists following an initiative from Timișoara local authorities in 2003

[www.primariatm.ro/timisoara](http://www.primariatm.ro/timisoara)



*"Cities and regions are not only home for European citizens but also the heart and spirit of the European Union. They are the driving force for the Europe 2020 strategy and the flagship initiative "Youth on the move". The contribution to the strategy by local and regional level is essential for its success"*

**Doris Pack**, MEP, Chair of the Culture and Education Committee



## **Supporting** young entrepreneurs and **promoting** the creation of new jobs

Aulaceei.com is an e-learning platform supported by the regional government of Castile and León and aims to give entrepreneurs training, guidance and counselling online. Ultimately it promotes the creation of new jobs and encourages young people to start their own business

[www.aulaceei.com](http://www.aulaceei.com)



## **Investing** in education and training for a competitive future

A future professional profiles guide has been published by the Regional Government of Castile and León to determine the job profiles, which are needed for tomorrow's job market and to ensure that the Universities in the region are offering the relevant degrees

[www.jcyl.es](http://www.jcyl.es)



## **Providing** information for young people

Youth Information Malta is a web portal which provides information of particular relevance to young people. It also provides a showcase of news, events and activities pertaining to the youth field and aims to be a common meeting place for young people, institutions, organisations, and youth workers.

[www.youthinfo.gov.mt/](http://www.youthinfo.gov.mt/)



## **Fostering** cooperation between schools and potential employers

Lower secondary school students from the Voivodeship of Pomorskie are able to benefit from after school courses, summer schools and science festivals thanks to the 'By the Hand with Einstein' project, which draws on close partnerships between the schools, universities and businesses in the region

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

# A Digital Agenda for Europe



## **Digitalising** local governments

The regional government of Castile and León has launched an e-government project to improve interoperability of public administration and develop new approaches towards people-centred e-services in education, health, social inclusion and territorial planning

[www.jcyl.es/rmd](http://www.jcyl.es/rmd)



## **Testing** tomorrow's ICT innovations through Living Labs

The Connected Smart City Network brings Helsinki, Amsterdam, Manchester, Lisbon and Barcelona together to explore how an information society can tackle Europe's challenges including sustainable mobility, climate change, energy security and ageing populations

[www.fireball4smartcities.eu](http://www.fireball4smartcities.eu)



## **Supporting** the development of an information society

The Pomeranian Digital Library (Pomorska Biblioteka Cyfrowa) is a regional digital library which provides citizens with unlimited access to information about the Pomorze region as well as scientific achievements of academic centres in the region

[www.pbc.gda.pl/dlibra](http://www.pbc.gda.pl/dlibra)



*"The Digital Agenda will only be effective if it is 'owned' by all political levels and is implemented as a shared responsibility at EU, national, regional and local levels."*

**Pilar del Castillo Vera**, MEP, European Parliament rapporteur for the Digital Agenda



## **Bridging** the digital divide

The Upper Austrian Broadband Internet Initiative aims to provide the entire Upper Austrian population with access to affordable broadband connections. Given the amount of rural areas in the region, the initiative will prevent there being a divide between companies operating in industrial centres and those in remote communities

[www.bereitband.at](http://www.bereitband.at)



## **Establishing** a roadmap for digital transformation

Wallonia has adopted an initiative to boost the information and communication technology sector by 2025. By encouraging businesses and universities to digitalise their administrative services and teaching methods, the region looks forward to becoming a regional centre of digital excellence

[www.sectors.wallonia-export.be](http://www.sectors.wallonia-export.be)



## **Supporting** public-private partnerships with SMEs

The DIGIBUSINESS cluster programme gives rise to new business concepts in the field of e-learning, multi-lingual communication, content management and social media. DIGIBUSINESS helps intensify cooperation between the public-private sector and SMEs in the field of ICT

[www.digibusiness.fi](http://www.digibusiness.fi)



## **Involving** young people in the local knowledge society and boosting entrepreneurship

Approximately 15 start-ups and 100 inventions related to information communication technology were born through the Aalto Innovation System in 2010. Together, the Aalto Centre for Entrepreneurship, Aalto Entrepreneurship Society and Aalto Venture Garage support students in their ambitions to respond to societal challenges

[www.aalto.fi](http://www.aalto.fi)

# Resource Efficient Europe



## Supporting green transport management

Castile and León local authorities are helping reduce carbon emissions thanks to their sustainable mobility initiative – the ‘Transport on Demand’ initiative. This system, which is based on citizen demand and managed by a virtual centre, cuts emissions by 6,000 metric tons per year

[www.jcyl.es](http://www.jcyl.es)



## Exploring alternative energy resources

In partnership with the Municipal Transport Company and the European LIFE programme, the Valencian city council has played an essential role in improving environmental conditions through the promotion of energies including biodiesel and Compressed Natural Gas

[www.emtvalencia.es](http://www.emtvalencia.es)



## Providing clean, safe water

The Gdansk Water Infrastructure Company improves waste-water management and ensures safe water supply systems for the citizens of Gdansk. Financed by the Cohesion Fund, not only do citizens have crystal clear water to drink, but the discharge to the Baltic Sea has also decreased

[www.giwk.pl](http://www.giwk.pl)



## Regenerating the ecosystem

Various campaigns have been initiated by the Valencian city council to help preserve the Albufera lagoon’s water quality and thus its diverse ecosystem

[www.albuferadevalencia.com](http://www.albuferadevalencia.com)



*"As Commissioner for Energy I fully agree that the strong commitment of local authorities is essential for the EU's transition into a secure, competitive and low carbon energy system that we want to achieve."*

**Günther Oettinger**, European Commissioner for Energy



## **Coordinating** action between public and private partners for a greener Europe

Ecovitrum is an innovative project which gives a second chance to waste electric and electronic equipment. Bringing together European public administrations, private companies and a technological institute, the treatment plant in the Valencian region transfers city waste into resources

[www.ecovitrum.es](http://www.ecovitrum.es)



## **Moving** towards green technology

The Marshall Plan 2.Vert provides for the creation of a new competitiveness cluster dedicated to environmental technology. Taking the existing green clusters and virtual research center for sustainable development into account, Wallonia aims to contribute to a more resource efficient Europe

[www.planmarshall2vert.wallonie.be](http://www.planmarshall2vert.wallonie.be)



## **Promoting** the use of sustainable energy sources

The TWEED cluster is a Walloon organisation involving over 80 companies. It focuses on the implementation of energy saving processes, energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gases including CO2 and the development of products for industry

[www.clusters.wallonie.be/tweed](http://www.clusters.wallonie.be/tweed)



## **Encouraging** green business support measures

The cluster ECO World Styria offers support in strategic areas such as innovation, know-how and new market information to enterprises in the areas of energy and environmental technology. The members focus on projects in fields including biomass, solar energy and waste water

[www.eco.at](http://www.eco.at)



## **Working together** for new types of energy

P.O.W.E.R.E.D is an EU project aimed at the deployment of offshore wind energy within the future Macro Adriatic Region basin. Financed by the IPA Adriatic CBC programme, it involves several regions, cities and three governments and is coordinated by Abruzzo

[www.regione.abruzzo.it/xeuropa](http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xeuropa)

# An Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era



## Establishing strategic public-private-partnerships

The development of the electric vehicle in Castile and León encourages a sustainable transport industry as a result of strategic public-private partnerships between infrastructures industries and an e-mobility cluster

[www.jcyl.es](http://www.jcyl.es)

Existenzgründerpakt Bayern  
Startup in Bayern  
Unternehmensnachfolge

## Offering support to business 'start-ups'

The state of Bavaria has set up an online information portal for business 'start-ups' and contributed to the development of one stop shops for entrepreneurs. Moreover, the dozens of start-up centres support more than 1000 businesses creating jobs and prosperity for the region

[www.startup-in-bayern.de/](http://www.startup-in-bayern.de/)

## Creating a competitive and innovative landscape and providing access to infrastructure

The BioRegio Regensburg biotechnology cluster aims to promote the competitiveness of local businesses and develop synergies amongst companies, research establishments, service providers and investors. It houses 44 life sciences firms and provides 18 000m<sup>2</sup> of offices, state of the art laboratories, warehouse spaces for businesses and institutes in the field of biotechnology, medical technology and associated services

[www.bioregio-regensburg.de](http://www.bioregio-regensburg.de)



*“Local and regional authorities can play a very important role in promoting a competitive industry, for instance by nurturing local clusters, ensuring a reliable and business-friendly local administration and providing a good local infrastructure. I am therefore happy to see that the Committee of Regions and its Members are actively working on these issues and hope they will bear lots of fruits over years.”*

**Antonio Tajani**, European Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship



## Fostering cross-border cooperation

Along the Dutch-Flemish border, a super cluster has formed in the area of the bio-economy. The pooling of knowledge, resources and infrastructure allows for solutions to climate issues to be developed whilst also providing new knowledge and innovation, fuelling economic growth and creating new green jobs for European citizens

[www.euregioscheldemonde.be/upload/BioBaseFolder.pdf](http://www.euregioscheldemonde.be/upload/BioBaseFolder.pdf)



## Promoting the European Entrepreneurial Region

“Providing failed entrepreneurs with a second chance: learn from your mistakes” is the title of a conference for entrepreneurs with which the region of Murcia kicks-off a series of events which will be organised throughout the year 2011 as part of its EER action plan. Experienced and successful entrepreneurs and academics provide advice how to do it better next time

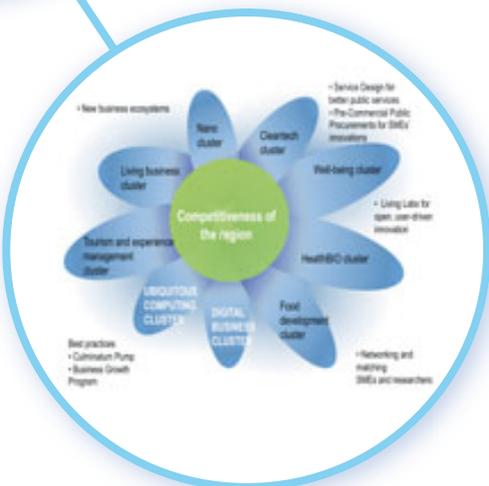
[www.institutofomentomurcia.es/web/portal/european-projects](http://www.institutofomentomurcia.es/web/portal/european-projects)



## Investing in sustainable industry

A Walloon company called Cinergie is on track to create more than 10 million kw/h of green energy each year thanks to the biogas plant in Fleurus. The facility will provide green electricity for the equivalent of 2,700 households, and heat for public and private buildings

[www.fleurus.be](http://www.fleurus.be)



## Promoting areas of regional expertise

The aim of the Centre of Expertise Programme is to develop selected fields of expertise into both nationally and internationally powerful new sectors for the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. A development company, owned by the Uusimaa Regional Council, the cities of Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa, and the universities, polytechnics, research institutes and business community of Helsinki region, manages the utilisation of the highest international standard of knowledge and expertise in business, job creation and regional development

[www.culminatum.fi](http://www.culminatum.fi)

# An Agenda for new Skills and Jobs



## **Developing** infrastructure for better learning

The Pomorskie Voivodeship is boosting its innovation, competitiveness and education through the construction of new, well-equipped buildings at the Gdansk University of Technology

[www.pg.gda.pl](http://www.pg.gda.pl)



## **Offering** flexible places of work

The Laulasmaa Telework Centre is an office in the rural municipality of Keila, which can be used by NGOs, SMEs, freelancers and the self-employed reducing their need to travel into Tallinn and therefore contributing to a better work-life balance

[www.kaugtookeskus.ee](http://www.kaugtookeskus.ee)



## **Creating** a positive climate for SMEs and entrepreneurs

The Mature Entrepreneur project supports people over 50 in the Pomorskie Voivodeship when starting up or running their own business by promoting and informing about possibilities and opportunities that are available including EU structural funds

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



## **Supporting** an Erasmus for civil servants

More than 50 civil servants from across the EU Member States participate in the annual "Erasmus Public Administration" programme aimed at strengthening the understanding of the EU institutions and decision-making processes, improve mutual understanding of different administrative approaches, foster administrative cooperation and create contacts between the participants

[www.europa.eu/eas](http://www.europa.eu/eas)



*“One of the biggest challenges for Europe in the next decade is better anticipation of future skills needs and to develop better matching between skills and labour market needs. Although there will be job openings for all types of occupations, most new jobs will be in knowledge and skill-intensive occupations and the demand will continue to grow for highly and medium-qualified people even in lower-level occupations. Regions must play a decisive role in implementing the “Agenda for New Skills and Jobs” as anticipation is more feasible and reliable in a regional context”*

**Regina Bastos**, MEP, European Parliament rapporteur for the Agenda on Skills and Jobs



## Matching the supply of skills to the labour market

The Business Mentoring for Winners programme in the Border, Midland and Western region of Ireland allows business representatives to access independent advice. Working with the local colleges, private sector businesses and advisors, participants benefit from fresh learning approaches to entrepreneurship and innovation

[www.bmwassembly.ie](http://www.bmwassembly.ie)



## Creating modern hubs for knowledge and promoting lifelong learning

The public libraries in Olsztyn opened an innovative multimedia centre in 2007, which offers a broad range of individual and group courses to children and adults. Not only have more than a thousand elderly citizens have learnt how to operate a computer and write and send emails here, the centres have also lured more visitors to the libraries to learn for themselves

[www.wbp.olsztyn.pl](http://www.wbp.olsztyn.pl)



## Promoting language learning

The ELVIN project, supported by the regional government of Castille and Leon, centres on a multilingual online social community of language learners. The target groups are learners in the field of public administration (professionals already working and students preparing for a career in this field) in 6 different European countries

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



## Working with the unemployed

Companies in the Pomorskie Voivodeship are going through continued modernisation, adaptation and restructuring for the future. However, this means that some citizens have lost their jobs. An innovative project works with dismissed employees and gives them access to counselling, recruitment agencies, training courses and grants to start their own business

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

# European Platform Against Poverty



## **Diminishing** social and economic difficulties

Volunteer fire-fighters, retired residents and the disabled can benefit from the Municipal Social Card created by Covilhã municipality to improve their well being and quality of life

[www.cm-covilha.pt](http://www.cm-covilha.pt)



## **Promoting** an inclusive society

The Castile and Leon Intergeneration Programme promotes a reduction in the generation gap, prevents exclusion of the elderly from the 'knowledge' society, provides pensioners with access to health care and help the elderly at risk of poverty, and encourages students to establish relationships with the elderly

[www.usal.es](http://www.usal.es)



## **Alleviating** poverty

Nicosia's Municipal Multi-Dynamic Centre invites citizens to address poverty at local level and addresses the needs of people with disabilities, migrants and other vulnerable groups to ultimately eliminate social exclusion

[www.nicosia.org.cy](http://www.nicosia.org.cy)



## **Responding** to regional societal issues

The Social Integration Observatory in the Wielkopolska region is a direct response to regional social issues. As part of the Coordination for Active Integration project, a database providing access to information supporting local planning of regional social problem solving strategies has been set up

[www.wielkopolska-region.pl](http://www.wielkopolska-region.pl)



*"Regions and cities, as planning and organizational entities symbolize the perfect bottom-up structure on which we can and should build now and in the future as well, to achieve the targets set out in the EU 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives".*

*Csaba Öry, MEP, EPP Group spokesman on Employment and Social Affairs*



## **Supporting** the unemployed and **helping** them get back to work

The Wielkopolska region is tackling unemployment and helping redundant workers to find new jobs through the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund which offers a wide range of support activities

[www.ec.europa.eu/social](http://www.ec.europa.eu/social)



## **Inciting** social and professional reintegration

The Barka Foundation offers support for the social development of excluded groups and enables them to rebuild their lives by creating a system of mutual help, education and entrepreneurship. The Barka Foundation is a non-governmental organisation based in the Wielkopolska region and was established as a response to increasing social problems

[www.barka.org.pl](http://www.barka.org.pl)



## **Promoting** social inclusion and participative democracy

The Construction of the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk aims to promote the history of the Solidarity Movement, monitor human rights observance in the world and disseminate the ideas of democratic freedom and independence

[www.ecs.gda.pl](http://www.ecs.gda.pl)



## **Benefiting** those at risk of social exclusion

Wielkopolska holds an annual event to promote a social economy sector in Poland. The Solidarity Culture Days aim to give a voice to those at risk of social exclusion and provide a platform for entities working towards a social and economic development path

[www.wielkopolska-region.pl](http://www.wielkopolska-region.pl)

# Contributions of Cities and Regions to Europe 2020

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