

European Week of Regions and Cities 2017

Regional Partnership: “Cross-border strategies of Higher Education Institutions”

Regional Partnership members:

Baden-Württemberg (Germany, lead), Grand Est (France), Aragon (Spain) and Luxemburg

Brussels workshop:

- **Titel:** “Europe in a nutshell” – experiences with the implementation of cross-border groupings of higher education institutions
- **Date:** Wednesday October 11th, 2017, 2.30 pm – 5 pm
- **Venue:** Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU, Brussels.

PROGRAMME:

2:00 pm: Guests arrive

2:30 pm: Welcome and introduction by Mr. Guido Wolf, Minister for Justice and Europe, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

2:50 pm: Thematic introduction by Mr. Hans-Jochen Schiewer, President of the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus, Spokesman of the Science Pillar of the Tri-national Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine

3:00 pm: Panel I: The importance of science for regional politics in border regions

Moderator: Mr. Johannes Jung, Head of Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU

Key note: Mr. Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources (tbc)

- Discussion between high-level political representatives from the border regions (Upper Rhine, Greater Region, Pyrenees) and from European Institutions
 - Mr. Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources (tbc)
 - Mrs. Bärbel Schäfer, President of Regierungspräsidium Freiburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany
 - Mrs. Lilla Merabet, Vice-President of the Region of Grand Est, France (tbc)
 - Mr. Marc Hansen, Minister for Housing, Minister Delegate for Higher Education and Research, Luxemburg (tbc)
 - Mrs. Pilar Alegría Contente, Minister for Innovation, Research and Universities, Aragon, Spain (tbc)

3:50 pm: Panel II: Challenges and opportunities for cross-border alliances between higher education and research institutions in Europe

Moderator: Mr. David Bessières, Vice-President for International Relations, University of Pau, France

Key note: Mr. Jerzy Buzek, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (tbc)

- Discussion between high-level representatives from the cross-border alliances of higher education and research institutions, as well as European Institutions
 - Mr. Jerzy Buzek, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (tbc)
 - Mr. Hans-Jochen Schiewer, President of the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus, Spokesman of the Science Pillar of the Tri-national Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine
 - Mr. Pierre Mutzenhardt, President of the University of the Greater Region (tbc)
 - Mr. José Antonio Mayoral Murillo, President of Campus Iberus (tbc)

4:45 pm: Closing remarks : Mr. Philippe Richert, President of the Region of Grand Est, France (tbc)

5:00 pm: End of the event followed by aperitif/cocktails, poster session

Short description of the workshop topic:

Throughout Europe, higher education and research institutions work closely together in order to produce a positive impact on their capacity to innovate and, more generally, the socio-economic development of their regions.

In order to promote this collaboration and render it more efficient, various universities and universities of applied science have partnered together in order to establish sustainable groupings under fixed legal categories. For example, Eucor - The European Campus established the first European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), run exclusively by universities. Members of the EGTC include the five universities of the Upper Rhine in Germany, France, and Switzerland. The University of the Greater Region, yet another example, is organized as an association under Luxembourg law, wherein six universities from Belgium, Germany, France, and Luxembourg cooperate across their borders. In other regions - such as the Pyrenees and the western Alps - several higher education institutions have begun to consider the institutionalization of this cross-border cooperation.

Such institutionalization, across all administrative layers of the higher education and research organizations, is considered to create an effect of competitive advantage for cross-border regions.

Despite this competitive advantage, national and European higher education and research policies face new challenges with the creation of such highly integrated regions. Political support on both national and European levels is essential for the various alliances of research and higher education institutions in order to successfully realize their projects and achieve their objectives.

The goal of the workshop is to inform the public of recent developments concerning these cooperation alliances, as well as to answer specific questions regarding the realization of these projects. Such projects include the joint acquisition of national and European funding, joint employment, and administration of scientific staff, cross-border mobility of students and scientists, as well as the joint use of research infrastructures.

Workshop organizer: Janosch Nieden, Director of the Coordination office of Eucor – The European Campus (janosch.nieden@eucor-uni.org)