



Implementation of the New European Innovation Agenda –

What is in it for regions and cities?

Thematic seminar of the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP 2.0)

Thursday, 28 September 2023, 14:30 – 18:00

European Committee of the Regions

(rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels, JDE 51)

Organisers: European Committee of the Regions &

DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission

Interpretation will be provided in: EN, FR, DE, ES, IT, PL

On 5 July last year, the European Commission adopted a long-awaited Communication laying out the New European Innovation Agenda, articulating a comprehensive European strategy for innovation for the first time since the Innovation Union in 2010.

This policy initiative aims at reinforcing European leadership in deep-tech innovations that accelerate the green and digital transitions, by bringing together policies, investments, and instruments in a coherent joined-up approach to drive systemic change and impact.

Its dedicated flagship on accelerating and strengthening innovation in European Innovation Ecosystems focuses on creating the connected Regional Innovation Valleys across the EU, by building on strategic areas of regional strength and specialisation, in support of key EU priorities.

This thematic seminar, jointly organised between the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions, will focus on the regional and local dimension of the New European Innovation Agenda, including the opportunities for Regional Innovation Valleys.

DRAFT AGENDA:

Moderator: *Magda de Carli, Head of Unit, Deputy-Director, European Semester and Country Intelligence, DG Research & Innovation*

14:30 Introduction by moderator and Keynote speeches on the Implementation of the New European Innovation Agenda on European, regional and local level

14:35 Tanya Hristova (BG/EPP), Chair of the CoR's SEDEC Commission, Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality

14:45 Patrick Brenier, Advisor to the Director, European Research Area and Open Science, DG Research & Innovation

14:55 Session 1: Setting the policy frame:

14:55 *State of play of innovation in the regions of the EU – Regional Innovation Scoreboard*
Alexandr Hobza, Head of Unit, Common R&I Strategy and Foresight Service, DG Research & Innovation

15:05 *Call for Regional Innovation Valleys - where do we stand?*
András Inotai, Head of Unit, Innovation Policy and Access to Finance, DG Research & Innovation

15:15 *Experience with the RIVs Call*
Mirva Männikkö, West Finland European Office

15:25 *Hydrogen Valleys in the context of Regional Innovation Valleys*
Hélène Chraye, Head of Unit, Deputy-Director, Clean Energy Transition, DG Research & Innovation

15:35 Lina Gálvez Muñoz (ES/S&D), Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee (*tbc*)

15:45 Q&A session

16:05 Coffee Break

16:20 – 17:20 Session 2: Panel discussion – Practical examples from regions

Moderator: *Stephane Berghmans, Director for Research & Innovation at the European University Alliance*

Panellists:

- **Maurizio Mensi** (IT/Group III), Member of the Italian Confederation of Academic Professionals, Rapporteur for the EESC opinion on the NEIA
- **Markku Markkula** (FI/EPP), Vice-President of the CoR, President of the Helsinki Region, Rapporteur for the CoR opinion on the NEIA
- **Anne Besnier** (FR/PES), Vice-president of the Centre-Val de Loire region, Rapporteur for the CoR opinion on FP10
- **Pirita Lindholm**, Director, ERRIN
- **Sergio Pérez García** (ES/EA), Director-General for Foreign Affairs, Government of Navarra, CoR member
- **Emil Boc** (RO/EPP), Mayor of Cluj-Napoca Municipality, Chair of the CoR's COTER Commission, Rapporteur for the CoR opinion on a European strategy for universities

17:20 Q&A session

17:40 Concluding remarks

Tanya Hristova (BG/EPP), Chair of the CoR's SEDEC Commission, Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality