

**Towards better synergy between Science & Industry in Europe
 - EU project Regions for Research R4R has been launched**

R4R is a project within the 6th Framework Programme for Research and aims to find ways to improve the transfer of knowledge between universities, research centres and the industry in Europe. This through proposing a mechanism for the identification of best practices in research management policies in European regions.

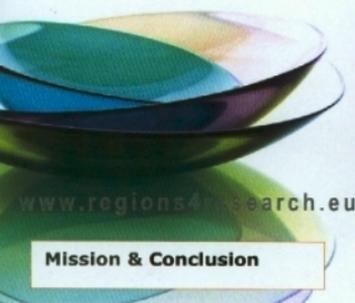
The overall objective is to improve the link between the public research base and the industry and also to increase the co-operation between regions within the area of research.

As it is today the policy management in research is still very differentiated between European countries and

regions and it is often felt at the regional level that economic integration can not be done without a certain degree of harmonization at European level, especially in the promotion of public-private partnership and facilitation of SME's access to public research resources. At the same time the economic and cultural environment in the Union is still differentiated and requires a substantial work in understanding the specific needs of a given context and turning those needs into parameters for the adaptation of models and practices. This acknowledgment is of a special importance to the Regions for Research project.

The R4R project runs 2007-2008, and is split into seven parts, so called work packages. At the moment the part that consists of the analysis of case studies and identification of best practices is running, but there are already plans for an R4R 2 which will be a follower to the present project.

While the secretariat is placed in Brussels at the Stockholm Region office, the project builds on the cooperation and experience of different regional partners, Stockholm (SE) being the leading partner. The other partners are Catalonia (ES), Flanders (BE), Mazovia (PL), Noord Brabant (NL), Slovenia, Sofia (BG), Veneto Innovazione (IT) and Veneto Region (IT).



Kick off meeting: From left, Wilold Prandota and Marcin Sawicki, Mazovia Region, Karl Svensson and Mikael Olsson, Stockholm Region Warsaw Representation, Lena Söderman, Stockholm County Council, Joanna Szyfler, R4R Secretariat/Stockholm Region, Thomas Friis-Konst and Fernando Alonso, Stockholm Region Brussels Representation, Luis Ballester, R4R Project Manager, Hilde Vermeulen, Flanders.

Mission & Conclusion

The R4R project wants to propose a mechanism for the identification of best practices in research management policies in European regions and to improve the link between the public research base and the industry.

A final high profile conference will be organized to present the project results, consolidate consensus about the R4R concept and promote a pan-European action plan for the years to come.

Regions for Research official start - kick off in Warsaw

The kick off that officially initiated the EU-project Regions for Research (R4R) took place in Warsaw on the 22 to 23 of January 2007. The meeting, during which all the 9 European project partners were represented, was organised by the Stockholm Region Warsaw office which is located in the Warsaw City Hall, where the meeting took place. Warsaw is also a part of the home region of one of the project partners; Mazovia.

The kick off was the first opportunity for all the partners to meet, present themselves and also to discuss, ask questions and plan the coming co-operation.

Contact:
 R4R Secretariat
 Secretariat@regions4research.eu
 tel +32 2 740 06 15, fax +32 2 740 06 16
 www.regions4research.eu

Address:
 R4R Secretariat
 Avenue de Cortenbergh 52
 B-1000 Brussels
 Belgium