

FINAL REPORTING OF THE PROJECT “WIRE 2010” (PROJECT NUMBER 268116)

REPORT DONE FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1. Introduction
2. The Week of Innovative Regions in Europe
 - 2.1. General information
 - 2.2. Programme
 - 2.3. Attendance
 - 2.4. Posters and stands
 - 2.5. Conclusions: key messages
 - 2.6. Policy and media impact
 - 2.7. Assessment
3. Other results
 - 3.1. The book of proceedings “WIRE 2010: taking stock and moving forward”
 - 3.2. WIRE Winter cocktail

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European project WIRE2010 is a Support Action mainly devoted to the organisation of the event “Week of Innovative Regions in Europe” (WIRE 2010), which was jointly organized by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the European Commission on 15th-17th of March 2010 in Granada (Spain), regarding the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Other minor associated activities were also undertaken in order to ensure the highest impact of the event.

WIRE brought together about 500 stakeholders from 35 different countries. The event was organised along three days, with one additional day devoted to side events. WIRE was structured through plenary and parallel sessions, which included both keynote lectures and round tables. Moreover, the conference held two extra formats for presentation: exhibition of stands and exhibition of posters. Apart from the working programme, three different social activities were organised, in order to facilitate networking among participants.

The event focused on how to move from “synergies of policies” to “synergies of actions” for the optimal use of EU instruments, with the objective of making regions full protagonists in building the knowledge-based society. Four key messages resulted from WIRE, which, in short, are:

- Continue development towards greater synergies of research, innovation and regional policies.
- Creating favourable conditions for these policies to interoperate via their instruments.
- Fostering the ownership and empowerment of regions to accomplish their vision of regional sustainable development in the context of the EU2020 Strategy.
- Regions should play a key role in the Governance.

The political importance of WIRE can be measured by the high profile of participants in the opening and the closing session: the Spanish Minister of Science and Innovation, **Cristina Garmendia**; the European Commissioner for Regional Policy **Johannes Hahn**; the European Commissioner for Research **Maire Geoghegan-Quinn**; the Members of the European Parliament **Danuta Hübner** (former commissioner for Regional Policy) and **Lambert Van Nistelrooij**; the Minister of the Brussels region, responsible of the Belgian Presidency in the area of Research (second semester 2010), **Benoit Cerexhe**; and the Regional Andalusian Minister for Innovation, Science and Enterprise, **Martín Soler**, among others.

Three months after the celebration of WIRE, a satisfaction survey was launched in order to measure the quality of the event. The overall assessment has been very positive: 70,4% of the respondents have considered that the conference was very good or excellent (two top categories out of five). This percentage increases to 98,3% if we consider the three top categories: good, very good and excellent. Another clear indicator of the success of this conference is the decision of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (first semester 2011) to organise a second edition of WIRE during its term on the first semester of 2011.

Moreover, in order to ensure the maximum impact possible, in December 2010 two actions were undertaken:

A) Publication of the book “WIRE 2010: Taking stock and moving forward”

The book “WIRE 2010: Taking stock and moving forward” was initially planned as a book of proceedings, but it was finally been extended to a book of conclusions and reflections. In this publication, every conference has resulted in a different Chapter comprising the main topics covered and the conclusions of the different sessions. Additionally, many speakers have prepared a summary of their presentation to be included in this document.

B) The WIRE Winter cocktail, which was jointly organised by the Trio of Presidencies to the European Union, Spain, Belgium and Hungary.

On the occasion of the presentation of the WIRE 2010 Book of Proceedings, the Trio of Presidencies of Spain, Belgium and Hungary organised a cocktail on 14th of December 2011 in Brussels (Belgium). It was also the opportunity to present the main lines and objectives of the forthcoming second edition of WIRE, which will be held in June 7th-9th in Debrecen (Hungary). About 90 people attended the cocktail.

The WIRE cocktail counted with the participation of the Minister of the Brussels region, responsible of the Belgian Presidency in the area of Research, **Benoit Cerexhe**, the Director General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, **Robert-Jan Smits**, and the Director General for International Cooperation and Institutional Relations of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, **Carlos Martínez-Riera**, among other relevant people.

2. THE WEEK OF INNOVATIVE REGIONS IN EUROPE

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The “Week of Innovative Regions in Europe” (WIRE 2010) was jointly organized by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the European Commission on 15th-17th of March 2010 in Granada (Spain), regarding the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The event was organised along three days, with one additional day devoted to side events. WIRE was structured through plenary and parallel sessions, which included both keynote lectures and round tables. Moreover, the conference held two extra formats for presentation: exhibition of stands and exhibition of posters. Apart from the working programme, three different social activities were organised, in order to facilitate networking among participants.

WIRE brought together about 500 stakeholders from 35 different countries. Due to the topics covered by the event, most participants came from the European Union, although there was also a high representation of associated countries.

The event focused on how to move from “synergies of policies” to “synergies of actions” for the optimal use of EU instruments, with the objective of making regions full protagonists in building the knowledge-based society.

The Week of European Regions in Europe was the result of merging three different conferences:

- A. Conference on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and Innovation, including their synergies with the FP and the CIP.
- B. “Research Potential” conference, which focuses on the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the Research Potential programme (Capacities – FP7).
- C. “Regions of Knowledge” conference, which deals with the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the Regions of Knowledge programme (Capacities – FP7).

Four key messages resulted from WIRE, which, in short, are:

- Continue development towards greater synergies of research, innovation and regional policies.
- Creating favourable conditions for these policies to interoperate via their instruments.
- Fostering the ownership and empowerment of regions to accomplish their vision of regional sustainable development in the context of the EU2020 Strategy.
- Regions should play a key role in the Governance.

These key messages are consistent with the policy context set by the personalities that attended WIRE, and well in line with the ambitions of the European Union. The political importance of WIRE can be measured by the high profile of participants in the opening and the closing session: the Spanish Minister of Science and Innovation, **Cristina Garmendia**; the European Commissioner for Regional Policy **Johannes Hahn**; the European Commissioner for Research **Maire Geoghegan-Quinn**; the Members of the European Parliament **Danuta Hübner** (former commissioner for Regional Policy) and **Lambert Van Nistelrooij**; the Minister of the Brussels region, responsible of the

Belgian Presidency in the area of Research (second semester 2010), **Benoit Cerexhe**; and the Regional Andalusian Minister for Innovation, Science and Enterprise, **Martín Soler**, among others.

Three months after the celebration of WIRE, a satisfaction survey was launched in order to measure the quality of the event. The overall assessment has been very positive: 70,4% of the respondents have considered that the conference was very good or excellent (two top categories out of five). This percentage increases to 98,3% if we consider the three top categories: good, very good and excellent. Another clear indicator of the success of this conference is the decision of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (first semester 2011) to organise a second edition of WIRE during its term on the first semester of 2011.

2.2 PROGRAMME

All presentations and speeches (where available) can be found at the conference webpage on <http://wire.fecyt.es/Publico/Programa/index.aspx?idioma=en>.

DAY 1: MONDAY 15TH

9:30-9:45	<u>Welcome</u> Montserrat Torné - Director General of International Cooperation and Institutional Relationships, Ministry of Science and Innovation (Spain) Robert-Jan Smits - Director of "European Research Area: research programmes and capacity", Directorate General of Research, European Commission
9:45-11:00	<u>Opening session: Synergies of Policies. Spanish and EU authorities</u> Cristina Garmendia - Minister of Science and Innovation (Spain) Johannes Hahn - Commissioner for Regional Policy, European Commission Maire Geoghegan-Quinn - Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, European Commission Danuta Hübner - President of the Committee for Regional Development, European Parliament Martin Soler - Regional Minister of Innovation Science and Enterprise of the Andalusian Government (Spain)
11:00-11:30	Coffee (PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MEDIA DELEGATES)
11:30-12:00	<u>From a Knowledge Society to an Innovation society</u> Françoise Le Bail - Deputy Director General Enterprise and Industry, European Commission
12:00-12:30	<u>The role of Research and Innovation for the Knowledge-based Economy</u> Luc Soete - Director of UNU-MERIT (the United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and social Research and training centre on Innovation and Technology) (Belgium)
12:30-13:00	<u>The evolution of the EU regional policy towards more support to R&D and Innovation</u> Mikel Landabaso - Head of Unit "Thematic coordination, Innovation", Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission Chair: Christer Christensen - Senior advisor, Division for regional growth, Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications (Sweden)
13:00-15:00	Lunch and poster exhibition
15:00-17:00	<u>Round Table 1: Synergies of action: are they possible? - View of main actors</u>

Chair: Rudolf Strohmeier – Deputy Director General of Research, European Commission

Rapporteur: Germán Granda - Head of Unit “France”, Directorate General Regional Policy, European Commission

Mario Pezzini - Head of Territorial Reviews and Governance Division, OECD

Lars Montelius - Director for Öresunds University, inter-country Sweden Denmark and Germany (Sweden)

Jose Dominguez-Abascal – Secretary General ABENGOA (Spain)

Tana Perglova – Deputy Director of the **EU Operational Programmes section**, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Czech Republic)

17:00-17:30 Research and Innovation in the light of the Cohesion Policy and EU 2020 strategy
Katarina Mathernova - Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission

17:30-18:00 The future of Cohesion Policy, the key role of Research and Innovation
Lambert van Nistelrooij - Member of European Parliament EPP (The Netherlands)
Chair: Johanna Ringhofer – Representative for REGIONS and REGPOT Committee of Austria

20:00 [Social event: Visit to the Alhambra and cocktail](#)

DAY 2: TUESDAY 16TH

9.00-9.25 PLENARY SESSION

9.00-9.25 General overview: Introduction to the Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential conferences.

Jean-David Malo - Head of Unit for Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential, EC Designated Service Manager for RSFF implementation, Directorate General of Research, European Commission

Estelle Mougéot-Leroy - Senior consultant Efficient Technology (France), **acting as the general rapporteur for the “Regions of Knowledge” conference** (9:30-18:30)

Manfred Horvat - Professor at Vienna University of Technology and Independent Expert for European and International Research and Technology Cooperation (Austria), **acting as the general rapporteur for the “Research Potential” conference** (9:30-18:30)

9:30-18:00 CONFERENCE “REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE” (PARALLEL)

This session is devoted to the Programme “Regions of Knowledge”, which is part of the FP7 Capacities Programme. The objective of this programme is *“strengthening the research potential of European regions, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional “research-driven clusters” associating regional authorities, universities, research centres, enterprises and other stakeholders”* (European Commission C(2009)5905 of 29 July 2009).

9:30-10:15 State of play (Facts and Figures)
Olivier Brunet – Policy Officer “Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential” Unit, Directorate General of Research, European Commission

10:15-11:15 Case studies (3 projects)
Gunter Clar - Director for Regional Strategies and Innovation, Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
Walter Hoogland – Professor at University of Amsterdam, Coordinator REDICT Project (Netherlands)
Lucía Dobarro – Project Manager at Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias, Coordinator of Project INRES: Insular Regions Cooperation for Maximising the Environmental and Economic Benefits from the Research in Renewable Energy Sources (Regions of Knowledge project) (Spain)

11:15-11:45 [Coffee](#)

11:45-13:00 Round Table 2: Lessons learnt and possible ways forward
Chair: Olivier Brunet – Policy Officer, “Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential” Unit, Directorate General of Research, European Commission
Session rapporteur: Pierre Godin – Policy Analyst, Thematic coordination, Innovation Unit, Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission
Marta Nadaban - Deputy Director, INNOVA Regional Development and Innovation Agency (Hungary)
Sverre Sogge - Senior Adviser, Research Council and National Contact Point for Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential programmes (Norway)
Sylvia Schreiber - Director, Stuttgart Region EU Office (Germany)
Christian Altmann - Cluster manager Clusterland (Austria)

13:00-14:30 [Lunch and poster exhibition](#)

14:30-16:30 RT 3 Clusters: a policy or a tool for a policy?
Chair: Charlotte Brogen - Director General at VINNOVA (Sweden)
Session Rapporteur: Kincso Izsak – Policy Officer, Unit “Support for Innovation”, Directorate General Enterprise and Industry, European Commission
Patrick Vuillermoz - Research and Innovation Manager, pole of competitiveness Plastipolis (France)
Tea Petrin – Professor at University of Ljubljana, Chair of ECPG (Slovenia)
Sven-Gunnar Edlund – Responsible for the Baltic Sea Region Transnational Cluster, VINNOVA (Sweden)
Keith Harrap – Managing Director of Science Consultancy Ltd, FOOD cluster coordinator (UK)
Michel Ganote – European Delegate, Strategy and Development (OSEO) and TACTICS/ECA coordinator (France)

16:30-17:00 [Coffee](#)

17:00-18:00 How to Optimise the impact of the Regions of Knowledge Programme.
Chair: Jean-David Malo - Head of Unit for “Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential”, EC Designated Service Manager for RSFF implementation, Directorate General of Research, European Commission
Christian Saublens - Secretary General of EURADA (European Association of Development Agencies)
Stéphane Waha – Head of European Affairs, Union of Walloon Enterprises (Belgium)

9:30-18:00 CONFERENCE “RESEARCH POTENTIAL” (PARALLEL)

This session is devoted to the Programme “Research Potential”, which is part of the FP7 Capacities Programme. The objective of this programme is “*Stimulating the realisation of the full research potential of the enlarged Union by unlocking and developing existing or emerging excellence in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions, and helping to strengthen the capacities of their researchers to successfully participate in research activities at Community level*” (European Commission C(2009)5905 of 29 July 2009).

9:30-10:15 State of play (Facts and Figures)
Marita Kayamanidou – Policy Officer, Unit “Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential”, Directorate General of Research, European Commission

10:15-11:15 Case studies (3 projects)
Michael Fardis – Professor at University of Patras, coordinator ACES project (Greece)
Doina Nicolae – Senior Researcher at National Institute for Research and Development for Optoelectronics (INOE 2000) coordinator DELICE project (Romania)
Urzula Bialek-Wyrzykowska – Associate Professor Polish Academy of Sciences, coordinator HEALTH-PROT project (Poland)

11:15-11:45 Coffee

11:45-13:00 RT 4 Lessons learnt and possible ways forward
Chair: Jerzy Szwed - Deputy State Secretary for Science and Higher Education (Poland)
Session Rapporteur: Georgia Tzenou – Administrator in **National Documentation Centre/NHRF, Coordinator of European Network of Research Potential NCPs (Greece)**
Alain Borgel – Researcher at Institute of Research for Development (IRD), Coordinator RUNSEASCIENCE project (France)
Ernesto Fatorusso – Professor at University of Naples, Coordinator NatPharma project (Italy)
Tayfun Akin – Ph.D. in Electronical Engineering, Middle East technical university (Turkey)
Stefan Weiers – Policy Officer, Unit “Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential”, Directorate General of Research, European Commission

13:00-14:30 Lunch and poster exhibition

14:30-15:30 The role of Western Balkan Countries in the Research Potential Programme
Chair: Robert-Jan Smits - Director of “European Research Area: research programmes and capacity”, Directorate General of Research, European Commission
Viktor Nedovic - Assistant Minister for International Cooperation (Serbia)
Violeta Atanasovska - Ministry of Science (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - FYROM)

15:30-16:30 RT 5: A regional policy for the Outermost regions?
Chair: Juan Ruiz Alzola - Director of Agency for Research and Innovation, Canary Islands Government (Spain)
Session Rapporteur: Stefan Weiers – Policy Officer, Unit “Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential”, Directorate General of Research, European Commission
Carlos Portugués Carrillo - Director General for relations with Europe, Canary Islands region (Spain)
Jose Bonfim – Researcher CISEP - Research Centre of the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Lisbon (Portugal)
Stephane Raud - Director of technology transfer and industrial relations, Institute of Research for Development (IRD) (France)
Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes - Regional Minister of New Caledonia (France)

16:30-17:00 Coffee

17:00-18:00 How to optimise the impact of the Research Potential Programme.
Chair: Maria Kayamanidou – Policy Officer, Unit “Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential”, Directorate General of Research, European Commission
Anton Anton – Professor at Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, former minister for Research (Romania)
Axel Lehman - Professor at Universität der Bundeswehr, Munich (Germany)

18:05-18:30 **PLENARY SESSION**

18:05-18:30 Reports of rapporteurs and Conclusions
Estelle Mougeot-Leroy - Senior consultant Efficient Technology, acting as the general rapporteur for the “Regions of Knowledge” conference (France)(9:30-18:30)
Manfred Horvat - Professor at Vienna University of Technology and Independent Expert for European and International Research and Technology Cooperation, acting as the general rapporteur for the “Research Potential” conference (Austria) (9:30-18:30)
Robert-Jan Smits - Director of “European Research Area: research programmes and capacity”, Directorate General of Research, European Commission

20:30

Gala dinner

DAY 3: MARCH 17TH

9:00-10:30 PLENARY SESSION

- 9:00-9:05 Presentation of the journey
Rafael Rodriguez-Clemente – Professor at Spanish Research Council and Spanish representative in REGIONS and REGPOT programmes (Spain)
- 9:05-9:30 OECD Study on Regional Dimension of Innovation
Claire Nauwelaers - Policy Analyst, Innovation Unit, Division for Competitiveness and Regional Governance of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Direction, OECD (Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation)
Chair: Rafael Rodriguez-Clemente – Professor at Spanish Research Council and Spanish representative in REGIONS and REGPOT programmes (Spain)
- 9:30-10:30 Round Table 6: Academia-Industry relationship: Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Transfer
Chair: Juan Ignacio Goicolea – Regional Vice-Minister for Innovation and Technology, Basque Country (Spain)
Rapporteur: Antonio Valverde - Director of IDEA Agency, Junta de Andalucía (Spain)
Georg Artelsmair - Unit Co-ordinator for Member States, European Patent Office
Christian Saublens - Secretary General of EURADA (Belgium)
Alexandra Mayr – Technology Transfer Expert at the International Project Management Office, University of Alicante (Spain)
-

10:30-11:00

Coffee

11:00-13:00 PARALLEL SESSION A: GOVERNANCE

- 11:00-13:00 RT 7 Governance. Coherence at regional, national and European level
Chair: Damien Périssé – Responsible for Innovation and Competitiveness of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CMPR)
Rapporteur: Katja Reppel - Deputy Head of Unit “Innovation policy development”, Directorate General Enterprise and Industry, European Commission
Kent Johansson – Regional Councillor of region Västra Götaland (Sweden)
Xabier Goenaga Head of “Knowledge for Growth” Unit, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies -IPTS-
Gilbert J. Declerck - Executive Officer and Member of the Board of IMEC International - Interuniversity MicroElectronics Center (Belgium)
Carlos Martinez-Riera - Director of the European Office, Ministry of Science and Innovation (Spain)
Stefania Crotta - Head of Unit Research, Innovation and Competitiveness, Piemonte Region (Italy)

11:00-13:00 PARALLEL SESSION B: INSTRUMENTS

- 11:00-13:00 RT 8 Instruments. What are they and how can they work in combination?. How can regions promote the use of different instruments and their interactions.
Chair: Guy Clause - European Investment Bank (EIB)
Rapporteur: Jean-David Malo - Head of Unit for Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential, EC Designated Service Manager for RSFF implementation, Directorate General of Research, European Commission
Peter Wostner – Deputy Director of Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy (Slovenia)
Christopher John Hull – General Secretary of EARTO (UK)
Geoffrey Britton - Chairman European Fed. Accountants and Auditors (UK)
Bernrd Reicherd - Head of Unit “Research and SMEs”, Directorate General of Research, European Commission

Jean-François Aguinaga - Head of Unit "Business co-operation and business support network development", Directorate General of Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

Bettina Gladysz - Area manager for Research, Mobility and Innovation Funding, EU-Framework Programmes, CATT Innovation Management GmbH (Austria)

11:00-13:00 PARALLEL SESSION C: EVALUATION AND IMPACT

11:00-13:00 RT 9 How to measure the impact of RTD and Innovation support to regional economic development.

Chair: Peter Kind - Director IPTS

Rapporteur: Eric Dufeil - Head of Unit "Spain", Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission

José Luis Kaiser - Deputy Director General for Territorial Programming and Evaluation of Community Programmes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Spain)

Andrzej Siemaszko - Director National Contact Points Office (Poland)

Klaus Schuch - Senior Researcher, ZSI (Social Innovation Centre) (Austria)

Philippe Vanrie - Chief executive Officer EBN (European Business network) (Belgium)

Ian McCoull - Director of Innovation, Scotland Development Agency (UK)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-18:00 PLENARY SESSION

14:00-15:30 Round Table 10: Report by rapporteurs and discussion

Chair: Montserrat Torné - Director General of International Cooperation and Institutional Relationships, Ministry of Science and Innovation, (Spain)

Rapporteur: Carlos Martinez-Riera - Director of the European Office, Ministry of Science and Innovation (Spain)

RT1: Manuel Gavira - Unit "France", Directorate General Regional Policy, European Commission

RT6: Antonio Valverde - Director of IDEA Agency, Junta de Andalucía (Spain)

RT7: Katja Reppel - Deputy Head of Unit "Innovation policy development", Directorate General Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

RT8: Jean-David Malo - Head of Unit for Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential, EC Designated Service Manager for RSFF implementation, Directorate General of Research, European Commission

RT9: Eric Dufeil - Head of Unit "Spain", Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00-17:00 Synergies of actions: Key messages from WIRE.

Chair: Robert-Jan Smits - Director of "European Research Area: research programmes and capacity", Directorate General of Research, European Commission

President of the Committee for Regional Development, European Parliament

Juan Tomás Hernani - Secretary General of Innovation, Ministry of Science and Innovation (Spain)

Bjarne Kirsebom - Chief Adviser European & International Affairs Research, Ministry of Education (Sweden)

17:00-17:30 Concluding remarks

Chair: Felipe Pétriz - Secretary of State for Research, Ministry of Science and Innovation (Spain)

Benoît Cerexhe - Minister of the Bruxelles-Capitale region, in charge for R&D during next Presidency (Belgium)

Francisco Andrés Triguero - Regional Secretary General for Universities, Research and Technology, Regional Ministry of Innovation, Science and Enterprise of the Andalucía Regional Government (Spain)

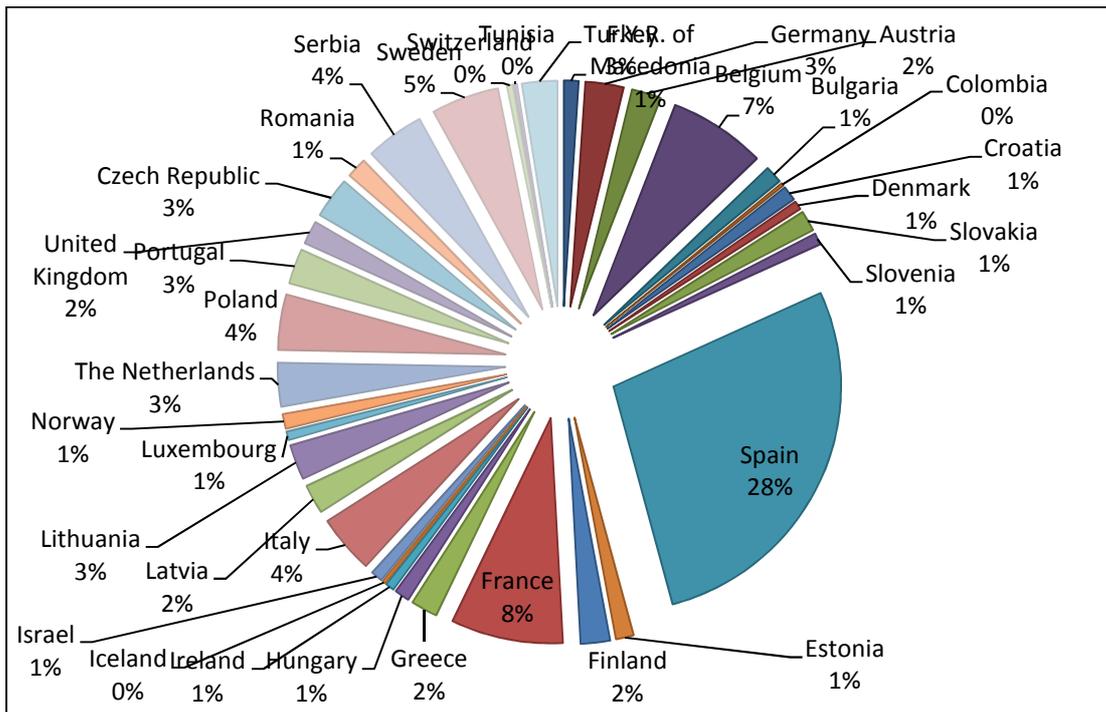
17:30-18:00 PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MEDIA DELEGATES

DAY 4: MARCH 18TH (side events)

- Meeting for National Contact Points of REGIONS and REGPOT programmes.
- Meeting for National representatives of REGIONS and REGPOT programmes.

2.3 ATTENDANCE

WIRE counted with the participation of 496 people coming from 35 different countries. Spanish participation comprised 28% of attendance (press excluded), although this number falls to 23.8% when counting out organization-related attendants. Due to the topics covered in the event, most participants came from the European Union, although there was also a high representation of associated countries. People coming from European Union (excluding Spain) summed 60% of attendance, being represented 25 countries out of 27 (only Cyprus and Malta were not present). Additionally, 11.3% came from associated countries to the EU. Most represented countries were France, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Serbia and Poland, as shown in the following graph.

Distribution of participants by country (Press delegates excluded)**2.4 POSTERS AND STANDS****A) EXHIBITION OF STANDS**

Eleven stands were exhibited in the main hall of the conference, where coffees and lunches were organized. Therefore, break times were good opportunities for

information gathering and networking around the stands. The institutions holding the stands were the following:

1. Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation
2. European Parliament
3. Committee of the Regions (CoR)
4. European Commission: DG Research
5. European Commission: DG Enterprise and Industry
6. European Commission: DG Regio
7. European Commission: DG Information Society
8. Food Cluster Initiative
9. European Regions for Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)
10. Andalucía regional Government.
11. European Network of National Contact Points for FP7 REGIONS and REGPOT programmes.



Although all stands offered a high added value to the event, it is worthy to highlight the contribution of the European Network of National Contact Points for FP7 REGIONS and REGPOT programmes. In this stand, potential participants to REGPOT and REGIONS programmes could gather first hand information at that moment, and they could also arrange a personal interview in their own language with their National Contact Point during the three days of the conference (18 NCPs participated in the stand).

B) EXHIBITION OF POSTERS

The WIRE Organising Committee made a posters call, in order to give several stakeholders the opportunity to present related initiatives. The call was run into two stages: the first stage was a call for abstracts, as a first quality checking. In a second stage, the accepted abstracts were invited to present a poster. Every poster was checked before the conference and received customized feedback on the best way to communicate messages.

After this process, WIRE presented 69 posters coming from 23 countries, which were distributed into the following categories:

1. Regional innovation policies.
2. Connecting Clusters from all over Europe (REGIONS).
3. Connecting Research Centres from all over Europe (REGPOT).
4. Other projects supporting regional RTD+i.

Category	Posters	%
1 - Regional innovation policies	16	23 %
2 - Connecting Clusters from all over Europe (REGIONS)	15	22 %
3 - Connecting Research Centres from all over Europe (REGPOT)	31	45 %
4 - Other projects supporting regional RTD+i	7	10 %
Total	69	100 %

Category	Posters	%
Spain	15	21,74%
France	7	10,14%
Serbia	6	8,70%
Greece	5	7,25%
Turkey	5	7,25%
Hungary	4	5,80%
Poland	3	4,35%
Portugal	3	4,35%
Czech Republic	3	4,35%
Finland	2	2,90%
The Netherlands	2	2,90%
Italy	2	2,90%
F.Y.R. of Macedonia	2	2,90%
Germany	1	1,45%
Bulgaria	1	1,45%
Croatia	1	1,45%
Estonia	1	1,45%
Israel	1	1,45%
Latvia	1	1,45%
Montenegro	1	1,45%
Romania	1	1,45%
Sweden	1	1,45%
Tunisia	1	1,45%
Total	69	100 %

Most represented countries were Spain (21.7%) and France (10%), followed by Serbia (8.7%), Greece (7.2%), Turkey (7.2%) y Hungary (5.8%).



All posters are available on the webpage of the conference (www.micinn.es/wire2010), where potential applicants of REGIONS and REGPOT programmes can find examples of successful projects.

2.5 CONCLUSIONS: KEY MESSAGES

Four key messages resulted from WIRE, which, in short, are:

- Continue development towards greater synergies of research, innovation and regional policies.
- Creating favourable conditions for these policies to interoperate via their instruments.
- Fostering the ownership and empowerment of regions to accomplish their vision of regional sustainable development in the context of the EU2020 Strategy.
- Regions should play a key role in the Governance.

The conclusions of the event can be found at the webpage www.micinn.es/wire2010 and have been also uploaded on the SESAM application as a deliverable of the project.

Towards greater synergies

- EU and Members States must focus their actions in the coming decade around the priorities of EU 2020 Strategy (smart, sustainable and inclusive growth), and in particular on grand challenges.
- EU Research and Innovation Plan should guide the implementation of the smart growth priority.
- Regional Strategies need to be framed within and connected with the EU 2020 Strategy and the European Research Area.
- Regions should develop integrated and tailor-made strategies pursuing “smart specialisation” by defining a few research and innovation priorities aligned to

national and European objectives and on their needs and potentials, identified in partnership with stakeholders, and concentrate earmarked EU resources on these identified priorities.

- Debate needed on the future policies (post 2013) and their instruments:
 - Better link between REGPOT and SF for Capacity Building
 - Better link between CIP on Clusters
- Neighbourhood and outermost regions to be taken into account in new policy development

Instruments

- Different funding instruments (FF, CIP, SF) although responding to specific objectives, must be able to interoperate in order to obtain synergies
- Proper development of existing instruments must pursue this overarching goal
- Research Potential and Regions of knowledge are great success but can be further optimised
- Major simplification and harmonisation of rules between instruments:
 - Clever structures and substantial simplification of participation rules for all research and innovation funding, regardless of its origin, with the clear objective to strengthen therefore the overall research and innovation system, enable a more efficient use of funds and instruments, and ensure better participation by SMEs.
 - Design of harmonised rules governing the different instruments in order to ensure easier synergies and complementarities.
- Effective contact points should be set up at regional level (performance indicators)
- Regions have to use instruments in combination and put forward showcases
- Improvement of the Practical Guide on EU funding opportunities for research and innovation
 - Improved information on Regions' allocation of funds
 - Extension of the guide to other Funds
 - Education and employment policies instruments, including Lifelong learning and European Social Funds
 - Proposal for an Observatory of European Funding
- Comprehensive training on R&D and innovation funding for regional managers + key role of trust- interfaces
- Clusters: a business-oriented tool for the Innovation Policy
- New approaches for cluster interactions
 - Trans-Regional alliances between within the same sector to be more competitive abroad (e.g. Ceramic sector ES-IT)
 - Different sectors, even from different Regions, provide each other with competitive added value, as it is increasingly the case within the Enterprise Europe Network.
 - Research- driven clusters as a tool for efficient interaction of funding. The EIT as model.

Evaluation and assessment

- Progress towards a culture of evaluation and assessment of performance of the regions, towards EU2020 and ERA objectives
 - Indicators and voluntary assessment of regional programmes and policies
 - Inclusion of a new criterion in evaluation and programmes: synergetic use of funding

- Common principles for evaluation and impact assessment of the different funding instruments

Regions' key role in Governance

- Regions must be involved in the debate on EU2020 Strategy
- Regions must assume their role in the governance
- Regions are placed in a privileged position to favor the interplay of the different instruments available (local, regional resources, National and European funds) through their customized portfolio of selected actions

2.5 IMPACT

A) Political impact

WIRE 2010 had a great impact in different decision-making fora. References to WIRE results can be found in the following communications:

- Competitiveness Council Conclusions 10246/10 (Brussels, 28 May 2010) – “Various issues related to the development of the ERA” (pag. 6-7).*

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st10/st10246.en10.pdf>

“3. Synergies between European, National and Regional policies and instruments in support of R&D&I

CONSIDERS that there is scope for further measures aimed at fostering the synergies of action between existing EU, national and regional instruments supporting research and innovation, and CALLS for joint efforts by the Member States and the Commission aimed at better coordination and cooperation between different policy areas such as Research, Innovation, Education (the knowledge triangle), Competitiveness and Cohesion with the view to fostering R&D&I along the lines and objectives defined in the Europe 2020 Strategy, thus bringing innovative activities towards the needs of the society;

REAFFIRMS that research and innovation-driven cluster initiatives may help to align regional and local priorities and instruments, as well as bring added value to local investments, and INVITES the Commission to explore new approaches for cluster support through enhanced coherence and interaction of different EU programmes and instruments, aiming at fostering trans-regional collaboration between clusters;

INVITES the Member States and the Commission to continue improving the articulation between their efforts in programming of and support for R&D&I, with a view to making further progress in realising the ERA 2020 Vision and the Europe 2020 Strategy;

STRESSES the necessity to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of the information available on EU instruments in support of R&D&I and the potential benefits for regions of their combination and INVITES the Commission to continue progressing in this direction, notably by improving, expanding the scope and upgrading the “Practical Guide on EU funding opportunities for research and innovation”, including the modernisation of the guide as a web-based comprehensive portal on R&D&I;

INVITES the Member States and the Commission to start a timely debate on the types of funds that would be needed for the next financial perspectives in view of better support to R&D&I in Europe, by taking particular account of the involvement of regions and their needs.”

- Competitiveness Council Conclusions 10266/10 (Brussels, 28 May 2010) – “Creating an innovative Europe” (pag. 9-10).*

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st10/st10266.en10.pdf>

“IV. Regional priorities

1. The regional level is key for innovation; in this respect, the European innovation policy should ensure that adequate support for innovation actors, including SMEs is provided also at regional level through the available instruments and making a synergistic use of the existing funding opportunities and other initiatives (Competitiveness and Innovation framework programme, Structural Funds, R&D Framework Programmes, and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities of the EIT);
2. Clusters play an important role for innovation, gathering researchers, creative people, enterprises and technology to create new products and services for the world market as well as improving regional attractiveness; the efforts need to be continued to remove barriers to trans-national cluster cooperation, and to encourage the emergence and consolidation of world-class competitive clusters across Europe;
2. Cohesion policies in the regions regarding the "competitiveness and employment" objective could contribute to focus on one or several pillars of the Europe 2020 Strategy: innovation promotion, green economy and social inclusion; the Council STRESSES that innovation promotion, including eco-innovation and social innovation, should become a fundamental priority for cohesion policy.
3. Furthermore, the development of Regional Partner Facilities (RPF) will increase the innovation, technological and educational potential of the surrounding regions.”

iii. Competitiveness Council Conclusions 10268/10 (Brussels, 28 May 2010) – “Simplified and more efficient Programmes supporting European Research and Innovation” (pag. 9).

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st10/st10268.en10.pdf>

“IV. Interoperability of programmes and instruments

- STRESSES that, further to the simplification measures and streamlining of procedures, a major potential for increased efficiency and synergies in supporting RTD&I in Europe lays in the appropriate combination of different EU instruments. In this respect, INVITES the Commission, when designing new programmes and instruments, to pay due attention to:
 - ensure the continuity of already existing instruments, which have proven of value in the research community;
 - facilitating the interactions among projects and activities to be financed, e.g. looking for the complementary use of EU funding (FP, CIP and Structural Funds);
 - applying the same rules to all EU programmes supporting RTD&I activities, if appropriate given their respective objectives, when referring to the same aspects of the financial and technical evaluation, IPR, management, reporting and auditing, thus making easier to exploit the synergies and complementarities among them.”

iv. Conclusions of the European Research Area Committee ERAC 1204/10 (Brussels, 21 June 2010) – “ERAC Opinion on recommendations and possible options to achieve more synergies between the Knowledge Triangle and Cohesion policies at various governance levels” (full document).

“ERAC Opinion on recommendations and possible options to achieve more synergies between the Knowledge Triangle and Cohesion policies at various governance levels

This document summarises the first results and suggestions for recommendations from the ERAC WG on Synergies. The advice is based on the feedback received from ERAC members to the questionnaire on “Synergies between the various programmes within the Knowledge Triangle and the Cohesion Programmes”

The ERAC group on synergies was established on the basis of the Council Conclusions on guidance on future priorities of 3 December 2009.

The aim of the group is to explore possibilities for strengthening synergies between policies within the Knowledge Triangle¹ as well as with the Cohesion Programmes. Stronger synergies will help to mobilize all stakeholders to realise the implementation of the ERA 2020 Vision and the Europe 2020 strategy. The results of the group will also be used as input to the upcoming Research and Innovation Strategy and contribute to the work of the ERAC group on instruments.

The ERAC synergies group prepared a questionnaire together with representatives of the relevant services of the Commission. The questionnaire was submitted to all ERAC members and subsequently the group drafted a document with key findings on the basis of the received replies. The individual responses also contained a lot of national examples of policies that cover the Knowledge Triangle. We recommend to use these for further work as a basis for extracting good practices.

The results of this questionnaire were discussed at the first ERAC meeting in Santiago de Compostela on the 10th and 11th of June. On the basis of the results of the questionnaire and the discussion ERAC proposes the following set of recommendations and policy options to the Council, Member States and the Commission:

At the strategic level:

1. There is a need for stronger integration and more synergies within the Knowledge Triangle **both at EU, National and Regional level**. All relevant stakeholders at these levels should be mobilized to create a common vision that will lead to holistic policy strategies and, interoperable support programmes.
2. The Knowledge Triangle with firm roots in all governance levels can **contribute to all three priority objectives of the EU2020 strategy: smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth**. These areas all require a balanced combination of Research, Innovation, Enterprise, Education and Cohesion policies that contribute to the goal of improving the attractiveness and competitiveness of Europe. Developing synergies should also increase the effectiveness of investments in these areas (bang for the buck), which is a necessity for the current and future budgetary consolidation.

Concerning governance:

3. Better policy coordination within the relevant Commission departments and among the different Council formations - **but also cross-departmental cooperation within individual countries and regions, which is a sine qua non condition** for successful innovation policy! Various countries have experiences in this field which could be shared for mutual learning. In general, a trust-based approach is needed to overcome barriers between the different departments and levels.
4. **Better promotion of the "Knowledge Triangle" as a concept** to widen its acceptance. Especially the integration of business innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of education and research as a major "raison d'être" is not always the case yet. Wide dissemination of the term at both the EU, National and Regional level will encourage a wide uptake. This will also be further reinforced by the inclusion of the Knowledge Triangle in other transversal recommendations like the Europe 2020 integrated guidelines and its follow-up.
5. **ERAC has the mandate to develop more synergies**. This should be fixed part of the work programme of the ERAC Committee, in cooperation with the relevant advisory groups on education and innovation. ERAC should in consequence also develop principles (guidelines and best practices) for stronger coordination between the Knowledge Triangle and Structural Funds building on earlier work by CREST².

¹ Conform with the definition laid down by the Council : "RECOGNISES that the Knowledge Triangle of education, research and innovation relates to the need for improving the impact of investments in the three forms of activity by systemic and continuous interaction;

² See: CREST guidelines on coordinated use of FP7 and Structural Funds to support R&D http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=40&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1193816077227&RCN=28339 and also the Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html.

At the instrument level:

6. Strengthen synergies between FP, CIP, LLP, EIT and SF **addressing the whole innovation cycle** ranging not only from research to demonstration and knowledge transfer, but also possibly including business plan development, investor readiness etc. Regional programmes should be designed and implemented in line with the principle of smart specialization. It is important to take into account not only excellence but also relevance and potential impact criteria when selecting projects for funding. In this context it will be very important, in the planning of FP8 and the next CIP, to consider how research and innovation support could be better integrated, either through better coordination and opening the possibility of joint measures between FP8 and CIP or a (partial) integration of CIP in FP8.
7. Interoperability between instruments should be a guiding principle ("Plug-in principle"). Although their objectives are partly different **the administrative conditions, financial framework and criteria should be compatible as much as possible and administrative barriers should be decreased**. A user-perspective is needed, especially emerging SME's should be supported by a seamless set of interoperational instruments (1 stop approach in combination with a single set of rules to a project that makes use of several programmes). The future financial perspectives (2014-2020) will play a crucial role here. The general financial regulation should be the unique set of rules for all EU funding instruments. Structural Funds managing authorities should not complicate the access to support by "gold plating" the funding and control rules.
8. **Important role for EIT as a pilot for a "Knowledge Triangle instrument" based upon stakeholder based governance** even if the experience is still limited and still has to prove itself in practice. The KIC's cover the complete Knowledge Triangle (best practice). In addition to large enterprises as early movers, SME's should play an important role within the KIC's by delivering new impulses. KIC's link an international scope with co-location and co-creation and combine in this way international networks with strong local clusters. They can do what the future Framework Programme should also do. There shall be no preferential treatment for sectoral or geographical entities. With view of smart growth and specialisation, excellence can be found everywhere in the innovation chain as long as an ecosystem provides for a level playing field.
9. Stronger accent on links between FP, Cohesion funds and Education needed (at all education levels) for developing a **systemic approach with education** at the European level. There is a lot of potential within the LLP, including Erasmus Mundus, Marie Curie and the education mission of the EIT, focusing on increasing entrepreneurship. They should support the implementation of the Knowledge Triangle including supporting models for partnerships and mobility between institutions for higher education and research and the business sector. Also, learning mobility should be enhanced together with new types of research based education that is directly linked to business needs and employability. Finally, transversal competences such as entrepreneurship should be stimulated. They are key for the implementation and integration of the Knowledge Triangle.
10. **Pragmatic, flexible approach to synergies, not a panacea**. The lead principle must be to design policies and instruments in order to match the needs of users / beneficiaries. Thus demand led policies will include often all three elements of the Knowledge Triangle, but in a variable geometry. Ex ante impact assessment and better indicators should lead to a well-balanced policy-mix."

B) Media impact

Media impact was important due to the presence of the Spanish Minister Cristina Garmendia, both Commissioners for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, and for Research, Marie Geoghegan-Quinn, and the Belgian Minister Benoit Cerexhe, among other relevant personalities.

Two press conferences were organized, after the opening session and after the closing session respectively, which were mainly followed by national press. There are many references to the event in national, regional and local press, as shown in the Press Analysis document, which is a separate deliverable for this project.

As a summary, the conference was addressed by written press, radio and TV. Some messages can be highlighted from written press. For example, **El Mundo** (national press, 16/03/2010) entitled the news as “[Ministry of] Science asks regions not to confine to receive R&D support. Garmendia urges regions «not to be just payees» of European funding and to play the lead in innovation”³, and **El Ideal** (regional press, 16/03/2010) “Spain proposes common policies to the EU for the regions to lead productive change”.

Besides written press, WIRE was also refereed in the TV channels **TVE1 Andalucía**, **Canal Sur** and the radio channels **RNE-1 Andalucía** and **RNE-5 Andalucía**.

2.7 ASSESSMENT

After three months of the WIRE celebration, a satisfaction questionnaire was launched. It comprised seven questions and took about three minutes to be fulfilled. The objective of the questionnaire was to measure the quality of the event regarding several criteria, and to extract the lessons that can be used for the organization of WIRE 2 during the Hungarian Presidency.

The questionnaire was launched on 21st of June 2010 and has been open until 20th of August 2010. It was launched three months after the event, in order to cope with the binomial quality of the responses (looking for a low oblivion rate) / measurement of the impact (which needs some time to materialize). A reminder was done on 2nd of August 2010 in order to improve the rate of response.

The **total number of questionnaires received was 115, being the rate of response 22,5 %** of the total number of attendants. This percentage has been considered enough to give robust conclusions.

The questionnaire was launched by e-mail using survey-specific software, which allows us to include a direct link to the survey in order to access and fill the questionnaire on-line.

The questions included in the survey were the following:

1. Which days of WIRE did you attend? (more than one can be chosen)						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Day 1					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Day 2					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Day 3					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Satellite events					
2. Please evaluate WIRE regarding your satisfaction with the following specific issues.						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Conference programme	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Variety of speakers	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Topics covered by the sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>					

³ Free translation, parenthesis added.

Networking opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Location and venue	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Food and beverage	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Poster exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Stand exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Contact with Technical Secretariat	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Others (please specify)

3. What is your opinion of the document of WIRE Outcomes provided on the webpage?

- Accurate, my view is in line with the contents and the conclusions of the conference.
- Accurate, but I do not support the contents and the conclusions of the conference.
- The summary and outcomes do not express adequately the content of the conference.
- Timely, it can have great potential within the European political agenda.
- Inappropriate, it cannot have great potential within the European political agenda.
- I do not know
- Other (please specify)

4. After three months of WIRE, how do you assess its usefulness regarding the following issues?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Networking	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Knowledge acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Relevance in political agenda	<input type="checkbox"/>					
General usefulness	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Other (please specify)

5. We bank upon the consolidation of WIRE as a relevant forum for debate and source of ideas in relation to Regional policies for RTD and Innovation. Please describe the topics that you would like to be addressed in the future.

6. Next conference will be held in Hungary in June 2011. Do you have suggestions for improvement for WIRE 2011?



*7. How would you rate the conference overall?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

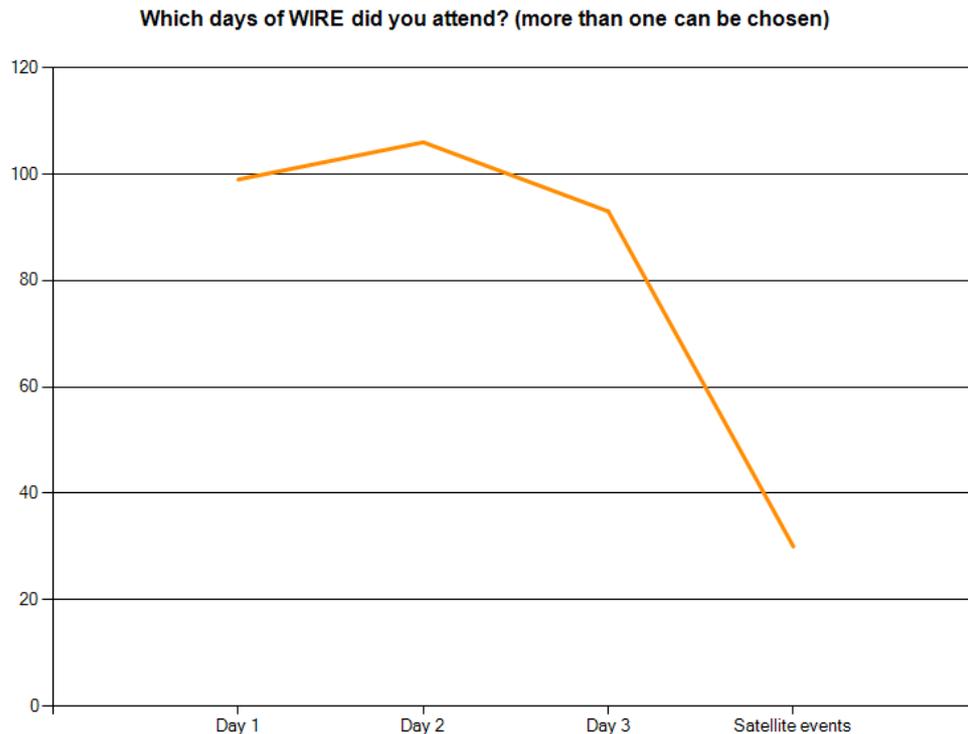
Thank you very much for taking your time completing this questionnaire! We hope to see you soon in WIRE 2011.

QUESTION 1: ANALYSIS OF ATTENDANCE

Regarding the attendance, 72 % the respondents have stayed the three days of the conference, while 17 % attended two days and only 11 % attended only one day of the conference. Assuming a random distribution of responses, we observe that almost three quarters of attendants stayed for the whole duration of the conference. Concerning the participation of the satellite events, 26% of respondents participated in them.

Which days of WIRE did you attend? (more than one can be chosen)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Day 1	86,8%	99
Day 2	93,0%	106
Day 3	81,6%	93
Satellite events	26,3%	30
answered question		114
skipped question		1



The most crowded day was Tuesday, although the difference is not significant.

Moreover, if we consider the rate of satisfaction of attendants regarding the different day they have attended (table below), it is not observed any significant difference in the general assessment of the conference. Therefore, we can deduce that the three days of the conference were equally attractive for attendants and similarly considered.

How would you rate the conference overall?					
Answer Options	Which days of WIRE did you attend? (more than one can be chosen)			Response Percent	Response Count
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3		
Excellent	22	23	20	21,1%	24
Very good	52	56	49	49,1%	56
Good	24	26	24	28,1%	32
Fair	0	0	0	0,0%	0
Poor	1	1	0	1,8%	2
answered question					114
skipped question					0

Analysis seems to show that the more time the respondent stayed in the conference, the more positive his/her response is. Although it would be necessary to run more advance statistics to definitively support this argument, we can easily observe that 100% of respondents who have assessed the conference as “Poor” only stayed one day of the conference.

QUESTION 2: THEMATIC EVALUATION

In the next table, it is shown the evaluation of WIRE regarding content and technical aspects. The green row has been calculated as the final mark for each category, where the maximum score is 10 points.

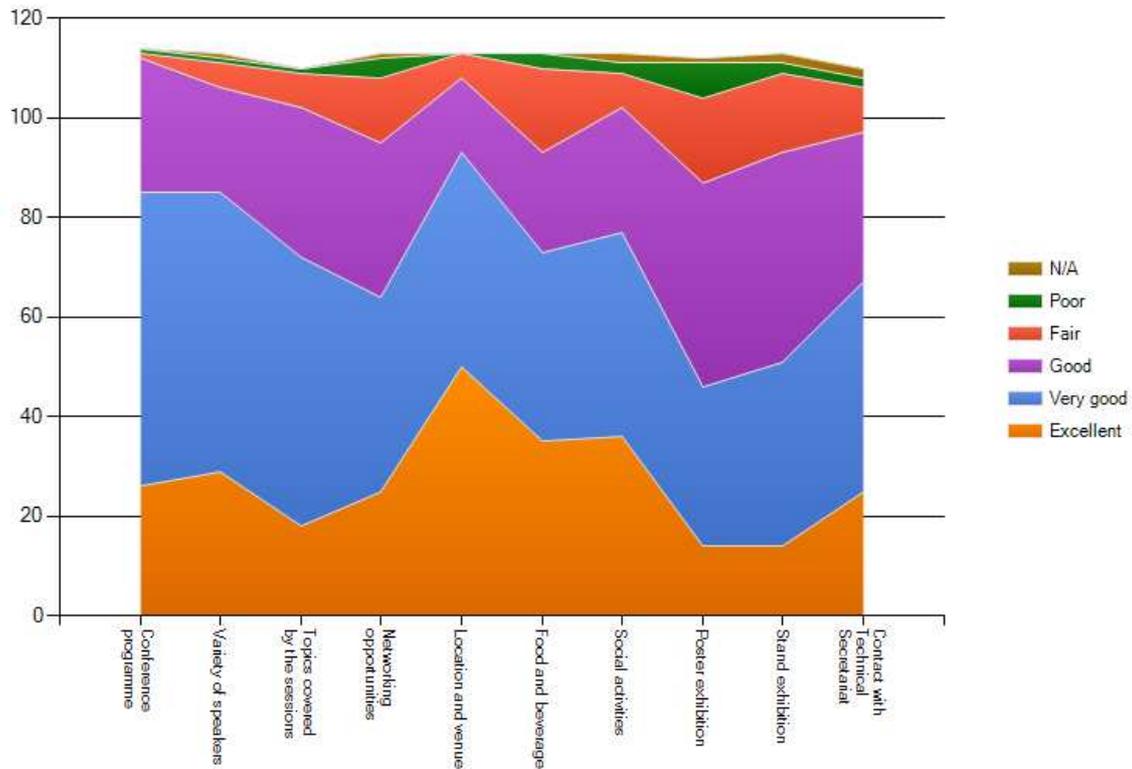
Please evaluate WIRE regarding your satisfaction with the following specific issues.								
Answer Options	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	SCORE (max. 10)	Response Count
Conference programme	26	59	27	1	1	0	7,89	114
Variety of speakers	29	56	21	5	1	1	7,84	113
Topics covered by the sessions	18	54	30	7	1	0	7,47	110
Networking opportunities	25	39	31	13	4	1	7,15	113
Location and venue	50	43	15	5	0	0	8,44	113
Food and beverage	35	38	20	17	3	0	7,50	113
Social activities	36	41	25	7	2	2	7,70	113
Poster exhibition	14	32	41	17	7	1	6,46	112
Stand exhibition	14	37	42	16	2	2	6,69	113
Contact with Technical Secretariat	25	42	30	9	2	2	7,33	110
Others (please specify)								8
answered question								114
skipped question								1

The most valued category is the location and venue of the conference (8,44/10), followed by the conference programme (7,89) and the variety of speakers (7,84). At the rear of the assessment, we can find the poster exhibition (6,46/10) and the stand exhibition (6,69), although it is worth to mention that these two categories are also well above a pass.

A recurrent concern was the lack of a participants' list which, as mentioned in the qualitative answers (Annex II), could have facilitated networking activities. This should be considered a lesson learnt from this conference. Nevertheless, the assessment of the networking opportunities has been considered positive by attendants (7,15/10).

We can see the same values graphically in the following depiction:

Please evaluate WIRE regarding your satisfaction with the following specific issues.



QUESTION 3: OUTCOMES OF WIRE

This question covers the quality of the conference's outcomes in terms of two different criteria:

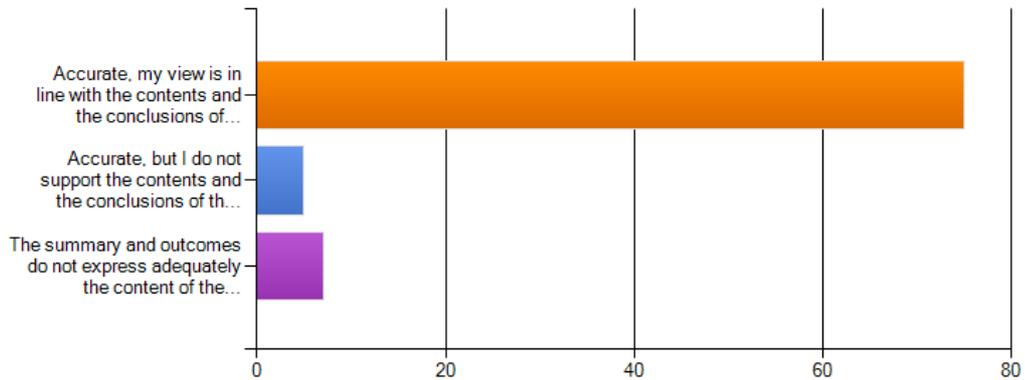
1. The **accuracy** of the outcomes and the clear alignment of the conclusions with the contents of the conference. Moreover, the general opinion of respondents about the contents was measured, in order to know if respondents agreed on the ideas and approaches exposed in the conference (it corresponds to the three first options).
2. **Time appropriateness**, in order to measure whether the political agenda is ready to absorb new developments that came up in the WIRE conference.

The analysis has been done regarding the two criteria separately, as shown in the following graphs.

➤ *CRITERIA 1.*

The answers reveal a clear agreement with the outcomes of the event in terms of **accuracy** (86,2 % of responses). Only 5,7 % of the respondents consider that the document of outcomes is in line with the contents of the conference, but they do not share the same opinion. On the other side, 8 % considers that the outcomes did not reflect the contents of the conference.

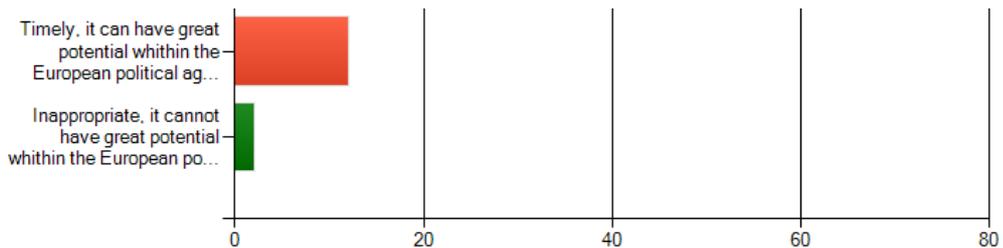
What is your opinion of the document of WIRE Outcomes provided on the webpage?



➤ **CRITERIA 2.**

In terms of **time appropriateness**, we can see a predominance of responses stating that the outcomes of the event are timely and can have impact within the European political agenda (86 %), although in terms of total responses the conclusions are not robust (few responses in this part) ⁴.

What is your opinion of the document of WIRE Outcomes provided on the webpage?



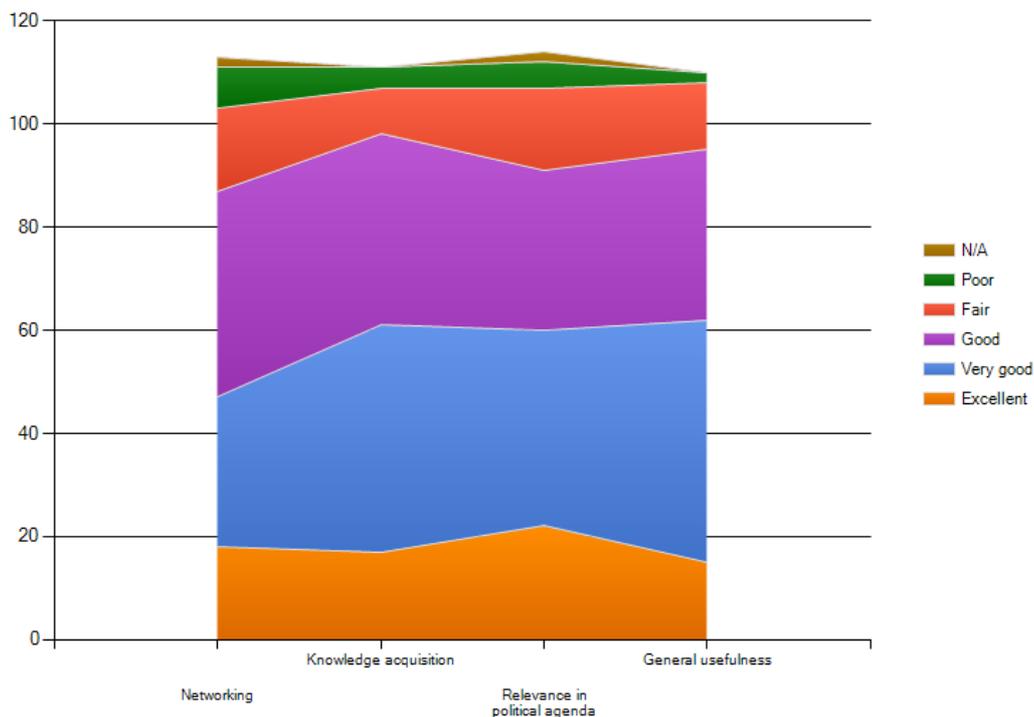
QUESTION 4: IMPACT OF WIRE

This question covers the impact of WIRE 2010 after three month of its celebration. We are aware that a time lag of three months may be not enough to capitalise the full impact of the conference, specially in terms of changes in the political agenda, but we believe it may be adequate to show the first signals of impact.

Therefore, impact was measured in terms of four different criteria: networking, knowledge acquisition, relevance in the political agenda and general usefulness.

⁴ The second part of this question may content some bias, since the number of responses is particularly small in comparison with the first part. This fact could be due to the lack of familiarity of respondents with the European political agenda (and therefore prefer not to give an opinion on this part) or, on the other side, due to a misunderstanding of the question (where respondent could have interpreted that only one answer was possible). Analysis of the other questions may point out to the second argument.

After three months of WIRE, how do you assess its usefulness regarding the following issues?



Results are positive and very similar regarding the four categories identified to measure the impact of the conference. In all cases the results are positive, as the following table shows:

After three months of WIRE, how do you assess its usefulness regarding the following issues?								
Answer Options	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	SCORE (max. 10)	Response Count
Networking	18	29	40	16	8	2	6,48	113
Knowledge acquisition	17	44	37	9	4	0	7,10	111
Relevance in political agenda	22	38	31	16	5	2	6,88	114
General usefulness	15	47	33	13	2	0	7,09	110
Other (please specify)								2
answered question								114
skipped question								1

QUESTION 5: OTHER TOPICS AND IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

It is not possible to extract general conclusions from the qualitative information resulting from this question. Nevertheless, it has been possible to observe certain trends in the responses. The most frequently mentioned topics are related to the importance of more discussion on synergies between programmes and the coming FP8. This information will be used by the organisers of WIRE 2011, as far as they consider it convenient.

QUESTION 6: FORTHCOMING WIRE 2011 IN HUNGARY

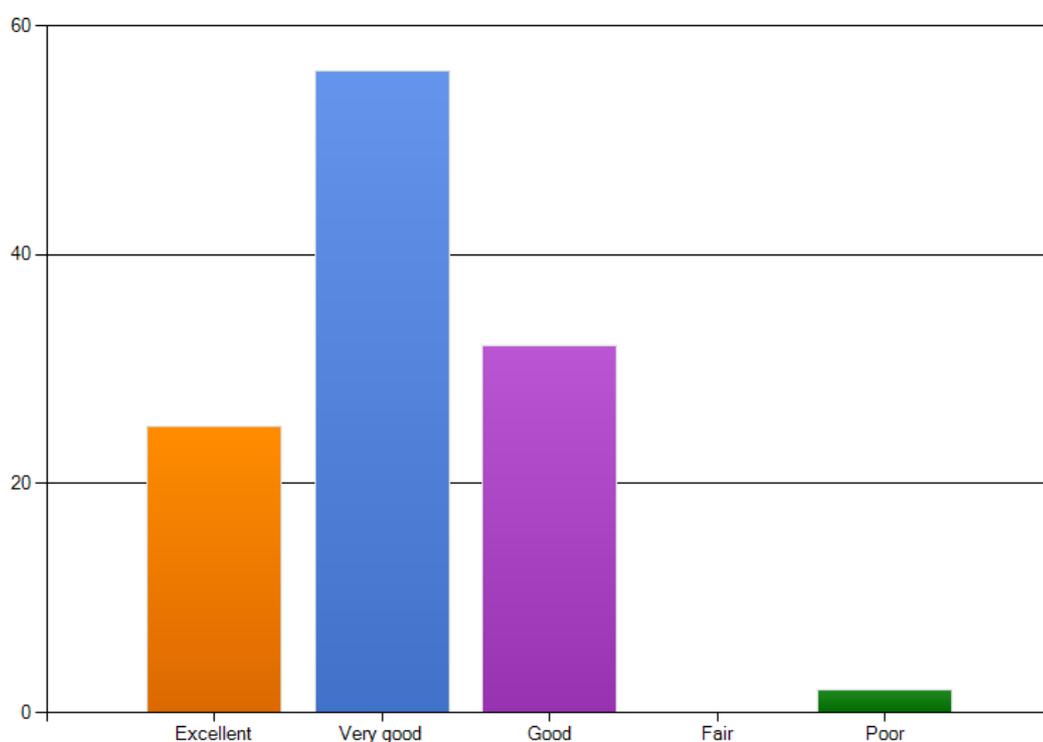
Again, it is not easy to infer some conclusions from qualitative information. The real usefulness of these responses will go out when taking them individually as lessons learnt for WIRE 2011.

The most repeated comments have pointed out to prioritise the “practical” presentations and speeches (instead of political sessions), to shorten the duration of the conference and to broaden the time for discussion in each session.

QUESTION 7: GENERAL ASSESSMENT - FINAL EVALUATION

In general, the responses have been very positive regarding the organization and results of WIRE. **70,4 % of the respondents have considered that the conference was very good or excellent. This percentage increases to 98,3 % if we consider the three top categories: good, very good and excellent.**

How would you rate the conference overall?



How would you rate the conference overall?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	21,7%	25
Very good	48,7%	56
Good	27,8%	32
Fair	0,0%	0
Poor	1,7%	2
answered question		115
skipped question		0

In summary, **we can conclude that WIRE conference has been a success, as perceived by participants.**

3. OTHER RESULTS

3.1 BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS “WIRE 2010: TAKING STOCK AND MOVING FORWARD”

The book “WIRE 2010: Taking stock and moving forward” was initially planned as a book of proceedings, but it was finally been extended to a book of conclusions and reflections. In this publication, every conference has resulted in a different Chapter comprising the main topics covered and the conclusions of the different sessions. Additionally, many speakers have prepared a summary of their presentation to be included in this document.

As mentioned above, the Week of European Regions in Europe was the result of merging three different conferences:

- A. Conference on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and Innovation, including their synergies with the FP and the CIP.
- B. “Research Potential” conference, which focuses on the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the Research Potential programme (Capacities – FP7).
- C. “Regions of Knowledge” conference, which deals with the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the Regions of Knowledge programme (Capacities – FP7).

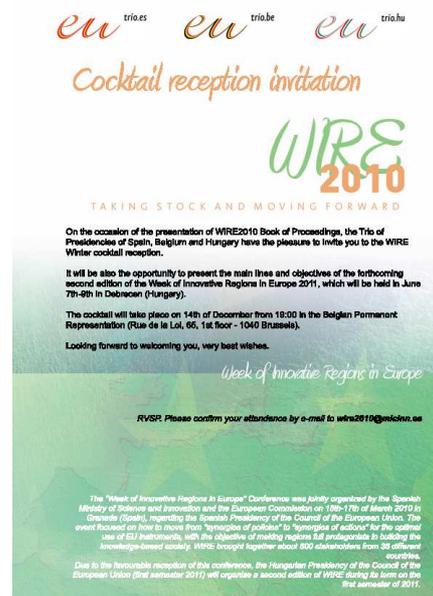
In this publication, every conference has resulted in a different Chapter comprising the main topics covered and the conclusions of the different sessions. Additionally, many speakers have prepared a summary of their presentation to be included in this document, which also acts as the Proceedings of the event.

This book also comprises a chapter of reflections that is used as a reference for the contents selection of the second edition of WIRE (June 2011, Debrecen) organised under the Hungarian Presidency.

3.2 WIRE WINTER COCKTAIL

The WIRE Winter cocktail was jointly organised by the Trio of Presidencies to the European Union, Spain, Belgium and Hungary. On the occasion of the presentation of the WIRE 2010 Book of Proceedings, the Trio organised a cocktail on 14th of December 2011. It was also the opportunity to present the main lines and objectives of the forthcoming second edition of WIRE, which will be held in June 7th-9th in Debrecen (Hungary).

The cocktail was celebrated in the Belgian Permanent Representation building, coinciding with the Belgian Presidency. The selected place was an outstanding hall of historical reference, where the independence of Congo was signed. The WIRE cocktail counted with the participation of the Minister



of the Brussels region, responsible of the Belgian Presidency in the area of Research, **Benoit Cerexhe**, the Director General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, **Robert-Jan Smits**, and the Director General for International Cooperation and Institutional Relations of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, **Carlos Martínez-Riera**, among other relevant people.