



Strukturni skladi EU v Sloveniji



Building Knowledge Society through Public RTD Funding

Nova Gorica, May 31 – June 02, 2007

~ DECLARATION ~

The 3rd session of the European Regional Economic Forum (EREF-2007) has confirmed the acceptance of this annual event as an important platform of European regions to discuss implementation of the Lisbon Agenda at sub-national levels.

*Based on the Conclusions of the 3rd European Regional Economic Forum, the participants adopted the following **Declaration**, calling upon the key RTD stakeholders to undertake the following:*

1. **EU Member State** governments and **EU institutions** should implement the Leipzig Informal Competitiveness Council conclusions, referring to the sub-national levels (regions) as equal partners in the process of knowledge-society building and to include them in the preparation of the National Strategic Development Plans.
2. **Policy makers** need to create a clear and effective policy framework which would promote the transference of knowledge into practical applications to improve wealth, resources and well-being of European nations and regions. Nevertheless, the building of a knowledge-based society requires a proactive stance from all stakeholders: research community, business sector, NGOs and the general public, especially the young generation.

3. **RTD actors, as well as decision and opinion makers**, should support the development of a comprehensive innovation culture, a part of which should be improving the attitude towards financial resources allocated to RTD, innovation and education (RTD+I+E). These should be perceived as an investment and not as spending of resources.
4. **Researchers** should take a more active role in research policy, as well as in the promotion and communication of RTD. The responsibilities of researchers include communicating results of publicly funded research and their appropriate presentation to specialised and general audiences. The communication actions should be target-oriented and should follow modern communication principles successfully employed in business.
5. **The mass media** needs to be actively involved and made socially responsible for the implementation of the Lisbon strategy and the building of a knowledge society. They should include RTD topics into their editorial policy.
6. **EUROSTAT** should prepare on a priority basis comparable regional statistical series on Lisbon Structural Indicators enabling comparisons between European regions.

This Declaration will be sent to all the above-mentioned stakeholders and mass media, and will be available on the EREF 2007 portal www.eref.si.

Nova Gorica, 26th June 2007

EREF-2007 was organized under high patronage of the Committee of the Regions by the Slovenian Business and Research Association (SBRA), the Municipality of Nova Gorica, and the Slovenian Government's Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy

in partnership with: ARRS, ECPD, ASO.

The general sponsor of the Forum was: HIT