

WIRE 2018 Conclusions

Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria



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Iasi, 28. June 2019

The 9th WIRE called on entrepreneurial people working in science, business and regional development to

- *Use their specific competence to develop and enhance **the international profile** of their **regional ecosystem of innovation***
- *Engage with **regional partners** as game-changers, enablers and innovators to seize new opportunities **also in rural areas***
- *Develop their **region's smart specialisations** using **complementary strengths of other regions***
- *Create European partnerships and use European instruments to **connect regional ecosystems of innovation** to face global competitiveness*
- *Strategically **reconnect** with successful **compatriots abroad** to infuse regional ecosystems with global mentorship*
- *Come forward with concrete feedback and proposals for joint synergies and simplification in Horizon Europe and the next generation of Structural Funds*

on public policies at European Union, member states, regional and local level to

- Create a credible **narrative** of the **European Union** as a distinctive **place to innovate**, driven by an entrepreneurial knowledge-based society, research excellence, high social standards, and well-connected regions with a strong profile
- Prioritise **knowledge** and **innovation** as drivers for **regional development** and all other sectoral policies
- Co-invest and secure **sufficient public funding** for frontier research and research institutions
- Foster entrepreneurial thinking and skills **at all ages** through **education**, training and mentoring initiatives, not only in the business sector
- Invest in **digital** and other **infrastructures** to seize new living and working opportunities in all regions, and also in rural areas
- Reiterate the role of **research** and **innovation** strategies for **smart specialisation** and diversification across the Union, and help to promote regional knowledge and innovation profiles internationally
- **Jointly evaluate** the research and innovation impact of **Horizon 2020** and the **European Structural and Investment Funds**
- Jointly align and **simplify** the use of funding instruments for research and innovation to allow for their synergetic use, across instruments, sectors and policy levels
- **Examine** the **exemption from state aid regulation** for Structural Funds investments in research and innovation according to the Horizon Europe model
- **Invest** a high share of the **next Structural Funds** in **research and innovation**, take over projects awarded the Seal of Excellence for funding and use the option to deposit 5% of the ERDF programme budget in a ‚national envelope‘ for research funding under direct management.

Acknowledging

- The role of **Lead Institutions of science and research** in shaping the **profile** of their **regional ecosystem of innovation**, and in mobilising the **knowledge triangle** of skills, research and innovation with entrepreneurship
- **Trust** as the currency for regional innovation and co-operation, and that trust needs to be built in the **sufficient funding** of **excellent research** as a key to attract international talents to knowledge locations across the Union
- **Entrepreneurship** as the driving force for innovation and for opening new markets for innovation
- The need to better **include** and **connect citizens** to knowledge and innovation created in Europe
- The need to use **traditional** as well as **digital infrastructure** to connect Europe's regions and also rural and **remote areas** to international knowledge, technologies and markets
- The need to demonstrate the capacity of **research** to **change citizens' lives** for the better and to enhance the quality of politics at all levels
- The need for **regions** to further develop their **profiles** in a **broader neighbourhood** and international context
- The need to create **access to excellent research** results across the Union, to **widen the participation** in the framework programme and the use of the **Structural Funds** for **regional development based on knowledge and innovation**
- The need for a view of Europe as a unique place to innovate, created by particular ecosystems of innovation

Thank you for yourAttention!

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