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***REGIONS
FOR ECONOMIC
CHANGE
(RFEC)***

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Investing in Regions' potential to Promote the Competitiveness of Regional Economies and SMEs

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What is it *REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE?*

- *It is NEW INITIATIVE of the European Commission for the programming period 2007 -2013*
- *Communication (2006) 675 of 8/11/2006)*

How *REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE* *can contribute?*

*It introduces new,
more innovative
ways
for regional
development*

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Why REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE?

- There are many good ideas across EU regions which need to be shared with regional partners across EU*

How RFEC works?

- *Networks* on different themes are being established across EU Regions

REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE

- Ideas, tools and approaches will be developed, experiences exchanged, and good ideas will can be implemented through the Operational Programmes.

Objective of RFEC is also to...

- Introduce a link between URBACT and INTERREG VI C programmes with the mainstream programmes

REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE

The aims is

- to ensure that the experience and good ideas coming out of the interregional co-operation between EU regions (INTERREG VI C) and EU urban development network programmes (URBACT) are taken on board in the operational programmes

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- **30 themes on which the networks can be established**

Thematic Networks (4)

- Making Europe and its regions more attractive places to invest and work
- Improving knowledge and innovation for growth
- More and better jobs
- The territorial dimension of European Cohesion policy

Themes (30)

Some examples:

- Improving air quality
- Moving to a low carbon economy
- Improving monitoring of environment and security by and for the regions
- Improving the capacity of regions for research and innovation

Themes (30)

Examples:

- Bringing innovative ideas to the market more quickly
- Meeting the demographic challenge
- Managing coastal zones
- Reaping the benefits of the sea

Who finances this actions/network?

- Operational Programme for INTERREG IV C (approved on 11.9.07)

www.interreg4c.net

(call for proposals 21.9.07 – 15.1.08)

- Operational Programme URBACT II

<http://urbact.eu/home.html>

(6.11.07)

Where do the funds for project implementation come from?

- The projects can be financed from different operational programmes, depending on the topics which are covered by Operational Programmes of MS
- If MS wants to finance projects which come out of networks, it has/had to commit itself in the OP that it is going to implement RFEC initiative

In the framework of the Regions for Economic Change initiative the Managing Authority commits itself to:

- Make the necessary arrangements to welcome into the mainstream programming process innovative operations related to the results of the networks in which the region is involved;

- Allow in the Monitoring Committee (or programming committee) the presence of a representative (as an observer) of the network(s) where the Region is involved, to report on the progress of the network's activities;

- Foresee a point in the agenda of the Monitoring Committee (or programming committee) at least once a year to take note of the network's activities and to discuss relevant suggestions for the mainstream programme concerned

- Inform in the Annual Report on the implementation of the regional actions included in the Regions for Economic Change initiative."

RegioStars - The Awards for Innovative Projects

- To identify good innovative practices in regional development
- Annual innovation awards for best projects in the area of selected themes linked to economic modernisation

RegioStars - The Awards for Innovative Projects

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index_en.cfm
- For further information contact us on regio-stars@ec.europa.eu

Who can participate in RFEC?

- Not only for regions, also for MS, cities, rural areas, mountainous areas, urban agglomerations, special organisations and experts, RDA...etc

How to start?

- Include scope for RFEC in OPs
- Identify key themes for the mainstream programmes and start partner search
- Get in contact with the INTERREG IV C and URBACT secretariat in your MS. (Contact points are *in each* Member States)

Further information on implementation arrangements RFEC?

Websites:

- European Commission, Directorate
General Regional Policy

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy

Further information on RFEC?

- INTERREG IIIC
<http://www.interreg3c.net>
- URBACT
<http://urbact.eu>
- REGIO-C1-REGIONS-ECONOMIC-CHANGE@ec.europa.eu

Thank you for your attention

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