



**10<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities**  
**Brussels**  
8 - 11 October 2012

## **Workshop - report**

**Code of the Workshop:** 09B12

**Title of the Workshop:** Smart Specialisation strategies from a research and innovation in maritime regions

**Date and time:**

9 October 2012

14:30 – 17:00

**Organiser/leader:** European Commission – DG Research & Innovation

**Chair/moderator:**

Colombe Warin, European Commission - DG Research & Innovation

**Speakers:**

Dr. Nadia Pinardi, Professor of Oceanography, University of Bologna, Italy

Dr. Barbara Fogarty, National Co-ordinator of the Marine Technology Programme, Marine Institute, Ireland

Christophe Clergeau, CPRM, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of Pays de la Loire region, France

Dr. Jonathan Williams, CEO, Marine South east Ltd, United Kingdom

**Outline:**

Smart specialisation is a key concept for research and innovation policy, and should act as an "entrepreneurial process of discovery" that can reveal what a region does best in terms of science and technology. It is also crucial in view of the next financial period 2014-2020 in order to identify the comparative advantages of each region;

However, the concept still needs better illustration through success stories and can benefit from a large exchange of experience. The objective of the workshop was to highlight good examples in order to show how research and innovation can strongly contribute to a successful Smart Specialisation strategy on the basis of a specific field.

The workshop presented success stories from different regions of Europe (Mediterranean, Atlantic, etc.), also involving different perspectives (research, political, business and a more practitioner one).

## Debate/Panel discussion:



**Nadia Pinardi** presented the GMES Marine Service products and functionalities. The GMES Service in the Mediterranean Sea consists of a regionally 'specialized' service, coordinated with a regional network, so-called MOON (Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network), that collects the in situ data and produces coastal downscaled forecasts for marine safety, environmental assessment and sustainable exploitation of marine resources.

**Christophe Clergeau** strengthened the importance of the maritime sector for his region, Pays de la Loire. The launching of IRT Jules Verne, the SMEs driven cluster of Neopolia and the pilot site for recycling the wave's energy (SEM-REV) are all examples which show the commitment of the region to prepare the future of maritime industries and to support the renewable maritime energies in the region.

**Barbara Fogarty** stressed the need for strategic investment in marine research capacity and specialist test infrastructure to catalyse the development of new marine enterprise across Europe. She presented the development of the Smart Ocean Marine Technology Cluster and the Smart Bay National Test Facility in Ireland as examples of triple helix innovation with collaborations across industry, academia and state agencies.

**Jonathan Williams** illustrated the concept of Smart Specialisation through the EMSAC project, funded by the 2009 FP7 Regions of Knowledge Programme. He identified the traditional maritime sectors and the emerging ones, and explained how regional clusters can expand capacity in emerging sectors. He showed how the "triple helix" (business, research and regional authority) works in the field, i.e. implementing "smart" regional specialisation requires the expertise and knowledge that research-driven clusters possess.

**Conclusions:**

**Colombe Warin** concluded the workshop by thanking all speakers for having given some concrete illustrations on how the Smart Specialisation strategies can be implemented on the ground. She insisted on the need to foster the dialogue between the key stakeholders in each region, coming from the political, the business and the research sector. She also concluded that the timing to draft the strategies was very short, but the RIS3 Platform, based in Sevilla, was here to help.

**More information, links:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/regions/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/regions/index_en.cfm)

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home>

**One representative quote from your workshop with author:**

*« La spécialisation intelligente des Pays de la Loire devrait être centrée sur les industries maritimes. Il s'agit de dépasser une spécialisation qui porterait sur la mer dans son ensemble, pour cibler le cœur de métier régional, l'ingénierie maritime, et développer des complémentarités avec les autres régions maritimes sur la façade atlantique et à l'échelle européenne au sein de la Conférence des Régions Périphériques Maritimes ».*

Christophe Clergeau, CPRM, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of Pays de la Loire Region, France