3rd International Conference
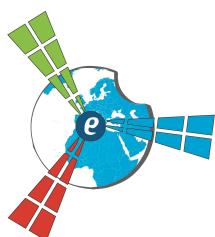
Albacete (Spain), 16 – 17 November 2016

"Inter-regional trans-national cooperation: Scaling up local RDI ecosystems" #ScaleRDIup

The *e*DIGIREGION project is a unique collaborative engagement between four high-potential research-driven clusters in diverse European regions (South East Ireland: Central Hungary: Castilla-La Mancha, Spain and Bucharest-Ilfov, Romania) focused on engaging the triple helix partnership, in each of the four regions, to plan, design and implement an ecosystem of research, innovation, creativity and commercialisation that will support the implementation of the European Digital Agenda in each region

This, the third in a series of *e*DIGIREGION International Conferences focuses on the interoperability between regional actors (government, research centres/universities, and industry) to define, action and implement region-specific Joint Action Plans (JAPs), that are aligned with regional smart specialisation strategies and economic priorities. The conference will disseminate the results achieved and detail the process of regional stakeholder engagement through the articulation of an inter-regional JAP (the iJAP), cross-border transnational collaborations and internationalisation activities in the technology domains of the Digital Agenda to support open innovation and boost regional competitiveness, unlock new business opportunities for SMEs and mobilise intra-regional mentoring and knowledge transfer. During the second day of the conference, a workshop on industry 4.0 – one of the identified priority areas among the *e*DIGIREGION regions, will be featured to further discuss policies and practices in the context of industry 4.0.

In parallel to the conference, a focused workshop will take place to continue the development of *e*DIGIREGION Inter-regional Collaborative Support Model. This workshop will build on the work with four ICT innovation concept promoters, one from each region, who participated in the 2nd *e*DIGIREGION International Conference in Bucharest. The focus of that workshop was to assist these promoters with their business ideation by engaging key domain experts (mentors) drawn from the four regions, all with different skill sets to provide both advice and synergistic insights to scale the concepts into sustainable business ventures. In Albacete, the original four promoters who in the meantime have interacted both regionally and inter-regional with the *e*DIGIREGION team will participate in another workshop to advance "The Internationalisation of their Concepts". The mentors will work with the concept promoters to achieve this. On Day 2 the concept promoters will present their strategies to the conference audience.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

Time	
09:30 – 10:00	**Registration**
10:00 – 10:20	**Welcome address** - Juan Carlos López, *e*DIGIREGION regional coordinator - Mar Alvarez Alvarez, General Secretary of Regional Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, Castilla la Mancha
10:20 – 11:30	**Session 1. Regional storytelling. From regional partnerships for innovation to regional innovation ecosystems.** Objective. The session is aimed at exploring from a regional approach and through good practices or experiences how different regional innovation ecosystems have been developing, and thus, how regions have progressed and developed their own collaborative environments and partnerships among different actors and agencies of innovation. - **"The influence of EU policies on regional RDI ecosystems"**, Rima Dijsktra, Innovation policy expert, The Netherlands TBC - **"Silicon Valley road to regional innovation: internalisation as a success factor"**, TBC
11:30 – 12:00	**Coffee Break**
12:00 – 13:00	**Round table. Regional innovation models. From theory to practice** **Moderator:** Barnabas Malnay, Mobility and Multimedia Cluster, Hungary **Participants**: Representatives of South East Ireland, Castilla la Mancha, Central Hungary and Bucharest-Ilfov to share the models of regional innovation, to be compared with a model of Silicon Valley, if applicable.
13:00 – 15:00	**Lunch**
15:00 – 16:15	**Session 2. Innovation regions: Operationalisation of Internationalisation.** Objective. The session aims to examine how regions cooperate at inter-regional and international levels, exchanging experiences and models, and establishing collaborative structures for knowledge transfer and cooperation. - **"Interregional innovation. International role of regions and knowledge transfer",** Eurico Neves, INOVA+, Portugal
16:15 – 17:30	**Round table. Towards sustainable interregional cooperation: Sharing of best practices across international boundaries.** **Moderator:** Cecilia Hernández Rodríguez, Head of Department of Health, Bioeconomy, Climate and Natural Resources, CDTI **Participants**: Experts from the *e*DIGIREGION partnership, to share cases and lessons learnt of inter-regional and international cooperation. Both good practices

	and failed cases to be explored, examining critical success factors, joint projects developed, formal and informal structures created.
17:30 – 18:30	**Wrap-up coffee & networking**

THURSDAY 17th

09:30 – 11:30	**Workshop on "Industry 4.0"** Follow-on discussion on policies and practices identified in the context of the Industry 4.0. - Santos Prieto, President of ADECA, industrial business park of Albacete - Verónica Pascual, President of Industry 4.0 Commission - TBC
11:30 – 12:00	**Coffee Break**
12:00 – 13:00	**Innovation Concepts** Follow-on session on Bucharest (2nd *e*DIGIREGION Intl. Conference) Innovative Concept presentation. Concept promoters will perform on stage presenting their ideas, advances and lessons learnt to the public.
13:00 – 13:30	**Wrap-up and the road ahead** - Bill O'Gorman, *e*DIGIREGION project coordinator - Javier Cuenca, Mayor of Albacete
13:30 – 15:00	**Lunch**

Registration: http://edigiregionconferencealbacete.eventbrite.es