

FUTURREG PROJECT FINAL CONFERENCE



The FUTURREG Project Partners

FUTURREG has been developed and run by a network of 7 highly reputed European research and regional development organisations:

Observatory of Innovation, Cardiff University (Lead Partner)
Wales, United Kingdom

URENIO Research Unit, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Central Macedonia, Greece

The Destree Institute
Wallonia, Belgium

Economic Development Agency of La Rioja (ADER)
La Rioja, Spain

The Malta Council for Science and Technology
Malta

FFRC, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration
Finland

Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly
Ireland



HOW CAN I REGISTER?

You will find a **downloadable registration form**, along with other useful information, on the project website: www.futurreg.net
or
You can also email Ms. Pauline Grennan pgrennan@bmwassembly.ie or call + 353 (0)94 9862970.

There is no fee for attending the conference.

Bookings should reach the above no later than Friday 28th September, 2007

The conference venue is the well appointed 4 Star Sligo Clarion Hotel (www.clarionsligo.ie), a state of the art modern establishment situated within an imposing and historic Victorian building overlooking the town of Sligo.

For tourist information log onto: www.irelandnorthwest.ie

FUTURES & REGIONS

MAKING FUTURES
WORK FOR
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CLARION HOTEL SLIGO
SLIGO, IRELAND

8-9 October 2007



Lead Partner



FUTURES & REGIONS

Making Futures Work for Regional Development

About the FUTURREG Final Conference

The FUTURREG Project is designed to ensure that regional policies and regional development organisations are informed by high-quality futures tools and participatory processes with significant long-term impacts. The multi-annual project which began its work in July 2005, has been funded by the EU under the INTERREG IIIC Initiative, that helps Europe's regions form partnerships to work together on common projects. The Final Conference of the FUTURREG Project entitled "Futures & Regions: Making Futures Work for Regional Development" will be held in Sligo, Ireland on the 8-9 October 2007.

The Conference programme has been devised in order to present the perspectives of international futures experts, from the corporate sector, public sector and academia and to present the results of the FUTURREG Project, demonstrating how futures tools can be effectively deployed to improve the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion. Futures techniques or tools are frequently used to complement other tools such as planning, strategy and networking – and also to deal with uncertainty and provide scope for choices to be made.

FUTURREG has

1. Developed a common **Futures Toolkit**, including scenarios, Delphi, Horizon Scanning and visioning that can be used in all EU regions. This was done by pooling the knowledge and resources of the expert partners through inter-regional exchange.
2. Increased the use of futures tools in association with other Foresight approaches within the regional policy-making system and strengthened the **Futures Capacity** of the participating regions, through regional networking, especially between public authorities and futures experts.
3. Applied the futures toolkit to current regional development issues and problems. The project worked with 14 regional organisations, with a focus on their policy and programme priorities. **Inter-regional collaboration** was central to their delivery. The participating regions used futures thinking and tools in the following areas:
 - Strategy and Policy Development
 - Innovation, Research and Technology Sector-based work/clusters
 - Urban Development
 - Sustainability
 - Futures club/networks
 - Knowledge transfer from Universities and Colleges to SMEs
4. Increased capacity and the use of Foresight by a wide spectrum of actors at regional level through a **managed learning process**.

Who Should Attend?

The Conference aims to bring together a range of stakeholders concerned with improving the way public bodies plan successfully for regional development in Europe. The success of the event will largely rest on having a genuinely diverse group of people to explore the implications of applying futures approaches to their own regional development issues.

We expect delegates from:

- Public Sector
- Private Sector
- Higher Education Research Centres
- The Voluntary Sector & NGOs

The Conference will provide the opportunity to:

- Access the state of the art in futures work for regional development in Europe
- Reflect on how futures can work in organisations and provide useful multi-sectoral case study examples
- Network with futures professionals and practitioners

Conference Programme

Monday 8 October 2007

- 16.00 - 19.30 Delegate Arrival & Registration
19.30 - 22.00 Conference Opening Reception & Dinner

Tuesday 9 October 2007

- 08.45 – 09.15 Registration
09.15 – 09.20 Welcome and Introduction – **Gerry Finn**, Director, BMW Regional Assembly, Conference Chair (Morning Session)
09.20 – 10.20 Keynote Speaker: International Futures
• **Rohit Talwar** – CEO, Global Futures and Foresight & Fast Future
10.20 – 11.00 Keynote Speaker: Irish Futures
• **Dr. Mark Callanan** – Public Policy Specialist, Institute of Public Administration, Ireland
11.00 – 11.20 Tea/Coffee
11.20– 12.00 Keynote Speaker: Corporate Futures
• **Josephine Green** – Director of Trends and Strategy, Philips Design
12.00 – 12.45 Briefing - INTERREG & Regions of Knowledge
• **Ciaran Dearle** – DG REGIO, EU Commission
• **Gerry Finn** – BMW Regional Assembly
12.45 – 14.00 Networking Lunch
14.00 – 14.05 Introduction to Afternoon Session – **Dr. Richard Thorn**, Director, Sligo IT, Conference Chair (Afternoon Session)
14.05 – 14.30 FUTURREG Overview – **Martin Rhisiart**, Deputy Director, Observatory of Innovation
14.30 – 16.00 Parallel Themed Workshops

FUTURREG sub-project actors and guest presenters will each give 15-20 minute detailed case study presentations of the specific use of futures approaches in their own regional developmental context, in parallel themed workshops:

- **Theme 1 - Strategic Futures**
Futures exercises undertaken for strategic/organisational development
- **Theme 2 - Futures in Places**
Futures exercises undertaken with a territorial/spatial focus
- **Theme 3 - Sectoral Futures/Innovation Futures**
Futures exercises addressing specific regional sectoral strengths or weaknesses, and the use of futures in developing innovation strategies.

- 16.00 – 16.30 Tea/Coffee
16.30 – 17.00 Reflections on the FUTURREG Project, Panel Q & A
17.00 – 18.00 Discussions on possible further future collaborations, partnerships and projects

