



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community Research

*Policy Intent Declaration for Inter-regional  
cooperation among Insular Regions to  
accelerate the development of the Knowledge-  
based economy in the European Research Area*

*In the framework of the IN.TRACK Project*

*(Project reference number 2003-000036, European Commission's  
Pilot Action on Regions of Knowledge (KnowREG)).*



*Brussels, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005*

## *IN.TRACK*

### *Policy Intent Declaration for Inter-regional cooperation among Insular Regions*

*The partners of the IN.TRACK project,*

- Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias (ITC) – Spain, on behalf of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands*
- Consorzio Catania Ricerche (CCR) – Italy, on behalf of the Regional Government of Sicily*
- Science and Technology Park of Crete (STEP-C) – Greece, on behalf of the Regional Government of Crete*
- Centro de Empresas e Inovação da Madeira (CEIM) – Portugal, on behalf of the Regional Government of Madeira*

### *RECALLING*

- The conclusions of the Lisbon, Stockholm and Barcelona European Councils on the strategy for making the EU the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, by 2010<sup>1</sup>;*

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<sup>1</sup> "Presidency Conclusions–Lisbon", <http://ue.eu.int/en/Info/eurocouncil/index.htm>

"Presidency Conclusions – Santa Maria da Feira", <http://ue.eu.int/en/Info/eurocouncil/index.htm>

"Council Resolution of 15 June 2000", OJ C 205, 19.7.2000, p.1.

"Council resolution of 16 November 2000", OJ C 374, 28.12.2000, p.1.

- *The important role of the regions as drivers for economic development and their role in mobilising research and innovation efforts for bringing Europe faster into the knowledge-based economy, emphasised by the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions<sup>2</sup>;*
- *The concerns raised by the European Commission regarding the involvement of the less favoured regions to participate in the European Research Area and the need, expressed by the Commission, to reinforce research, technological development and innovation strategies in these regions<sup>3</sup>;*
- *The Know-REG Pilot Action, initiated by the European Parliament in 2003 and fully developed and deployed by the European Commission with the aim to support experimental and joint cooperative actions at regional level to develop “Regions of Knowledge” in the area of technological development, cooperation between universities, and*

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*Press Release: Stockholm (24.03.2001) - Nr: 100/1/01 See also: <http://ue.eu.int/en/Info/eurocouncil/index.htm>*

*COM(2002) 499 final.*

*COM(2003) 226 final*

<sup>2</sup> *CEC 595/2000 INT/054 Brussels 24 May 2000.*

*Committee of the Regions CdR 33/2000 fin, Brussels 18 April 2000.*

*Committee of the Regions CdR 63/2001.*

*COM(2002) 565, COM(2003) 226, COM(2000) 6 — 18 January 2000, COM(2001) 549 final, 3 October 2001.*

*COM(2003) 112 final 11.3.2003 'Innovation policy: updating the Union's approach in the context of the Lisbon strategy'*

<sup>3</sup> *"Towards a European Research Area, Science, Technology, Innovation, Key Figures 2000, EUR 19396, EUROSTAT, DG Research and Key Figures 2001 Special edition "Indicators for benchmarking of national research policies", (2001).*

*COM(2001) 60 of 31.01.2001, "The regions in the new economy" - Guidelines for Innovative Measures under the ERDF in the period 2000-06.*

*COM(2001) 549 final*

*research at regional level and stimulate the integration of regions in Europe<sup>4</sup>;*

- The outcomes resulting from the IN.TRACK (INsular regions knowledge TRACKer) project, which has been co-financed by the DG Research of the European Commission.*

### *ACKNOWLEDGING*

*the importance of creating a sound basis for the successful implementation and development of the knowledge-based economy in their territories;*

### *RECOGNISING THAT*

- The knowledge-based economy poses important challenges for their economies;*
- Their territories are characterised by a series of unique features (insularity, limited availability of infrastructures, economy mostly dominated by tourism and/or agriculture, low investment in R&D, increasing risk of brain drain) which may hinder the development of a knowledge-based economy and the catch-up with other regions in Europe;*

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<sup>4</sup> *Regions of Knowledge pilot action — DG RTD (2003/C 182/08)*

- *The four insular regions are facing similar problems regarding the development of the knowledge-based economy in their territories;*
- *Cooperation and networking among regions is an important condition for the development of the knowledge-based economy and can foster and accelerate the establishment of the knowledge-based economy in these regions.*

### **COMMIT**

- *To face the challenges posed by the knowledge-based economy, and therefore to exploit the full potential for innovation, research and development, turning their structural weaknesses into advantages by adopting appropriate integrated and shared regional research and innovation strategies, taking due account of their unique geographic position, competences and cultural values and heritage;*
- *To cooperate and jointly work together within the inter-regional framework with the aim to create a network that will stimulate the exchange of regional experiences, identify successful practices and promote region-wide cooperation among the insular regions.*

### **AGREE**

- *To endorse the actions stated in the document titled “Collective Vision for Insular Regions Knowledge-based Development” (Deliverable 5.1) by*

*the IN.TRACK partners. More specifically, the Network of Regions presently participating to IN.TRACK agree:*

- *on the following Collective Vision Statement: “The regions Canary Islands, Crete, Sicily and Madeira strive to accomplish the goals of a diversified economy built on Information Society and the converging technologies, while strengthening an innovation culture based on private-public partnerships aimed at enhancing the societal orientation towards education, research and continuous training. Additionally, they share the vision that a cohesive society will be developed by the growth of the social capital of the four regions, sustaining high quality of life standards, desirable by any European citizen”;*
  - *that the participatory approaches involving regional stakeholders, applied within the IN.TRACK project, involve the implementation of key consensus generation methodologies to achieve knowledge-based economy, while ensuring social and political support for policy implementation;*
  - *to enhance their effort in sharing successful models and practices and commit themselves in the process of knowledge transfer of IN.TRACK experience to other insular European regions;*
- *To participate in the Consultation Committee, as stated in the accompanying document titled “Collective Vision for Insular Regions Knowledge-based Development”, Deliverable 5.1. and to periodically*

*report to the European institutions interested on the network achievements.*

**INVITE**

*other insular regions in Europe to join this initiative in order to enlarge the network and create synergies, achieving greater cohesion among European regions.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**

*the undersigned regional representatives have affixed their signature on this Agreement;*

*For the Region of the CANARY ISLANDS:*

*Mr. Julio Brito Santana*



*Director of the Science , Innovation and Technology Office*

*Presidency Regional Ministry of the Canary Islands Government*

*For the Region of SICILY:*



*Mr. Francesco Attaguile*

*Sicilian Region- Presidency*

*For the Region of CRETE:*



*Mr. Serafim Tsokas*

*General Secretary of Region of Crete*

*For the Region of MADEIRA:*



*Mr. Joao Carlos Cunha e Silva*

*Vice President of the Regional Government of Madeira*

*Done in Brussels, on 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2005*