



ECRN

European Chemical Regions Network

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ECRN

European opportunities and cooperation via the ECRN

Jõhvi, Ida-Virumaa, 17th April 2009

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Agenda

- **Outline**
- **History of the ECRN Interreg IIIC**
- **ECRN – the association of today and voice of the chemical regions**
- **ECRN achievements, activities and targets**

Outline

- What is the ECRN?
European **C**hemical **R**egions **N**etwork.
- Who are the members?
Public authorities: Regions who deal with aspects of the chemical sector.
- How is the ECRN organised?
By the network secretariat and its members.
- Who are the experts?
Officers of the ministries of the member regions.

History

ECRN Interreg IIIc

History

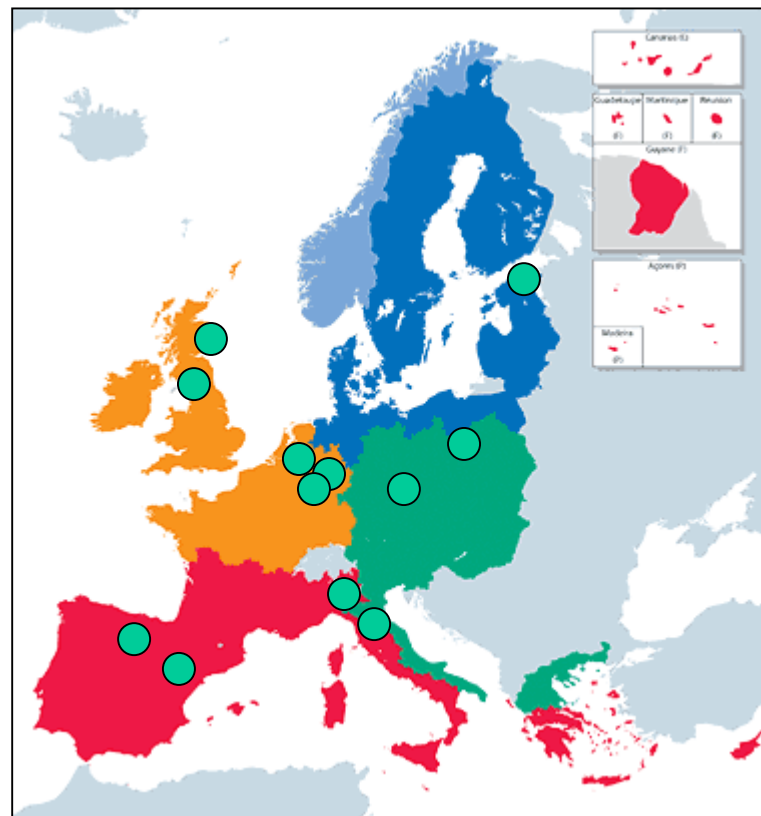
ECRN Interreg III C

Partners:

- Saxony-Anhalt, D (Lead Partner)
- Lower Saxony, D
- North Rhine Westphalia, D
- Catalonia, E
- Asturias, E
- Huelva, E
- Ida-Viru, EST
- Masowia, PL
- Limburg, NL
- Piedmont, I
- Lombardy, I
- Tees Valley, UK
- Cheshire, UK

Budget:

- 1,7 Mio. EURO (997.000 support by INTERREG III C)
- Duration: 3 years (January 2004 – December 2007)



History

ECRN Interreg IIIc

- Integration of about 1.600 regional stakeholders in Regional Partnership Meetings
- Implementing of five thematic studies
- Organising a number of Working Group Meetings, 6 Presidium Meetings, 3 Training Seminars and 3 Congresses – Bringing together relevant stakeholders from European chemical regions (27 interregional events with approx. 1200 participants)
- Representing joint interest in EU decision-making process (14 Joint Position Papers)

History

ECRN Interreg IIIC

- Developing spin-off projects for the further development and deepening of cooperation (e.g. MentorChem and ChemSME)
- More than 170 articles about ECRN in 3 years, 36.000 hits on ECRN website, 6 newsletters, 15 brochures
- **Setting up of the ECRN association as a legal body**

ECRN – the association of today and voice of the chemical regions

ECRN ASSOCIATION

- Asturias, E
- Bavaria, D
- Catalonia, E
- Cheshire, UK
- Flanders, B
- Hesse, D
- Ida-Viru, EST
- Limburg, NL
- Lombardy, I
- Lower Saxony, D
- North Rhine Westphalia, D
- Novara, I
- Rhineland-Palatinate, D
- Rhône-Alpes, F
- Saxony-Anhalt, D
- Schleswig-Holstein, D
- Scotland, UK
- Tees Valley, UK
- Ústí Region, CZ
- Wallonia, B



Starting Point

The Chemical Industry in Europe is located in a limited number of regions.

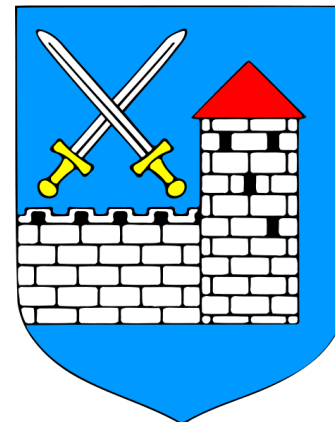
In these regions, the Chemical Industry plays a dominant role.

Chemical regions are faced with similar challenges:

- to find efficient ways to implement EU legislation
- to support competitiveness of the Chemical Industry and therefore safeguarding the sustainable development of the chemical sites
- to use new framework conditions in a most efficient way
- to cope with change of business structures and culture and globalisation

Ida-Viru

- **Member since 2003**
- Population: 178,311
- Area size: 3,364 km²
- GDP per capita: 4160 EUR
- Employees chemical sector: **3350**
- **21%** of the industrial production is related with chemicals
- Main Productions: shale oil, coke, shale oil phenols, ammonia and urea, benzoic acid and sodium benzoate (for food industry)
- Regional Chemical Actors: Viru Keemia Grupp (VKG), AS Viru Liimid, AS Silmet, AS Nitrofert, Kiviõli Keemiatööstuse OÜ
- Topics: cope with the new national oil-shale strategy



Joint interests of chemical regions

Chemical regions in Europe are affected by EU regulations in a similar way

The regional dimension of EU legislation is often only barely taken into account

The chemical regions must respond to the changing framework conditions by finding joint solutions on:

- Skills, Training and Education,
- Research and Development,
- Infrastructure Development etc.

Aims and Objectives of the ECRN

- Improving regional development strategies in chemical regions
- Maintaining competitiveness by fostering European co-operation of regional actors
- Developing a European partnership of regional partnerships in chemical regions
- Articulating common interests of chemical regions towards the European institutions
- Recognizing the European Chemical Regions Network as the regional stakeholder in the future debate on chemical policy

ECRN achievements, activities and targets

ECRN - achievements, activities and targets

Some achievements in 2008 - overview

- **Establishment of close contacts** with the European Commission, ECHA and relevant stakeholders (e.g. CEFIC, EMCEF, ECEG, EPCA, EEN, EEB, national chemical associations etc...)
- **6 new member regions** joining the organisation
- Participation in the European Commission - **“High Level Group (HLG) on Competitiveness of Chemical Industry in Europe”**
- Mandate to organise the **HLG follow-up conference in April 2009** in cooperation with member region Ústí under the patronage of the European Commission and the Czech EU Presidency
- Successful application of **INTERREG IV B project “ChemLog”** (Chemical Logistics in Central and Eastern Europe)

ECRN - achievements, activities and targets Representation at European Level

Participation in the European Commission - “High Level Group on Competitiveness of Chemical Industry in Europe” :

- Advocacy of regional interests in ad-hoc groups, sherpa meetings and the HLG meetings
- Presentation of planned activities (e.g. skills and logistics)
- Intensive dialogue with European Commission, NGOs and industry
- First-hand information of recent developments in the Chemical sector
- Mandate for the HLG follow up conference in April 2009 in cooperation with member region Ústí

ECRN - achievements, activities and targets ***Infrastructure development***

Logistic Platform needed:

- Importance of clustering initiatives
- Workshop on Logistic (Apr 2009)
- Cooperation project: “Chemical Logistics cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe” (ChemLog) running until Sep 2011

ChemLog Partners and Geographical Coverage

- Ministry for Transport, Saxony-Anhalt (D),
- Associations of Chemical Industry from Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia,
- Regional Development Holding (HU)
- Province of Novara (I),
- Ústí Region (CZ),
- isw Institute (D),
- Logistikum (AT),



ChemLog - Objectives

- Strengthening rail and waterway transport for chemical goods in comparison to road to improve safety, environmental protection and reduce costs and increase speed and flexibility of chemical logistics.
- Support the development of logistical centers for intermodal transport and their integration in infrastructure planning.
- Facilitate the connection of pipelines for an effective Central and Eastern European Chemical Logistics Network.
- Initiate transnational know-how and technology transfer for the development of transport- and guidance-systems focused on the West-East direction.
- Supporting the realization of Trans-European Traffic Routes and harmonization of regulations and coordinated planning of infrastructure and the use of Structural Funds.

ECRN - achievements, activities and targets ***Skills and Research***

Competitiveness is the response to the crisis:

- Cooperation for qualification and training:
Seminar on Skills (Jun 2009)
- Innovation as key:
Seminar on Innovation (Sep 2009)
- Sharing and spread information: Webseminars on REACH (2008),
Seminar on European chemical policy development (Nov 2009),
Permanent Working Group meetings.

Next upcoming occasions to meet the ECRN:

The ECRN actively advocates and informs about the regional dimension of its sector towards all relevant stakeholders.

- **16th / 17th April 2009** HLG Follow-up Conference, Ústí nad Labem/ CZ
- **11th June 2009** Seminar on skills, Brussels
- **September 2009** Seminar on innovation
- **October 2009** 7th Congress of the European Chemical Regions, Namur/ Belgium

Dates are subject to change. Further seminars/workshops/meetings will be announced when in planning.

**For more information about the ECRN
and its projects visit our website at**

www.ecrn.net

Thank you for your attention!