



EU-DRIVERS
European Drivers for a
Regional Innovation Platform



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

EU-DRIVERS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT BARCELONA, 17 NOVEMBER 2010

The EU-DRIVERS conference on **Universities leading regional innovation: New partnerships at a time of economic crisis** is the first in a series of three annual conferences which will be organised by the **EU-DRIVERS European Drivers for a Regional innovation Platform**.

EU-DRIVERS is a **three-year EU-funded structural project** in the **EU Lifelong Learning Programme** which is developed under the leadership of ESMU, in a consortium with ten partners which combines multiple expertise from regional networks, regional university networks, individual universities, university networks focusing on strategic management issues and networks linked to disciplines.

As a highly focused and interactive event, the first EU-DRIVERS conference will take place in **Barcelona** on Wednesday **17 November 2010**. The conference will be based on an annual report on **Universities leading regional innovation: New partnerships at a time of economic crisis** produced by ACUP the Catalan Association of Public Universities, EU-DRIVERS project partner. The report will be made available to all registered participants prior to the conference.

The report will include case studies and examples of good practices on regional innovation drawn from the EU-DRIVERS pilot partnership projects and building on partners' expertise.

The Conference will also focus on the EU-DRIVERS Pilot Partnership Projects which are a major component of the EU-DRIVERS Project. These are **'showcase' projects, involving the 'triple helix' stakeholders from a university, public authority (local/regional government) and business/community**. The projects will provide a core base for practical knowledge sharing about routes to improving regional cooperation between universities, public authorities and business to encourage regional innovation. During the conference, specific case studies addressing opportunities for regional developments in times of crisis will be addressed.

The conference will start with a **networking dinner on 16 November**. On 17 November the conference will be split into morning plenary sessions with key senior level speakers and afternoon thematic parallel sessions and closing session.

The underlying aim is to provide participants with the latest information on developments with regional innovation policy and practice. To do so, the conference will relate to EU and national policy and showcase examples of successful regional cooperation from within the EU-DRIVERS partnership, the pilot partnership projects and beyond.

The conference will be preceded by the DEAN Conference of the European network of Deans of Faculties and academic leaders on "Out of the crisis into sustainable recovery? Maintaining quality at a time of constrained resources", taking place in Barcelona on the 15-16 November (www.esmu.be).

- For further information:
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- Online registration open from 20 May 2010