

# RAPIDE NEWS

Issue 4

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## RAPIDE



## MID-TERM REVIEW IN ÖREBRO

On 17-18 June, the RAPIDE network met in Örebro reviewing the first phase of the project and launched themselves into the development of Regional Action Plans.

**Jens Schollin**, Vice Chancellor of Örebro University and **Pontus Braunerhjelm** from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm were among the speakers summing up the meaning of innovation in a today's society and economy.

**Ola Karlsson**, Vice Chair of the Örebro Regional Development Council and **Christian Leffler** from the Cabinet's EU Commission gave an impression how the RAPIDE network and its findings could influence future regional and EU developments concerning innovation support.

During the mid-term review the partnership was also able to discuss and agree on a number of policy recommendations. These recommendations suggest how to overcome the most important obstacles for innovation support, identified by the partnership. Those obstacles are:

- High administrative burden for accessing and managing EU innovation funding
- Lack of public demand for innovative products
- Lack of flexibility of EC regulations for innovation support projects
- Regional Funds for innovation and development are not always used in the most effective way.
- Regional Funds for innovation and development are often extremely risk averse.

For more information on this event or phase 2 of the project please contact

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## RAPIDE MID-TERM OUTLOOK

The RAPIDE mid-term review was a landmark for the network on the way for a successful completion of the project in Summer 2010.

Thanks to the perfect organisation of the meetings, the RAPIDE members were able to start immediately with their work for the second phase of the project.

The intense discussions inside the different Action Groups resulted in a challenging work programme for the next months.

The list of milestones agreed by the partners showed the high level of commitment to the targets and objectives of the projects.

All partners recognised that a high level of accuracy and dedication is needed to keep the project on the "fast track".

The milestones such as meetings with experts, preparation of background papers, peer reviews and the finalisation of the regional action plans will keep the network busy.

We are certain that this high level of motivation and commitment resulting from the inspiring experience at the mid-term review will be inherent to the partnership until the end of the project and beyond.

## INNOVATION A LA NOBEL

### Dear Partners,

We are very happy that the Mid-term Review could be arranged in our Region and Örebro. I am convinced that Innovation, Development and Enterprise are determining factors for building a wealthy and competitive Europe with dynamic regions.

In my region, Örebro, the meaning of innovation can be clearly seen throughout our history.

Many of our companies have been based on bringing innovation to the market.

Sony Ericsson, BAE Systems and Nobel Biocare are some examples.

All of them follow in the tradition of our most famous innovator, Mr Alfred Nobel, the founder of the Nobel Prize.

I share my home town, Karlskoga, with him – and the belief that creating environments that allow for innovation to take place are crucial for our economic development.

Transnational cooperation between regions is a way to learn from each other and to come out of the current economic downturn stronger and better prepared.

RAPIDE is an important part in this – "Bringing innovation to the market more quickly" lies in all our interest and at the heart of a successful innovative economy.

We are looking forward to learn from other successful regions in Europe as much as sharing the inheritance of Alfred Nobel.



**Ola Karlsson**  
Vice Chair of the  
Board  
Örebro Regional  
Development Council



## RAPIDE PREPARES ITS ACTIONS

Prior to the mid-term review the network distilled the findings of the previous working summits. This exercise resulted in the definition of 5 themes which need to be further examined by the network within the second phase of the project.

To guarantee an effective analysis of the themes the network established 5 RAPIDE Action Groups (working groups) working more in depth on the topics. Each RAPIDE partner committed itself to at least 2 Action Groups of particular interest for the respective region.

The second day of the mid-term review was dedicated to the establishment of the Action Groups.

This first coming together was used in two ways:

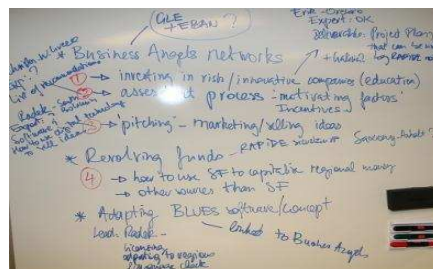
- on one hand the members decided on practical issues such as the work plan and the group leader
- on the other hand they discussed in detail the themes to identify further questions which need to be followed up by the group and its members.

All Action Groups established very ambitious work plans consisting of individual work on different subthemes, common meetings with experts and fact finding missions.

The five Action groups are:

- Innovation Voucher
  - to strengthen the link between SMEs and international innovative research

- Innovative ways of public procurement
  - to increase the public demand for innovative products
- Effective Funding
  - to make a better use of limited public resources
- Co-operation between academia and businesses
  - to bring innovation from the lab to market more effectively
- Innovation Incubators
  - to increase the effectiveness of incubators



## RAPIDE STEERING GROUP

The next RAPIDE Steering Group Meeting will take place on 6 October in Brussels, SWUKBO Offices.



## RAPIDE AT THE OPEN DAYS

Bringing Europe closer to the citizens means putting forward things that matter in a local context. In this perspective the OPEN DAYS, jointly organised by the committee of regions and DG REGIO, are the perfect place to present RAPIDE and how it matters in a regional and local context.

The RAPIDE network organises and participates in a series of formal and informal seminars, meetings, workshops and presentations throughout these days.

On Tuesday October 6 will be the RAPIDE Steering Group meeting including representatives from the EC discussing the progress of the Action Groups.

On October 7 there will be meetings and fact finding missions of the different RAPIDE Action Groups.

In the afternoon of the same day will be an official seminar on sharing knowledge and experience about regional innovation strategies. RAPIDE will have a say.

On Thursday the same week RAPIDE has a stand in the central venue to present its findings to a wider public.

All RAPIDE partners are invited to participate at the above mentioned meetings or even at other OPEN DAYS seminars to spread the knowledge about RAPIDE even further.



**European Week of  
Regions and Cities**  
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