

▶ **RAPIDE** the partnership



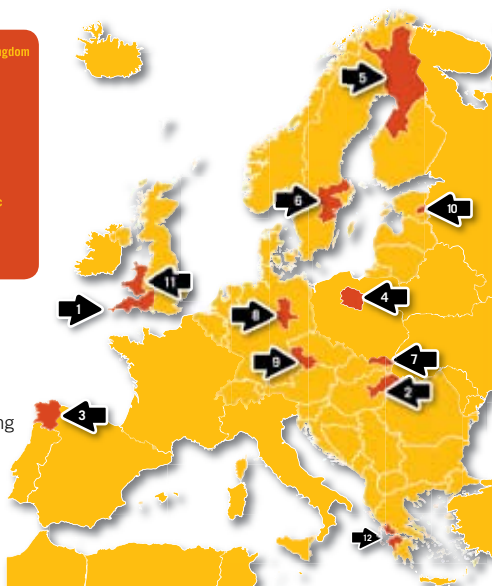
RAPIDE

▶ The **RAPIDE** network brings together European regions committed to the innovation agenda. The network is made up of 12 regions from across the European Union, a mix of old and new Member States working with the European Commission:

- ▶ South West England (UK) – Lead Partner
- ▶ Észak-Alföld (Hungary)
- ▶ Galicia (Spain)
- ▶ Kujawsko-Pomorskie (Poland)
- ▶ Lapland (Finland)
- ▶ Örebro (Sweden)
- ▶ Prešov (Slovakia)
- ▶ Saxony-Anhalt (Germany)
- ▶ South Bohemia (Czech Republic)
- ▶ Tartu (Estonia)
- ▶ Wales (UK)
- ▶ Western Greece (Greece)

1. South West England - United Kingdom
2. Észak-Alföld - Hungary
3. Galicia - Spain
4. Kujawsko-Pomorskie - Poland
5. Lapland - Finland
6. Örebro - Sweden
7. Prešov - Slovakia
8. Saxony-Anhalt - Germany
9. South Bohemia - Czech Republic
10. Tartu - Estonia
11. Wales - United Kingdom
12. Western Greece - Greece

The **RAPIDE** partners include Regional Development Agencies, Structural Fund Managing Authorities (MAs) and universities.



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INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
REGIONS OF EUROPE SHARED SOLUTIONS

▶ Bringing innovation to the market

▶ **RAPIDE** is a network of European regions committed to improve regional competitiveness by bringing innovation to the market more rapidly.



▶ **RAPIDE** is part-financed by the European programme for interregional cooperation. It is also a Fast Track Network and therefore benefits from active partnership work with the European Commission.

▶ **RAPIDE** in brief



▶ **RAPIDE** is exploring how the public sector can influence innovation by looking at a number of critical factors that determine the success and speed of bringing innovation to market.

“RAPIDE’s work is now more important than ever – We are today in the midst of a technological and social revolution. Regions with strong innovation support structures will be strengthened and more competitive after the current crisis.”

*Juliet Williams, RAPIDE Lead Partner
South West England Regional Development Agency*

▶ **RAPIDE** expertise



▶ **RAPIDE** partners capitalise on transferable good practices from the partnership as well drawing on expertise from both the partner regions and outside of the network.

▶ Each **RAPIDE** region is, during the two-year lifetime of the project, developing an Action Plan, endorsed by regional stakeholders and the European Commission, setting out clearly what will take place in their region to commercialise innovation more quickly.

▶ The Action Plans will influence how Structural Funds are spent in the partner regions, supporting the development of more efficient innovation approaches and ensuring these properly underpin long-term growth and more high quality jobs.

In keeping with the innovative focus of **RAPIDE**, the network itself operates in a highly innovative way, putting new technologies to use and ensuring a smaller carbon footprint.

As **RAPIDE** is a fast track network, the European Commission is also directly involved, acting as an additional partner and critical friend. This engagement is led by DG Enterprise and Industry, and supported by DG Regional Policy, DG Research, DG Information Society and Media and DG Employment and Social Affairs.

▶ **RAPIDE** in action



▶ **RAPIDE** has two phases:

▶ **Phase One** (Sept 2008 to July 2009)

The network already identified three critical factors that determine the success and speed of bringing innovation to market.

These factors are:

- ▶ managing risk
- ▶ financing innovation
- ▶ developing successful partnerships

In this first stage, partners will develop regional partnerships to audit and examine their own experience of bringing innovation to market, identify good practices or new ideas in that area and make policy recommendations around innovation support.

▶ **Phase Two** (Aug 2009 to Aug 2010)

Phase two is focused on partners developing their **RAPIDE** Action Plans in partnership with their Managing Authorities and the European Commission, in an environment of peer review with bilateral and informal working groups of **RAPIDE** partners and the Commission. Partners will demonstrate how Actions will be implemented within their region.