



www.eurada.org

**European Association
of Development Agencies**



Europe's economic developers working together

EURADA, the European Association of Economic Development Agencies, was formed in 1991. Development agencies from all the countries in the European Union are eligible to be members, and there are also categories of membership for universities, local authorities and consultancy firms.

EURADA is an inclusive, Europe-wide network of people working on economic development, and by working together better outcomes can be achieved for everyone.

The EURADA network operates through a small secretariat led by its Director, Christian Saublens, who has a global reputation as a commentator on issues of economic development policy, and a long and close relationship with relevant departments of the European Commission.



"Our experience is that a vigorous, well-informed community of development agencies can make a big impact with the European Commission on policies which affect the way economic development is delivered at the local level. We also see that agencies interacting with each other through EURADA can get real commercial benefits"

Christian Saublens, EURADA

EURADA has given a lead on a policy agenda which includes regional policy, state aids policy, small business finance (EURADA set up the European Business Angels Network), entrepreneurship, innovation, cluster policy and the practical issues of implementing economic development programmes.

What the members say

Obtaining the maximum value of being a EURADA member depends on taking an active part in the work of the network. This is clear from the experience of our members:



"Membership of EURADA has enabled me to give the Jyväskylä Region, with its activities and sector strengths, a European and world-wide profile. This has brought real business opportunities and put us on the map. We had to do a lot of work ourselves, but without EURADA and its networks it would have been much more difficult."

Ritva Nirkkonen, Jyväskylä Regional Development Company, Finland



"Not too many years ago, Poland wasn't even a member of the European Union. Now, thanks to our membership of EURADA, my region is playing an active part in shaping future regional policy directly with the European Commission and building its reputation at the same time."

Stanislaw Ginda, Regional Development Agency Bielsko-Biala, Poland



"Cornwall might be at the western extremity of England but through our EURADA membership we feel plugged in to what is happening in Brussels. EURADA was the obvious organization to host the European Business Angels Network, of which I was the first President. We are also able to participate directly in lobbying and policy information at European level which means direct links with the Commission."

John Berry, Cornwall Enterprise, United Kingdom



"EURADA is an extraordinary organization rich of individuals and institutions, it has enabled me and my agency to build up win win partnerships with colleagues and their respective host organizations throughout and beyond the frontiers of Europe. It is and has been a tremendous springboard and support in the internationalization of our activities and is a key element in our value chain."

Jacques Evrard, Brussels Enterprise Agency, Belgium



"Maastricht is famous for the 1992 EU Treaty, but its region of Limburg in the Netherlands, facing the problems of a decline in heavy industries, has been less well known. LIOF was a founder member of EURADA in 1991. We've gained new ideas and inspiration from the EURADA team and we have been able to play a big part in shaping policy in Europe through EURADA's strong links with the European Commission. LIOF and Limburg are known on the European stage, thanks to what we have been able to do as EURADA members."

Antoine Platen, Nv Industriebank LIOF, Maastricht, Netherlands



"Some people may think that successful regions like Milan don't have to worry about economic development, but our large numbers of small businesses are affected by market failures just as badly as those in poorer regions. We have large numbers of economically disadvantaged people, environmental issues to face and decline of the region's attractiveness. Fostering sustainable development aiming at improving social, environmental and economic aspects is our main goal. Years of involvement as members of EURADA have exposed us to global good practice and innovation in economic development policy, and enabled us to work closely with agencies in Europe's other major cities facing similar problems."

Renato Galliano, Milano Metropoli Development Agency, Italy



"Nowadays there are websites from all over the world full of information about economic development policy, but this is no alternative to the additional benefits which come from networking with other economic development professionals at EURADA events, and working across borders on common problems through the EURADA consortia."

Thomas Henningson, Almi Bank, Örebro, Sweden



"For IMPIVA, as Valencian regional innovation agency, being active members of the EURADA network has enabled us to form close partnerships with other European agencies and institutions, often in a leadership role. We've learned a lot from what other people do; and Valencian firms, technological institutes and universities are now well known for their achievements."

Rafael Escamilla Dominguez, IMPIVA,

Institute for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Valencia, Spain



"For us, the benefits of EURADA have been the possibility to have new contacts with development agencies around Europe, to make new networks, get offers from other members for participating in R&D projects and of course the seminars and newsletters. Also, we have got good contacts with EU officials, because EURADA is, in my opinion, a highly respected organisation in Brussels among the EU officials."

Heikki Malinen, Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences, Mikkeli, Finland

Linking the global to the local

EURADA is active all over the European Union. It helps its member agencies to connect with each other, and links directly into the policy agenda at the European Commission. EURADA also has strong international links outside Europe including the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Activity in these areas is easily accessible to members.

The benefits of being in the network

- speedy receipt of up to date, high quality news and information about policy and trends
- the chance to be part of an effective interface with European Commission officials, helping to influence the development of future policy
- an opportunity to build direct relationships with the Commission, reducing the need to work through member states
- participation in EURADA events - conferences, seminars and workshops - which facilitate the exchange of good practice and making connections across the network
- assisted access to the EURADA network to find business partners and strengthen internationalisation programmes
- the ability to boost your region's or organisation's profile across the EURADA membership, with the European Commission, and more widely through EURADA's global networks.

Who can join?

EURADA wishes to involve as many organisations working in economic development as possible in the network. Development agencies of all types (not only those working at the regional level) form the core of the membership. But there are people working on economic development in local authorities, consultancy firms, universities and service delivery companies who have much to contribute, and also to gain from being in the EURADA network. EURADA welcomes all these categories.

Details of fees and how to join can be found on the EURADA website www.eurada.org or by e-mailing the team on info@eurada.org.

EURADA

Avenue des Arts Bte 7

B-1210 Brussels

BELGIUM

tel. +32 2 218 43 13

fax +32 2 218 45 83

e-mail: info@eurada.org

www.eurada.org