INTERESTING EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN BRUSSELS

February 2020

CETA Regulatory Cooperation Forum - stakeholder debrief meeting

Organiser: DG RTD 4th February 2020

On Tuesday 4 February 2020 a debrief will take place of the second Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Regulatory Cooperation Forum that takes place the day before on Monday 3 February, in Ottawa, Canada.

Canadian and EU co-chairs will provide the debrief to stakeholders on all active work plan items in the areas of consumer product safety, cosmetic-like drug products, pharmaceutical inspections, animal welfare, cybersecurity, and other areas of consideration.

SmartPilots Final Event

Organiser: Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant 4th February 2020

SmartPilots, an INTERREG Europe project, has brought together the six leading European Shared Pilot Facilities in the field of bio-economy and their regional authorities with the aim to improve (regional) policies in support of shared pilot facilities. Based on the thorough analysis of the different business models of the facilities involved, and the support measures offered (best practices) or not (gaps) by their respective regional authorities, the consortium will present a number of proposed and implemented policy recommendations to encourage interregional collaboration in support of impactful and more efficient bioeconomy piloting.

The recommendations and improved regional policies focus on:

- Optimizing support for shared pilot facilities and their users;
- Facilitating interregional cooperation.
Blue Invest Day 2020

Organiser: EASME  
4th February 2020

Blue Invest Day 2020 will bring together entrepreneurs, innovators and investors in the blue economy in order to generate concrete business opportunities. It will also be an opportunity to connect with government and public sector representatives and to boost your visibility.

Launch event of the European Human Exposome Network

Organiser: DG RTD  
11th February 2020

The EU Green Deal calls for a strategy to protect citizens’ health and well-being from pollution and environmental deterioration. The strategy will address air and water quality, dangerous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors. In this context, a better understanding of the Human Exposome will enable better disease prevention and health promotion.

The European Human Exposome Network combines nine research projects funded under Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Human Exposome is the study of how elements we are exposed to via our diet, lifestyle and the environment we live and work in, affect our health.

The present event is an opportunity to learn more about the Exposome concept. The event is open to all interested participants and will be a unique opportunity to interact with leading European scientists and policymakers in this area.

COVENANT OF MAYORS INVESTMENT FORUM - ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCE MARKET PLACE

Organiser: DG ENERGY & EASME  
18-19th February 2020

The event will be comprised of plenary sessions with high level representatives from the Covenant of Mayors as well as a showcase of successful projects on energy efficiency finance, future-proof investments, financing clean urban mobility and more.

The conference will bring together cities, industry and financial institutions to exchange on good practices and successful solutions to common challenges.
Embedding EUSALP macro-regional priorities in the EU programmes 2021-27

Organiser: DG REGIO
19-20th February 2020

The French Presidency of the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) and the European Commission are pleased to invite you to participate to the event « Embedding the EU strategy for the alpine macroregion in 2021-2027 programmes : how to do it ? ». The meeting will take place on the 19th of February (starting at 13:30) until the 20th of February at 14:00, in Brussels.

SIMRA Final Conference

Organiser: SIMRA
19-20th February 2020

Since its launch in 2016, the Horizon 2020 project “Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas” (SIMRA) has been at the forefront of promoting the contribution of social innovation to social, economic and environmental development in disadvantaged rural areas.

The SIMRA team invites you to their final conference on 19 and 20 February 2020, in Brussels, Belgium, to learn about the project’s main findings and discuss their policy implications at all levels (EU, national, regional and local), and with regards to the legislative reforms still in discussion for the next EU programming period 2021-2027.

- Wednesday 19 February: a full day devoted to discussing the policy impacts of the findings across a range of relevant areas of EU policy, and their implementation at the local level.
- Thursday 20 February: a half-day training for policymakers, Horizon 2020 project partners, practitioners and Rural Development Programmes evaluators to learn how to make the most of the tools developed by SIMRA.

EIP-SCC Matchmaking Event

Organiser: EIP-SCC
20th February 2020

This matchmaking event – promoted by the European Commission under the EIP-SCC Marketplace initiative – brings together city/regional representatives, businesses, and
investors. It focuses on exploring and shaping opportunities for people involved in Smart City projects. The matchmaking event can be an interesting opportunity especially for the Cities.

This is the first event of a series of EIP-SCC matchmaking activities. It offers a unique opportunity for the people in charge of policy-making, representing cities / regions or offering advice to cities to learn from best practices, to present projects and to find investors. It offers a forum for discussions, assists in the development of innovative urban ideas and brings together urban innovators, developers as well as investors and private equity.

You can learn about existing Smart City best practices in the areas of mobility, ICT and energy in our Explore Zone. Experts will assist you in shaping the concept of your planned Smart City project or planned investments in a round-table format during the Shape discussions. Finally, you can engage in 1:1 meetings between solution providers and the investment community during our focussed Deal matchmaking sessions on Smart Cities and Communities (pre-registration required).

### HORIZON 2020 Coordinators Day (Grant Agreement Preparation)

**Organiser:** European Commission  
**Date:** 21st February 2020

On 21st February 2020 the European Commission will organise a “Coordinators’ Day on Grant Agreement Preparation” for coordinators of successful proposals.

The purpose of this event is to explain the details on the preparation and signature of grant agreements. This session is mainly meant for coordinators of proposals who are invited to prepare a grant agreement, but other participants are also welcome to attend, subject to the availability of seats.
March 2020

**Brokerage Event | Digital and cybersecurity solutions for utilities and industries**

*Organiser: Water Market Europe*  
*18th March 2020*

This event will address the burning issue of 'Digital and cybersecurity solutions for utilities and industries' on the 18th of March at the BluePoint Conference Centre in Brussels.

The water sector needs new digital solutions for a resilient and secure water smart society. With the digitalization of the water systems, there are solutions to address water emerging challenges but there are also cybersecurity threats that industries and utilities need to face. What is the way forward? WME2020 is made for matchmaking between the demand and the offer of efficient digital and cybersecurity solutions for the water sector.

**XPRESS Policy Co-creation Workshop**

*Organiser: EURADA*  
*20th March 2020*

“The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy” according to the President of the European Commission. The energy, industry, buildings and mobility sectors have never been at the centre of the public debate to such an extent as is currently the case. While EU Institutions set the frame for new policies and programs for the future of a green and inclusive transition, regions, cities and companies are now struggling to make the most out of the current bureaucratic, financial and technological instruments to deliver on the challenges of the climate change.

Europe's public authorities are major consumers. By using their purchasing power to choose eco-friendly goods, services and works, they play a key role to foster sustainable consumption and production. This “green purchasing” is Green Public Procurement (GPP). GPP is also a strong stimulus for eco-innovation. In fact, it stimulates a critical mass of demand for more sustainable goods and services which otherwise would not easily get onto the market. But there are also barriers that need to be overcome. For example, it may be difficult for a public authority to find an SME offering the “green” innovative services.
needed. On the other hand, it may be a barrier to SMEs that procurement procedures at regional and municipal level are too complicated.

The workshop “Green Companies for green regions and green cities” gathers at the same table Belgian regional and local authorities and innovative green companies as well as EU institutions and internationals researchers. The goal of this participative workshop is to together discuss and find solutions concerning:

- EU and Belgian procurement rules with emphasis on the terms and conditions for innovative GPP;
- Latest international research on green supply;
- Barriers/Solutions to regional and public authorities to promote GPP;
- Barriers/Solutions to SMEs to apply for GPP.

The Outermost regions Forum 2020 is a high-level dialogue platform for the nine outermost regions of the European Union, their Member States, the European Union institutions and civil society.

This event brings together the Presidents of the outermost regions, Ministers from their Member States, the Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms and other members of the Commission, stakeholders and experts interested in learning from the experience of these special EU regions.

The Forum will review progress made under the 2017 Communication on a renewed strategic partnership with the EU’s outermost regions. In addition, the Forum will address three major themes for the outermost regions: climate change and biodiversity, circular economy and blue economy.