

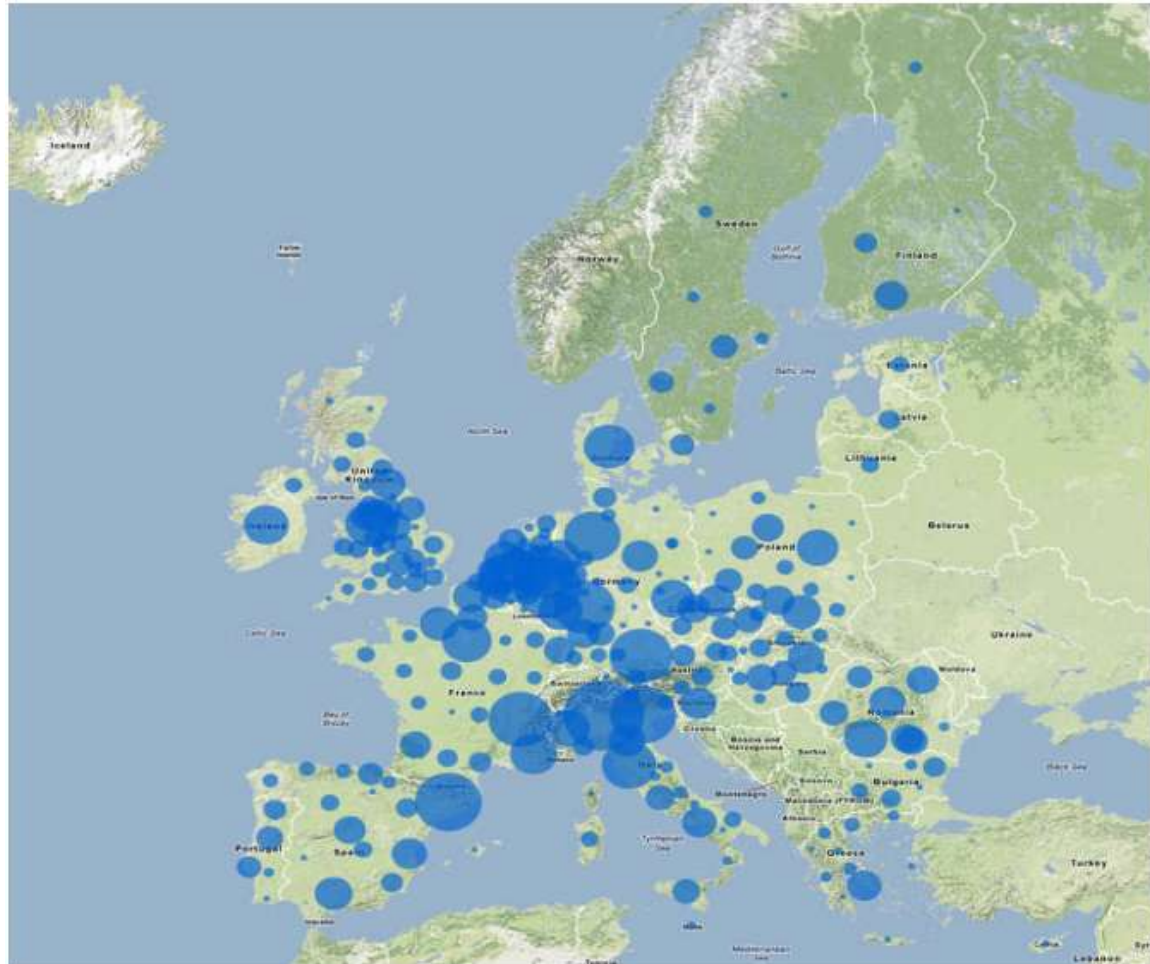


# European Chemical Regions Network

[www.ecrn.net](http://www.ecrn.net)

Miia Itänen | ECRN Secretariat, Brussels

# Chemical Clusters in Europe



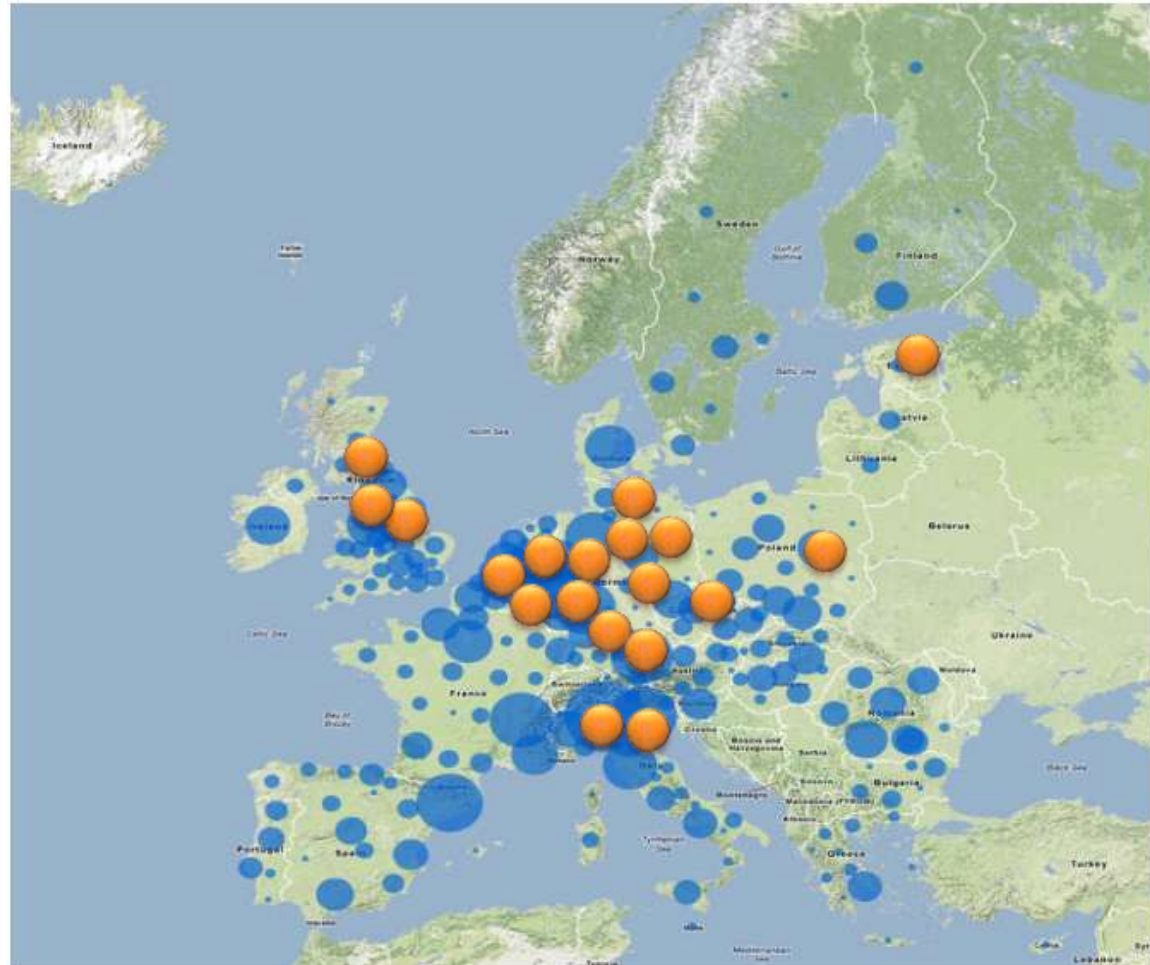
(Source:European Cluster Observatory)



# ECRN Member Regions

## ECRN Members

Bavaria, DE  
Brandenburg, DE  
Cheshire West & Chester, UK  
Flanders, BE  
Hesse, DE  
Ida-Viru, EE  
Limburg, NL  
Lombardy, IT  
Lower Saxony, DE  
Mazovia, PL  
North-Rhine Westphalia, DE  
Novara, IT  
Rhineland-Palatinate, DE  
Saxony-Anhalt, DE  
Schleswig-Holstein, DE  
Scotland, UK  
Ústí Region, CZ  
Wallonia, BE  
Yorkshire & The Humber, UK



(Cluster data from the European Cluster Observatory, ECRN member regions based on 2012 memberships)

NRW.

Mazovia.  
heart of Poland

provincie limburg



SACHSEN-ANHALT



Scotland



Niedersachsen



RÉGION WALLONNE

RheinlandPfalz



Regione Lombardia



YORKSHIRE  
CHEMICAL  
FOCUS  
*your chemical future*



generating good chemistry



Cheshire West  
and Chester



LAND  
BRANDENBURG

Ministerium für Wirtschaft  
und Europaangelegenheiten



Bavaria



Ida-Virumaa

HESSEN



Ústí region

Landesregierung  
Schleswig-Holstein





## ECRN as a Collaboration Platform

- Network of regional **public authorities**
- Current members: **19 chemical regions** in Europe
- Acknowledged **European chemical stakeholder**
- Platform for **collaboration**: working together to maintain the competitiveness of the chemical industry in Europe
- Promoter of **regional interests**: articulating common interests towards the EU, fostering **inter-regional exchange** and cross-border cooperation
  - Secretariat in Brussels
  - Regular inter-regional meetings
  - Working Groups, Projects, Congresses...





## Brief History of ECRN

- 2003: 1st Congress of European Chemical Regions
- 2004: ECRN started as an **INTERREG IIIc** project
- 2007: ECRN established as an **association**
- 2007-2009: ECRN in the European Commission's High Level Group (**HLG**) on the Competitiveness of the chemical industry in the EU
- 2008: **ChemLog**-project launched
- 2010: **Losamedchem**-project launched
- 2010: **ChemClust**-project launched
- 2012: 10th ECRN Congress





## ECRN as a Project Platform



[www.chemclust.eu](http://www.chemclust.eu)

INTERREG IV C

10 Partners

Budget 1.7 m€

Start 02/2010 (36 months)



[www.losamedchem.eu](http://www.losamedchem.eu)

MED Programme

10 Partners

Budget 1.7 m€

Start 06/2010 (36 months)



[www.chemlog.info](http://www.chemlog.info)

INTERREG IV B

10 Partners

Budget 2.1 m€

Start 11/2008 (36 months)

Follow-up projects:

- ChemLog+
- ChemLogT&T

### New initiatives:

- Continuation projects (preparation in Thematic Working Groups)
- Horizon 2020 and post-2013 EU programmes
- Exploring new areas of collaboration with partners (e.g. Knowledge Alliances)



## How is ECRN organised?

- **General Assembly** overseeing network activities
- **Executive Board** chaired by Prof. Dr. Birgitta Wolff, Minister of Science and Economy of Saxony-Anhalt
- **Permanent Working Group** with representatives from the member regions' ministries and related institutions (exchange of experiences)
- **Thematic Working Groups** for special topics and closer collaboration
- **Secretariat** in Brussels responsible for day-to-day operations of the network and communication with members and stakeholders







## How does ECRN work?

- Members meet regularly (**meetings, events and activities**): added value through **exchange of experience** and best practice, fostering cross-border collaboration
- Secretariat in Brussels facilitates **interregional collaboration**, engages in **discussions at the EU level** and represents the network at the European level
- Members are informed on EU matters via internal newsletters, **contacts and knowledge within the network**
- ECRN cooperates with **other chemical stakeholders** at regional and European level and engages with relevant **partners** e.g. by organising a high-level Congress annually





## What does ECRN work on?

- Action plan shaped by members:  
The activities of the network mirror the needs and interests of the member regions
- At the moment, ECRN is for instance:
  - Working with the [EU Commission](#) (DG Enterprise) on a [study](#) analysing policies in chemical regions
  - Supporting activities related to [REACH](#) Review and 2013 registrations
  - Monitoring [EU policies](#) on Industrial Policy, Research and Innovation, Logistics and Transport, Energy, and Skills Development
  - Setting up new thematic [working groups](#) to prepare new [European projects](#) and further activities
  - Collaborating with [partners](#) (e.g. Cefic and EUChemS)





## Objectives of ECRN

- Fostering **European cooperation** of regional actors in the field of chemicals
- Improving **regional development** strategies in chemical regions
- Articulating the **common interests** of chemical regions towards the European institutions
- Ensuring recognition of the ECRN as a **strong regional chemical stakeholder** at the European level



- **First regional network** represented in a HLG
- Regional examples and ECRN activities featured in HLG discussions and the final report
- Mandate and organisation of the official HLG **Follow-Up** event in Usti/CZ
- Regional follow-up events organised in several ECRN member regions
- 8th Congress of the ECRN focused on **HLG implementation**



Delivering the HLG results in the regions:  
Follow-up Conference to the High Level Group  
on the Competitiveness of the European  
Chemical Industry  
April 16 - 17, 2009  
Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic



- ECRN has **good relations to the European Commission** (DG Enterprise and Industry in particular) and the network is recognised as an important chemical stakeholder
- ECRN contributes to EU discussions through **consultations, meetings** with decision-makers and other stakeholders, participation at **events** and **conferences** etc.
- During 2012, the European Commission is carrying out a **study to analyse the policies in chemical regions to support the competitiveness of the chemicals industry** – ECRN members are included in the study and the network is actively involved in the process





# Analysis of Policies in Chemical Regions

to support the competitiveness of the chemicals industry

- Prepared by PwC for DG ENTR of the European Commission during 2012
- Covers 26 regions, ECRN actively involved in the project
- Focus on policies related to:
  - Clusters & innovation
  - R&D & Innovation
  - Logistics & infrastructure
  - Education & Skills
  - Environment and Sustainability
- Final report by the end of 2012



# Analysis of Policies in Chemical Regions

to support the competitiveness of the chemicals industry

- Examples of ECRN chemical clusters featured in the study:
  - **Bayern** Cluster Initiative;
  - **Asturias** cluster policy;
  - **Flanders** Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry (FISCH);
  - **Saxony Anhalt** GRW Clustermanagement - Cluster Chemistry Plastics Central Germany;
  - **Rhineland-Palatinate** chem2biz;
  - **Wallonia** networking cluster PLASTIWIN;
  - **Yorkshire and The Humber** Sector Development;
  - **North Rhine-Westphalia** Cluster “CHEMIE.NRW”
- Success factors: long-term **vision**, **commitment**, **support**, **trust** & good relations, and links to other policies



## European Chemical Regions Network

ECRN Secretariat  
Boulevard St. Michel 80  
1040 Brussels

+32 (0)2 7410 947  
[ecrn@ecrn.net](mailto:ecrn@ecrn.net)

[www.ecrn.net](http://www.ecrn.net)