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Innovation Hub Euregio Meuse-Rhine

HYPEREGIO
EarlyTech

EarlyTech

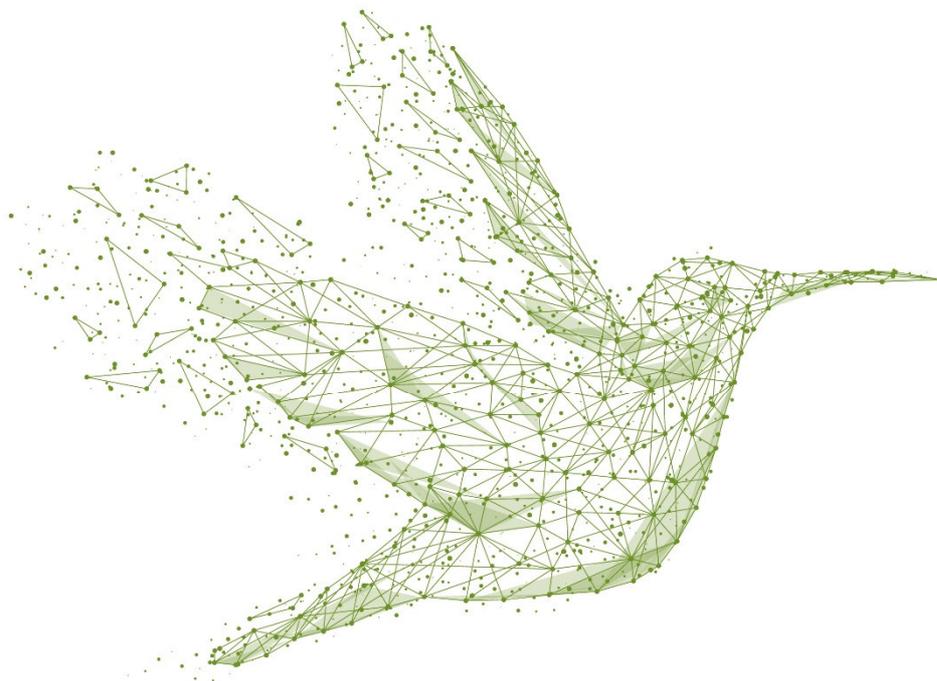
BuSyBee

Innovation
2Market

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HYPEREGIO – EarlyTech

Initial Aid
For Your
Innovation



Interreg
Euregio Meuse-Rhine
European Regional Development Fund



Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Innovation,
Digitalisierung und Energie
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



AGENTSCHAP
INNOVEREN &
ONDERNEMEN



Vlaanderen
is ondernemen

provincie limburg



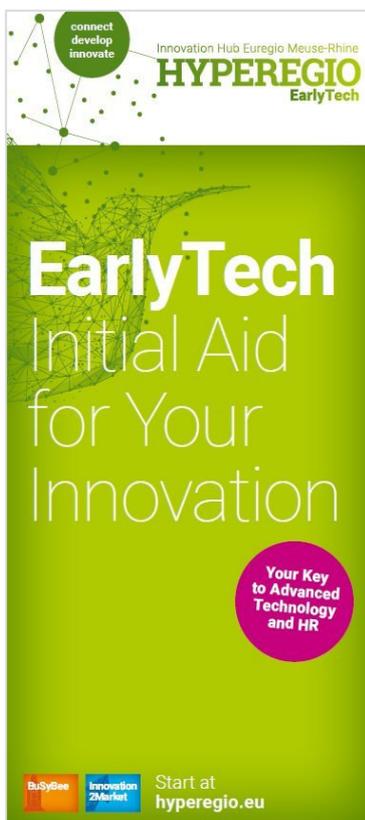
**VLAAMS-
BRABANT**

Provincie Noord-Brabant



EarlyTech – Initial aid in technology & knowledge transfer

Basic idea of EarlyTech is to provide businesses, esp. SMEs, substantial support in the very early stage of technology and knowledge transfer across borders. Project focus is on problem-solving for SMEs on the one hand via connecting them with a knowledge provider (1:1 technology transfer) and on the other hand via offering them new opportunities for recruiting human resources (knowledge transfer).



- **Key technology-, B2S- and HR-oriented euregional events:** As “early-stage” contribution to an aligned cross-border event scheme partners offered technology- or branch-specific Business-to-Science (B2S) events and networking opportunities. Furthermore, businesses profited from dedicated cross-border human resources (HR) events or programmes.
- **Personal support for SMEs by TT-managers,** connecting them with knowledge providers from across borders. Technology transfer (TT)-managers are real catalysts for enabling SMEs to cross-border cooperation! Close cooperation between all HYPEREGIO business contact managers was crucial for success and effectiveness across borders. In order to allow fruitful exchanges of companies’ needs and opportunities, regular exchange meetings between these managers were organised, often combined with visits of interesting research locations.
- **B2S voucher benefitting cross-border cooperation of a SME with a knowledge provider:** Vouchers as a stimulation tool for more cross-border cooperation were provided within Early Tech as well as in I2M EMR+ (B2B vouchers). Both HYPE-

REGIO voucher schemes were open for companies and research institutions supported or being part of all three HYPEREGIO projects. Necessary exchanges and assessments of B2S- and B2B-voucher applications were arranged via ad hoc meetings of TT- and BDS-managers in order to speed-up decision- and voucher-provision procedures!

- **Sustainable, multilingual information & cooperation platforms:** The new *Digital Innovation Platform (DIP)* offers businesses, universities/research, financiers, public and intermediate organisations within Greater EMR area and beyond new opportunities to be recognised, to cooperate and to stay informed in cross-border perspective! Additionally, *The Locator+*, the first cross-border web- and geodata-based location portal on regional level in Europe, provides more actual and comparable information for businesses.

PEOPLE & NETWORKS: EarlyTech events

Technology Transfer

Two main event formats as a platform for cooperation have been developed: “EarlyBirds Technology Breakfast” and “Business meets Science”. Common goal was to inform and to bring together people from across borders: Different stages in the value chain, a broad variety of knowledge and complementary experiences.



[Get a look of our EarlyTech - Technologytransfer events here \(Video on YouTube\) >>](#)

EarlyBirds Technology Breakfast

This event format allows SMEs to get to know other SMEs and knowledge institutions across borders is an already long-established format. The ingredients for this “successful recipe” are impressively simple and effective: Early in the morning innovative companies open their doors to interested companies and institutions. A selected knowledge institute from the other side of the border presents its expertise. During an informal breakfast the participants make new contacts and discover possibilities for cooperation. Short and situated at the edge of the day, the participants start back inspired to their actual day-to-day business!

In total 17 events with 614 participants (* Participation figure for one event was not available, when document was established) were organised all over the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Business2Science: Events



EarlyBirds – Technology Breakfast

- **24.11.2016:** *EarlyBirds* @ Mockel, Eupen (B)
- **29.03.2017:** *EarlyBirds* @ Isosystems, Amel (B)
- **08.11.2017:** *EarlyBirds* @ Wilden, Simmerath (D)
- **23.11.2017:** *EarlyBirds* @ Aston Johnson, Eupen (B)
- **15.03.2018:** *EarlyBirds* @ Team Steffen, Alsdorf (D)
- **24.04.2018:** *EarlyBirds* @ Herkula, St. Vith (B)
- **08.05.2018:** *EarlyBirds* @ mecora, Aachen (D)
- **12.09.2018:** *EarlyBirds* @ indurad, Aachen (D)
- **08.11.2018:** *EarlyBirds* @ Eutomation & Scansys, Eupen (B)
- **15.11.2018:** *EarlyBirds* @ CFM Schiller, Roetgen (D)
- **27.11.2018:** *EarlyBirds* @ EdgeWave, Würselen (D)
- **11.04.2019:** *EarlyBirds* @ Heinen Automation, Monschau (D)
- **21.05.2019:** *EarlyBirds* @ AMPHOS, Herzogenrath (D)
- **06.06.2019:** *EarlyBirds* @ Rom AG, Eupen (B)
- **04.07.2019:** *EarlyBirds* @ Digital Church, Aachen (D)
- **15.11.2019:** *EarlyBirds* @ Müller-Maschinentechnik, Düren (D)
- **28.11.2019:** *EarlyBirds* @ Huppertz AG, St. Vith (B)*

17 events
614 participants

Business meets Science

This event format has been especially developed by the practice-oriented universities of applied sciences in the EMR region. The focus is on a special field of technology and / or application that is particularly topical and challenging for regional companies, in particular SMEs, across borders: several cross-border contributions from different disciplines of application-oriented research bring together actors from different regions and shed light on the special topic in a more in-depth form.

In total 17 events with 1.184 participants were organised within the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Business2Science: Events



17 events
1.184 participants

Business meets Science

- **01.06.2017:** *BmS* „Smart Homes of Tomorrow“, Visé (B)
- **06.09.2017:** *BmS* „ESCO Matchmaking“, Leuven (B)
- **07.02.2018:** *BmS* „Smart Heating & Cooling Systems“, Diepenbeek (B)
- **22.03.2018:** *BmS* „Smart Building Engineering“, Heerlen (NL)
- **23.05.2018:** *BmS* „Smart Prototyping“, Diepenbeek (B)
- **05.09.2018:** *BmS* „ESCO Matchmaking“, Hasselt (B)
- **24.09.2018:** *BmS* „AI & Robotics“, Hasselt (B)
- **27.09.2018:** *BmS* „Nanotechnology Crossing Borders“, Hasselt (B)
- **11.10.2018:** *BmS* „Windows of the Future“, Heerlen (NL)
- **06.12.2018:** *BmS* „Smart Building“, Leuven (B)
- **17.01.2019:** *BmS* „Challenges for circular built environment“, Kerkrade (NL)
- **29.03.2019:** *BmS* „Water Treatment in the Euregio“, Heerlen (NL)
- **18.06.2019:** *BmS* „Institutes of FH Aachen (IaAm & IDA)“, Aachen (D)
- **03.07.2019:** *BmS* „Blockchain in Healthcare“, Hasselt (B)
- **11.09.2019:** *BmS* „ESCO Matchmaking“, Hasselt (B)
- **26.09.2019:** *BmS* „Nanotechnology Crossing Borders“, Hasselt (B)
- **01.10.2019:** *BmS* „Research Experience Day“, Hasselt (B)

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Human Resources

To support innovative enterprises in employment and long-term engagement of skilled professionals, five event formats have been developed: “HYPERslam – Discover Euregional Employers”, “Euregional Summer School”, “Lights on: Human Resources”, “Job expedition” and “HR Roadshow”.



HYPERslam – Discover Euregional Employers

Goal of “HYPERslam – Discover Euregional Employers” is to bring together students and SMEs. This format offers companies the opportunity to present themselves and their career opportunities to students and potential employees from the border region in a different, innovative way. The companies are presented by professional poetry slammers with short and entertaining slam-contributions that describe the company as an employer. The individual presentation of the companies last around 3-4 minutes and are organised in three blocks of 30 minutes each, so that the format can be easily integrated into the existing trade fair programme.

In total six events with 397 participants were organised within Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Human Resources: Events



The poster for the HYPERslam event features a woman speaking into a microphone. Text on the poster includes: 'connect develop innovate', 'HYPEREGIO EarlyTech', 'HYPERslam', 'Keinen Bock auf langweilige Unternehmensvorstellungen?', 'meet@fh-aachen', '22/08/2019 12h | 13h | 14h', and 'Präsentiert von Eric Jansen and Oscar Malinowski Moderiert von Annette van der Meer'. Logos for BuSyBee and Innovation 2Market are at the bottom, along with 'Start at hyperegio.eu'.

HYPERslam – Discover Euregional Employers

- 07.11.2017: HYPERslam @ Nacht der Unternehmen, Aachen (D)
- 25.04.2018: HYPERslam @ meet@fh-aachen (D)
- 06.11.2018: HYPERslam @ Nacht der Unternehmen, Aachen (D)
- 22.05.2019: HYPERslam @ meet@fh-aachen (D)
- 24.10.2019: HYPERslam @ Highschool HELMO (B)*
- 29.10.2019: HYPERslam @ Nacht der Unternehmen, Aachen (D)



6 events
397 participants

NETWORK → CONNECT → INITIALIZE → COOPERATE → INNOVATE



[Get a look of our HYPERslam event \(Video on YouTube\) >>](#)

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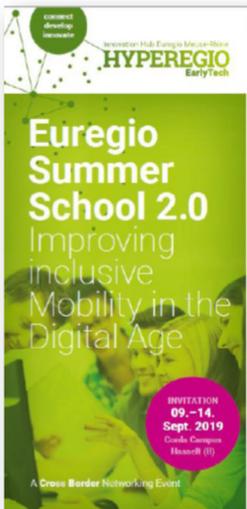
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Euregional Summer School

The format “Euregio Summer School” has been organised to open cross-border perspectives for students. A joint five-days learning and exchange program of the seven leading universities in the EMR pursues an interdisciplinary and intercultural approach with visits to research facilities in various cities of the EMR. The program lasted one week each.

In total two events with 110 participants were organised within Euregio Meuse-Rhine, both in Hasselt (B).

Human Resources: Events



Euregional Summer School

- 1st : 10. - 14.09.2018 in Hasselt (B)
- 2nd : 09. - 14.09.2019 in Hasselt (B)

2 events
110 participants

NETWORK → CONNECT → INITIALIZE → COOPERATE → INNOVATE

HYPEREGIO

[Get a look of our Euregional Summer School 2019 here \(Video on YouTube\) >>](#)

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Lights on: Human Resources

This event format wants to inform HR-managers of Euregional SMEs about cross-border / euregional potentials and service opportunities, aiming to build-up a large network of euregional HR-managers.

In total seven events with 220 participants were organised within Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Human Resources: Events



Lights on: Human Resources

- 21.09.2018: *Lights on: HR* - Kick-off event, Eupen (B)
- 20.02.2018: *Lights on: HR* - Recruit staff at career fairs, Würselen (D)
- 26.06.2018: *Lights on: HR* - Make your recruiting fit for the future, Aachen (D)
- 06.09.2018: *Lights on: HR* - Recruit new staff at career fairs, Euskirchen (D)
- 26.09.2018: *Lights on: HR* - Cross border recruitment of specialists, Herzogenrath (D)
- 21.11.2018: *Lights on: HR* - Nach dem Studium wartet....., Aachen (D)
- 01.10.2019: *Lights on: HR* - Fluctuation prevention in SME's, Baesweiler (D)*

7 events
220 participants

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HYPEREGIO

Jobexpedition

Goal of this format is to bring students of universities and companies of EMR together. Partners shuttle small groups of around 20 students to the companies, where they have thematic discussions and get to know the companies work in detail.

In total 12 events with 246 participants were organised in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Human Resources: Events



HYPEREGIO EarlyTech
EarlyTech Jobexpedition nano biotechnology
INVITATION 21st of June
2 schools & 2 companies in Baesweiler
a Cross Border Networking Event

Jobexpedition

- **09.05.2017:** Biomedica, Eindhoven (NL)
- **24.10.2017:** Lonza, Maastricht (NL)
- **07.11.2017:** HELMo – Nacht der Unternehmen, Aachen (D)
- **16.04.2018:** FH Aachen – Asten Johnson GmbH, Eupen (B)
- **11.06.2018:** FH Aachen – NMC, Eupen / Eynatten (B)
- **14.06.2018:** Gut Rosenberg, Euskirchen (D)
- **21.06.2018:** Liège – MiBioLab, m2p-labs, Jülich / Baesweiler (D)
- **22.10.2018:** Lonza, Maastricht (NL)
- **26.11.2018:** MOBIC SA & IMAX pro, Aywaille (BE)*
- **21.10.2019:** PXL - Senior Students Biotechnology to the BioTech Company Lonza, Maastricht (NL)*
- **28.11.2019:** Euskirchen – Gut Rosenberg (D)*
- **10.12.2019:** FH Aachen – HYDRO Extrusion, Raeren (B)*



12 events
246 participants

NETWORK → CONNECT → INITIALIZE → COOPERATE → INNOVATE

HYPEREGIO

HR Roadshow

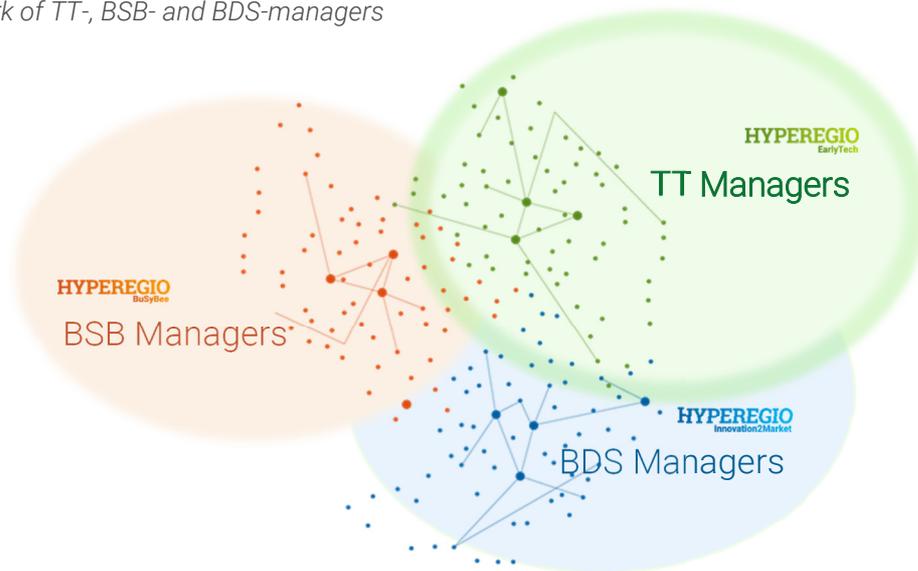
By visiting companies in the EMR the project partners wanted to find out more about the requirements and challenges regarding the search for talented employees in an Euregional context.

Two events were organised, one on 17th May 2018 at NMC in Eynatten (B), and one on 21st February 2019 at OLEDWorks in Aachen (D).

COOPERATION & INNOVATION: Company interviews

Via company interviews the individual needs and competencies of companies, esp. SMEs, are determined and inventoried, based on the contacts of the project partners (and their networks) in the individual regions. The Technology Transfer- (TT) managers in EarlyTech conduct(ed) bilateral discussions with identified companies on the basis of a uniform interview guideline. Aim of these interviews is on the one hand to identify concrete problems and needs, but also initial development ideas of companies, and on the other hand to show them funding opportunities and options for cross-border partnering between SMEs and universities/research/engineering offices.

Cross-border network of TT-, BSB- and BDS-managers



Performed EarlyTech company interviews

	Belgian regions	Dutch regions	German regions
2 nd half 2017	6	3	19
1 st half 2018	11	3	21
2 nd half 2018	12	3	16
1 st half 2019	6	4	5
2 nd half 2019	0	0	0
Total	35	13	61

109
interviews

Using a standardised interview guideline, the TT managers interviewed interested companies in their respective regions. Target was to detect SMEs-specific problems, needs or cooperation requests in order to allow a more targeted connecting and matching across borders. Main findings of the interview results were stored in a company database, used for internal in-depth exchange between the TT-managers.

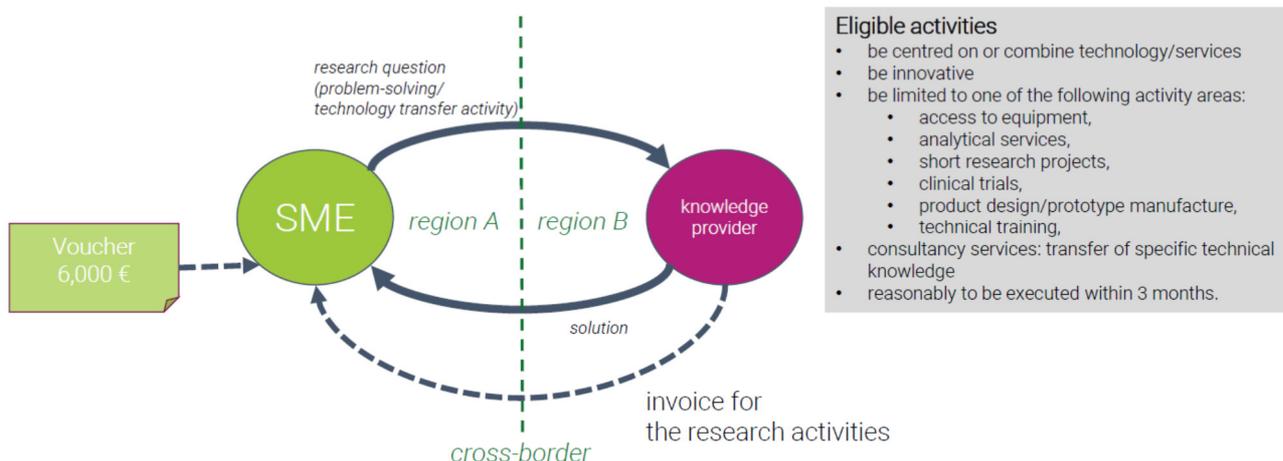
HYPEREGIO Interview guideline

<p>COMPANY</p> <p>AREA OF BUSINESS - KEY TECHNOLOGIES – COMPETENCES & OFFERS - RECENT DEVELOPMENT- NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES</p>
<p>AREAS OF INTEREST</p> <p>INTEREST – NEEDS – GENERAL INTEREST IN NEW BUSINESS AREAS</p>
<p>R&D PROJECTS</p> <p>INVOLVEMENT IN ANY R&D PROJECTS – ONGOING PROJECTS – INTENTION TO PARTICIPAT IN A R&D PROJECT</p>
<p>COOPERATION</p> <p>LOOKING FOR CONTACTS WITH CLUSTERS, NETWORKS, COMPANIES, R&D FACILITIES – KIND OF COOPERATION - EXPERIENCES WITH (CROSS-BORDER) COOPERATION – INTERST IN CROSS-BORDER EVENTS</p>
<p>FUNDING</p> <p>PUBLIC FUNDING – EXPERIENCE, PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS – CURRENT FUNDNG NEEDS</p>
<p>HUMAN RESOURCES</p> <p>NEW STAFF NEEDED – (NEW) QUALIFICATIONS</p>

B2S Voucher

The HYPEREGIO “B2S Voucher” offers the unique opportunity to examine and to analyse the initial basis of your innovative ideas for projects, services or products together with an experienced partner: A knowledge provider from a neighbouring region within the Greater EMR area. With the B2S Voucher you can cover the cost of this initial study up to € 6,000 (€ 3,000 in early stage).

B2B voucher funding principles



5 Steps to receive a B2S Voucher

- ① Get in contact with your regional antenna to pre-check the feasibility of your voucher activity.
- ② Read guide for applicants and submit your application.
- ③ On short-term partner meetings your application will be checked on eligibility and assessed.
- ④ Approved applications can start their cross-border activities immediately.
- ⑤ After you have provided the relevant documentation of your activity your payment will be reimbursed.

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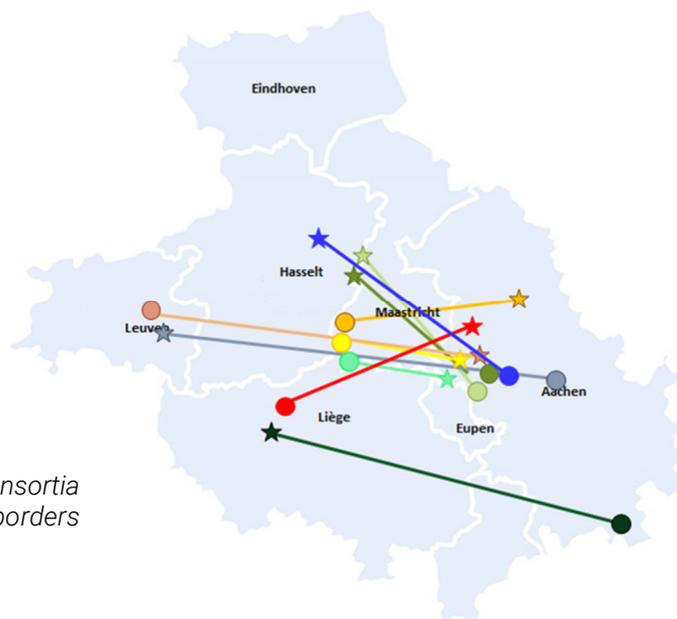
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In EarlyTech ten B2S innovation vouchers have been spent with an amount of 45,000 Euros (five with an amount of 3,000 Euros in the first phase, five of 6,000 Euros in the last six months of the project runtime!). In total ten SMEs and nine different knowledge providers were involved and benefited!



*B2S voucher consortia
implemented across borders*

What entrepreneurs say...



"Participating in the Hyperegio network made it easy for us to start up the first cross border projects. It was for us the ideal way to demonstrate and highlight our high-tech possibilities and solutions towards industrial markets, resulting into 2 projects within 2 weeks."

Tom Castermans, CEO Tenco DDM, Genk (B)



"With the help of the project HYPEREGIO - EarlyTech we can tackle the next step of early phase development together with KU Leuven."

Karl von Mangoldt, Co-Managing Director and Co-Founder Protombis, Aachen (D)



"With the help of the 'HYPEREGIO - EarlyTech' project, we were able to find a euregional partner to develop refrigeration appliances for us on an industrial scale. Without this support we would not have been able to find such a close partner with this enormous know-how in the field."

Rob Budé, Managing Director of Budé Innovative Solutions., Maastricht (NL)



"Thanks to this support, we were able to get to know the renowned Fraunhofer Institute in Aachen. The voucher now facilitates cooperation and brings our medical products closer to the market. I think that HYPEREGIO offers great added value for the Euregio."

Patric Machiels, Managing Director FlowChamber, Maastricht (NL)

B2S voucher activities



Advanced Materials

- 3 D-printing of ceram



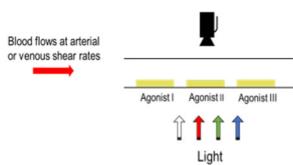
Advanced Materials

- Feasibility study for an isostatic high-pressure tank made of carbon fibre reinforced plastic



Production

- Design and optimization of composite structure of flex elements of tufting machines



Life Sciences

- Development of blood analysis device



Production

- Development of an indirect cooling system for an ice cube production machine

Life Sciences

- Startup LA-ICP-MS process, screening hairs for specific elements



Life Sciences

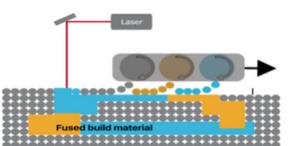
- ProtEmbo Cerebral Protection System

Production

- C2Heat- Filter systems and catalysers for fireplaces

Production

- Integration of Aerosint's powder module in Aconity SLM printer



Production

- Manufacturing of an orthopedic corset (OC) via 3D prototyping & 3D printing

DIGITAL & SUSTAIN

Digital Innovation Platform (DIP)

hyperegio-dip.eu



Within the HYPEREGIO partnership an additional new step for cross-border integration and cooperation was taken: Overarching objective of the “Digital Innovation Platform (DIP)” is to gradually break down the existing information deficits within the Greater EMR area between all participating actors and offer members the possibility of exchanging views on potential

cooperation projects, in order to thus sustainably strengthen economic development, innovative capacity and more broadly collaboration across borders in the entire EMR. The DIP-portal includes two main elements:

- **An innovation data base:** It will allow mainly companies and research institutions, who are interested in regional and cross-border partnering and cooperation initiatives to provide profiles of themselves on the DIP, sketching their specific knowledge and expertise in terms of products, processes and / or services. There are two types of company / research institution profiles: a basic profile, collected and updated by an innovative web-crawler technology, and an advanced profile which can be added with further information by the company / institution.
- **A cross-border market place:** Based on these „advanced innovation profiles“, interested parties on the DIP will have the opportunity to post their specific technology challenges, new ideas or cooperation requests to the whole cross-border community. By doing so challenges and needs meet solutions and offers, so that a cross-border collaboration market is established!
- **Event calendar:** Via a link to hyperegio.eu also information on innovation and technology-related events in the Greater EMR area can be provided.

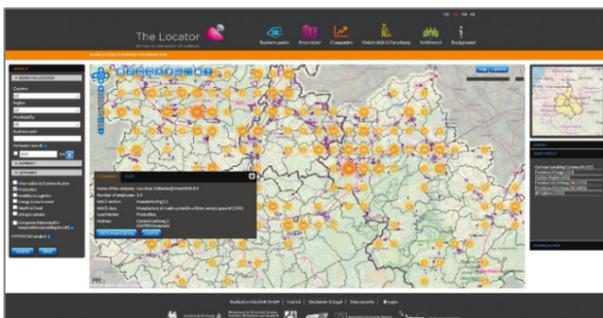
Moreover, each company and research institution is assigned to one of the defined lead markets and is integrated in “The Locator+” via an automated interface! It is intended to maintain the DIP for at least five years (until end of 2024).

The Locator+

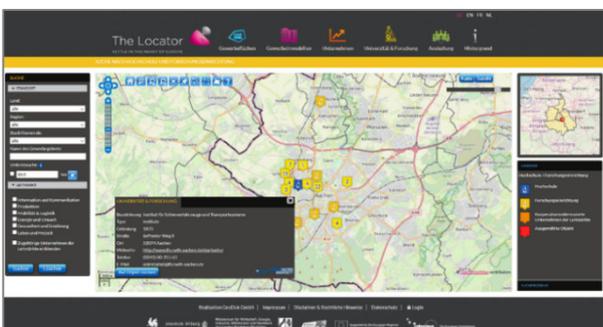
www.The-Locator.eu



The cross-border location information system „The Locator+“ is an extension and further elaboration of the first cross-border, web- and geo-data-based information portal on regional level in Europe! This four-language-based portal provides relevant location-information for businesses and was set-up within the EMR INTERREG IVA-project 2010-2014. Its project partners signed already in May 2019 a second prolongation to carry-on the new version (at least until mid-2024)!



- **Business information:** The already existing category “Companies” was supplemented by an additional filter option according to lead markets. The allocation of the companies to the lead markets is based on the deposited NACE codes. Moreover, it is possible to filter all companies registered on the DIP via an interface to the DIP.



- **Universities & Research“:** A new information category „Universities & Research“ was implemented on “The-Locator”. On the landing page you get an overview of the universities and research institutions located in the EMR (Meta-level). At institute level, the profiles and the allocation to the lead markets of the institutes are integrated on “The Locator+” via an interface (API) to the DIP (as with companies).

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HYPEREGIO – EarlyTech Partners

