



West Midlands in Europe

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NEWS UPDATE

European Spotlight on Birmingham's new Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Goodbye Lisbon Regions Network – Welcome EU2020 Regions Network

European partners share knowledge on integrating hospitals into the community

Network adapts to transition from Lisbon Agenda to EU2020

The conference “Hospitals of the Future”, organised by the ERRIN network, brought over 60 interested participants to the South Tyrol EU office in Brussels on 2nd March.

With the aim of the event to explore the future role of hospitals as an “ideal enterprise”, it was an ideal opportunity to unveil the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital and its involvement in the regeneration process of Birmingham to a European audience.

David Taylor, Head of Regeneration at University Hospital of Birmingham (UHB), gave a presentation on the role taken by the UHB in the regeneration of Birmingham through training schemes targeted at the most disadvantaged people in the region.

The example of Birmingham was widely praised by the participants who saw in it a perfect example of what hospitals can do to improve the regional economy.



David Taylor listens to presentations from other European regions during the event

With the announcement from Brussels of “Europe 2020” - the new Lisbon Strategy to set the economic and social agenda of the EU for the next ten years - this was perfect timing for the Lisbon Regions Network to meet in Amsterdam to discuss its future programme. Cllr Ken Taylor, leader of Coventry City Council and chair of the West Midlands Leaders Board, represented the West Midlands.



The first part of the conference discussed the future of the network and agreed the change of name of the network to “EU2020 Regions Network” to reflect the Europe 2020 strategy which should enter into force in June 2010.

The conference then continued with expert speakers from the European Commission, the Lisbon Council and the Hessen region from Germany, followed by a panel discussion. The key issues discussed related to the regional dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and how regions need to be key players both in the policy dialogue as well as implementing the policies on the ground.

This conference was an excellent opportunity to present and discuss the European Commission's proposals and the 1500 consultation responses, including those from the Lisbon Regions Network and the West Midlands, and focusing on the new Europe 2020 strategy's three priorities: smart growth, inclusive growth and greener growth.

“This ERRIN meeting was very interesting and gave us food for thought to reflect on the future of hospitals as both consumers and producers of innovation” said David Taylor, who also enjoyed the opportunity to make useful contacts and meet potential partners during the day.

The cases presented from across Europe showed that there is a new wave of holistic approaches towards hospitals and health being implemented that go beyond care and address issues such as environmental sustainability, urban regeneration, long-term unemployment and research intensive cluster development.

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“These priorities are very much linked to the West Midlands region’s priorities”, remarked Cllr Taylor. “This meeting was an excellent opportunity to get first hand thinking on the Europe 2020 strategy and work with the other regions in the network in order to learn how they will incorporate the Europe 2020 policies in their regional strategies and regional architectures.”



The network's new name and logo is unveiled at the conference

Launched in March 2004, the Lisbon Regions Network was established as a network of 15 ambitious European regions, with a shared interest in the delivery of the Lisbon Strategy at regional and local level and the aim of contributing to its future development at European, national, regional and local level, in order to stimulate jobs and growth.

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