

How can regions be made attractive and liveable for talented people? The Harnessing Talent Communication from the European Commission

Innovation-supported regional development in Saxony and other European regions - an example of the Talent Booster mechanism

7th February 2023, from 06:00 p.m.

Saxony Liaison Office Brussels
Avenue d'Auderghem 67, B-1040 Brussels



On January 17, 2023, the European Commission adopted a communication on the subject of "Harnessing Talent in Europe's Regions". The responsible Vice-President and Commissioner for Democracy and Demography, **Dubravka Šuica**, uses this event as an opportunity to present the paper to the public and to initiate parts of the Talent Booster mechanism created with the communication.

Saxony has already advanced solutions for innovation-supported regional development in advance. Regional Development Minister **Thomas Schmidt** launched the simul+InnovationHub, a platform that brings together citizens and stakeholders from research, business, the state and municipalities. The initiative bundles knowledge, skills and resources to initiate projects that address the challenges of our time such as digitization, climate protection, demographic change and the creation of equal living conditions in town and countryside. The hub is based on three pillars: knowledge transfer, competition for innovative ideas and support for pilot projects. Under the umbrella of simul+, people from all over Saxony come together and develop and exchange ideas to make their region attractive and worth living in for talented people.

Other European regions will also present their promising strategies at the event. The event is the starting point for the dissemination of good practices between regions, one of the pillars of the Talent Booster mechanism, which is central to the communication.

Program

- 06:30 p.m. Welcome and introduction of the panel
Thomas Treppmann
Head of department in the Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development
- 06:35 p.m. Opening Statement
The simul*InnovationHub - creating and developing innovations and regional potential
A regional approach to developing livable regions
Thomas Schmidt
State Minister for Regional Development of the Free State of Saxony
- 06:45 p.m. Impulse
Harnessing Talent in Europe's Regions
The communication from the European Commission
Dubravka Šuica
Vice-President and Commissioner for Democracy and Demography of the European Commission
- 06:55 p.m. Welcome and contribution
A future for rural areas
Norbert Lins
Member of the European Parliament,
Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- 7:05 p.m. Best practice from European regions
Eastern Slavonia, Croatia
Innovative regional development in the eastern region of Slavonia
Josip Miletić
Deputy County Prefect of Osijek-Baranja County
- 7:15 p.m. Best practices from Saxony
simul*participation fonds
Competition of ideas as a catalyst for innovation and local participation
Heiko Vogt
Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development
Sebastian Krüger
Socio-cultural center TELUX in Weißwasser/Upper Lusatia

simul*model projects
Model projects for an innovation-supported regional development
Stephanie Schmidt
Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development
Prof. Dr. Christoph Laroque
Professor of Business Informatics at the West Saxon University of Applied Sciences Zwickau

- 7:30 p.m. Best practice from European regions
Moravia, Czech Republic
Creative Region Brno
David Severa
Creative Hub KUMST in Brno
- 7:40 p.m. Best practice from European regions
Opole Region, Poland
Village development with ideas
Ryszard Wilczyński
Chairman of the Polish Villages Network
Sybilla Stelmach
Mayor of the Municipality of Popielów (awarded in the European Village
Renewal Award), Opole Region
- 7:50 p.m. Final Discussion and questions from the audience
- 8:10 pm Closing words in an interview
Thomas Schmidt
State Minister for Regional Development of the Free State of Saxony
- 8:15 p.m. Reception
- Moderation: Beate Werner