

## **OPEN DAYS 2008**

Seminars organised by DG REGIO, other DGs and EU institutions, national and regional public authorities and European organisations

### **Innovating regions: Promoting research, technological development and innovation**

#### **09A33**

09 October, 9:00-13:00 (CCAB, 1B)

#### **Spreading the social and economic benefits of broadband**

(DG INFSO, Unit Lisbon Strategy and i2010, Guido Acchioni)

The expansion of broadband access to communication networks has been widely recognised as an important element for economic development and a crucial factor of social and territorial cohesion. Earmarking of expenditure for the programming period of structural funds 2007-2013 revealed that the new programming period is expected to provide about €15 Billion for the information society, which represents about 4.4% of total cohesion spending. The session will include: The result of two studies: (1) the first on the economic benefits of broadband and (2) the second will present concrete cases about the transformative role of ICT for regional economies. (3) An example of regional cooperation on the deployment of broadband in remote and rural areas under the Interreg IVC programme. (4) The presentation of a recently launched Commission sponsored web portal aimed at facilitating the exchange of broadband good practices. The portal constitutes a central information platform on examples of good practice and cooperation between regional/local authorities and ICT suppliers, provides an open discussion forum on regulatory aspects, public procurement and strategy issues, including the publication of calls for tender and the facilitation of demand aggregation for broadband.

Chair: S. Binns (Director DG INFSO)

Short introduction on EU Digital Divide Policy

Speakers:

A. Bucher (HoU DG INFSO): Benchmarking the digital divide/Economic benefits of broadband

K. Gareis (Manager, EMPIRICA): Cases of the transformative role of ICT for regional economies (Transform Project).

R. Moriondo (Piemonte Region): An example of regional cooperation for broadband deployment from "Regions for Economic Change – Interreg IVC Programme" (B3Regions project).

G Hughes (ERISA regional network): The European Broadband Portal on the exchange of good practices.