



South-East
Regional Authority
Údarás Reigiúnach
an Oir-Dheiscirt

PRESS RELEASE

SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL AUTHORITY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL INTERREG PROJECT PARTNER MEETINGS IN WATERFORD CITY

The South-East Regional Authority (SERA) recently hosted very successful Interreg project meetings and a thematic seminar with partners from across Europe over 2 days in Waterford City, June 13th & 14th. Held in Waterford City Hall, SERA was pleased to welcome partners from Greece, Spain, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary, England and Scotland to discuss and exchange knowledge around the difficulties facing SMEs and micro-enterprises in Ireland and across Europe. The Young SMEs project is an Interreg IVC EU project funded under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), concerned with developing strategies and instruments to support SMEs particularly in their early years of operations and specifically in years 3 to 5 when many of the traditional supports dissipate. The 'Young SME' project, commenced earlier this year and will last up to 2014, and it is hoped that will have a positive impact on SME competitiveness in the region.

The inaugural 'Young SME's' thematic seminar was launched by the Cathaoirleach of the South-East Regional Authority, Cllr. William Quinn from Carlow, and included presentations on the South-East region and the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 for the South-East. The project partners were also addressed by the Mayor of



European Union

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Waterford City, Cllr. Pat Hayes, and had the opportunity for detailed discussions with the City Manager, Mr. Michael Walsh on the role of Waterford city in the region and on the difficult environment for SMEs in Waterford city. In addition, representatives from SEBIC and the County Enterprise Boards also spoke about their roles in supporting and developing SMEs in the South-East. The project groups were also afforded the opportunity to visit the House of Waterford Crystal. In concluding a very busy programme, partners visited the internationally renowned ArcLabs Research & Innovation Centre at the WIT Campus in Carriganore where they were met by ArcLabs Manager Tom Corcoran and spoke with start-ups from the incubation unit including Conor Ryan from BetaPond, and Eugene Crehan from SEEPP, presenting on 'New Frontiers' a new entrepreneur development programme.

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