

Table 1: Main Conference Structure

	<i>Wednesday</i> <i>4th July 2018</i>	<i>Thursday</i> <i>5th July 2018</i>	<i>Friday</i> <i>6th July 2018</i>
<i>Morning</i>	-	Registration	
		Plenary Opening	Wrap up of Day 2
		Press Conference	Plenary with Keynote
		Plenary with Keynote	Plenary with Keynote
		Panel Discussion “Horizon Europe”	Panel Discussion
			Plenary Closing
<i>Afternoon</i>	Welcome & Registration	Lunch	Lunch
	Site Visits for Delegates	Parallel Sessions (3)	Programme upon request
	1) Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Alpine Regions	1. <i>Science & Research</i>	
	2) Research Tour: Enhancing human understanding of nature and its laws	2. <i>Entrepreneurship</i>	
	3) Connecting regions and people – the BBT	3. <i>Connectivity</i>	
		Hosted by- Sessions	
		1: <i>EUSALP</i>	
		2: <i>ERRIN / Rhones-Alpes</i>	
		3: <i>ECCP & BMDW</i>	
		4: <i>NCP wide.net</i>	
	Guided City walk	Breakout Corner	
<i>Evening</i>	Speakers instruction	Traditional Tyrolean Reception	
	Apéro for Participants & Speakers	Delegates Gala Night	

Draft Programme

9th Week of Innovative Regions in Europe 2018 (WIRE)

Smart Choices for Innovative Regional Ecosystems.

The Power of Connectivity, Entrepreneurship and Science & Research.

Since 2010, annual WIRE conferences have created a platform to address, develop and progress key topics of interest to the European regional innovation community. As such WIRE contributes largely to the important task for all potential actors in H2020's WPs to network and be connected, spread research and innovation excellence and connect regions and people.

This year's 9th edition of the WIRE conference will look into three smart choices for regional ecosystems of innovation: [Science & Research, Entrepreneurship and Connectivity](#) have not only been the key drivers behind Tyrolean success but can become powerful game-changers for many regions across Europe.

Day 1 - Wednesday, 4 July 2018

- 12:00 Welcome and Registration
Venue: Congress Innsbruck
- 14:00 Professional Site Visits for Delegates:
- 1. Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Alpine Regions**
Werkstätte Wattens / www.werkstaette-wattens.at/en Your Space for Lean and Rapid Innovation
 - 2. Research Tour: Enhancing human understanding of nature and its laws**
IQOQI <https://iqoqi.at/en> and University of Innsbruck www.uibk.ac.at
 - 3. Connecting regions and people – the BBT**
Brenner Basis Tunnel building site - visit of an important connection between Austria and Italy in the future / www.bbt-se.com/en/
- 18:00 Guided City Tours
- 18:30 Briefing Instructions for Moderators & Rapporteurs
Venue: tba
- 19:00 Briefing Instructions for Speakers
Venue: tba
- 20:00 Apéro for Speakers and Early Arriving Delegates
Venue: Congress Innsbruck

Day 2 - Thursday, 5 July 2018

- 08:30 **Registration**
Venue: Congress Innsbruck
- 09:00 **Plenary Opening**
Simone van Trier, Moderator
- Welcome from the Hosts**
Marcus Hofer, CEO of Standortagentur Tirol
- Political Opening and Policy Messages**
Günther Platter, Governor of Tyrol
Barbara Weitgruber, Director General Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austrian EU Presidency 2018
- Welcome from DG Research and Innovation**
Jean-Eric Paquet, Director General for Research and Innovation
- 10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:30 **Press Conference**
with Key Speakers from Plenary Opening
- 10:45 **Plenary Session**
Simone van Trier, Moderator
- Innovative regions and global connectivity**
Riccardo Crescenzi, Full Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science, ERC Grant Holder, Associate, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
This keynote will highlight the necessity of cross-regional co-operation and a global perspective for Europe's competitiveness, connecting the political opening to the 3 smart tracks discussed in the afternoon. The keynote will also cover the following questions: What are the determinants of a successful regional innovation ecosystem? How can success stories be transferred to disadvantaged regions? What is the link between a successful innovation ecosystem and regional economic performances?
- 11:30 **Panel Discussion ("Horizon Europe")**
Simplification & Synergies: Unleashing knowledge & innovation-driven regional competitiveness with the next generation of EU instruments
Policy discussion on the regional dimensions of the HORIZON EUROPE and European Structural and Investment Funds with preliminary opportunity for conference participants to file questions and one fishbowl wild card
- Jean-Eric Paquet, Director General for Research and Innovation*
Rudolf Niessler, DG Regio, European Commission (solicited)
OR
Erich Unterwurzacher, DG Regio, European Commission (solicited)
- 12:30 Lunch

14:00 **Parallel Sessions A / B / C**
(each with one Chair / Head Testimonial and 3 Good Practice examples from EU or international)

Science & Research:

This session focuses on the essential policies and dynamics to position research and higher education organisations as lead institutions and game-changers for regional innovation ecosystems. Linking regional innovators to the international knowledge frontier, science and research institutions are instrumental for the spreading of excellence across Europe.

Expect 4 balanced expert stories of how research and higher education institutions chose new ways of knowledge co-creation and transfer, regional embeddedness and alignment to become lead institutions for the development of ecosystems of innovation.

	Name	Title
14:00	Prof. Dr. Rolf Altenburger , Environmental Research Center (Leipzig Halle)	
14:30	Andreja Kutnar University of Primorska, Slovenia / Director of the InnoRenew CoE Renewable materials and healthy	
14:45	Iryna Kristensen , NORDREGIO, Sweden	
15:00	Jiří Nantl , Masaryk University/CEITEC, Brno, Czech Republic	
15:15	Mag. Stefan Fitz-Rankl , FH Vorarlberg	
Moderator	Stefan Weiers , EC DG RTD	
Rapporteur	Adeline Kroll , EC DG RTD	

Entrepreneurship

This session focuses on the impact of the entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurs on the development of a region. How do entrepreneurs influence regions and how can entrepreneurs be motivated to work/found/do research in remote areas?

Expect 4 balanced stories how entrepreneurial spirit created new opportunities for a whole region. How entrepreneurship can be an important driver of economic growth and diversification. The Entrepreneurship session will feature best practice examples from Tyrol and other European regions from a more rural or non-urban context. It will also feature the possibilities for seizing business opportunities in a digitised world – new opportunities the digitisation offers for entrepreneurs in less urban areas like the alpine region and recent challenges (e.g. availability of skilled labour vs new possibilities of remote working). The session will include best practice example where entrepreneurship has had a huge impact on a whole region and shaped future development of the region.

	Name	Title	Status
14:00	Helena Acheson	MFG Innovation Agency Media and Creative Industries Baden-Württemberg	
14:15	Harald Oberrauch	Entrepreneurs developing regions	
14:30	Magdalena Hauser , IECT Herman Hauser		
15:00	Roberto Napoli , C- Lab Contamination lab of the University of Trento		
15:15	Discussion		
Moderator			
Rapporteur	Lisa Spöck		

Connectivity & Infrastructure:

This session will discuss several important aspects of connectivity for regional ecosystems of innovation, and the policies and dynamics related to them. Expect 4 examples of how connectivity and digital infrastructure have opened new opportunities for innovation not only in cities but also in villages and remote areas. Connectivity does not only imply co-operation across regions but also opening mind-sets, widening the participation of people and disciplines in processes of innovation. Best practice examples, reports from smart city projects (eg SINFONIA), etc. will be presented by experts on urban development, architects etc..

	Name	Title	Status
14:00	Ersatz Dr. Bachin	Green Blue Cities, TU Delft	
14:15	Prof. Wolfgang Streicher , Universität Innsbruck	SINFONIA – smart city Innsbruck	
14:30	Mr Claus Habfast , Grenoble Metropole	Grenoble Metropole	
14:45	Prof. Tatiana Kováčiková , ERA Chair, Slovakia	Impact of connectivity and digital infrastructure on value of travel time (MoTiV project?)	
15:00	Prof. Jürgen Haberleithner , S3 Platform	Reconnecting innovators! The power of compatriots abroad for domestic innovation ecosystems	
15:15	Discussion		
Moderator	Pirita Lindholm , ERRIN		
Rapporteur	Christina Lercher , Standortagentur Tirol		

15:30 Coffee Break

- 16:00 **“Hosted by...” Sessions**
Complementing the three tracks / parallel sessions in the topics of their respective Hosted by Session, European and regional networks offer additional insights in recent initiatives and activities in inter-regional connectivity, strategy alignment, and the development of regional ecosystems of innovation.
- Host 1:
EUSALP
New Approaches for need-based cross-regional cooperation to cope with Alpine Region Challenge
- Host 2:
ERRIN/ Rhones Alpes
Cooperation between regional innovation ecosystems: inspiration from Alpine Regions
- Host 3:
European Cluster Collaboration Platform / Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs
Cluster Transforming Technologies and New Business Models
- Host 4:
NCP wide.net
- All Hosted by Sessions take place at the congress venue (Congress Innsbruck).
- 17:00 End of Hosted by Sessions
- 17:30 End of conference day 2
- 18:00 Traditional Tyrolean Reception
- 18:30 Delegates Gala Night
Meeting Point: Entrance to the Congress Center

Day 3 - Friday, 6 July 2018

- 08:30 Coffee & Networking
- 09:00 **Plenary Session**
- Welcome**
Simone van Trier, Moderator
- Connectivity, Entrepreneurship, Science & Research: A wrap-up**
Magda De Carli, DG RTD, European Commission
- 09:30 **A Quantum of a region**
Prof. Rainer Blatt, IQOQI, Austrian Academy of Sciences, University of Innsbruck
Quantum research & disruptive solutions to information challenges
Why do research excellence and a connected region matter to one other?
Plus: A Spy's peek into a world leading quantum lab
- 10:15 **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**
Dr. Daria Tataj, Innovation Expert (confirmed)
On the symbiotic relationship between innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as the importance of collaborations between leaders in business, academia and government. The role of regions within global innovation networks and potentials for European regions to invent themselves in times of disruption.
- 11:30 Panel Discussion
**Smart Perspectives for Innovative Regional Ecosystems:
The Power of Knowledge, Entrepreneurship and inter-regional Connectivity**
Potential Speakers on the topic chosen
Jerzy Buzek, ITRE committee, EP (solicited)
Markku Markkula, Vice President, CoR
Lidia Borrell-Damián, EUA
Silke Schumacher, Director of International Relations EMBL
Moderator: Simone van Trier
- 12:30 **Closing Session**
- Introducing WIRE X in Romania in 2019**
Ana Roxana Pintilescu, North-East Regional Development Agency Romania
- Closing remarks on WIRE 2018**
Representative from Tyrol
Representative from Austrian Presidency
Marcus Hofer, Standortagentur Tirol
- 12:50 **Thank you and farewell**
Magda de Carli, EC DG RTD
Simone van Trier, Moderator
- 13:00 **Lunch**
Transfers to airport as per flight schedules
- 14:00 Side events upon request