Regional Innovation: A Catalyst for Sustainable Economic Growth in the BMW Region

BMW Regional Assembly and Centre for Innovation and Structural Change Joint Conference
Bailey Allen Hall, National University of Ireland, Galway
Friday 4th November 2011
Dr. Kieran Moylan is the Assistant Director of the Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly, appointed in June 2000. Kieran’s responsibilities within the Assembly largely relate to the management, financial control and monitoring of the €458m Regional Operational Programme. Kieran has contributed to several policy submissions on behalf of the Assembly including submissions on regional investment priorities, research and innovation policy and the future of EU Cohesion Policy. Kieran completed a Doctoral Thesis on the Coherence of Irish Regional Policy in 2009.

Dr. Gerhard Fuchs works at the University of Stuttgart (Department of Social Sciences). Before that he acted as a Deputy Director of the Department Technology, Organization, Work of the Centre for Technology Assessment in Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart. His research interests concentrate on the study of innovation especially in the fields of New Information and Communication Technologies, Regional Innovation Systems and the development of new industries (e.g. ICT, Biotechnology, Renewable Energies). His research interests have found its imprint in the development of several long term research programmes, a wide variety of publications as well as the involvement in various international projects. Dr. Fuchs started his scientific career as a research assistant with Prof. Hans Jonas (New School for Social Research, New York) and with Prof. Heinz Laufer (University of Munich) and worked as a Research Fellow for the Sonderforschungsbereich 333 at the University of Munich „Entwicklungsperspektiven von Arbeit“ (Special Research Unit on the Future of Work). After staying for two years as a Visiting Associate Professor at Northwestern University, Evanston (USA), he became a scholarship holder at the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne before joining the Center for Technology Assessment. Dr. Fuchs has been an editor/ co-editor of several books on the issues of the information society, technology and regional innovation. Dr. Fuchs has worked as an expert for the European Commission, the state government of Baden-Württemberg as well as different regional authorities.

09.45 – 10.25 Registration (Tea / Coffee)

First Session Chaired by Mr. Gerry Finn, Director, BMW Regional Assembly

10.30 – 10.50 WELCOME
Professor James Browne President
National University of Ireland, Galway

Councillor Cyril Burke, Chairperson
Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly

10.50 –11.15 Dr. Kieran Moylan, Assistant Director
Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly
An Audit of the Innovation System in the BMW Region: An Evaluation of a Regional Knowledge Economy

11.15 – 11.35 Professor Terry Smith, Vice-President for Research
National University of Ireland, Galway
MeTRIC: A One-Stop Shop for Research and Innovation in the Medical Technology Industry

11.35 – 11.50 Q&A session with Dr Moylan and Prof Smith

11.50 – 12.30 Keynote Speaker Dr. Gerhard Fuchs
University of Stuttgart, Germany
Knowledge, Options, and Institutions: The Way Forward for a Regional System of Innovation

12.30 – 12.50 Q&A session with Dr. Gerhard Fuchs

12.50 – 14.00 Lunch

Second Session Chaired by Dr James Cunningham, Director, Centre for Innovation and Structural Change, NUI Galway

14.00 – 14.30 Dr. Patrick Collins, Centre for Innovation and Structural Change, National University of Ireland, Galway
Dualistic Approaches to Regional Competitiveness in the Smart Economy Era

14.30 – 15.00 Peter Reilly, Research and Development Director
Valeo Vision Systems, Tuam, Co. Galway
Valeo Vision Systems - Innovation Driving Growth in the BMW Region

15.00 – 16.00 Panel Discussion
Do Regional Innovation Systems contribute to Sustainable Economic Growth?
Chair: Dr. James Cunningham
Panel:
- Dr. Patrick Collins
- Mr Gerry Finn
- Dr. Gerhard Fuchs
- Dr. Kieran Moylan
- Mr Peter Reilly
The primary role of The Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly is to ensure that projects co-financed by the EU in our region are properly implemented and that the full amount of EU funds is drawn down by the Irish Government. We also have a role in relation to the promotion and monitoring of other EU initiatives and in promoting regional policy and research activities. The Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly receives €228m in European Regional Development Funding between 2007 - 2013. This money will be invested in: Regional Infrastructure – roads, public transport; Research Facilities at NUI Galway and the Institutes of Technology at Athlone, Dundalk, Galway, Letterkenny and Sligo; Microenterprise, Supports provided by City and County Enterprise Boards; Renewable Energy Investment; Urban Regeneration at Galway, Tuam, Sligo, Letterkenny, Athlone, Mullingar, Dundalk, Tullamore, Ballina, Castlebar, Monaghan and Cavan; Environmental Services - water supply, waste recycling. More info at www.bmwassembly.ie

The Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC) is an inter-disciplinary research institute, based at J.E. Cairnes Business School of Business & Economic at National University of Ireland Galway, focused on building an internationally-recognised programme of research and education on innovation processes and policies that are fundamental to the development of a knowledge-based economy. CISC is one of the four major research institutes within NUI, Galway and it is aligned to the Applied Social Science and Public Policy thematic research priority. Established in 2002, CISC was initially awarded competitive funding under the third Irish Government’s Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLI 3). Since then CISC has been awarded significant additional competitive funding both nationally and internationally. In 2007 CISC was awarded further funding under PRTLI 4 in collaboration with other institutional research centres and seven other Irish third level partners as part of the Irish Social Sciences Platform. More info at www.nuigalway.ie/cisc

For more information and to register online to attend this free event, please visit www.conference.ie
Mr Peter Reilly is the Research & Development Director at Valeo Vision System and has worked with the company for 19 years. He has been involved in numerous major projects carried out at the company including:

- Lead design of Upper Electronic Module for Volvo P2X platform (1997)
- Lead Technology elements related to sale of CEL / acquisition by VALEO (2007)
- Launch of TRVC at BMW (2008); Surround View at JLR (2009); and Area View at VAG (2010)

In 2011 he supported the Product Line expansion in Technology & Market Footprint.

Valeo Visions Systems based in Tuam consists of an R&D centre and production site which forms part of the Comfort and Driving Assistance Business Group of Valeo. Originally established in 1982 as Connaught Electronics Ltd. (CEL) as a manufacturer of automotive security products, it diversified into camera systems and was acquired in 2007 by Valeo. CEL was a strategic acquisition for Valeo as it complemented Valeo’s existing detection technologies for vehicle parking and manoeuvring. Valeo Valeo is an independent industrial Group fully focused on the design, production and sale of components, integrated systems and modules for the automotive industry. Valeo ranks among the world’s top automotive suppliers. The Group has 124 Production Site, 21 Research centres, 39 Development centres, 21 Research Centres 10 distribution platforms and employs 61,400 people in 28 countries worldwide.

The impact of the economic recession has begun to reveal differences in the performance and resilience of Ireland’s regions, while at the same time there is a growing recognition that effective regional innovation systems are central to ensuring a dynamic response to the challenges posed by the constrained economic environment in which we now operate. The OECD has recently highlighted the imperative of ensuring that regional innovation systems operate at their optimum level. In their report Regional and Innovation Policy, the OECD observes that since technological knowledge is the principal source of sustainable growth, differences in knowledge, productivity and technology can explain the large, long-term differences in growth across countries and regions. Reflecting upon major international agendas such as the EU’s Innovation Union flagship initiative and the OECD Innovation Strategy, they identify the increasing role of regions in this renewed push for innovation and sustained competitiveness. Supporting evidence for this is found firstly, in the paradigm shift in regional development policies favouring strategies based on the mobilisation of endogenous regional assets for growth, which ultimately has brought innovation to the core of regional development agendas. Secondly, the emerging global recognition of the regional dimension in national innovation strategies - however the OECD emphasise that “regions are not countries and cannot simply replicate national policies at a regional scale”.

It is this context that the Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly and the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change in NUI Galway have organised a conference on the theme of “Regional Innovation: A Catalyst for Sustainable Economic Growth in the BMW Region”. This conference brings together a range of expert speakers to address this theme and provides a unique opportunity for key policy makers, delivery agencies, academic researchers and industry representatives to engage with this important emerging policy issue. The results of a comprehensive study of the performance of the innovation system and knowledge-intensive services in the BMW Region will be presented, along with the launch of a new practical initiative to develop further the Medical Devices sector in the Region. Further contributions from international and local experts on the theme will be supplemented by an insight from industry. A panel discussion will conclude proceedings and provide an opportunity for delegates to engage in the subject.

The Bailey Allen Hall in NUI Galway is located within a 5 minute walk of the city centre.