

Climate-KIC

Pioneers into Practice programme

International Exchange action 2011

The Regional Innovation and Implementation Community (RIC) within Climate-KIC has started exciting new knowledge development programme called *Pioneers into Practice* (PiP) to promote world-class learning about the dynamics and management of system innovation for the **transition to a low carbon economy in Europe**. The programme is committed to producing a new generation of specialists, entrepreneurs and policy-makers with high-level skills for the low carbon transition. They will be able to respond to the realities of climate change and shape the new models of economic development, systems, products and processes that a low carbon economy requires. The programme will be delivered across 6 major regions in Europe, allowing participants to develop their knowledge and understanding in a diversity of environments.

About the programme

Pioneers into Practice aims to create a **new generation of low carbon innovators** with the capacity to understand and manage this new type of innovation. It seeks to develop a mix of inter-disciplinary knowhow and managerial capability among practitioners in low carbon innovation. This will be done through a **learning-by-doing** approach which will be accompanied by the development of social science knowledge about innovation.

Programme activities

PiP will be delivered across the 6 regions in the RIC: West Midlands (UK), Valencia (ES), Emilia Romagna (IT), Hessen (DE), Lower Silesia (PL), Central Hungary (HU), and will allow participants to understand the distinctive challenges faced by different regions across Europe in supporting the transition to a low carbon economy.



The International Exchange 2011 includes:

- **Introductory Workshop:** will be held on Friday 30 September as part of the Climate-KIC Innovation Festival in Budapest (on 29-30 September). The workshop will provide an introduction to the main objectives of the programme.

- **International placement:** pioneers will undertake a four-weeks international placement in one of the 6 RIC regions (not their 'home' region). The placements will take place in leading low carbon projects in a diversity of organisational and national settings to help developing the generic capabilities for low carbon as well as specific know-how. The placements will relate to the two themes of '**low carbon living**' and '**low carbon mobility**'. Each pioneer will undertake a project assignment during the placement and contribute to the programme blog. The placement period will be (to choose):

3 October to 28 October, or

17 October to 11 November

- **Low Carbon Crucible:** the International Exchange will be closed by a two-day intensive workshop called a 'Crucible' on 17-18 November in Brussels. The Crucible will provide a structured programme of learning to develop a participant's knowledge of **systemic innovation** and its application to the projects they are working in.

Participants

Climate-KIC is looking for enthusiastic and entrepreneurial individuals committed to finding solutions to the challenges presented by climate change. We are deliberately seeking people from a range of different backgrounds – industry, academia, public and voluntary sectors – who are able to bring a **diversity of experience and perspective**.

The programme is open to staff from public authorities, universities and companies dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation. Participants need to be employed by an organisation in one of the RIC regions and to get confirmation from their employers that they are able to commit to the programme. Applicants are expected to be of graduate calibre.

Benefits

The programme will provide participants with the opportunity to:

- Develop **hands-on experience** of low-carbon innovations within a variety of organisational and international settings,
- Go beyond the boundaries of their own professional expertise or organisational background and acquire a broader understanding of low-carbon innovation,
- Develop an understanding of **transition thinking** and systems innovation in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- Advance new ideas which could form the basis for new low-carbon innovations and ventures in practice,
- Receive an EIT Award for successful completion of the programme,
- Extend communication and networking abilities as part of a wider group of Climate-KIC Community.

The benefits of hosting a placement include:

- Having a highly-motivated individual to work on a particular project identified by your organisation with their salary paid by Climate-KIC,
- Joining a regional group of practitioners working on low carbon living and low carbon mobility initiatives and participating in the programme workshops,
- Joining a Europe-wide group of organisations committed to **stimulating innovation** in low carbon solutions for the future.

Costs

Climate-KIC will pay a maximum of €5,000 to each organisation providing a pioneer. This will cover the costs of travel, accommodation and subsistence for the international placement, Introductory Workshop at Climate-KIC Innovation Festival, the Low Carbon Crucible and the reimbursement of salary costs for the one month placement. Climate-KIC will provide €2,500 pre-financing to the pioneer sending organisation before the start of the programme. Up to €2,500 will be reimbursed by the RIC Partners following the completion of the programme by the PiP participant. The final balance will need to be based on actual costs up to a maximum of €5,000.

The organisations hosting a pioneer will provide space, facilities and supervision.

Application

Wroclaw Research Centre EIT+ Ltd. manages the Climate-KIC / RIC programmes in Lower Silesia. To apply for the *Pioneers into Practice* programme in Lower Silesia, please contact regional programme manager:

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Further information on Climate-KIC is available at www.Climate-KIC.org