

# European Technology Platforms Conference 2010

Learning from each other, learning from experience

Workshop H4

## Education and Skills

Session 5, 12 May, 11h00 - 12h30

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### Focus

Since addressing the grand challenges needs action in more areas than just research, all three elements of the knowledge triangle, including education and innovation, have to be taken into account.

As an example, in the renewable energy sector it is expected that the ambitious goals for increasing the share of wind energy will be impossible to reach due to a lack of trained experts and engineers in this field. All the ETP implementation plans should therefore include appropriate education and skills actions to ensure that the human resources needed for implementing possible solutions are available.

Just as some ETPs are already focusing on societal challenges, some ETPs are already actively incorporating education into their plans, but it is suggested that all ETPs and ETP clusters should engage in this exercise. While responsibility for higher education lies with national and often regional governments, it would be helpful for ETPs to do what they can to improve educational opportunities and environments.

### 1. Objectives

- Exchange experiences on how different ETPs deal with education and skills in their plans.
- Draw up a list of lessons learnt and "hints and tips".
- Is there a "one size fits all approach" when it comes to having an education and skills strategy?

### 2. Speakers / Panellists

- *University perspective*  
**Ferran Sanz**, Professor of Biostatistics and Biomedical Informatics at the University Pompeu Fabra and Director of the IMIM-UPF Joint Research Programme on Biomedical Informatics.
- *Business perspective*  
**Henning Kruse**, Senior export manager with Siemens Wind Power and Chairman of ETP Wind initiative.

### 3. Panellists

- **Peter van der Hijden**, Policy officer at the European Commission, DG RTD, Unit C.4 ('Universities and researchers').
- **Gudrun Maass**, Policy officer at the European Commission, DG EAC, Unit A.2 ('European Institute of Innovation and Technology')

#### 4 Chair and Rapporteur

- **Conor O'Carroll**, Research Director of the Research Office at the Irish Universities Association (IUA).

#### 4. Questions to address

- Why should ETPs deal with education and skills anyway?
- Is this only a matter for ETPs or are also other actors involved?
- What has been the outcome or deliverable so far?
- What is the role of the Commission, if any?
- What are the key requirements of a successful Education and Skills strategy?
- What are the three most important bits of advice you would give to someone planning an education and skills strategy for his ETP?