European Commission President Juncker's first ‘State of the Union’ speech called for EU action on migration, economic and trade policy, and Britain’s relationship with the EU. President Juncker expressed the view that ‘our European Union is not in a good state’ and ‘this is not the time for business as usual’. With a new work programme for 2016, President Juncker believes the solution lies in deeper economic monetary union. If this is the prognosis, what is the business perspective and on what should Europe be united?

The humanitarian imperative in addressing the refugee crisis is undeniable. Integration policy is a national competence – policy actions often have to be tailored to local labour market needs and specific circumstances to facilitate the smooth integration of recognised refugees and legal migrants. However member states should co-ordinate their approaches if the EU is to effectively harness potential economic and demographic benefits and help the refugees and migrants. The 2016 EU package on migration should assist and increase legal certainty for companies wishing to contribute to solutions by employing asylum seekers and legal migrants. In parallel, political action with partners is required to restore peace and foster economic development in the regions from where the refugees and migrants have come.

The five president's report is an interesting contribution to the debate on the necessary depth of economic monetary union. A stronger EMU could strengthen trust in the euro and in turn the broader European project and the economy. It is acknowledged that the Juncker investment plan and the banking and capital market unions are positive steps towards ensuring financial stability and enhancing access to finance for business. However, Ibec believes that there should also be greater flexibility in EU fiscal rules to allow Ireland, among other member states, to play catch up on strategic investment after the financial crisis. Ireland has been an exemplar in reform. We acknowledge the need to spend sensibly, but we also need to invest in our future in areas such as education, broadband and transport if we are to support further growth and jobs.

The importance of the single market to sustaining Europe’s return to a path of strong economic growth is recognised by business, the EU institutions, OECD and IMF. However, the full potential of the single market is untapped as the necessary EU regulatory frameworks in services and digital have not yet been fully implemented. Completing the single market in goods, services and digital would add up to €936 billion to the European economy. The Commission’s new single market strategy offers the opportunity to fulfil this potential. These measures, coupled with the ongoing Commission drive for a TTIP and better regulation, could benefit all member states and address concerns raised by Britain.

Ibec agrees that this is not the time for business as usual. Now is the time for the EU to be unified on enabling business to create growth and jobs - bringing people together across Europe. In this edition we review the latest developments in EU policy. We hope you find the issues highlighted in this newsletter to be informative.

Erik O’Donovan
Head of Ibec Europe
ECOFIN policy update

1 Economic governance

President Juncker highlighted the need to deepen economic monetary union in his first state of the union speech in September. Mr Juncker’s comments build on views expressed by the five presidents of the EU institutions in June. A stronger EMU could strengthen trust in the euro and in turn the broader European project and the economy. It is acknowledged that the Juncker investment plan and the banking and capital market unions are positive steps towards ensuring financial stability and enhancing access to finance for business. However, there should also be greater flexibility in EU fiscal rules to allow Ireland, among other member states, to play catch up on strategic investment after the financial crisis. While we acknowledge the need to spend sensibly, we also need to invest in our future in areas such as education, broadband and transport if we are to support further growth and jobs.

2 International tax governance

The OECD published its BEPS plan for international corporate tax reform on 5 October. Ibec welcomed this as a significant achievement, which offers substantial opportunities for the Irish economy if we react pro-actively. Implementation of the BEPS plan will constitute a major change to international corporate tax rules, the first in almost a century. This is necessary to reflect the modern reality of globalisation and digitalisation. From an Irish perspective, the plan offers substantial opportunities to attract new investment and jobs. To take advantage, we need to emphasise and improve our offering as a transparent, stable and investment friendly business location. International investment decisions are increasingly based on the location of key high skilled staff, rather than the other way around. The publication of the BEPs plan further reinforces the need to make Europe more attractive for mobile talent. On Ireland’s international tax offering, our new Knowledge Development Box sends out a clear signal that Ireland will continue to compete aggressively for mobile investment.

3 Consultation on re-launched CCCTB

The Commission has presented a strategy to re-launch the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB). This was announced in the Commission Action Plan for Fair and Efficient Corporate Taxation. The aim of the re-launch is to kick-start stalled negotiations on the CCCTB in the Council of Ministers. The Commission will present a new proposal in 2016 to revive the CCCTB, based on two key proposals:

- A mandatory CCCTB.
- The CCCTB is introduced through a step-by-step approach to get member state agreement. The primary focus should be on securing the common tax base, starting with international elements related to BEPS. The Commission will propose postponing consolidation until after the common base has been implemented.

The Commission has launched a Public Consultation to gather information and analyse evidence on the possible policy directions and several technical elements of the project. The consultation will be open until 8th January 2016. Ibec remains concerned about the contrast between the BEPS work and a CCCTB and so will be responding to this consultation.

4 Developing capital markets

The European Commission published its Action Plan - Building a Capital Market Union (CMU) – on 30 September. The Commission had produced a green paper and engaged in a public consultative process before developing its action plan. Ibec and FSI engaged in this consultative process. In parallel to its investment plan, the Commission wants to integrate capital markets across the European single market. The aim of CMU is to: reduce fragmentation in European financial markets; diversify financing sources; strengthen cross-border capital flows and improve access to finance for business across the EU. Commissioner Jonathan Hill is responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union.

Ibec has broadly welcomed the CMU initiative. Without a properly and fairly functioning capital market – and a level regulatory pitch – the benefits of the ECB’s ongoing bond buying programme cannot be optimised. Essential CMU priorities must include achieving a level regulatory playing field, achieving greater securitisation and, consequently freeing up bank capital for SMEs.

The CMU proposals will contribute to investment-led growth. However strengthening the role of capital markets in providing funding for businesses and infrastructure projects across the EU will not be solved overnight. The promise to review the regulatory requirements for the insurance and banking sectors willing to invest in infrastructure is very positive. Commission plans to streamline the requirements for publishing a prospectus will encourage SMEs that want to access capital markets. SME’s seeking bank lending may also benefit from the Commission’s plans to encourage simple, transparent and standardized securitization of bank loans. Finally, the decision to take stock and assess the cumulative impact of previous regulatory reform on the financial sector is fully justified given the large amount of new regulation in recent years. It is a signal of this Commission’s commitment to better regulation.
A single market that works

The EU institutions and member states must work with business to complete the single market in services, goods and digital. A more effective and competitive single market would add up to €936 billion per annum to the EU economy. Individually, the estimated increase would be €1,860, per person.

The European single market provides benefits in terms of our inward investment, market access and growth. Completing the single market is an integral part of the economic recovery of Ireland and Europe. This would act as a catalyst for business to sustain Europe’s return to a path of strong economic growth that creates jobs and prosperity for our citizens.

Creating growth, jobs and investment in Europe are key priorities for the Commission. The Commission presented its single market strategy (SMS) on goods and services on 28 October. Commissioner Bieńkowska is leading the roll out of the strategy. This is an opportunity to take concrete steps to complete the single market and realise Europe’s untapped potential in goods, services and digital. It is an action plan outlining what the EU and member states should do to complete the single market, with more concrete initiatives planned for 2016. The strategy focuses on better implementation and stronger enforcement of existing single market rules to safeguard and improve free movement. It will also address new developments in the single market such as the rise of the sharing economy. While the Commission is not totally ruling out the possibility of proposing new legislation in the future, it stresses that for this to happen, there will have to be very strong case for doing so.

Ibec has outlined five recommendations to complete the single market:

- Boost cross-border trade in goods and services across the EU;
- Encourage an EU digital single market that works;
- Cut red tape and do not rule business out;
- Unlock investment in infrastructure underpinning the single market; and
- Encourage business services that meet the needs of the broader economy.

“A Single Market that Works” presents Ibec’s preliminary recommendations to EU policy makers. It outlines our vision for a fully functioning European single market and the building blocks necessary to make that vision a reality. It has been sent to the European Commission and other key stakeholders. Ibec will continue to engage with the EU institutions to promote these messages that seek to extend Ireland’s global reach as part of our ongoing campaign, “A European Union that works”.

The full paper has been given to the Commission and has also fed into the BUSINESSEUROPE submission. Ibec has also produced an executive summary of the paper for further media activities. Ibec met with Commissioner Bieńkowska in Brussels and Dublin regarding the SMS at the end of October.

Erik O’Donovan, Head of Ibec Europe and Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner with responsibility for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs
European Commission work programme 2016

First Vice-President (FVP) Timmermans unveiled the European Commission’s 2016 work programme – ‘No time for business as usual’ - on 27 October. The Commission work programme emanates from President Juncker’s State of the Union speech, which he delivered to the Parliament in September.

The Commission has already laid the foundations for some of its plans for 2016 by presenting a number of key strategies in 2015, related to completing aspects of the single market and promoting better regulation. Additionally, €1 billion has already been invested since January as part of the Commission’s €315 billion investment plan.

The 2016 work programme is based on President Juncker’s 10-point political plan. The Commission is planning on 23 ‘key initiatives’, building on the 2015 programme. Based on President Juncker’s better regulation agenda, the Commission plans on withdrawing 20 existing legislative proposals and examining 40 under REFIT.

The economy

In terms of economic and financial matters, the action plan reiterates Commission commitments to a Capital Markets Union, deepening the EMU and on ‘fair and efficient corporate taxation’.

Single Market

The Commission has already proposed a number of strategies in this area which cover the digital agenda, connected continent, breaking down telecom silos, and data protection. Much will now depend on the proposals that are made under these strategies. The Commission plans to present its Labour Mobility Package in December.

Trade and international

TTIP remains a key priority and overall the Commission’s plans are positive including an ambitious trade and investment strategy. It remains to be seen how the Commission will implement the strategy. This will be especially important in terms of proposals on the new Investment Court System.

SME and entrepreneurship

The work programme includes many positives in terms of SMEs and entrepreneurship. The Commission hopes to improve the investment environment with the Single Market strategy and CMU. There are also plans to give entrepreneurs a second chance after bankruptcy and actions to help start-ups to grow.

Energy and the Environment

The Energy Union will be implemented with concrete proposals on the electricity market; security of electricity and gas supply; effort sharing; land use; forestry and renewable energy package.

Social affairs

The Commission is clear that it wants a more ‘social Europe’. According to FVP Timmermans, 2016 is to be “the year of social progress”. One of the biggest concerns is the ‘targeted revision’ of the Posting of Workers Directive under the Commission’s expected Labour Mobility Package. This would create uncertainty for companies and workers as it could open very lengthy discussions. Past negotiations on the Posting of Workers have proven to be a very divisive. It also goes against the Commission’s key stated principle of focussing on initiatives that ‘have a chance of being agreed on quickly’. On a positive note, the Commission does refer to flexicurity. This could help to reconcile employers’ need for a flexible workforce with workers’ need for security.

Ibec has developed a number of policy documents in 2015 to make business recommendations in key areas including A Digital Single Market that Works and A Single Market that Works. These are part of the wider campaign A European Union that Works, which are the basis of our communication with the EU institutions and other stakeholders. We will continue to work with our partners in BUSINESSEUROPE and the EU institutions for a Europe that enables business to create further growth and jobs.
A digital future

On 6 October the European Court of Justice (ECJ) issued a judgement declaring the Safe Harbour framework – an EU-US mechanism that allowed companies to transfer personal data from the EU to the US - invalid. The Court’s assessment is that the framework does not sufficiently guarantee the protection of the right to privacy of EU citizens. It also increased the scope of national Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) to question the validity of data transfers from Europe to other countries.

There are at least 4,000 companies who have directly used Safe Harbour, 60% are SMEs. Many other companies are impacted indirectly. The judgement does not provide for a transitional period and has serious negative implications for business. It creates legal uncertainty because data transfers that previously took place under Safe Harbour are now no longer supported by a clear legal framework. Companies must review and amend all agreements enabling data transfers to the US to ensure compliance with the ruling. This will require significant time and costs with negative impacts, especially for SMEs. The increased scope for national DPAs to question the validity of international data transfers may lead to fragmentation in the EU digital single market. The possibility that the judgement will impact the validity of other international data transfer mechanisms the EU may enter with third countries cannot be ruled out.

Ibec and BUSINESSEUROPE have called for a revised EU-US safe harbour agreement that addresses privacy and enterprise concerns. EU-US negotiations have been going on for over 12 months before the ECJ judgement. In addition, business has called for urgency and clarity from the Commission on: the use of alternative mechanisms; transitional arrangements; guidance to business and DPAs and a clear timeline for a resolution.

In parallel the Luxembourgish Presidency of the Council of the EU has been co-ordinating trilogues (between the European Parliament, Council of Ministers and Commission) on the general data protection regulations (GDPR) – achieving the balance between privacy and enterprise concerns remains the central issue. It is clear that fundamental rights must be protected, but Ibec encourages all the trilogue parties to enable an environment that secures investment and competitiveness through data driven innovation.

Finally, many of the 16 initiatives, outlined in the Commission’s digital single market strategy, are now the subject of public consultation by the Commission. Ibec and its partners in BUSINESSEUROPE will be responding to these consultations.

Britain and the EU

UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, is sticking to his promise to the British electorate, who voted him back to power in May. He continues his campaign for a reformed Europe ahead of the UK referendum on EU membership, which will happen by the end of 2017. While he has not yet made any official proposals, he outlined four possible areas for reform to EU Heads of State and Government at the October European Council:

- Maintain sovereignty and subsidiarity by exempting Britain from the notion of an “ever closer union”;
- Maintain competitiveness by cutting red tape and completing the single market;
- Ensure integrity of the single market so that it does not work against those outside of the euro; and
- Reform social security and immigration policies.

Mr Cameron intends on having concrete proposals in the coming weeks, which he hopes to promote at the December EU Council.

Both the EU institutions and member states, including Ireland, want the UK to remain in the EU. European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, and President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, have both said that one of their main tasks is to address the ‘British question’. Ireland’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Irish Ambassador to the UK recently stressed Ireland’s support for the UK remaining in the EU from both an economic and political interest. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is clear that continued EU membership of a reformed Europe is very important to Britain economically and politically.

If Britain were to leave the EU, this would have significant implications for business and employment in Ireland. Ibec has said that EU membership is in the best interest of both Irish and British business. EU reform is also in Ireland’s interest in terms of reducing red tape and further opening up trade with North America and Asia. We need to work with the UK, and like-minded partners in Europe, to ensure that efforts to reform the EU are successful. A strong and competitive EU, with the UK as a core member, is in our national interest and is our very strong preference.

Ibec will continue to monitor this closely and work with our European counterparts for a reformed Europe.
The European Commission Work Programme for 2016 has set out some of the key actions to advance the Energy Union Strategy. This strategy, initially unveiled on 25 February, outlines the EU’s vision to secure Europe’s energy supply and reduce import dependency; to integrate national energy markets; to put energy efficiency first; to decarbonise the economy; and to promote research, innovation and competitiveness.

Following the conclusion of the international climate negotiations in Paris, focus will turn to the implementation of the 2030 energy and climate goals to ensure the targets are duly met. Emissions from the non-ETS sector such as buildings, agriculture, and the de-carbonisation of transport need to be cut across the EU by 30% below the 2005 level. How this will be translated into member state targets has yet to be decided and the Commission will issue a proposal sometime in 2016. Ireland’s unique emissions profile and the low mitigation potential of agricultural and transport emissions make it one of the most pivotal pieces of the Energy Union for Ireland. This was the main point of discussion when Vice President Maroš Šefčovič met with Ibec members during his visit to Dublin. It was also discussed in detail during a meeting with officials from Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete’s cabinet during a recent delegation of the Ibec Energy Policy Committee to Brussels.

Ibec will continue to underline the critical importance of having a variety of flexible mechanisms to reduce emissions in the most cost-effective and efficient way, such as the possibility of purchasing compliance and buying of excess emission allocations from member states that overachieve their target. Creating a transparent liquid market to trade annual emission allocations is vital if Ireland is to meet our EU mandated targets for 2030.

Other initiatives in the pipeline include a proposal on a new energy market design. The Commission recently closed a consultation on a new power market design. Ibec participated in the consultation and reiterated some of our concerns during the delegation visit to Brussels. In our submission, we cautioned against an overly prescriptive ‘one size fits all’ framework for national market designs.

Additional elements of the Energy Union likely to progress in 2016 include measures to reach the 15% electricity interconnection target by 2030. This target applies uniformly to every member state. There has been no cost benefit analysis at member state level. A consultative communication is also expected on renewables and energy efficiency. Ibec and its partners will continue to engage on these issues into 2016.
Dealing with migration

The EU should take a coordinated and controlled approach to tackling the asylum and migration crisis. An essential part of this is finding a way to distribute asylum seekers fairly. Over 500,000 refugees have arrived in Europe so far this year compared to 280,000 arriving over the whole of 2014.

The European Commission is developing a package on legal migration, which it hopes to present in early 2016. This should provide a legal framework for a coordinated EU approach to the migration crisis. It is acknowledged that member states retain the national competence to design integration policies that suit local labour market conditions. Additionally, to enable companies to employ legal migrants and recognised asylum seekers, there must be clarification around recognition of professional qualifications. It is also essential that the EU works toward putting the right conditions in place to create growth and jobs to help integrate refugees and legal migrants and contribute to Europe’s prosperity as part of the work force. Finally, it is important to address the root causes with the EU working on a foreign policy approach to help restore peace in the countries of origin.

The EU has already taken a number of steps aimed at tackling the crisis including common standards for processing asylum application. The Commission has also proposed a common EU list of safe countries of origin aimed at enabling member states to fast track asylum procedures. There is also an increased EU presence in the Mediterranean Sea and more efforts to tackle human smugglers. In addition, the European Council in October agreed to cooperate more closely with Turkey to provide increased funding and assistance to help it manage the crisis.

However, there is yet to be agreement on proposed mandatory quotas based on a number of factors including GDP. Member states will instead take a voluntary approach to accepting migrants. Ireland has agreed to take in 4,000 migrants over four years, staggering their relocation. It expects the first of the migrants to arrive before Christmas and the mechanisms for receiving them and providing accommodation are currently being put in place. At a recent emergency meeting of the Commission and the Heads of the Balkan States agreed on measures to cope with the immediate situation there.

The Commission is also planning to present a Border Management package 2016 and a migration management initiative. We expect them to cover legal migration, blue cards, asylum and refugees, a revision of the Dublin system and a European Border and Coast Guard. Ibec will continue to monitor developments.

New rules for occupational pensions

The European Commission proposed new rules for occupational pension funds (IORPS) on 27 March 2014. With the proposed revision, it hopes to improve governance and transparency of occupational pension funds in Europe, promote cross-border activity, and help long-term investment. IORPs are financial institutions that manage collective retirement schemes for employers to provide retirement benefits for their employees - the scheme members and beneficiaries. Under EU single market rules, IORPS can move freely across the EU as free movement of capital and services. Pension funds can manage occupational pension schemes for companies established in another EU country and pan-European companies can have a single pension fund for all their subsidiaries throughout Europe. This freedom is kept in check by rigorous prudential standards to help protect fund members and beneficiaries. Directive 2003/41/EC details the rules governing the activities of institutions providing IORPS across the EU. However, the Commission has proposed new rules in response to developments since 2003 including the financial crisis, which also saw the failure of certain funds in the EU.

On a positive note, the Commission’s proposal does not contain new solvency capital requirements for IORPs and proposes to lift restrictions on investments in long-term assets in the real economy, which are instrumental to delivering the growth. Secondly, IORPs are first and foremost institutions with a social purpose and are strongly embedded in national social systems and primarily governed by social and labour law. Therefore, the specific nature of workplace pensions and the role of social partners should have been better acknowledged throughout the Commission’s proposal. On fostering a cross-border IORP market, the proposal that cross-border IORPs should not be required to comply with additional investment restrictions to those which apply to IORPs in general is positive. Finally, the proportionality principle should have been better addressed in the Commission’s proposal.

The European Parliament committee on economic and monetary affairs (ECON) is the lead committee with Fine Gael’s (EPP), Brian Hayes in charge of steering the legislation through the Parliament. His draft report is largely positive with amendments to many of the problematic issues such as the social purpose of IORPS and the proportionality principle. However, there are still concerns and certain members of ECON might yet call for quantitative solvency rules to apply to pension funds. This goes against the Commission’s proposal and the general consensus in the member states.

The Council of Ministers has agreed on the general direction of its position, with the details to be finalised. ECON will vote on its draft report in December with the whole Parliament to vote on its position in January. This would enable it to start negotiations on a final agreement with the Council of Ministers in early 2016. Ibec will continue to monitor the legislation and any new developments with BUSINESSEUROPE.
The European Commission presented its new trade and investment strategy - Trade for All, on the 14 October. The Communication emphasises the need to make trade and investment policy more inclusive to ensure wider public support. On the positive side, the strategy maintains an ambitious trade and investment agenda and stresses the importance of services, the digital economy and SMEs. The need to make trade policy more inclusive co-ordinated with other policies is acknowledged, however, this should not overwhelm the economic imperative of trade and investment objectives.

The conclusion of the TPP-Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations was announced on 5 October in Atlanta. The agreement includes 12 Pacific Rim countries from Canada and Chile to Japan and Australia, representing 40 percent of the world’s economy. Ibec welcomes the agreement and stresses that this new deal should bring a new impetus to the EU trade negotiations with Japan and the US.

The EU-China Joint Committee on Trade took place in Brussels in early October to review the state of the negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement. Commissioner Malmström highlighted the need of more efforts to address all obstacles to investment between the EU and China, and to ensure a fair, open and transparent regulatory environment for investors on both sides.

The EU-Japan FTA negotiations took place in Tokyo in September. It was disappointing that the negotiations did not progress substantially. During the talks, the EU aimed at going beyond trade in goods, in particular for agricultural goods and in addressing NTBs. Ibec met with a delegation from the Japanese business organisation, Keidanren on 19 October.

In September the Commission also released its proposal on a new Investment Court System for TTIP, which would replace the existing investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS). Ibec and its partners in Europe have highlighted the importance of having an efficient and reliable system for EU investors to resolve possible disputes with the Governments.

An Ibec delegation led by Danny McCoy, Ibec CEO met with National Association of Manufactures delegation led by Jay Timmons, NAM President and CEO in Washington.
“Smart Specialisations” for the regions

The announcement of the Irish Government’s South East Region Action Plan for Jobs on September 7th 2015, brought focus amongst other recommendations to the concept of “Smart Specialisations” for the region. Ibec is pleased to announce that as a member of the FP7 eDIGIREGION consortium, we are actioned as part of the plan to work closely with all the local, regional and national stakeholders to maximise the opportunities in this arena for the region.

eDIGIREGION, an FP7-funded project brings together fifteen complimentary and experienced partner organisations from four diverse European regions: - South East Ireland, Central Hungary, Bucharest-Ilfov and Castilla-La Mancha. The consortium partners are representative of the triple helix stakeholders in each of the four regions and include industry associations, research / academic organisations, policy-makers and research funders. The goal of the eDIGIREGION project is to enhance regional competitiveness by exploiting regional strengths and smart specialisations to realise the key RTD objectives of The Digital Agenda for Europe.

Through its activities, eDIGIREGION is supporting the development of high-potential research-driven clusters, thus directly contributing to the key strategic European goal of enhanced competitiveness and the sustainable economic growth of Europe’s regions.

The first phase of the project involved the analysis of the development paths of selected leading regional research-driven clusters that were identified as ‘best in class’ at European and international levels. These regions’ dynamic regional innovation systems have catapulted them into global leadership positions, thus serving as a useful source of ideas, benchmarks and good practices. Based on the analysis of these good practices, a set of parameters for regional research-driven clusters was developed which was used to benchmark our respective regions and in particular, to understand the current position of the region and what needs to be done to improve its capacity to embed the RTD and innovation aspects of The European Digital Agenda. These Regional Benchmark Audits, which have now been completed, focused on the region’s smart specialisations and lay the basis for the development of Joint Action Plans (JAPs) within each region. The JAPs aim to identify a set of actions that need to be implemented in the region to enhance its innovation capacity. A key element of the Joint Action Plans is to engage all regional stakeholders in the process and secure their active buy-in and engagement. This is seen as a critical factor in optimising the impact of the project in the regions and each of the four regions has developed a strategy to engage with its regional stakeholders.

The project is also developing a Central Online Repository which will be publically available at a later stage in the project for use by regional stakeholders across the EU. The repository will house a wide range of documents and data that is relevant to the themes and topics dealt with in the project and will be an invaluable resource to any region engaged in the development of Joint Action Plans.

For further information on the project, visit www.edigiregion.eu