

MEMBERSHIP PRORITY GROUP 2 (EUROPEAN RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION GROUP)

The EU RDI Group is chaired by the Head of European Policy at Advantage West Midlands (AWM). The Group operates an open-tent membership bringing together all the key regional organisations involved in the European research agenda, all major regional HEI organisations, research companies like Qinetiq, Mira, Rapra or Ceram, and some local authorities. The Group is aimed at European research and funding officers as well as practitioners involved in research. The Group is facilitated by AWM's European Funding & Policy Officer.

Name	Organisation	Contact details
Jon Bloomfield (chair)	Advantage West Midlands	jonbloomfield@advantagewm.co.uk
Jitka Dolezalova (contact person & facilitator)	Advantage West Midlands	jitkadolezalova@advantagewm.co.uk

West Midlands in Europe – Richard Tuffs (Richard.tuffs@westmidlandsineurope.org) is a key source of information on the latest policy and funding developments in Brussels.

FP7 Advisor – Xavier Rodde from the University of Birmingham (x.rodde@bham.ac.uk) is seconded to AWM to advise on the European Research & Development Awards (ERDA) and wider FP7 and R&D issues for EU RDI.

EU Connects - will provide advice and support to organisations in the West Midlands seeking to apply for EU trans-national funding. This is not focused on FP7, but Mohammed Yasin (m.yasin@wmlga.gov.uk) provides support on the FP7 Marie Curie research mobility strand.

Monthly EU RDI meetings are held usually on a second or third Tuesday at AWM. Attendance varies from 15-25; on the distribution list there are over 70 contacts.