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### *Closing Address*

When INNODEAL started in 2006, the world economy was in a quite different shape compared to today. At that time, economies in most of the EU states were in a phase of expansion. All the involved regions and partners were trying to reap the most from the positive moment by launching ambitious inter-regional projects.

Three years on, the scenario is quite different. The worst recession in the EU history is affecting everyone and most agencies have had to change their priorities from sustaining expansion to managing the emergency.

In spite of this situation, INNODEAL has emerged with a number of "recipes" that are proving quite fit also for today's highly turbulent times. The final conference has given ample evidence of the achieved results.

Exceeding expectations, five Cooperation Agreements have been negotiated and signed. These agreements show a significant diversity in terms of scope and nature of their objectives as well as in the number and profile of signatories.

All the twelve regions directly involved in the project have signed at least one Cooperation Agreement, while 10 signatories are not INNODEAL partners, but are other organisations that have been successfully involved in the process.

Some of the Cooperation Agreements have already received expressions of interest by potential new members. I'm happy to conclude the final conference announcing that tomorrow the signatories of the Cooperation Agreements will kick-off the activities of their groups with 5 parallel working sessions.

Just a final word to thank all the project partners that have collaborated with FILAS in these three intense years of work. Let me also thank Mr Talacchi and Ms Michilli who have impeccably acted, respectively, as Project Officer and as Project Manager.

A special warm thank to our Slovene colleagues for the successful organization of the final conference and to Mr Reinhard Buescher who, on behalf of the European Commission, has honoured us all with his personal participation.

I wish us all a long and fruitful collaboration well beyond the end of the INNODEAL project.

