

Europe Direct Leeds and the **Business & Intellectual Property Centre Leeds** [www.leeds.gov.uk/bipc Leeds] celebrated **Global Entrepreneurship Week** [17th-23rd November] [www.gew.co/countries/united-kingdom] with a business event called **Bike to the Future!**

Since the **Tour de France** came to Leeds in July the spotlight has firmly been on Yorkshire not only as a tourist destination but also as a great place to do business.

We invited three local entrepreneurs to talk about their cycling related businesses: Marek Szczeplek, MD of **Aurelius Cycles** [<http://aureliuscycles.com>], spent many years repairing other people's bikes before deciding to strike out on his own and he now designs and builds custom-made stainless steel bicycles in his workshop in Leeds. Nathan Hughes from **Union of Pedallers** [<http://unionofpedallers.cc>] found support from the **Prince's Trust** [www.princes-trust.org.uk] which enabled him to get his business off the ground selling his innovative **Restrap** range. He is also very enthusiastic about introducing products from other small independent businesses to the marketplace.

Steve Marsden from **Od Designs** [www.od-designs.co.uk] talked about how he developed his range of innovative bike stands and got them to the marketplace. His top tip was for new businesses to get out and about as much as possible – he reckons that visiting shows and meeting people can make all the difference when you are trying to get a new product off the ground.

The event was aimed at anyone who was interested in turning a hobby or an interest into a business or those who were interested in cycling and the enthusiasm of Marek, Nathan and Steve was clear to see – it's obvious that hosting **the Tour** has definitely raised the profile of both the sport and Yorkshire and led to opportunities for related businesses. The evening also saw the launch of a cycling industry guide which was produced by the **British Library** [www.bl.uk/bipc/pdfs/Cycling_Industry_Guide.pdf].

Bike to the Future!



Your region in numbers - the new Eurostat regional yearbook has been published

Statistical information is an important tool for understanding and quantifying the impact of political decisions in a specific territory or region.

The [Eurostat regional yearbook 2014](http://bit.ly/1oQ3grY) (available for free online at <http://bit.ly/1oQ3grY>) gives a detailed picture relating to a broad range of statistical topics across the regions of EU Member States, the European Free Trade Association and candidate countries.

Each chapter presents statistical information in maps, figures and tables, accompanied by a description of the policy context, main findings and data sources. These regional indicators are presented for the following 11 subjects: population, health, education, the labour market, the economy, structural business statistics, research and innovation, the information society, tourism, transport, and agriculture.

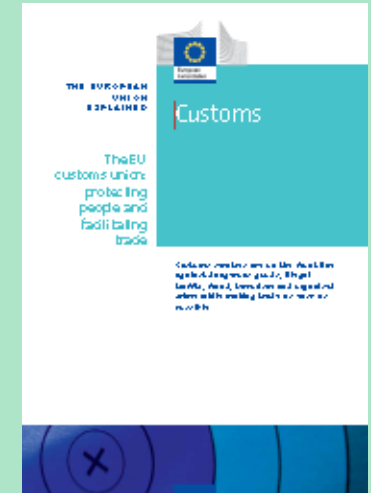
In addition, four special chapters focus on the environment, land use, European cities, and regional competitiveness.



Counterfeit products and the EU's response

Counterfeit products are a growing risk to public health and safety. The problem does not only affect luxury goods, but also everyday items, like health and beauty products, toys for children, electrical appliances, fake sunglasses that can damage eyesight and especially counterfeit medicines – which accounted for nearly a quarter of the 114 billion articles confiscated in 2011.

In the latest of a series of publications explaining EU policy priorities, a brochure (available for free online at www.tinyurl.com/nrylgao), in all languages of the European Customs Union, explains how the EU is protecting people and facilitating trade.



How safe are Europe's roads?

Despite various EU and national programmes, there were still some 26,000 people killed in road accidents in the EU in 2013. The EU road safety guidelines aim to cut European road deaths by 50% by 2020. To do so, the aim is to make users, vehicles and infrastructure safer through a mix of measures – national cooperation, sharing best practice, research and studies, awareness campaigns, and in some cases possibly regulation.

Victims also include pedestrians and cyclists. If roads are made safer, more people will walk and cycle to work.

What is the situation concerning road safety in the different Member States? The [Road Safety Report 2013](http://bit.ly/1rC5q1z) (available for free online at <http://bit.ly/1rC5q1z>) shows the situation at the end of 2013 and the progress made since 2010. Its purpose is to allow Member States and European citizens to compare their situation and to encourage them to continue their efforts regarding road safety. Information on what the EU is doing to improve road safety is also available at http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/specialist/policy/index_en.htm

