



INTERREG IVC
INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENT
REGIONS OF EUROPE SHARING SOLUTIONS

The strengthening and deepening of European Cooperation

The Managing Authority is very pleased to present the second series of interregional cooperation projects, showing in ever more concrete steps that Regions are seeking – and finding – added-value in cooperating beyond their borders. Interregional cooperation, through the European Territorial Cooperation objective, is now a core element of the European Union strategy. Through the sharing of policy experience, good practices, tools and solutions to common problems faced by Regions, interregional cooperation brings public authorities and citizens across the EU closer together. The INTERREG IVC programme, running from 2007-2013, aims to help more and less advanced Regions work together to find innovative improvements for their regional policies.

While the first call resulted in 41 projects being selected, as shown in the 2009 publication “Interregional Cooperation Projects, First Collection”, 74 projects have been approved under the second call. As in 2008, almost 500 applications were received in 2009, and the Managing Authority is pleased that there is an even better understanding of the programme rationale shown by the doubling of the approval rate. This highlights how important the support provided by the programme – partner search forums, individual consultations, and lead applicant seminars – is in accompanying projects each step of the way.

Following this second call, 64% of the total budget for the programming period has now been allocated, while the total budget requested was over five times the available budget for the whole period. 78% of the European NUTS 2 level Regions are now partners in INTERREG IVC projects, a popularity that proves that there are real perceived benefits by the candidates.

This brochure provides an overview of the second call projects of the INTERREG IVC programme, which focuses on two priorities: Innovation and the knowledge economy, and Environment and risk prevention, corresponding to the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies. The projects presented here show how interregional cooperation concretely impacts the citizens’ quality of life in each partner Region: the development of regional policies to support innovation and create growth and jobs, as well as the mitigation of climate change and its local consequences are amongst the main issues tackled.



Additionally, the number of Capitalisation projects, which result in Action Plans signed by the Managing Authorities of regional Operational Programmes, has doubled since the first call, creating the necessary stronger links between interregional cooperation and regional Structural Funds programmes.

Results-oriented and popular, interregional cooperation plays a key role in helping regional and local authorities face the economic and environmental challenges of our time. The projects presented in this brochure are concrete examples of the relevance of cooperation today. They will also inspire public authorities across Europe to capitalise on the existing stock of good practices held within the INTERREG IVC programme.

Daniel Percheron
President of the Région Nord-Pas de Calais
Managing Authority of the INTERREG IVC programme

About the programme

Having reached its programming period mid-term, the INTERREG IVC programme, whose main objective is to contribute to the **improvement of regional policies through the exchange of experience and good practices**, has grown to 115 projects, covering all 10 subthemes (see p.3 for more figures). INTERREG IVC enables cooperation between regional and local authorities from all EU countries, Norway and Switzerland, as shown on the map below and around 1150 partners are already involved.

New potential partners will find in this brochure – combined with the first collection – the stock of experience available within the programme in their area of interest. We hope this will help them identify good practices they are looking to implement in their Region, or to identify original topics for cooperation projects in the future.

The programme is especially dedicated to the exchange of experience at policy level. It is organised around two thematic priorities, namely:

- Innovation and the knowledge economy (Lisbon Strategy)
- Environment and risk prevention (Gothenburg Strategy)

The INTERREG IVC programme itself is seeking to build on projects results, by launching a programme-level capitalisation analysis, focusing initially on the 21 projects funded under the sub-theme “Innovation, research and technology development”. The aim of this analysis is to test a specific methodology in order to maximise the programme’s impact, which will lead to an optimal exploitation of the knowledge resulting from the projects dealing with similar issues, and to draw some policy recommendations at the European level. This will be the subject of a separate publication.

Michel Lamblin
Programme Director



Boundaries dated 2007. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by INTERREG IVC.
1. Serbia: Including Kosovo, under the auspices of the United Nations, pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999. 2. FYROM: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Overview

The second collection brochure of interregional cooperation projects, co-financed by the INTERREG IVC programme and the European Regional Development Fund, offers an overview of the seventy-four projects approved following the second call for proposals in 2009.

It provides a presentation of each project's objectives, and the most relevant data concerning project partnership and funding.

How this publication is organised

This brochure is divided into **three** main parts.

This first section provides an **overview** of the programme characteristics, and some key statistics following the second round of funding for cooperation projects.

The following two sections are separated by programme priorities: **Innovation and the knowledge economy** and **Environment and risk prevention**, and detail by theme the second collection of 74 projects approved following the second call for projects in 2009.

A description of each of these priorities can be found on the appropriately-tabbed page.

In addition, the themes within each priority have been colour-coded, as explained below, so that they can easily be identified.

The different themes in Priority 1 “**Innovation and the knowledge economy**” are differentiated according to the following colours:

- Employment, human capital and education
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- Information Society
- Innovation, research and technology development

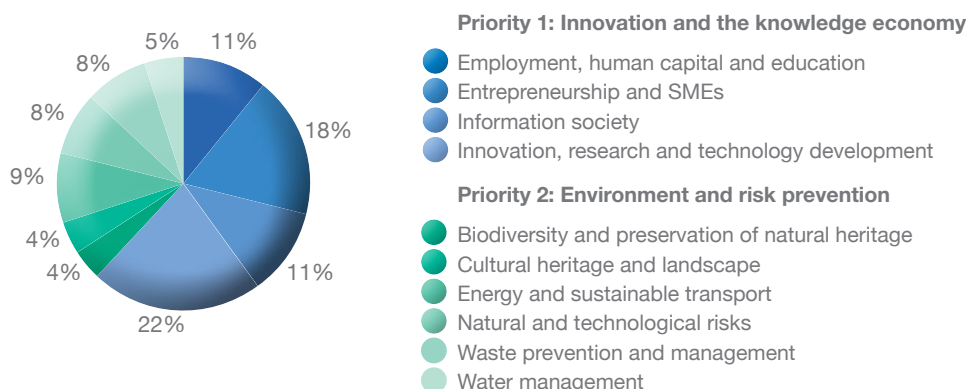
The different themes of Priority 2 “**Environment and risk prevention**” can be identified as follows:

- Biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage, air quality
- Cultural heritage and landscape
- Energy and sustainable transport
- Natural and technological risks, climate change
- Waste prevention and management
- Water management

Facts and figures

The INTERREG IVC second call for projects that took place between October 2009 and January 2010 proved to be successful, with 481 applications submitted and 74 projects finally approved. The sub-themes that were open were the same as for the first call. One of the main features is that 10 projects were approved under the “Water management” and “Waste prevention and management” sub-themes, whereas none had been during the first call. Below are the main statistics concerning the second call. On the next page are global figures that provide an overview from the start of the programming period.

Projects approved by subtheme (2nd call)



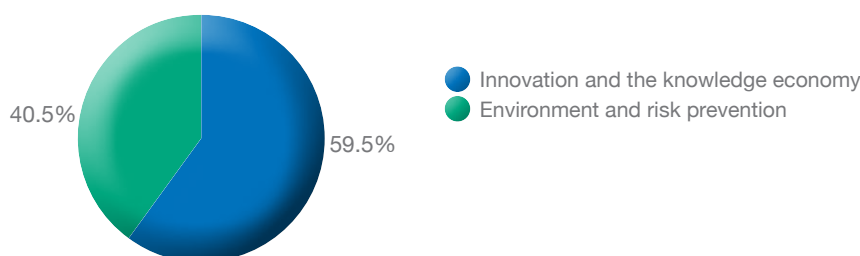
795

= number of regional partners involved in projects

67

Regional Initiative projects including 9 Mini-programmes

Percentage of programme funds allocated to each priority (2nd call)



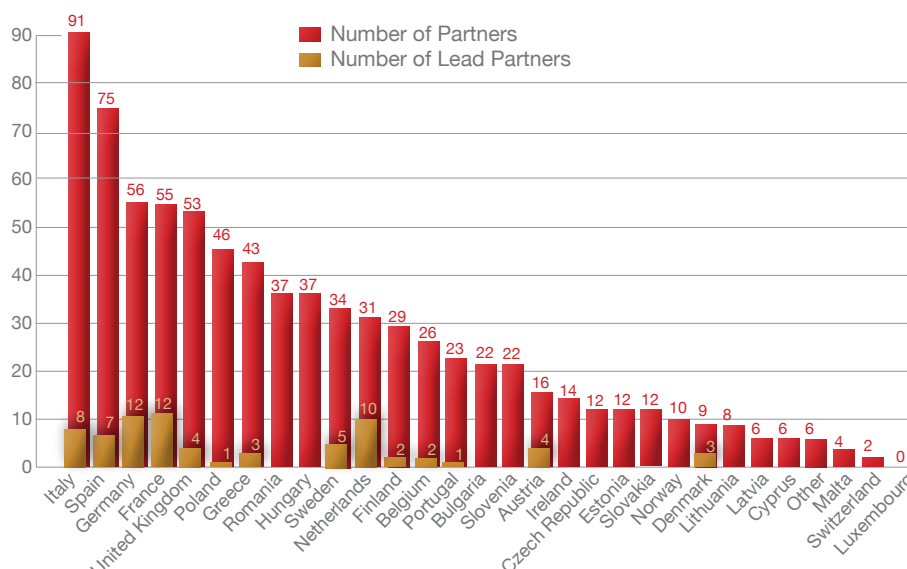
7

Capitalisation projects including

4

Fast Track networks

Lead partners and partners of approved projects per country (2nd call)



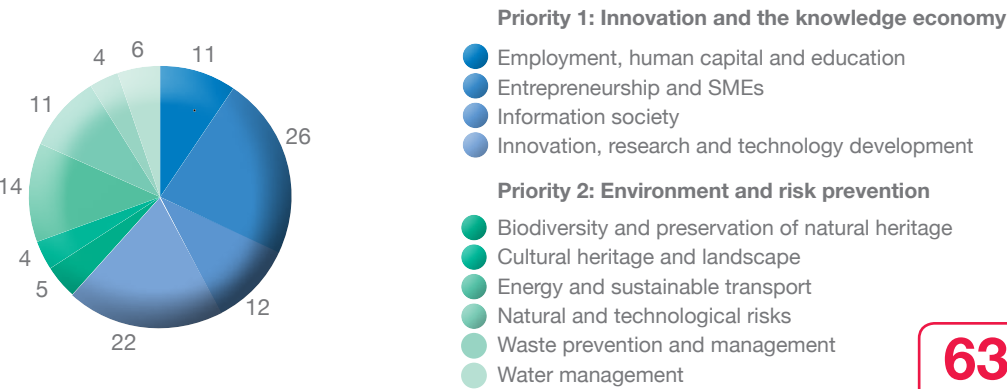
€ 123.5 million

= funds allocated under the 2nd call

The story so far

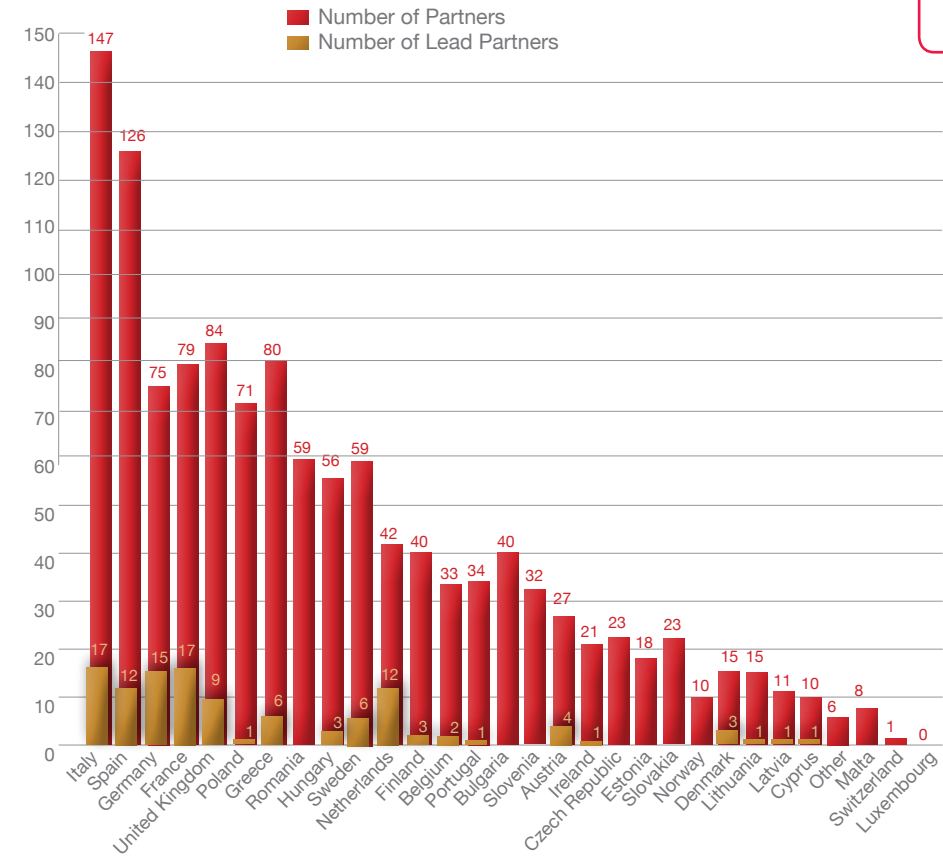
Following two calls, and approaching the mid-point of the programme, the figures below give a snapshot of where the programme is in terms of implementation. Two-thirds of the funds available have already been allocated, and another EUR 15 million is earmarked in 2010 for Capitalisation projects.

Total number of projects approved by sub-theme



63%
of total budget
allocated

Partners and lead partners in all 115 projects per country



78%
of NUTS 2 Regions
represented in projects

Innovation and the knowledge economy

The European Union, following the Lisbon strategy, aims to become the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs. The underlying assumption is that Europe's economic future depends on its capacity to make the transition to a knowledge-based economy and society, and that innovation is the motor for economic change.

The general purpose of this priority is to enable regional and local authorities, and other stakeholders at the regional level, to improve their policies, methods and capacities in the field of innovation and knowledge economy. More specifically, this priority contributes to reducing regional disparities throughout Europe by strengthening regional innovation potential. The ambition is also to pool expertise in order to increase the overall level of Regions' competitiveness in Europe.

Projects approved in this priority encompass policies that aim to spread the use of the Information and Communication Technologies to public services; to support eco-innovation as a means of transition for the partner Regions' economies; to foster local entrepreneurship in major cities' suburbs; and more.

Employment, human capital and education

BRAINFLOW.....	p.5
DART	p.6
PADIMA	p.7
SOLIDARCITY	p.8
TOOL QUIZ.....	p.9
UNICREDS	p.10
WINNET 8.....	p.11

Entrepreneurship and SMEs

B2N	p.12
CREA.RE	p.13
CREATOR	p.14
ENSPIRE EU.....	p.15
ENTREDI.....	p.16
ICER	p.17
IMAGEEN	p.18
INNOHUBS.....	p.19
ORGANZA	p.20
OSAIS.....	p.21
PROSPECTS	p.22
ROBINWOOD PLUS.....	p.23
RURALAND	p.24
SMART+	p.25
YES.....	p.26

Information society

DE-LAN	p.27
DLA.....	p.28
ECITIZEN II.....	p.29
ICT-VN	p.30
IMMODI	p.31
I-SPEED.....	p.32
OSEPA.....	p.33
RTF	p.34

Innovation, research & technology development

CHEMCLUST	p.35
DISTRICT+	p.36
ECREIN+	p.37
ERMIS	p.38
EURIS	p.39
FRESH.....	p.40
INNOPOLIS	p.41
INOLINK	p.42
IPP	p.43
KNOW-MAN	p.44
MKW.....	p.45
PERIA	p.46
POOLING4CLUSTERS.....	p.47
PROSESC.....	p.48
SCINNOPOLI.....	p.49

BRAIN FLOW

Brain Flow and Knowledge Transfer fostering Innovation in Border Regions

In the context of territorial cohesion, border regions are places where barriers towards territorial integration and competitiveness become most obvious. One significant challenge in this respect is the increasing loss of highly skilled human capital through its movement to more favourable economic environments, the so-called “brain-drain/ brain-gain” phenomenon. As a lack of qualified labour force is also a barrier to the innovation and growth capacity of regions, the project is developing and introducing new or improved instruments to avoid or minimise brain-drain and simultaneously foster brain-gain.

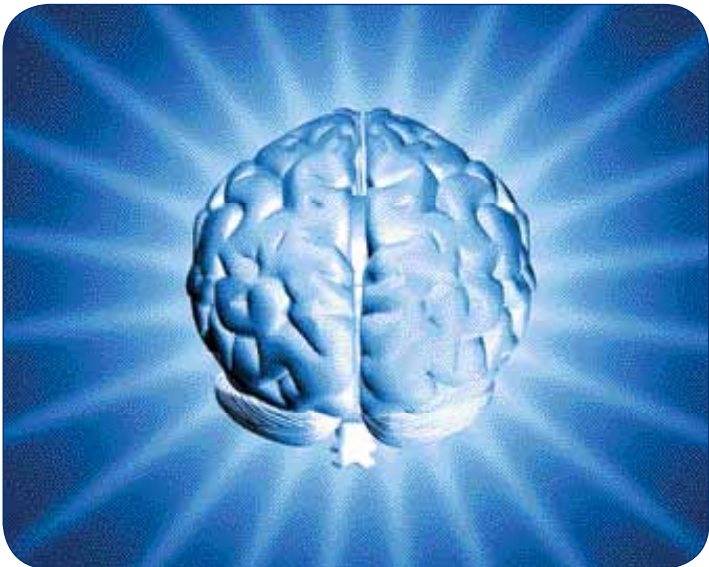
The Brain Flow partnership represents eight border regions from seven different countries being affected by this phenomenon due to their specific socio-economic and geographic characteristics.

Through the joint project implementation, authorities and other regional/local actors in the partner regions are enabled to exchange best practices and experiences on interregional level.

Within Brain Flow this intense interregional exchange will take place on two complementary levels: the overall (strategic) mini-programme level and the individual (practical) sub-project level; both focused on three interrelated priorities:

- Increasing regional attractiveness.
- Support to key economic sectors.
- Improving the higher education system.

The project is compiling results in a Best Practice manual and a common database of good examples of regional policy instruments for attracting and retaining human capital in border regions. This also includes a comprehensive report of policy recommendations and strategic guidelines.



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Duration
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Total budget
€3,435,000.00

ERDF contribution
€2,270,000.00

Norwegian funding
€200,000.00

Partnership
• **Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (DE)**
• Province of Gelderland (NL)
• Province of Overijssel (NL)
• County Administrative Board of Värmland (SE)
• Nemunas Euroregion Marijampole Bureau (LT)
• Regio Basiliensis Northwest Switzerland (CH)
• Hedmark County Council (NO)
• Region of Navarre (ES)



DART

Declining, Ageing and Regional Transformation

DART partners address a demographic change which constitutes a great challenge for about 30% of EU regions. An ageing population together with a low fertility rate and an outflow of human capital leads to the decline of population density. The shrinking regional consumer demand and the lack of qualified staff endanger the economic basis of these regions. Therefore, meeting the demographic challenge, strengthening the human capital (education, lifelong learning) and maintaining public services (health care, social and technical infrastructure) are key factors in EU regional policies.

DART integrates Regions with different experiences and with various responses to demographic change. In these Regions there are several projects dealing with some aspects of the demographic change policy but most of them focus on sector-specific solutions. Therefore, the aim of DART is the adjustment of those solutions and policies by:

- the implementation of good practices from previous partner projects;
- offering new products and public services to maintain the quality of life, especially in new business fields for SMEs and
- developing a set of standards and indicators to benchmark Regions.



For regional authorities and stakeholders in sparsely populated areas, a well-educated population who are sufficiently equipped with public services are the focal points for social inclusion, stability and welfare. Therefore, a major result of DART is the adaptation of relevant regional development policies, which means that the need to react on demographic change is mainstreamed in all fields of those policies.



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Total budget
€2,050,098.00

ERDF contribution
€1,579,941.50

- Partnership**
- **InvestitionsBank des Landes Brandenburg (DE)**
 - State of Brandenburg represented by the State Chancellery (DE)
 - Free State of Saxony represented by the State Chancellery (DE)
 - West Regional Authority (WRA) (IE)
 - Central Bohemian Authority (CZ)
 - Regional Council of North Karelia (FI)
 - Joint Authority of Kainuu Region (FI)
 - Regional Government of Galicia, Vice President of Equality and Welfare (ES)
 - Province of Limburg (NL)
 - Veneto Region (IT)
 - Lower Austria Health and Social Fund (NÖGUS) (AT)
 - BSC – Business Support Centre Ltd. (SI)
 - Lower Silesian Centre for Social Policy (PL)
 - “CENTRU” Regional Development Agency (RO)

PADIMA

Policies Against Depopulation in Mountain Areas

Many European Regions are facing a growing problem of depopulation in rural areas. By 2025, about 90 of these Regions are expected to be subjected to demographic decline. Mountainous areas, where living conditions are extreme and geography leads to isolation, seem to be most affected. The PADIMA overall objective is to contribute to the improvement of regional policies addressing depopulation in mountain areas through the exchange of good practices. The partners involved are looking for innovative solutions which have proven success on how to maintain and increase population in the concerned areas.

The PADIMA consortium is sharing similar concerns but with different degrees of development. Indeed, some participating Regions are at the peak of demographic decline and have already implemented successful practices for prevention and reaction whereas other partners are at the first stages of depopulation, and thus could learn and benefit from the experience and policies previously implemented in similar European areas.



The project approaches the phenomenon of depopulation in mountain areas focusing on three key pillar policies tackled within three thematic workshops: education and training, economic diversification and territorial marketing. These working groups are led by the partners themselves depending on their experience and know-how. For each theme, partners are collecting case studies and good practices. This work will be followed by an interregional thematic seminar combined with a study visit, to discuss on the data collected and its relevance for each partner. A good practice guide will be produced for each theme. Finally, all results and conclusions achieved will be compiled into recommendations for integrated policy against depopulation.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

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€1,445,304.00

ERDF contribution
€787,875.00

Norwegian funding
€197,402.00

Partnership
• **Provincial Government of Teruel (ES)**
• Euromontana (FR)
• Province of Turin (IT)
• Buskerud County Council (NO)
• Hedmark County Council (NO)
• Dalarna Regional Development Council (SE)
• UCCIMAC (FR)
• IREALP – Research Institute for the Ecology and the Economy applied to Alpine Areas (IT)



SolidarCity

The role and involvement of local authorities in employment rate increase

SolidarCity addresses local employment development policies, which are extremely important for European regional and local communities. National and European employment objectives require the active involvement of the relevant public authorities both at local and regional level and awareness-raising towards citizens. Based on the successful implementation of three EQUAL projects during the period 2001–2006, the partnership intends to create more jobs and make the local labour market more attractive. Partners are thus working together on the development of a joint strategy and appropriate measures that could increase local employment rate.

The project brings together a mix of relevant partners coming from six EU countries with various degrees of development. Through active cooperation, partners are identifying and analysing practices among the different participating Regions involved in the project. The results of these studies and workshops will be compiled in a good practice guide and will be the basis for the development of new approaches and policy recommendations directed towards future interventions in regional policies of the participating countries. The project also includes a mapping of non-active inclusion parameters, which consists of a study to explain the reasons why citizens are not part of the labour market, and the set-up of:

- “banca tempo” services, where groups of individuals will offer their time and knowledge to help inactive or non / under-qualified citizens develop new skills and create job opportunities;
- “solidarity groups” and “SolidarCity Pilot Houses” in order to test the possibility of creating jobs at local and regional level by promoting the locality to inward investors, by encouraging the creation of new businesses and social enterprises, by motivating a local culture of enterprise, by identifying job vacancies in neighbouring localities.



Results and outputs of the project will be widely disseminated through the organisation of press and thematic conferences, and the distribution of brochures, leaflets and regular newsletters.



Lead partner
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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,523,100.00

ERDF contribution
€1,221,785.00

- Partnership**
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 - University of Oulu, Lönnrot Institute (FI)
 - Politehnica University of Timisoara (RO)
 - Municipality of Razgrad (BG)
 - London College of Communication (University of the Arts London) (UK)
 - Association of Town Centre Management (UK)
 - Regional Agribusiness Centre-Vidin (BG)
 - Sicily Region Regional Department for family and social policies (IT)
 - So.Sv.I. s.r.l. Ibleo Development Company (IT)
 - Horezu Mayoralty (RO)
 - Vulcan Local Council, Hunedoara County (RO)

TOOL QUIZ

Employability and knowledge based economy: tools for innovative culture

Involved since 2003 in a strong territorial cooperation, six regional authorities wanted to go further in addressing the challenges of an innovative issue: human capital in a knowledge-based economy. The cultural and creative sector is a key one in this framework. As an important source of new jobs, it is indeed a knowledge-intensive sector strongly linked to creativity, innovation and ICT. Moreover, it favours the development of new skills closely related to employability in a knowledge-based economy.

Including new partners (technical, scientific and political experts), the Tool Quiz project aims to develop strategies, policies and tools linking the cultural and creative sector to the knowledge-based economy and employability in each partner Region.

The project is based on five working phases:

- Identification phase where partners identify, analyse and evaluate good practices in their Regions using a joint methodological and conceptual framework;
- Exchange phase ensuring the exchange of identified good practices, an in-depth analysis of their development conditions, and a diagnostic of each regional situation;
- Capitalisation phase ensuring the capitalisation on public policies and regional analysis;
- Transfer feasibility phase studying the transfer of these practices within each partner Region, targeting the most relevant ones;
- Experimentation phase enabling the testing of selected good practices.

These phases will result in concrete tools for policy makers based on a better knowledge of the cultural and creative sector's characteristics and of regional specificities. In the long term the project contributes to strengthening the cultural and creative sector as a key sector of the knowledge-based economy.



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Duration

01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget

€1,586,380.60

ERDF contribution

€1,086,940.25

Norwegian funding

€75,000.00

Partnership

- **Nord-Pas de Calais Regional Council (FR)**
- Regional Center for Audiovisual Resources (FR)
- Rogaland County Council (NO)
- IUAV University of Venice (IT)
- Regional Minister of Castilla – La Mancha (ES)
- Simetrias International Foundation (ES)
- Cultural Institution Ars Cameralis Silesiae Superioris (PL)
- Arts Council of Wales (UK)
- Bangor University (UK)
- Flemish authority – Department for Culture, Youth, Sport and Media (BE)
- Technocité Asbl (BE)
- Ministry of the French Community (BE)
- Relais Culture Europe (FR)

UNICREDS

University Collaboration in Regional Development Spaces

UNICREDS gathers together Regions which view the development of decentralised universities in their territories as the key to their participation in regional economic development.

The Regions share similar characteristics that contribute to their economic deprivation, for example their geographical location and distance from key areas of economic activity, population demographics or decline of traditional industries. UNICREDS' challenge is to restructure regional economies in an innovative way.



The core objective of UNICREDS is to demonstrate how the triple helix model (the interaction between universities, industries and the private sector and the public sector and society) can assist the transformation of failing peripheral regions into centres of excellence in research and innovation. The main result of UNICREDS is a new, transferable model for regional development in peripheral or failing economies, which is then integrated by each participating region into their local, regional and national policy structures.

During the course of the project the triple helix models in different European regions are compared, developed and reformed for policy purposes which include the collaboration of universities (education), the public sector (human capital), and the private sector (employment) in order to inform and drive regional development in marginal regions.

The partnership brings together both experienced and less experienced partners from the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Hungary.



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Duration
01/2010 – 10/2012

Total budget
€2,173,658.00

ERDF contribution
€1,710,860.90

- Partnership**
- **Cornwall Council (UK)**
 - University College Falmouth (UK)
 - Municipality of Skellefteå – Campus Development Unit (SE)
 - Regional Council of Vasterbotten (SE)
 - Akademi Norr Association of Municipalities (SE)
 - City of Seinajoki (FI)
 - University Consortium of Seinäjoki / University of Tampere (FI)
 - Seinäjoki Technology Centre Ltd (FI)
 - University of South Bohemia (CZ)
 - South Bohemian Regional Authority (CZ)
 - Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (BG)
 - University of Sofia (BG)
 - University of Debrecen Centre for Environmental Management and Policy (HU)
 - Hajdú-Bihar County Council (HU)
 - University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute (UK)

WINNET 8

Women In Net 8

The WINNET 8 project addresses challenges related to low employment rates among women. The combination of segregated labour markets and the lack of females in entrepreneurship, innovation and technology constitute obstacles for regional competitiveness. Consequently, the project’s overall objective is to contribute to regional growth by promoting female employment in the identified fields and counteracting horizontal gender segregation. WINNET 8 also targets good practices in attracting women to traditionally male fields and strategies for integrating women-specific actions into Structural Funds mainstream programmes.

The current partnership consortium involves regions from eight EU Member States and builds on successful practices from the INTERREG IIIC project W.IN.NET and the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B project FEM.

WINNET 8 provides an arena for direct cooperation between representatives of Managing Authorities, local and regional policy makers, women resource centres and research institutions – a so-called ‘quadruple helix’ setting. Building on validated practices and state-of-the-art research, regional stakeholder groups will engage in several benchmarking activities and study visits. Regional action plans are at the core of the project, supported by interregional exchange in order to facilitate both the drawing up of action plans and their implementation after the end of the project.



Besides actions plans, other results of the WINNET 8 project include:

- Reformed and improved policies for local and regional development;
- Increased knowledge in the regions on how to design policies and practices promoting women in entrepreneurship;
- Counteracting horizontal gender segregation.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2011

Total budget
€2,356,778.55

ERDF contribution
€1,835,850.65

Partnership

- **Municipality of Älvdalen (SE)**
- Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (SE)
- National Resource Centre for Women (SE)
- Dalarna Regional Cooperation Council (SE)
- Gryfice District (PL)
- University of Szczecin, Faculty of Economics and Management (PL)
- Regional council of South Ostrobothnia (FI)
- University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute Seinäjoki (FI)
- Veneto Region (IT)
- Province of Venice (IT)
- Province of Verona (IT)
- Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce (UK)
- University of Evora (PT)
- Regional Coordination and Development Committee of Alentejo (PT)
- Municipality of Plovdiv (BG)
- The Municipality of Leobork (PL)
- Region of West Macedonia (EL)
- Ergani Center (EL)
- Gävleborg Regional Development Council (SE)
- WRC Saga, Regional Resource Center for Women, Gävleborg (SE)



B2N

Business to Nature – Interregional Approach to
SMEs and Entrepreneurship Policies in Natural Areas



areas building on local skills, the attractiveness of the natural environment and best practices in entrepreneurial initiatives that have already proved to be successful.

The considerable lack of entrepreneurial initiatives in some European regions makes it essential that the public sector takes an active role in supporting the small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular in those less developed regions performing below EU average in terms of productivity, employment rate and R&D expenditure. Most of these territories tend to be predominantly rural and are often located in areas that have a strong potential for tourism. Tourism policy in particular is targeted by B2N.

B2N aims to contribute to the economic and sustainable development of European regions by promoting entrepreneurship in underdeveloped

B2N’s 11 partners from nine countries work together on the improvement of SMEs and entrepreneurship policies by analysing the existing situation of SMEs, reviewing policies and identifying good practices, which are expected to be transferred into partners’ territories during the implementation of the project. B2N seeks to provide a model policy framework to support SME’s development in vulnerable natural areas, in line with sustainable development principles.

The project focuses on two policy areas:

- Setting up new businesses;
- Developing new marketable products and services by existing entrepreneurs (supporting innovation).

Due to the characteristics of the applicant Regions it is expected that new entrepreneurial initiatives will be created in the tourism sector, comprising a wide range of economic activities ranging from traditional to new technology-based services.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,954,465.93

ERDF contribution
€1,551,364.68

- Partnership**
- **Polish Tourism Development Agency (PL)**
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 - Institute for Economic Development of Ourense Province (ES)
 - Östergötland County Administrative Board (SE)
 - Perugia Province (IT)
 - Regional Committee for Tourism Development of Auvergne (FR)
 - Cyngor Sir Powys County Council (UK)
 - Grand Paradis Fondation (IT)
 - Development Association of Alto Tâmega’s Region (PT)
 - Veliko Turnovo Municipality (BG)
 - Local Development Center Pivka (SI)

CREA.RE

Creative regions

The renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs in the EU is based on the notion that Europe’s potential for future economic development is directly linked to its ability to create and promote high-value, innovative and research-based economic sectors. The creative sector has a proven high potential to support the Lisbon objectives which is not sufficiently taken into consideration in the EU Structural Funds programmes (2007-2013) in many European Regions.

Rural regions and regional urban centres are particularly concerned. For this reason, CREA.RE was originated to combine, on the one hand, Regions having faced such problems when starting to integrate the creative sector into the EU Regional programmes with, on the other hand, several very advanced partners who agree to share their experience – but each partner providing specific added value for CREA.RE.

Within CREA.RE the know-how, good practice and policy experience in the field of creative economy will be exchanged aiming to enhance the effectiveness of each partner’s EU Regional programmes. All results shall also be accessible – by interregional dissemination activities – outside the partnership.

The durability of the project results will be extensively enhanced. Summarising the specific experiences made by all partners, the CREA.RE toolkit *“How to integrate the creative sector’s potential into EU regional development in a sustainable and feasible way?”* will be published and presented during the EU-wide final conference of the project.



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Duration
01/2010 – 03/2013

Total budget
€2,372,165.47

ERDF contribution
€1,832,897.61

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- District administration Lüchow-Dannenberg (DE)
- Municipality of Narni (IT)
- Agency for the promotion of tourism in Umbria (IT)
- Poznan City Hall (PL)
- City of Medias (RO)
- Regional Landscape Meetjesland Foundation (BE)
- Maribor Development Agency (SI)
- Region Västra Götaland, Cultural affairs Committee/Secretariat of Culture (SE)
- Barcelona Provincial Council (ES)
- Municipal Institute of Economic Development and Employment of Cordoba (ES)



CREATOR

Creative regional policies addressing economic development opportunities related to ageing societies

CREATOR focuses on the maintenance and further enhancement of regional economies’ competitiveness. It seeks to foster economic development opportunities related to an ageing society.

The partnership seeks to secure the regions’ long-term social cohesion through exploring the specific challenges resulting from demographic change and by pro-actively addressing distinct economic development opportunities that emerge. Related to this goal, the project has defined two sub-objectives leading to the establishment of joint in-depth work processes on:

- Adapting and further diversifying the regional-level health and social care sector;
- Innovative and technology-intensive SMEs, developing specific products and services to meet the needs of an increasingly ageing population.



CREATOR will implement up to eight sub-projects with at least three partners each. These activities result in targeted policy strategies and support tools that help establish a more adequate structure of proximity care services in the future. Additionally, CREATOR stimulates a closer interaction between existing regional innovative systems and companies active in this particular market segment.

The individual Regions involved in the project have co-operated in various combinations since the 1990’s. They have accentuated differences with respect to their awareness about and capacities of addressing economic development opportunities emerging from new needs of a further ageing society. This project cooperation allows the regions to jointly exchange their experiences and increase policy-making capacity in each of the areas.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2013

Total budget
€4,926,000.00

ERDF contribution
€3,821,300.00

Partnership

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- Regional Council of Lorraine (FR)
- Regional Council of Häme (FI)
- Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska region (PL)
- Province of Brescia (IT)
- Regional Development Agency of North Hungary Non-Profit Cooperation (HU)
- Regional Development Agency of Asturias (ES)



ENSPIRE EU

Entrepreneurial Inspiration for the European Union

The 2007 Eurobarometer Entrepreneurship Survey revealed that while there is a strong supply of good entrepreneurial conditions, the desire for Europeans to be self-employed is decreasing. This paradox between good conditions for entrepreneurship but poor desire to become an entrepreneur is the key focus of ENSPIRE EU. By concentrating on the development of a European entrepreneurial mindset through the promotion of entrepreneurial inspiration, ENSPIRE EU aims at improving the effectiveness of regional development policies, thereby contributing to the economic modernisation and increased competitiveness of the EU.

The activities of the project have been divided into three main parts:

- A limited mapping carried out in each partner region by using a set of standards and a joint information base, the mapping resulting in a joint interregional study.
- Exchange of experiences, knowhow, and ideas through Interregional exchange camps, and the initiation of an ENSPIRE EU network.
- Policy effectuation by the development of policy recommendations, a strategic regional policy framework and an interregional policy seminar.

Three groups are targeted by ENSPIRE EU: the disadvantaged (e.g. immigrants), the disconnected (long-term unemployed people), and the discouraged (young people in second level education who do not aspire to become entrepreneurs). The main results of the project will include improved policy making processes, and thereby improved regional development policies, by adopting evidence-based policy making (i.e. policy making based on new knowledge by exchange of experiences and joint cooperation), and the creation of an ENSPIRE EU network for long-term collaboration and durability of the project's results.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,951,463.94

ERDF contribution
€1,530,378.56

Partnership

- **Esbjerg Municipality (DK)**
- Vejle Business Development Agency (DK)
- Hampshire County Council (UK)
- The Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry / ADVANCIA (FR)
- Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Shipping of Seville (ES)
- Halland Regional Development Council (SE)
- Larnaca District Development Agency (CY)
- Zlin Region (CZ)
- North-West Regional Development Agency (RO)
- Marshal Office of the Lubuskie Region (PL)
- Central-Transdanubian Regional Development Agency Nonprofit Company (HU)
- BSC, Business Support Centre L.t.d., Kranj (SI)



ENTREDI

Entrepreneurial Diversity

Entrepreneurial activities have an enormous impact for the economic performance of regions and the renewal of regional knowledge. Fostering entrepreneurship with (semi) public funding contributes to a more prosperous regional economy and can reduce the unemployment rate significantly. The experiences of the project partners and acknowledged studies show that entrepreneurial initiatives are successful if different types of services are provided for starting and young entrepreneurs. Such services include assessment, training, ongoing consultation, provision of facilities, and networking.

The partners representing seven European Regions are convinced that a shift is needed from a fragmented support system to a holistic approach. It is necessary to develop wide regional networks of involved government agencies, regional economic development providers, labour offices, universities, associations, banks, etc. Those regional networks can provide support to all potential and young entrepreneurs to overcome the initial hurdles of launching their businesses.



Active networks of public and private institutions as well as target group-orientated consultation and qualification approaches are already implemented in some ENTREDI partner Regions. The project gathers such activities, approaches and good practices into a pool where all partners can find something to implement or adopt in their regional Structural Funds framework.

The ENTREDI project results in seven regional action plans on the development and improvement of entrepreneurship support. These will be signed by the Managing Authorities of the respective Regional Operational Programmes. The experiences, methods and tools will also be made available to other European Regions.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2011

Total budget
€1,386,650.00

ERDF contribution
€1,081,195.50

Partnership

- **Kompass (DE)**
- LTC AB (SE)
- University of Western Macedonia (EL)
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (UK)
- Tartu Science Park (EE)
- University of Lodz (PL)
- Aster s.cons.p.a. (IT)



ICER

Innovative Concept of Eco-accommodation approach in rural Regions: Public support policies for eco-investors

Former partners of the INTERREG IIIC project FUToURISM observed the lack of innovation and public/private partnerships in their rural territories, in particular in tourism. These areas with low competitiveness and employment level are not attractive enough for investors. As the tourism sector is the main driving force of their economy, public authorities have to create favourable conditions in rural areas to innovate and to attract investments. Therefore ICER aims to exchange on the best approach to public strategies in order to develop SMEs in rural areas by attracting and supporting investors.

Even though the economic dimension is the key issue of the project, there are clear side-effects on the environment through the selection of eco-friendly investors intending to create SMEs in tourism.

The core activities of the project follow a four-step approach:

- Global engineering of the project focused on the exchange of experience and good practices identification.
- Local work with tourism actors and public policy makers where each partner organises workshops with SMEs in the tourism sector to collect their needs regarding public policies.
- Proposal of a public policies recommendations book based on the compilation of good practices exchange and workshops results.
- Improvement of public policies packages in every partner region and/or country based on the final version of the recommendations book.

Throughout its duration ICER intends to raise awareness among the relevant decision-makers for innovative public policies for tourism aiming at strengthening the attractiveness and competitiveness of their rural areas.



Lead partner

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Duration

01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget

€1,799,250.00

ERDF contribution

€1,410,572.50

Partnership

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- Shannon Development (IE)
- South Transdanubian Regional Development Agency (HU)
- Provincial Government of Valladolid (WRA) (ES)
- Lahti Region Environmental Service, Technical and Environmental Department, City of Lahti (FI)
- Ministry for Gozo (MT)
- Regional Development Agency Mura Ltd. (SI)

IMAGEEN

Improvement of Methodologies and Governance of European Entrepreneurship Network

IMAGEEN focuses on the support policies for emerging companies in Europe. These policies have an impact on the sustainability of new businesses but with an increasing number of would-be entrepreneurs and limited public resources, their efficiency needs to be maximised. The project deals with two main themes:

- Governance models and monitoring methodologies (involving policy makers and operational partners);
- Support methodologies, especially new approaches to support new entrepreneurs in the first years of activity (post-creation support) and new methodologies which will enable the partners to achieve a large-scale process.



For both themes, IMAGEEN seeks good practices and aims to reproduce them in project partners' territories. It envisages the joint testing of an innovative entrepreneurship monitoring system. The expected outputs of IMAGEEN are a common entrepreneurship barometer (10 permanent common indicators giving a global picture and enabling comparisons between EU Regions) and a good practice guide. The project's other goal is building an EU-wide network dedicated to the improvement of entrepreneurship policies and tools.

Entrepreneurship and business creation generates both growth and employment, which directly contribute to increasing the competitiveness of EU regions. Therefore, a complementary and transversal issue tackled by the project is the analysis of the added value of entrepreneurship for European territories, for instance as a marketing tool.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
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ERDF contribution
€985,012.50

Partnership
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• Province of Turin (IT)
• City of Warsaw (PL)
• City of Munich – Department of Labor and Economic Development (DE)
• Business Region Göteborg AB (SE)
• Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (UK)
• County Council of Granada (ES)

INNOHUBS

Innovation Hubs

Since 1996 the Edge Cities Network (ECN) has been bringing together cities on the outskirts of Europe’s major capitals. These cities have common economic, cultural and social challenges that derive from this geographic situation. Affected by the capitals’ growth and spread, they often lose their highly skilled and qualified human resources, resulting in skills mismatch and skill gaps for local companies. INNOHUBS aims to disseminate the six partners good practices that were developed under ECN.

The general objective of INNOHUBS is to identify and exchange good practices in terms of support and promotion of local entrepreneurship and innovative SMEs as a way to maintain the edge cities’ integrity as living environments, and contribute to the Lisbon objectives through local competencies. INNOHUBS partners want to become an example to all edge cities by showing, through the selection and exchange of good practices how they can exploit their own potential for growth and sustainability by turning innovative ideas into innovative SMEs.

In order to achieve this goal, INNOHUBS will capitalise on the Municipality of Nacka’s experience in the Innovation Hub – an open counselling, advising and mentoring resource staffed by local experts from the business and academia environment. The Innovation Hub will be used as the model and yardstick for the identification and exchange of good practices within the six partners. The Edge Cities Network will incorporate INNOHUBS’ results as a permanent toolkit to be improved and updated by the members beyond the administrative end of the project.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
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ERDF contribution
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- Partnership**
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 - Getafe Initiatives, S.A. Municipal (ES)
 - Ballerup Municipality (DK)
 - North Down Borough Council (UK)
 - Loures County Council (PT)
 - Municipality of Pernik (BG)



ORGANZA

Network of Medium Sized Creative Cities

Organza aims to investigate the necessary conditions for the transformation, growth and success of creative industries. The project emerged from a survey that showed that many initiatives were being developed to foster the growth of the creative industries or their restructuring. However, these initiatives often lacked critical mass, access to good practices and relevance within their context to really improve the competitiveness of creative industries.

Organza focuses on medium-sized regions and cities that have incomplete production structures and face a brain drain of creative talent to larger cities. This has a negative effect on sustainable growth, social cohesion and the ability to attract new initiatives. The challenge is to boost entrepreneurship but also to foster industrial change as well as to create synergies between creativity and industry.

Organza aims to improve and understand policy-making for creative industries and to strengthen regional economies by developing and evaluating new policy instruments, and by sharing experiences between different European Regions or cities. To achieve its objectives Organza brings together 13 partners with different models and stages of policy development.



Since it is a new policy area, methodologies are to be developed to enable partners to compare the structure of creative industries and the supporting infrastructure within their Regions and assess the effectiveness of the many initiatives that have been developed to support them. The information generated will be collated into a database to facilitate the sharing of information. From this comprehensive collection of data, a limited set of good practices will be selected for transfer amongst cities and Regions. Through various dissemination activities other Regions outside the partnership will also be able to benefit from the work of Organza.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,959,881.25

ERDF contribution
€1,493,066.33

Partnership

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- ArtEZ Institute of the Arts (NL)
- WFB Bremen-Economic Development (DE)
- Cotton Textile and Clothing Centre (IT)
- City Hall of Iasi (RO)
- ‘Gheorghe Asachi’ Technical University Iasi (RO)
- City of Presov, Municipality (SK)
- Technical University of Kosice, Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies with a seat in Presov (SK)
- Nottingham Trent University (UK)
- Design Flanders (BE)
- Treviso Tecnologia (IT)
- Varese Chamber of Commerce (IT)
- Innovation and Technology Agency of Navarra S.A. (ES)



OSAIS

Observatory on State Aid Impact

In several EU countries, there is an open debate on the efficiency of the subsidy policies towards SMEs growth. Each public authority should know the exact amount of the aid granted and, at the same time, be able to observe the impact on the area of the regional subsidy policy. It is even more important since the present economic crisis calls for evaluation of policies supporting the SMEs sector to be implemented in 2009/2010 by local authorities.

The OSAIS project goes towards an effective improvement of the regional/local policy in the domain of state aid. First, partners have started an analysis of the macroeconomic impact of the regional subsidy policy in terms of effectiveness. In parallel, they are also trying to identify the best practices among the different financial tools available (e.g. grants, guarantees, capital injections, accelerated depreciation allowances, etc.). Both aspects will be taken into consideration to evaluate long and short-term policy to face the current economic crisis.

To facilitate the exchange of experience, a series of joint thematic seminars are being organised, during which partners collect data. The creation of this database should later allow further networking and serve as an input for a joint thematic survey, which will involve institutions, universities and stakeholders. The best practices identified will also be exchanged among the partners through study visits and a joint interregional training session. Furthermore, the project intends to reflect on the development of a new approach to subsidy policies; conclusions will be compiled in an OSAIS guide. Finally, action plans will be developed by some partners with detailed specific aid schemes focusing on the most efficient way to support the SME system. These action plans will be submitted to the relevant regional legislative/executive bodies together with the best practice guide.



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01/2010 – 02/2013

Total budget
€1,996,175.00

ERDF contribution
€1,592,043.05

Partnership

- **Veneto Region – Regional Council (IT)**
- University Enterprise Training Partnership Region of Murcia (ES)
- Larnaca District Development Agency (CY)
- ADETIM – Economic and Social Development Agency of Timiș County (RO)
- Lisbon and Tagus Valley Region (PT)
- Bautzen Innovation Centre (DE)
- Municipality of Heraklion (EL)
- Regional Development Agency of Trenčín Self-Governing Region (SK)
- Opolskie Region (PL)
- Lower Austrian Government, Dept. Economic Affairs, Tourism and Technology (AT)
- Champagne-Ardenne Region (FR)



PROSPECTS

To promote and support entrepreneurship to create new SMEs

The PROSPECTS project is built on a partnership stemming from both Regional Competitiveness and Convergence Regions. PROSPECTS aims to promote the regional entrepreneurship policies in the current or former regions heavily dependent on mining or on other traditional mono-industries. This project is notably based on the findings of the INTERREG IIIC RECORE project. It aims to offer new prospects in enhancing entrepreneurship and in promoting the quantitative and qualitative creation of SMEs. The 10 partners, located inside a United Kingdom–Spain–Slovenia–Poland quadrilateral, provide different levels of know-how and knowledge in the field of SMEs promotion.

The project partners will focus on analysing four strategic themes: strengthening the attractiveness of the territories, enhancing business support structures, supporting business clusters, and supporting eco-innovations and knowledge. Based on these thematic analyses and on the appraisal of good practices, a compendium is to be developed. The

new insights gained in the project are to be used in defining the public policies of SMEs promotion. The project partners, by means of peer to peer method, are to produce their own transfer plan.

Finally, a project toolkit on the “Promotion of SMEs”, including a good practices compendium and strategic guidelines are to be produced and widely spread among the local authorities all over Europe facing similar issues. PROSPECTS envisages establishing an interregional strategic team which will have the capacity to advise European mining regions or regions particularly impacted by the current crisis.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

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ERDF contribution
€1,407,862.40

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 - City Council of Houthalen-Helchteren (BE)
 - Union of cities and municipalities of district Karvina (ACOM CZ) (CZ)
 - Council of Pas de Calais Department (FR)
 - City Council of Tatabanya (HU)
 - Association of Mining Communities in Poland, ACOM Poland (PL)
 - Labour fund Zasavje, foundation for active employment policy (SI)
 - City Council of Laviana (ES)
 - Wigan Council (UK)
 - City Council of Gelsenkirchen (DE)

Robinwood PLUS

Apply participatory forest planning for sustainability

Rural areas need to find their own route to sustainable development through the exploitation of natural resources. Robinwood PLUS considers forestry planning as a potential public governance tool for sustainable land management and as a key resource for environment protection and quality of life. This project, which is a mini programme, has thus been conceived to support rural development regional policies through participatory forestry planning.

Inspired by the EU Forest Action Plan and lessons learnt from successful INTERREG IIIC projects such as Robinwood and RURAL Innova, Robinwood PLUS partners want to further extend their knowledge and promote a more systematic approach in terms of policy and governance for the revitalisation of rural areas. The consortium is made up of five regional public authorities from four EU countries, with high forestry potential.

The project is focusing on the identification and exchange of best practices through regular interregional meetings. The partnership is also working on a common methodology for applying quality participatory forest planning that would take into account local needs and global competitiveness. Active cooperation and exchange of experience will also take place at sub-projects' level that will be selected through interregional calls for proposals.

Final main outputs include common guidelines for advising and encouraging public participation in forest planning to improve governance as well as common policy recommendations for forestry economy development, both addressing regional and EU policies to pave the way for future investment.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2013

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ERDF contribution
€2,358,322.67

Partnership
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• Regional Council of Limousin (FR)
• Harghita County Council (RO)
• Regional Government of Calabria (IT)



RURALAND

Rural Development Players



Rural areas in Europe are affected by various problems encompassing depopulation, ageing population, a lack of non-agricultural employment, and a less competitive production sector than in the urban areas. With the RURALAND project, 10 partners coming from nine EU countries expressed their wish to promote innovative and competitive rural development policies. RURALAND is thus encouraging territorial competitiveness and supporting the economic diversification of rural areas by exchanging knowledge and identifying good practices.

In order to reach this objective, the project partners have defined a methodology and selected four thematic areas to focus on:

- Economic competitiveness;
- New technologies and renewable energy;
- New employment, ICTs and services to the population;
- Natural and cultural economic valorisation.

In line with these thematic areas, specific seminars will be organised as well as study visits to enable partners to learn from the experiences carried out in the participating territories. Feasibility studies will also be made to assess the potential transferability of the identified good practices.

The main output of these activities will consist of a set of publications including conclusions and results from each of the four themes identified by the project, together with a final publication which will compile the main lessons learnt and global conclusions of the network and cooperation experience. In addition, regional policy recommendations for the participating Regions and one joint European policy recommendation will be developed and used to directly influence rural development policies. With this project, partners also aim to strengthen the dialogue and capacity of agreement of regional authorities for future cooperation.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

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ERDF contribution
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Partnership

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- Regional Council of Limousin (FR)
- Rural Foundation of Wallonia (BE)
- Jämtland County Council Institute of Rural Development (SE)
- Pazardzhik Regional Administration (BG)
- Sicilian Region (IT)
- ODIANA – Development Association for the Baixo Guadiana (PT)
- Office for regional and agricultural development in Corsica (FR)
- Joint authority of Kainuu Region (FI)
- Salaj County Council (RO)



SMART +

Mini-Programme for SME Innovation and Promotion of RTD

SMART+ origins from the INTERREG IIIC Regional Framework Operation SMART that enabled some EU Regions to network and exchange on the identification and transfer of innovative approaches to economic restructuring. The aim was to support regional development policies in the context of economic streamlining processes and globalisation. As a follow-up of that cooperation, the mini-programme SMART+ intends to go further in the definition of a joint strategy, using SMEs as the key force for the transition of economies based on traditional industries towards a knowledge-based economy.

The objective of SMART+ is to boost regional enterprises through the transfer of knowledge and increase their competitiveness in the global market. This goal will be achieved through a series of study trips, seminars and workshops that will improve partners' capacity in the analysis, transfer and dissemination of their good practices.

SMART+ will organise calls for sub-projects in order to tackle the following themes:

- Stimulating the integration of SMEs in networks and clusters.
- Improving the access to RTD and business partners.
- Developing strategies and tools to transform research potential into economic return (i.e. spin-offs, start-ups).
- Building capacity, developing new skills for SME staff and training of innovation/RTD management.
- Mentoring programmes with peer management and experts.

The cooperation will result in the identification of good practices and policy instruments to be applied in the participating regions. The project's main output will be the elaboration of Smart+ Chart and Regional Implementation Plans for the regions involved with respect to the mainstream programmes.



Lead partner

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Duration

01/2010 – 12/2013

Total budget

€4,004,000.00

ERDF contribution

€3,233,000.00

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- Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH (DE)
- The Malopolska Region (The Marshall Office of Malopolska Region) (PL)
- Region of Western Macedonia, European Programmes Office (EL)
- Cluj County Council (RO)
- National Association of Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria (BG)

YES

Youth Entrepreneurship Strategies

Entrepreneurship is not a preferred career option for most Europeans, as established by the flash Eurobarometer n°192 (2007). However, studies show that teaching entrepreneurship in school is an effective way to increase the number of entrepreneurs.

The aim of the YES project is to contribute to European competitiveness and to accelerate regional economic growth through promoting the entrepreneurial mindset in the next generation. Thus, the project aims at integrating an entrepreneurial perspective in the education system and increase the number of young entrepreneurs.

YES will influence policies like regional/local development plans, growth and innovation plans and school curricula by capitalising on new knowledge and good practice on how to integrate entrepreneurship in the education system.

The project originates from the regional need to absorb new knowledge and inspiration on youth entrepreneurship strategies. YES seeks to work with new methods in order to review regional policies concerning youth entrepreneurship and to spread lessons learned and good practice gained. For example,

- developing a method for mapping prerequisites for promoting youth entrepreneurship in regional development policies and in education systems;
- conducting interregional mapping and a joint interregional analysis where similarities, differences, strengths and weaknesses are identified.

Eight partners, including six regional governments, one national youth entrepreneurship organisation and the Assembly of European Regions form the project partnership. Its activities result in a Best Practice guide, action plans and improved policies regarding the integration of entrepreneurship in the education system.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

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ERDF contribution
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Partnership

- **Östergötland County Administrative Board (SE)**
- Council of Education, Training and Employment of the Region of Murcia (ES)
- Pori Regional Development Agency POSEK Ltd (FI)
- Assembly of European Regions (AER) (FR)
- South-East Regional Authority (IE)
- Zilina self-governing region (SK)
- Junior Achievement Estonia (EE)
- Marshal's Office of Opolskie Region (PL)



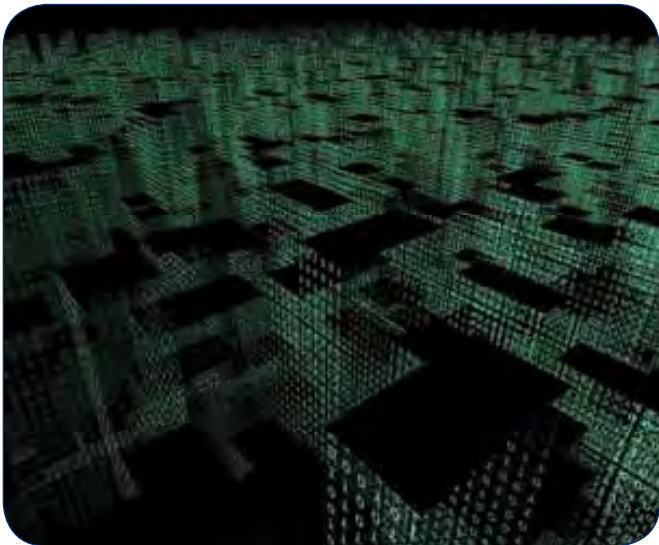
DE-LAN

Digital Ecosystems – Learning Applications Network

The DE-LAN project is aimed at promoting best practice in the development, deployment and exploitation of innovative digital technologies and networks, particularly in the context of applications such as Living Labs, Digitally-Networked Businesses and Digital Business Ecosystems (DBE).

A DBE is a form of business organisation where the adoption of Internet-based technologies permeates the entire business structure, which allows more fluid, case-by-case alliances with other businesses.

The project will build on the success of existing DBE initiatives across Europe by extending interregional cooperation to identify and disseminate a greater range of good practices in DBE deployment. Moreover, it will focus on the transformative use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) by taking into account the potential benefits arising from the application of emerging, innovative trends in these technologies, such as cloud computing and social networking. This will provide exciting new solutions to the practical implementation of DBEs, and has the potential for a new phase of ICT-driven innovation and growth.



Although the DBE concept is fairly new, each of the partners involved in the project has specific expertise in different aspects of its development and deployment. The partners will analyse good practices (both within their Region and in other Regions where these systems have been developed successfully), and exchange experiences via an interregional Learning Applications Network which will include workshops, peer review visits and staff exchanges. The project also includes eight regional pilot actions to assess the likely benefits of innovative ICTs and new eBusiness approaches to DBE deployment, and to evaluate the potential for transferring good practices between sectors and Regions.

As a result, an up-to-date European Good Practice guide for the practical implementation of Digital Ecosystems will be produced and disseminated widely in order to take forward and enhance existing guides, to reflect the added-value opportunities offered by innovative ICTs and to set out policy recommendations for the regional development of these digital technologies.



Lead partner
Welsh Assembly Government (UK)

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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,468,701.00

ERDF contribution
€1,925,942.55

Partnership

- **Welsh Assembly Government (UK)**
- European Regional Information Society Association (BE)
- Insula Barataria Foundation (ES)
- National Association Italian Municipalities (ANCI) Lazio (IT)
- CSP – Innovation in ICT (IT)
- Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in Extremadura (ES)
- Technological Research Centre of Koroška (SI)
- Kaunas University of Technology (LT)
- Vysocina Region (CZ)



DLA

Common methodology for the implementation of Digital Local Agenda and its impact on regional digital policies



A Digital Local Agenda (DLA) is a common strategy shared with citizens, for the development of the Information Society which bears in mind socio-economic, cultural and institutional factors. Digital divide in Europe is a reality, and the economic and social development of European regions is largely conditioned by the degree of implementation of the Information Society. In the case of public administrations, the adoption of Information and Communication Technologies tools in day-to-day practices brings immediate improvements: more efficiency, more productivity and better services for citizens and businesses. However, the extent to which the Information and Communication Technologies are developed in public authorities across Europe in general and in the project partners in particular varies from one region to another.

The main objective of the project, which unites 11 partners from nine countries across Europe, is to improve regional policies in the fields of DLA in order to develop new activities related to the application of the Information and Communication Technologies to public services.

To do so, the project fosters a permanent exchange of experience among partners. It also establishes a cooperation network to update and improve knowledge on the information society and its applications in public administration's services. As specific objectives, the project seeks to:

- Design a general DLA transferable to every Region,
- Elaborate a Common Methodology to adapt the general DLA to every particular local situation,
- Involve all key stakeholders in the project and in the process of building a DLA,
- Exchange experience,
- State the basis for future collaboration.



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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2012	
Total budget €1,491,456.00	
ERDF contribution €1,211,872.00	



eCitizen II

Towards citizen-centred eGovernment in European cities and regions

There is a major demand and need for improving openness, cost-efficiency and quality of public administration as well as provision of public services. More efforts and better collaboration are still needed to accelerate the efficient uptake of eGovernment, dissemination and utilisation of experiences and good practices.

eCitizen II is a follow-up of an INTERREG IIIC project of the same name. It is designed to support European cities and regions in their efforts to accelerate eGovernment through exploiting established networks, gained experiences and good practices. The aim of the project is to improve the interaction between citizens and public authorities, better involving citizens in local decision-making through the development of tools such as digital forums. In addition, it contributes to changing the operational culture and attitudes within public administrations.

The 12 partners aim to transfer knowledge and good practices between the more advanced and less experienced cities and regions throughout Europe. The project demonstrates the benefits of eGovernment and best eParticipation practices in different Regions. Moreover, it identifies future prospects to ensure support for the further acceleration of eGovernment and citizen-centred e-services.

The eCitizen II project activities enhance direct collaboration, peer learning, sharing and transferring of eGovernment and eParticipation tools as well as identifying future trends between project partners. The project improves the capacities and knowledge of decision-makers, experts and other relevant actors in local and regional administrations of sharing and adopting eGovernment and eParticipation practices. The results include a best practice manual on eParticipation with policy recommendations for local and regional administrations.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,044,757.31

ERDF contribution
€1,581,351.78

Partnership

- **The Baltic Institute of Finland (FI)**
- City of Tampere (FI)
- Tartu City Government (EE)
- Odense Municipality (DK)
- Province of Flevoland (NL)
- Sheffield City Council (UK)
- South West Regional Authority (IE)
- Municipality of Bologna (IT)
- Patras Municipal Enterprise for Planning and Development S.A. (EL)
- Vysocina Region (PL)
- Municipality of Miskolc (HU)
- The Association of Basque Municipalities (EUEDEL) (ES)

ICT-VN

Promotion of ICT usage by SMEs as an enabler of Value Networks

Today’s business environment tends towards more networked forms of organisations and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) which have a proven success in facilitating interactions and value networks creation. Knowing this, European Regions have implemented different strategies to promote Information Society within SMEs, thus contributing to the wide use of e-business as a mean of SME growth.

ICT-VN wants to go one step further by introducing a new challenge to Information Society promotion policies for SMEs. More precisely, the proposed partnership intends to increase the impact of regional strategies through an efficient promotion and development of ICT within SMEs. In other words, the overall objective is to further develop business models, promote networking and improve regional economic competitiveness.



To reach these goals, the partnership has decided to focus on three key sectors: agrifood, commerce/services and tourism; and is working on the identification, selection and description of transferable good practices. Training sessions and study visits are also planned to facilitate the exchange of experience. In the final stage of the project, the partners will produce guides and handbooks and will work on the development of one regional transfer plan per participating Region.

The project involves 10 partners from nine countries, and is composed of public bodies mandated by their regional authorities in the field of information society, regional development and business and innovation sectors.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,227,594.40

ERDF contribution
€1,750,145.24

Partnership

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- Regional Development Sector, R.A. Computer Technology Institute (EL)
- ERVET – Emilia Romagna Economic Development Agency L.t.d (IT)
- Malta Communications Authority (MT)
- Agro Business Park (DK)
- TeleRegions Network (BE)
- RDA of Northern Primorska Ltd Nova Gorica (SI)
- West-Transdanubian Regional Development Agency Non-profit Limited Liability Company (HU)
- WESTBIC (IE)
- Border Regional Authority (IE)



IMMODI

Implementing Modi

IMMODI is a Capitalisation project bringing together 12 partners representing nine European Regions from eight different countries, addressing a shared regional policy issue, namely the access and development of e-government and e-health services in mountainous and rural regions of the EU.

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the isolation of mountain and rural areas through the use of innovative technological tools and spread the use of ICTs by the implementation of new public services. The project falls within the scope of European policy developments related to e-government and e-health services in mountainous and rural areas, and it also helps regional and local policy-makers in the development of new services by defining concrete Action Plans for the implementation of the designated new services.

Efforts are concentrated on transferring new and sustainable services in the fields of e-government and e-health to mainstream Operational Programmes in the framework of these implementation instruments. Nine action plans are commonly developed by each of the Regions according to their specific needs. 10 good practices and services on e-government and three on e-health constitutes the good practices that are taken as the starting point and are transferred in the framework of the project.

Some of the good practices come from the real exportability of the findings and good practices that were produced by the MO.DI (Digital Mountains) project and from the partners’ stock of experiences fitting the regional Operational Programmes. The activities of IMMODI include a number of interregional events, technical workshops and political meetings with ‘deep delegations’, as well as the preparation of a cutting-edge guide on good practices and services of e-government and e-health.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2011

Total budget
€1,866,795.00

ERDF contribution
€1,444,507.05

Partnership

- **Association TECLA (IT)**
- Region of Basilicata (IT)
- Euro Perspectives Foundation (BG)
- Blekinge Institute of Technology (SE)
- Kainuun Etu Ltd (FI)
- Bautzen Innovation Centre (DE)
- Regional Council of Auvergne (FR)
- European Association of Elected representatives from Mountain Regions (FR)
- European Mountain Forum (FR)
- Region of Thessaly (EL)
- Region of Peloponnese (EL)
- Badajoz County Council (ES)



I-SPEED

Information Society Policies for Sustainable European Economic Development

Access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has played an important part within the knowledge economy. Developing ICT innovative solutions for public services and spreading them across all European Regions could also be a valuable asset for the economic development of the tourism sector, given the way ICT services and the Internet influence market and consumers' behaviours.

In this sense, I-SPEED tackles information society policies with the aim to foster competitiveness and sustainability of the Tourism Economy. More precisely, the overall objective of the project is to enable regional and local authorities to develop and improve their policies and instruments through an efficient use of ICT-based public services.



The consortium is made of 10 regional and local authorities covering a wide EU area and being directly responsible for defining policies. Partners are working on the identification, analysis, and transfer of good practices related to the use of ICT-based services. Workshops, study visits and awareness-raising actions on the need to develop innovation policies in the field tackled are thus being organised among policy-makers. The effective involvement of policy-makers in the project will be guaranteed by the setting up of a Political Steering Group, composed of at least one politician per partner.

By exchanging experiences at policy level, I-SPEED intends to improve regional and local policies for the development of ICT-based public services, responding to the need to improve productivity and competitiveness of businesses and entrepreneurs. The cooperation will also lead to an increased capacity of local and regional administrations across Europe to roll out ICT services and to exploit the possibilities offered by the information society. The main strategic outputs, which consist of a good practices guide, transferability reports and policy recommendations, will be made available to any interested local and regional authorities or organisations outside the partnership.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,402,130.84

ERDF contribution
€972,307,23

Norwegian funding
€83.550.00

- Partnership**
- **City of Venice (IT)**
 - Hedmark County (NO)
 - City of Warsaw (PL)
 - City of Plovdiv (BG)
 - Region of Crete (EL)
 - Powys County (UK)
 - Regional Government of Galicia (ES)
 - City of Bucharest (RO)
 - Parkstad Limburg (NL)
 - Province of Rome (IT)

OSEPA

Open Source software usage by European Public Administrations

Free and/or Open Source Software (FOSS) is considered an instrument potentially capable of enhancing competitiveness for public administrations, companies, as well as for citizens all over Europe. To demonstrate the value of this tool, it is important to examine whether and how appropriate public policies can alleviate barriers and inhibitors to its use. Public administrations can play a role by removing legal and organisational obstacles and by acting as early adopters.

OSEPA aims to study the potential role of open source software within European societies. The interregional cooperation in the context of the project intends to cultivate a debate among public administrations with the aim to promote knowledge and to foster awareness of the main benefits and disadvantages resulting from its adoption and use. Another objective of the cooperation is to build consensus on the framework conditions enabling FOSS to become a technically, financially and legally viable alternative offer for IT solutions. In other words, the project partners aim to develop approaches that may facilitate the emergence of FOSS as a mature and viable business model.

Planned activities by the partnership include surveys, case studies on the technical, financial and legal aspects of FOSS adoption by European public administrations, joint interregional events and EU-wide conferences. A good practice guide as well as recommendations on European and national policies and practices on this specific instrument will be produced at the end of the project as main outputs.

The consortium includes 13 partners from 11 countries, among which four national associations of municipalities and communities, regions and knowledge organisations reaching more than 1,302 European local and regional public administrations.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

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ERDF contribution
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 - Vysočina Region (CZ)
 - Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in Extremadura (ES)
 - MFG Baden-Württemberg MbH – Public Innovation Agency for ICT and Media (DE)
 - Swedish Association of Municipalities for Joint Development of eServices (SE)
 - Emilia-Romagna Region (IT)
 - City of Schoten (BE)
 - Strovolos municipality (CY)
 - Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LV)
 - Bistrita City Hall (RO)
 - Romanian Towns Association (RO)
 - The University of Sheffield (UK)
 - Research Academic Computer Technology Institute – RACTI (EL)



RTF

Regional Telemedicine Forum

This project establishes a Regional Telemedicine Forum for delivering innovation at regional level. Despite the benefits and technical maturity of applications, the use of telemedicine services – the provision of healthcare services at a distance – is still limited in Europe. Actions have to be taken at regional level by developing policy recommendations removing barriers to the wider use of telemedicine. This contributes to ensuring that regional policies respond better to today’s economic and social challenges.



The partnership of nine European Regions aims to release the potential of wider implementation and deployment of telemedicine services at regional level. Over three years the partners will organise seven workshops, four study visits and virtual meetings to focus on telemedicine services related to three major chronic diseases: diabetes, smokers’ lung disease, and cardiovascular disease.

The project results in policy recommendations, developed on the basis of identification and analysis of telemedicine barriers and facilitators at clinical, evaluation, strategy, and market level. This contributes to releasing the potential of wider implementation and deployment of telemedicine services at regional level, and thereby to innovation within patient care and healthcare system efficiency as well as market development for regional SMEs.

Another added value of RTF project is the development of good practice guidelines which intend to make it possible to duplicate and replicate successful *status quo* telemedicine services for chronic patients in other European Regions. A permanent Regional Telemedicine Forum facilitated by a European eHealth platform will be used to share the results with other Regions.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,977,831.00

ERDF contribution
€1,359,723.25

Norwegian funding
€101,500.00

Partnership

- **Region of Southern Denmark (DK)**
- Veneto Region (IT)
- Ministry of Health of the Catalan Government, TicSalut Foundation (ES)
- Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (NO)
- Estonian eHealth Foundation (EE)
- Regional Council of Auvergne (FR)
- Scottish Centre for Telehealth (UK)
- County Council of Nordbotten (SE)
- Malopolska Region (PL)

ChemClust

Improving Innovation Capacity in European Chemical Clusters

The ChemClust project is an initiative of the European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) established as a result of an INTERREG IIIC project. ChemClust's objective is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the area of innovation and cluster policies for the chemical sector by means of interregional cooperation and exchange of best-practice.



In this context the project intends to initiate mutual learning between Regions with more and less experience to improve the capacity and the knowledge of regional stakeholders and the efficacy of the regional innovation system. ChemClust also seeks to contribute to the transition of Regions from traditional industries (bulk chemicals) towards new businesses (new materials, biotechnology etc). With these activities the ChemClust project indirectly aims to support entrepreneurship and the development of new businesses in the chemical sector, with a particular focus on new products and processes which are highly knowledge-based and innovative.

The project's expected results include achieving a new quality of cooperation between "chemical Regions". This entails an in-depth exchange and transfer of experience and of best practices related to regional policies on cluster development and innovation promotion, as well as on a deeper cooperation of European chemical clusters. ChemClust aims at the development of an innovation-friendly regulatory environment in chemical clusters; in this context, policy recommendations at European and regional levels are to be issued as well. The final output of the ChemClust project is the improved efficiency of regionally-based R&D.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,762,400.00

ERDF contribution
€1,231,950.00

Partnership

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- Ministry for Economy, Mittelstand and Energy, North Rhine-Westphalia (DE)
- Regional Development Agency of Asturias (ES)
- Mazowieckie Voivodeship (PL)
- Usti Region (CZ)
- Cheshire County Council (UK)
- Province of Novara (IT)
- Province of Limburg (NL)
- Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (UK)
- Development Company Brunsbuettel (DE)

DISTRICT+

Disseminating Innovative STRategies for Capitalisation of Targeted Good Practices



European Regions need to restructure their economies from traditional manufacturing industry towards a new model of development based on knowledge and innovation. The DISTRICT+ mini-programme has been designed in this sense. Building on experiences gained by the partners through their respective regional development programmes and former European projects such as the INTERREG IIIC DISTRICT regional framework operation, this project intends to exchange experiences and good practices in the areas of innovation, research and technological development. In particular, the project partners are working on the improvement of the effectiveness of regional development policies in the field tackled, with the aim to modernise their regional economies and improve their global competitive position.

The project will exchange policy experience between more and less advanced regions by implementing an intense schedule of interregional activities such as thematic workshops, study visits, joint interregional training sessions, etc.

As a mini-programme, the project will also support a limited number of sub-projects that will be selected through interregional calls for proposals. Results will be delivered to the partners’ regional authorities through the production of a series of strategic outputs which mainly include a good practice transferability handbook, strategic guidelines for policy-makers with policy recommendations as well as feasibility studies for pilot action in target regions.

The partnership involves six regional public authorities that are in charge of managing the 2007-2013 ERDF Regional Operational Programmes.



Lead partner Tuscany Region (IT)	Partnership • Tuscany Region (IT) • UK Trade and Investment – West Midlands (UK) • Saxony Economic Development Corporation (DE) • Region Vastra Götaland (SE) • Lower Silesia Voivoship (PL) • Brasov County Council (RO)
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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2013	
Total budget €4,600,000.00	
ERDF contribution €3,550,000.00	

ECREIN+

European Clusters and Regions for Eco-Innovation Network Plus

The ECREIN network (European Clusters and Regions for Eco-investments Network) was created in 2006 to propose innovative financial instruments and support eco-innovation and SMEs at regional level. It exposed a lack of knowledge, adapted tools and coordination between public and private sectors, and as a consequence, a difficulty for financiers to invest in this specific sector.

With a total of 13 partners from nine countries, the ECREIN+ project brings together new Regions and aims to develop tools and actions to implement innovative regional policies supporting eco-innovation and eco-businesses, easily adaptable to every European Region.

The economic and environmental crisis require innovation for a genuinely sustainable development. The regional level is very well suited for effective action in this field because of the proximity to stakeholders and Regions' ability to develop flexible, innovative and tailor-made policies. Thus the ECREIN+ project is a good example of the implementation of the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies at territorial level.

The very innovative results expected of ECREIN+ will be specific tools, concepts and approaches allowing European regions to develop high-level and efficient regional policies to support eco-innovation and eco-businesses. The project will improve the knowledge of the insufficiently known sector of environmental goods and services. The ECREIN+ website and other communication events will allow for broad dissemination of the project's actions and results (methodological kit, guides of best practices, policy recommendations and databases).



Lead partner

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Duration

01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget

  2,063,419.00

ERDF contribution

  1,583,660.25

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- Regional Ministry of Environment, Andalusia (ES)
- Assembly of European Regions (FR)
- Ministry of the Environment of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg (DE)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Stara Zagora (BG)
- R&D General Directorate of the Government of Galicia (ES)
- Ile-de-France Region (FR)
- Lombardy Region (IT)
- Malopolska Region (Marshal Office of the Malopolska Region) (PL)
- Uppsala Region (SE)
- Green Building Cluster (BE)
- Advantage West Midlands (UK)
- Romanian Municipalities Association (RO)

ERMIS

Effective Reproducible Model of Innovation Systems

SMEs are a key part of the economic make-up of the ERMIS Regions which have faced a tremendous social and economic transformation over the last two decades, suffering from increased competition in the global economy. The innovation capacity of SMEs is vital to achieve economic growth, which is at the core of the ERMIS project.

ERMIS partners aim to enhance the leverage effect of their local innovation policies and systems by developing an effective systemic approach involving the whole value chain of political and economic actors dedicated to SMEs. The objective of ERMIS is to jointly develop effective and transferable governance models for local innovation systems dedicated to fostering and leveraging innovation in SMEs.



In order to achieve the objectives of the project, ERMIS:

- exchanges effective local innovation system tools and methods;
- designs and exchanges a governance framework and methodology to manage local innovation systems;
- designs a set of governance and management guidelines;
- involves public stakeholders outside the project;
- involves policy makers to validate policy recommendations for implementation in the local and regional policies and Structural Funds.

Further activities include a pre-modelisation of local innovation systems based on existing research, a SWOT analysis, an assessment of partners' performance, a benchmark and a formalisation of "best practices" to prepare the ground for transfers in partner's territories.

ERMIS brings together a balanced partnership with regional and local public authorities from Denmark France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Spain. In addition, a number of local actors involved in SME support, such as innovation centres, chambers of commerce, and business incubators are partners in the project.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
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ERDF contribution
€1,675,357.00

- Partnership**
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 - Sophia Antipolis Community Agglomeration (FR)
 - Cesena Municipality (IT)
 - CISE (IT)
 - Eindhoven Municipality (NL)
 - Penela Municipality (PT)
 - IPN Incubator – Ideas and Business Incubator (PT)
 - Miskolc Municipality (HU)
 - Miskolc Holding Plc. (HU)
 - ADEuropa Foundation (ES)
 - Region of North Aegean (EL)
 - North Aegean Chamber of Commerce (EL)
 - The Municipality of Hørsholm (DK)
 - Copenhagen Regional Agency (Erhvervnet) (DK)
 - Iasi Municipality (RO)

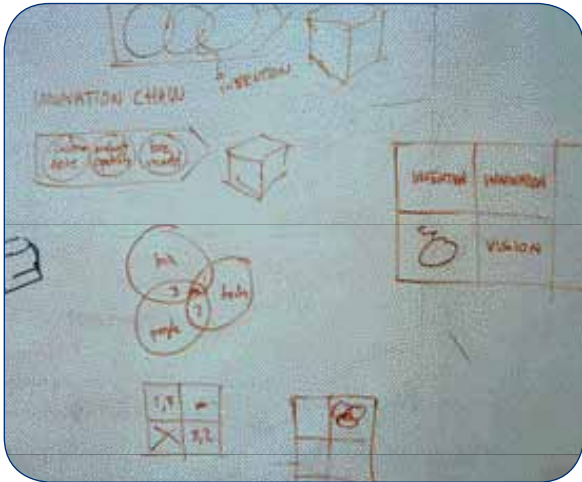


EURIS

European Collaborative and Open Regional Innovation Strategies

EURIS is a mini-programme built on a partnership made up of some of the EU powerhouses in the “open innovation” field and some catching-up Regions, allowing the further research, analysis and exchange of good practices via subprojects. “Open innovation” is defined as the cooperation between companies, universities, research centres, consumers and public authorities.

While a large number of policy areas affect “open innovation”, EURIS focuses on the collaboration policy area, because collaborative environments are crucial for companies to embrace “open innovation”. Furthermore “open innovation” benefits from an interregional approach, as it needs to have innovation stakeholders act beyond their regional strategic thinking and open up innovation systems. The ultimate goal of EURIS is for innovation stakeholders to embrace “open innovation”, in terms of accelerated intraregional and interregional cooperation rates.



The mini-programme aims at:

- The development of more effective Regional Innovation Systems for EURIS partners, through mutual learning, the exchange of good practices and the joint development of new interregional approaches in the field of collaboration policies conducive to “open innovation”.
- The dissemination and transfer of such good practices to other EU Regions.
- The delivery of policy recommendations at the regional, national and EU level to embrace “open innovation”.

EURIS will improve its five partners’ Regional Innovation Systems. More specifically, its outputs will be:

- The enhancement of new collaborative policies for 58 policy-makers and stakeholders,
- The organisation of 35 interregional exchange events,
- And the production of a comprehensive pool of best practices and policy recommendations in order to foster “open innovation” at EU level.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2013

Total budget
€4,130,511.30

ERDF contribution
€ 3,240,460.80

Partnership

- **DG Enterprise, Department of Innovation, Business and Employment, Navarra Government (ES)**
- Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (DE)
- Brainport Development NV (NL)
- West-Transdanubian Regional Development Agency Non-profit Limited Liability Company (HU)
- Lodz Region (PL)

FRESH

Forwarding Regional Sustainable Environmental Hierarchies

This project strengthens sustainable value creation-based development in the partner Regions. Beyond environmental compliance and strict eco-efficiency, the sustainable value creation development approach brings together socio-economic and technological parameters to serve sustainable development effectively. FRESH follows up on the INTERREG IIIC project DQE that identified sustainable value creation-based development as a necessary condition to address regional integrated development.



The project focuses on ecodesign and eco-innovation, focusing on both technological and social aspects of products and services. The 12 partners from eight Regions benefit from each others' good practices in the field of sustainable value creation. The 11 already identified good practices are related to comprehensive ecodesign applications, ecodesign assessment, regional partnerships and funding mechanisms, regional innovation strategies, and sustainable innovation.

FRESH aims to formulate a transferable model for sustainable value creation based development. Based on this model, the objective of the project is to prioritise sustainable value creation in the overall regional framework programming and to develop the innovation strategies of the partner Regions. Each partner tests and implements a series of tools dealing with economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

The key results of FRESH include strengthened sustainable value creation at the Regional level as well as improved instruments for ecodesign and eco-innovation in all participating Regions. The outputs are primarily meant to support Regional authorities, but the ecodesign model can also be used by business support organisations and ecodesign experts.



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Duration
01/2010 – 02/2013

Total budget
€2,138,224.00

ERDF contribution
€1,625,377.30

Partnership

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- Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (FI)
- Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lahti Unit (FI)
- Mid-West Regional Authority (IE)
- South West Regional Authority (IE)
- University of Limerick (IE)
- Veneto Region – Regional Secretariat for Environment and Territory (IT)
- Department of Chemical Processes Engineering – University of Studies of Padua (IT)
- London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (UK)
- Opolskie Centre for Economy Development (PL)
- Regional Development Agency – West Region (RO)



INNOPOLIS

Innovation Policy in University City Regions

INNOPOLIS aims to identify regional best policy practices in the field of knowledge exchange between universities and enterprises.

The activities of INNOPOLIS focus on university city-regions (i.e. localities with at least three multi-departmental universities and at least 60,000 students) that enjoy a strong knowledge infrastructure.

The project involves four diverse university city-regions: Helsinki, Lodz, Manchester and Thessaloniki. The project partnership includes two partners in each of these regions: a regional/local authority and a university. This is viewed as the most favourable combination in this case for achieving best policy transfer.

INNOPOLIS uses a broad range of networking activities to achieve its main aim: study visits, workshops, seminars, audits of best practice in knowledge exchange and best policy transfer. Activities are not confined to the regions included in the project, the aspiration is to learn from successes across the EU & beyond (particularly the US).

The main results of the project are the identification of best policy practices, the development of new skills for policy-makers, and the development of learning outputs:

- a best policy practice guide;
- a policy simulation and manual;
- a policy transfer and dissemination handbook.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,579,135.46

ERDF contribution
€1,249,465.58

Partnership

- **University of Salford, Centre for Enterprise & Innovation Research (UK)**
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (URENIO Research Unit) (EL)
- Region of Kentriki Makedonia (EL)
- Aalto University Foundation (FI)
- City of Helsinki, Urban Facts Department (FI)
- University of Lodz, Management Faculty (PL)
- Lodz Region (PL)
- North West Development Agency (UK)

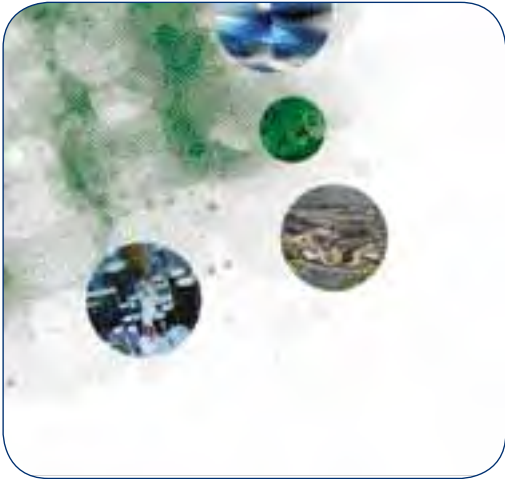


INOLINK

Connecting the territory through the innovation network

The INOLINK project focuses on regional policies and practices for the diffusion of innovation. It tackles the problem that innovation activities are usually concentrated in a small number of innovative firms, typically gathered in certain geographical areas, while most European firms never undertake innovation.

The overall objective of the INOLINK project is to improve the reach of regional innovation policies, through a better connection of actors within the regional innovation system, especially of those located in the most peripheral areas. This would contribute to increase the number of regional actors involved in innovation activities and to a more balanced economic and technological development throughout the EU territory. In order to achieve this objective, the INOLINK project exchanges experiences in setting up and running of public structures and networks that support innovation and the participation in R&D cooperation of actors in peripheral areas and less innovative sectors.



11 partners from nine EU Member States participate in the INOLINK project. This partnership includes regional authorities, regional innovation networks and other intermediary bodies set up by public authorities for the promotion of territorial innovation.

As a result of the project each partner elaborates a Regional Improvement Plan with recommendations for its practical implementation, a report of good practices on “Regional Diffusion of Innovation” and a guide for setting up and operating a regional innovation network.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,976,077.60

ERDF contribution
€1,538,864.69

- Partnership**
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 - Etruria Innovazione S.C.p.A. (IT)
 - Maribor Development Agency (SI)
 - NanoBioNet e. V. (DE)
 - Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Essonne, CCI Essonne (FR)
 - University of the Algarve (PT)
 - Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in Extremadura (ES)
 - North-East Regional Development Agency (RO)
 - Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations – Varna (RAPIV) (BG)
 - Coventry University Enterprises Limited (CUE Ltd) (UK)
 - Abruzzo Region (IT)

IPP

Interregional Partnership Platform

The innovation capacity of regions and firms largely depends on their ability to create, diffuse and use knowledge from outside the region through the regional innovation system. Public innovation intermediaries, such as business parks, innovation centres and innovation policy units at local and regional level, play a crucial role in providing innovation support measures, creating partnerships and promoting regional innovation.

IPP stemmed from a sub-project of the INTERREG IIIC operation ‘Perspective 2007-2013’, which developed concrete measures to increase the participation rate of innovation intermediaries of the participating Regions in EU research and innovation programmes.

The five partners represent four Regions in Germany, Hungary, Spain, and Latvia. All of the participating Regions are interested in developing a more systematic approach to improving access strategies for innovation intermediaries. IPP identifies successful access models in partner Regions to increase the outward orientation of the regional innovation intermediaries. The partners exchange experience during seminars and study visits to develop a framework of know-how transfer among the local and regional innovation intermediaries. Two pilot actions are foreseen to jointly implement good practices on coaching strategies and innovation services.

The IPP project results include a benchmarking and monitoring tool as well as an IT tool for regularly assessing the participation rate of SMEs, local and regional authorities and support agencies in international know-how transfer. In addition, the partners develop an action plan on transferring good practices to their Regional Operational Programmes of the Structural Funds regarding the support for innovation policies and access strategies for the international transfer of know-how.



Lead partner Ministry of Economy and Labour Saxony-Anhalt (DE)	Partnership • Ministry of Economy and Labour Saxony-Anhalt (DE) • INNOVA Észak-Alföld Regional Innovation Agency (HU) • Fundación Comunidad Valenciana – Región Europea (ES) • State Regional Development Agency (LV) • Regional Vice Ministry for Territorial Cohesion and European Affairs (ES)
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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2012	
Total budget €1,137,700.00	
ERDF contribution €890,565.00	

KNOW-MAN

Knowledge Network Management in Technology Parks



Know-Man improves regional development and spatial innovation policies by exchanging and transferring regional approaches, competencies and instruments of knowledge network management to strengthen the Regions' global competitiveness. Knowledge Management instruments (e.g. knowledge maps, benchmarking, action reviews) are implemented to identify and connect regional cross-sectoral and cross-institutional knowledge potentials within the participating Regions.

The project, consisting of 15 partners from five countries (Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, and Spain), unites regional development stakeholders and decision makers. The focus of this project lies on triple helix structures – the interconnection between public authorities, economic actors represented by technology parks, and academic representatives to create links between regional endogenous potentials in the knowledge economy. Know-Man specifically intends to improve policies in favour of innovative SMEs.

The project's objectives are:

- Strengthening the creative interaction in the knowledge–business–public triangle through an intensive involvement of triple-helix stakeholders;
- Identifying, publishing and transferring good practice of knowledge network management policies, instruments and tools and their transfer conditions, such as demand analyses, benchmarking knowledge network management services, and regional knowledge atlases;
- Implementing knowledge network management in participating Regions through pilot actions (based on expert-tandems between partners);
- Developing knowledge network management policy instruments that accelerate the process of bringing new and innovative ideas from public R&D facilities to markets.

The project thus supports and initiates regional innovation impulses and strengthens each Region's competitiveness. Furthermore, the project develops knowledge network management policies and instruments that can be transferred to other European Regions.



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Total budget
€2,154,268.66

ERDF contribution
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 - Berlin Government, represented by Senate Department for Economy, Technology and Women's Issues (DE)
 - WISTA-Management GmbH (DE)
 - Department of Geography at the Humboldt-University of Berlin (DE)
 - Lower Silesia Voivodship (PL)
 - Wrocław Technology Park (PL)
 - Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG), University of Warsaw (PL)
 - Municipality Prevalje (SI)
 - Technological Research Centre of Koroška (SI)
 - RDA Koroška d.o.o., Regional Development Agency for Koroška region (SI)
 - Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia IDEA (ES)
 - Science and Technology Park CARTUJA 93 (ES)
 - Municipality of Rome – Department XV (IT)
 - BIC Lazio SpA – Enterprise Europe Network (IT)
 - Veneto Innovazione S.p.A. (IT)



MKW

Making Knowledge Work

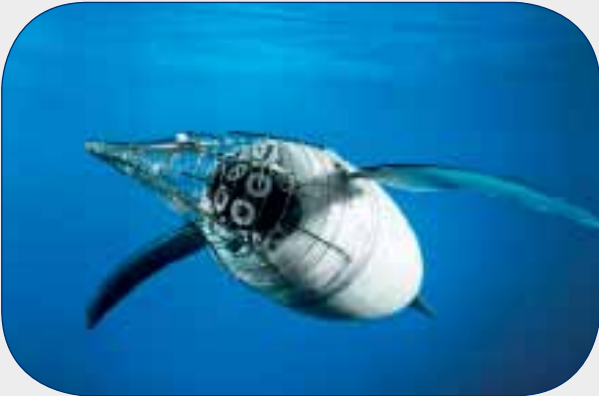
‘Making Knowledge Work’ (MKW) is a Capitalisation project that aims to exploit ideas and foster smart sustainable growth by exchanging experiences on how regions support the process of commercialisation of R&D results. The 14 partners observed that excellent research does not always find its way into commercially valuable innovations as excellent ideas of universities, researchers, companies and inventors in the regions are often not turned into innovative services and products. MKW bridges this gap within the innovation chain through concrete policy action involving key stakeholders and innovation actors capitalising on a range of available good practice.

MKW analyses and transfers successful actions that stimulate the take up of innovative ideas and knowledge in the Regions. The project applies a combined micro- and meso-level approach as it addresses micro-level projects as well as the necessary meso-level structures, platforms and mechanisms to make these successful activities fit into the specific regional ecosystems.

MKW mainstreams good practices that involve all actors of the triple helix, such as:

- activities that pick up and valorise unused ideas and patents from universities or larger companies;
- good practices that put researchers in contact with potential launching customers;
- public authorities stimulating innovation;
- improving the availability and access to seed capital;
- strategies to address intellectual property and manage patents.

MKW aims to achieve intensive stakeholder involvement, which is a prerequisite for successful policy mainstreaming in the increasingly complex intra-regional stakeholder landscapes that characterise successful triple-helix interactions. The Managing Authorities of the regions are closely involved in the project. The European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) will guarantee that the project is accompanied and reflected throughout its network of 80 dynamic Regions in Europe.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2011

Total budget
€2,204,488.07

ERDF contribution
€1,674,209.04

Partnership

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- European Regions Research and Innovation Network (BE)
- Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (DE)
- Chamber of Commerce of Milan (IT)
- Flanders District of Creativity Npo (BE)
- Culminatum Ltd Oy Helsinki Region of Expertise (FI)
- DG Enterprise, Department of Innovation, Business and Employment of the Government of Navarra (ES)
- North France Innovation Development (FR)
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (PL)
- Northwest Regional Development Agency (UK)
- Lund University, Øresund University (SE)
- Lodz Region (PL)
- Birmingham City Council (UK)
- Roskilde University, Øresund University (DK)



PERIA

Partnership on European Regional Innovation Agencies

PERIA is a co-operation project between regional innovation agencies and regional authorities in Europe with the aim of:

- sharing experience and methodologies on innovation services and policies,
- learning from each other in the field of regional innovation systems management.



PERIA focuses on regional innovation policies and on the tools used for implementing innovation: regional innovation agencies. These organisations help to support the growth of enterprises through innovative projects, the development of an innovation-friendly environment, the improvement of the region’s knowledge base and its innovation services and also to strengthen the region’s innovation network.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the cooperation of local and regional actors in order to strengthen the effectiveness of regional development policies, to enhance the level spent for Research, Development and Innovation and to contribute to the transformation of knowledge into new and marketable products and services.

The objectives of the project are supported by the following main activities:

- identification of good practices of regional innovation support,
- selection of good practices, especially those which have a positive impact on the SMEs’ innovation potential,
- transfer of good practices to regional authorities and to regional innovation agencies based on a feasibility study,
- dissemination of practices and transfer to other relevant actors in the field of innovation.

Beyond these exchanges, the improvement of regional innovation policy and regional innovation support tools is the goal of PERIA in order to offer greater support to SMEs in developing their innovation projects.

The project gathers 11 partners from France, Hungary, Spain, Italy and Germany.



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Duration
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Total budget
€1,669,642.63

ERDF contribution
€1,274,947.35

Partnership

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- INNOVALIS Aquitaine (FR)
- INNOVA Észak-Alföld Regional Innovation Agency (HU)
- Polytechnic City of Innovation Foundation (ES)
- IMPIVA. Institute for the small and medium sized companies from the Region of Valencia (ES)
- Veneto Innovazione S.p.A. (IT)
- Veneto Region (IT)
- Észak-Alföld Regional Development Council (HU)
- Development Bank of Saxony-Anhalt (DE)
- Regional Council of Champagne-Ardenne (FR)
- Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency (HU)

POOLING4CLUSTERS

Best shared services for regional cluster initiative needs

The inspiration for POOLING4CLUSTERS was the IIIC CLOE project which carried out a study concluding that clusters still lack support in order to make them a success in terms of value-added innovation and international competitiveness. The partners of POOLING4CLUSTERS have therefore decided to focus on the identification, classification, analysis and dissemination of the best support services provided to regional cluster initiatives in order to propose cluster support policy improvements to their respective Regional Operational Programme authorities.

Cluster initiatives are usually closely linked to national, regional or local development or innovation agencies. The way in which links are set up and managed can vary widely from one Region to another. These agencies provide – or are in a position to provide – some value-added services to clusters. On the other hand, almost all cluster initiatives’ managers face challenges when attempting to fully exploit the potential of their respective cluster.

POOLING4CLUSTERS focuses on the links between development agencies and cluster initiatives in their environment. It aims to analyse and share experiences on value added services provided by development agencies in order to help cluster initiatives be more efficient and boost their contribution to the success of regional development objectives. In the project particular attention is put on the transferability potential of mutual value-added services (i.e. services which appear to be pertinent to several cluster initiatives). By producing recommendation plans, the project contributes to the improvement of cluster support regional policies. Some steps are also to be made towards interregional platforms of services provided by the agencies to the clusters.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,456,216.69

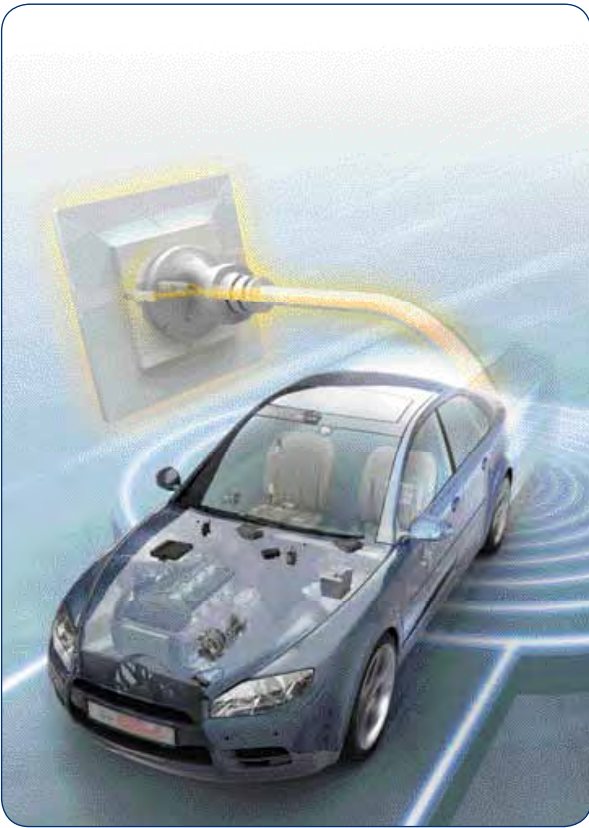
ERDF contribution
€1,160,543.62

- Partnership**
- **Economic Office of the Province of Namur (BE)**
 - Sophia Antipolis Foundation (FR)
 - Corallia Clusters Initiative / “Athena” Research and Innovation Centre (EL)
 - BSC, Business support centre Ltd, Kranj (SI)
 - Tartu Science Park (EE)
 - Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (DE)
 - Malta Information Technology Agency (MT)

PRODESC

Producer Services for European Sustainability and Competitiveness

In order to maintain and increase quality of life and to ensure sustainability, Europe is compelled to reduce the environmental impact of transport dramatically. The road transport sector is under immense pressure to develop and produce “green” vehicles under today’s very difficult market conditions. PRODESC’s point of origin is the successful experience in the projects Network of Automotive Regions, co-financed by INTERREG IIIC and BeLCAR, programme financed by Europe INNOVA Initiative projects, both of which addressed the clustering in automotive industry from different angles.



PRODESC’s leading thematic interest is in an analysis of the contribution of producer services to sustainable road transport, regional innovativeness and cross-sectoral synergies.

On the one hand, the project seeks to improve the regional policy-making measures for sustainable road transport in Europe. On the other hand, it establishes a network of regional and local policy-makers and development authorities.

These two objectives shall be achieved by improving regional public support schemes for innovation-inducing producer services across Europe, transferring the academic know-how to regional policy-makers and by stimulating the design of next-generation cluster support policies. The improved regional development policies shall lead to improvements in terms of the environmental viability, sustainability of automotive manufacturing value-chains and end-products.

As the overall result, European public support strategies and policies regarding environmental sustainability and competitiveness of the road transport sector will be improved.



Lead partner Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (DE)	Partnership • Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (DE) • University of Hertfordshire (UK) • Government Office of Climate Change (SI) • General Directorate for R+D+I, Ministry for Innovation and Industry, Government of Galicia (ES) • Pannon Novum West-transdanubian Regional Innovation Non-profit Ltd. (HU) • Province of Turin (IT) • Norfolk County Council (UK) • Regional Development Agency – West Region (RO)
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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2012	
Total budget €1,295,594.12	
ERDF contribution €1,002,311.20	



SCINNOPOLI

SCanning INNOvation POLIcy Impact

SCINNOPOLI is a direct follow-up of the former interregional projects on ‘Regional Innovation Policy Impact Assessment and Benchmarking’. Seven SCINNOPOLI Regions were involved in the pilot actions of these projects which encouraged European Regions to systematically assess the impact of their innovation policies and strategies, and to create methodologies and instruments for benchmarking regional innovation performance. All nine partner Regions are aware that only the existence and regular application of an impact assessment system will allow for a continuous improvement of the regional innovation policy.

SCINNOPOLI’s overall objective is to continuously improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the regional innovation policy through an effective impact scan system. The system’s strategy is focused on the ongoing monitoring of the firms’ needs and competencies with respect to R&D and innovation.

The partner Regions intend to implement or improve their impact scanning activities directly within their Regional Operational Programmes. Therefore, regional Action Plans will be jointly developed. As a Capitalisation project, it engages the relevant Managing Authorities and also ensures the ‘deep delegation’ by involving regional partners and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Action Plan.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2011

Total budget
€1,816,413.00

ERDF contribution
€1,391,435.75

Partnership

- **Lower Austrian Government, Dept. Economic Affairs, Tourism, Technology (AT)**
- IWT – Institute for the promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders (BE)
- WTSH – Business Development and Technology Transfer Corporation of Schleswig-Holstein (DE)
- West Transdanubian Regional Development Agency Non-profit Limited Liability Company (HU)
- Bretagne Innovation (FR)
- ARTI – Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation (IT)
- Méditerranée Technologies (FR)
- Adam Mickiewicz University Foundation, Poznan Science and Technology Park (PL)
- DG Enterprise, Department of Innovation, Business and Employment from Navarra Government (ES)

Environment and risk prevention

In the framework of the Gothenburg strategy, which puts a strong emphasis on environmental issues, the European Union is committed to sustainable development. Sustainable development implies that new means of economic growth have to be found that guarantee the long-term environmental protection for current and future generations. In practical terms this implies respecting biodiversity, limiting pollution and mitigating climate change.

The “Environment and risk prevention” priority addresses these global issues by co-financing and supporting projects that help Regions across Europe develop environmental policies and adjust their regional policies in a more environmentally-friendly way, through the exchange of experience at policy level. By improving the quality of life locally, projects funded under the “Environment and risk prevention” priority will increase the economic and social attractiveness of all European Regions.

More specifically, projects presented in the next few pages aim to improve wetland management; to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy policies; improve waste prevention policies; to mitigate pressure on biodiversity in suburban areas; and more.

Biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage, air quality

PERIURBAN	p.51
REVERSE	p.52
SURF-NATURE.....	p.53

Cultural heritage and landscape

B-TEAM.....	p.54
EUROSCAPES	p.55
VITOUR LANDSCAPE	p.56

Energy and sustainable transport

BIO-EN-AREA	p.57
CATCH MR	p.58
ENERCITEE	p.59
LOCARE	p.60
PORT INTEGRATION.....	p.61
RENREN	p.62
RETS	p.63

Natural and technological risks, climate change

CIVPRO	p.64
CLIMACT	p.65
DELTANET	p.66
F:ACTS!	p.67
FLOODWISE.....	p.68
MISRAR.....	p.69

Waste prevention and management

C2CN.....	p.70
PRE-WASTE	p.71
SUFALNET4EU	p.72
W2E	p.73

Water management

SHARP	p.74
SIGMA FOR WATER.....	p.75
SUPPORTS.....	p.76
SUSTAIN.....	p.77
WATER CORE.....	p.78
WF	p.79

PERIURBAN

Periurban Parks – Improving Environmental Conditions in Suburban Areas

PERIURBAN is a regional initiative project that uses interregional exchange of experiences to improve policies on the management of natural suburban areas, with a focus on solutions to mitigate pressure on biodiversity. The project is an integration of two previous European initiatives: GreenLink led by Comune di Firenze and promoted by FEDENATUR. Through cooperation, the leaders of these two initiatives saw the potential for real progress in the management of suburban areas for better environmental conditions.

PERIURBAN brings together 14 partners from 11 EU countries representing regional and local authorities, as well as peri-urban parks and parks associations. All have competencies to manage suburban areas, but with different degrees of experience. While some have long been promoting such parks, and currently facing management and sustainability concerns, others are planning for their implementation and are building on different suburban management experiences.

Partners will participate in workshops, thematic seminars and study visits, and will develop a territorial analysis. The good practices identified will be brought together in a joint report and used to form the basis of a common methodology for the creation and management of peri-urban parks. In addition, partners will test the methodology in four areas and, through intense activities and peer reviews, will feed back into the common methodology to consolidate it.

To ensure long term sustainability of actions promoting suburban management, partners will also produce action plans for potential future activities, based on the PERIURBAN learning process. Memorandums of understanding will be signed between partners who see possibilities for future constructive cooperation in the field of improving environmental conditions in suburban areas.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,288,528.00

ERDF contribution
€1,805,640.10

- Partnership**
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 - Common profit Enterprise of Municipality of Zografou (EL)
 - Aberdeen City Council (UK)
 - Vitosha Nature Park Directorate (BG)
 - The City of Košice (SK)
 - Regional Government of Lombardy (IT)
 - Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate (HU)
 - Lille Metropolitan Natural Space Office (FR)
 - Kampinos National Park (PL)
 - Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZ)
 - Regional Government of Andalusia, Regional Ministry for Environment – Directorate General for Sustainability in the Network of Natural Areas (ES)
 - General Council of Seine-Saint-Denis (FR)
 - Lisbon Municipality (PT)

REVERSE

REgional exchanges and policy making for protecting and valorising biodiVERSiTy in Europe

Ecosystems have gradually been modified through the expansion of human activities and the introduction/invasion of new species. As a result, genetic diversity has declined. Regional and local authorities can organise land planning and regulate human activities in order to preserve biodiversity (natural area protection, green corridors, conservation of local species and varieties, etc.). REVERSE aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the area of biodiversity conservation and valorisation, in order to REVERSE biodiversity loss on their territories.



14 partners from seven countries exchange experiences and knowledge to protect and enhance biodiversity. The project’s activities focus on identifying the best practices in each partner’s territory, which are then presented during site visits and interregional seminars.

These activities are conducted in the fields of land planning and natural heritage conservation measures, of tourism, and of farming and food producing industry.

Identified good practices are made available for transfer to other regional and local authorities through a good practice guide, presenting appropriate themes, territories, partners and indicators for biodiversity conservation across Europe.

Specific recommendations and an action plan for reversing biodiversity loss will enable to transfer the project’s results into regional policies. Result dissemination to general public and policy makers will contribute to create an interregional network for conserving and valorising biodiversity, open to non-partner stakeholders.



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€2,543,927.19

ERDF contribution
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- Partnership**
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 - Region Umbria (IT)
 - Regional Natural Areas Conservatory of Aquitaine (FR)
 - Plant Production Research Center-Research Institute of Plant Production Piestany (SK)
 - Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE)
 - Region de Murcia (ES)
 - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (EL)
 - Prefectural Authority of Drama – Kavala – Xanthi (EL)
 - Technology Transfer Centre Bremerhaven (DE)
 - Bio d’Aquitaine (FR)
 - Basque Government – Department of Environment and Regional Planning – Biodiversity and Environmental Participation Office (ES)
 - Regional Agency for the Development and the Innovation of Agriculture in Lazio (IT)
 - The Senator for Environment, Traffic, Building and European Affairs (DE)
 - Regional Prefecture Forest Directorate of Chania (EL)



SURF-NATURE

Sustainable Use of Regional Funds for Nature

SURF-Nature is a partnership of 14 authorities and bodies governed by public law working together to optimise regional policies and practices through the better use of ERDF co-financing for the promotion of natural heritage, biodiversity and nature conservation. To do so the partner Regions focus on improving the impact of the funding allocated to these fields, and also on enhancing the overall integration of these fields into regional development.

Investments in natural heritage, biodiversity, and nature conservation can stimulate local economies, as they create businesses, jobs, and quality of life improvements. They may result in the development of sustainable or nature-focused tourism, the production and sale of unique local products, setting-up of visitor centres, etc. For instance, a lack of sufficient capacity in EU regions to identify, develop, and implement the necessary investment projects or the failure to see the concrete benefits of using the funds for nature protection leads to a minor use of the EU Regional Funds.

To tackle these issues, the SURF-Nature partnership is carrying out a series of activities aimed at the identification, analysis and dissemination of experience and good practice with using ERDF funds for nature conservation. These activities include analysing existing ERDF funding programmes to identify how nature conservation is integrated into the process, establishing a database of 60 projects, organising a series of interregional workshops on specific funding themes and a series of training sessions within partner Regions. Based on the results, partners will produce guidance documents covering specific funding themes, five good practices and approaches, and suggestions for the next generation of EU funding programmes.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
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ERDF contribution
€1,256,000.60

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 - Office of the Marshal of the Warmińsko – Mazurskie Voivodeship (PL)
 - Province of Rieti (IT)
 - Municipal Enterprise for Planning and Development of Patras S.A. (EL)
 - Prefecture of Preveza (EL)
 - Regional Administration Sliven (BG)
 - Tsenovo municipality, Rousse district (BG)
 - DG for Nature Heritage and Biodiversity of the Region of Murcia (ES)
 - Forest Sciences Technology Center of Catalonia (ES)
 - Environment Agency Wales (UK)
 - Palacký University Olomouc (CZ)
 - Austrian Federal Forests (AT)
 - Donau-Auen National Park (AT)

B-TEAM

Brownfield Policy Improvement Task Force

Brownfield sites are previously-used land that has been made available and requires reclamation to a new use. Potentially contaminated by a low concentrations of hazardous waste or pollution, they have become a concern in Europe’s urbanised areas as a consequence of industrial conversion. B-Team is a collaborative effort by 14 partners from 11 different countries to influence policies on brownfields through their successes and experiences.

Derelict sites that blight entire communities and stifle economic investment could be turned around more effectively by local authorities if new policies and approaches to the use of brownfields were adopted: the case-by-case approach needs to be replaced by a common policy. The objectives of B-Team address the issue of improving and transferring brownfield policies in partner regions and beyond. The partners are involved in activities and events leading to the elaboration of recommendations for relevant policies in their regions. The transfer of best practices provides a unique opportunity to learn from each others’ experiences and apply new approaches.



The “Brownfield Days” are the main activities of the project and will subsequently take place in every local authority partner location. It is an opportunity to evaluate the potential for improvement/transfer to appropriate partners in other Regions. The signing of the policy transfer (Brownfield Pledge) ensures long-term benefits after the project’s completion by committing the partners to the improvement of their actions and policies.



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€2,046,791.00

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€1,532,598.25

Norwegian funding
€33,879.00

- Partnership**
- **Belfast City Council (UK)**
 - Hajdú-Bihar County Council (HU)
 - City of Oulu, Technical Centre (FI)
 - Sevilla Global, Urban Agency for Comprehensive Development Seville City Council (ES)
 - Municipality of Torino (IT)
 - Municipality of Dresden – City Planning Office (DE)
 - Vilnius City Municipal Government (LT)
 - The City Hall of Ruda Śląska (PL)
 - Dublin City Council (IE)
 - Central Mining Institute (PL)
 - Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein (AT)
 - Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (DE)
 - Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (NO)
 - University of Torino (IT)

EUROSCAPES

Green management plans for European urban and peri-urban Landscapes

EUROSCAPES is a shared vision of 14 partners coming from 13 EU Member States on the necessity to tackle natural and cultural landscapes' management issues in urban and peri-urban areas at an interregional level and in a sustainable way.

In urban and peri-urban areas facing demographic changes, increasing economic constraints, and environmental challenges, the exchange of good practices helps regional and local authorities to be more efficient in protecting, maintaining and enhancing their natural and cultural landscapes in a sustainable way. Cultural landscapes are distinct areas uniquely representing the combined work of nature and of man.

EUROSCAPES has the ambitious objective of offering a new landscapes-management model, as a milestone policy instrument to implement the European Landscape Convention objectives.

The project rests on three main innovative aspects. The areas concerned – natural and cultural landscapes in urban and peri-urban areas (green spaces like gardens, parks, squares, but also paths, riversides and deprived landscapes). Secondly, the approach is based on a global strategic plan using the differentiated management methodology (specific management for each type of landscapes). Thirdly, partners all committed to jointly develop a landscape management plan, as a new model of sustainable and integrated management strategy, which is based on the good practices identified and exchanged.

This landscapes management plan is based on an environmental, qualitative and economic approach in the maintenance and management of the natural and cultural landscapes, which integrates important education and awareness-raising dimensions and takes into account the territorial strategy and urban planning. As an end result the project will produce a handbook of good practices and a policy recommendation paper.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,217,400.00

ERDF contribution
€1,767,790.00

- Partnership**
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 - Municipality of Loures (PT)
 - City of Wetzlar (DE)
 - Vice-Ministry of Land Management of the Canarian Government (ES)
 - Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava – Faculty of Architecture (SK)
 - Sigulda District Council (LV)
 - Sapienza University Rome – DPTU – Department of Territorial and Urban Planning (IT)
 - Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency (HU)
 - South-East Regional Development Agency (RO)
 - Trikala's Municipal Enterprise for Social Development (EL)
 - Granollers City Council (ES)
 - Municipality of Torun (PL)
 - European New Towns Platform (BE)
 - Thames Gateway London Partnership (UK)

VITOUR LANDSCAPE

Innovative sustainable development policies and strategies for the effective safeguarding and innovative enhancement of European “UNESCO World heritage” wine growing landscapes

The 10 partners from seven countries including Switzerland, representing all 10 European wine growing cultural landscapes recognised by the UNESCO as World Heritage, gathered to develop strategies in order to achieve sustainable development for their vineyards. The VITOUR LANDSCAPE project builds upon lessons learnt under a former INTERREG IIIC project (VITOUR), which resulted in a common “International Convention on World Heritage Vineyards”. By signing this document, partners agreed to support sustainable development of cultural landscapes.



With this new cooperation, the VITOUR LANDSCAPE consortium aims to formulate and implement public policies to support long-term sustainable development through safeguarding and enhancing European “UNESCO World heritage” wine growing landscape areas.

The project partners focus on the exchange, description and analysis of good practices in landscape preservation and enhancement by organising technical seminars in each partner area. Contents and conclusions will be made available online and enriched with good practices selected from other wine growing areas worldwide. In addition, a series of studies, analyses and planning processes will be carried out in order to locally/regionally verify the feasibility of transferring selected good practices. Finally, the partners will elaborate European guidelines for wine growing cultural landscape preservation and enhancement. At the end of the project, all partners plan to provide the first tools for a concrete and effective good practice transfer onto their territories.

VITOUR is also raising awareness of the lessons learnt among the wider public and other Regions facing similar challenges, mainly through an interactive website for visual enhancement of the partner areas’ landscape (“MY VITOUR”).



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,010,000.00

ERDF contribution
€1,543,000.00

- Partnership**
- **Cinque Terre National Park (IT)**
 - Association World Heritage Neusiedler See (AT)
 - Interregional public syndicate “Mission Val de Loire”(FR)
 - Working group Wachau – Regional development (AT)
 - World Heritage Association of Historic Wine Region of Tokaj (HU)
 - Administration union World Heritage Upper Middle Rhine Valley (DE)
 - Municipality of Montalcino (IT)
 - North Regional Development and Coordination Commission (PT)
 - Regional Directorate for the Environment (PT)
 - Intermunicipal commission of Lavaux (CH)

BIO-EN-AREA

Improve regional policies for bio-energy and territorial development

In a context of global climatic, energetic and economic crisis, the use of renewable energy has become an urgent priority. Bio-energy generated from different types of “biomass” such as wood, agricultural by-products or urban waste, is one of the main renewable energies with great potential. In 2005, the EU approved its Biomass Action Plan principles for boosting the utilisation of biomass, and invited the Member States to adopt national Biomass Action Plans.

In this respect, the mini-programme BIO-EN-AREA intends to increase the capacities of EU Regions to favour and optimise the use of bio-energy. By sharing knowledge and experiences, the partnership, made up of regional authorities and energy agencies from seven different European countries, is working on the elaboration and implementation of regional Biomass Action Plans, as the key regional policy instrument for bio-energy.

In order to enrich the results and make the transfer of experience more effective, three thematic seminars on the development of bio-energy will be organised focusing on three types of biomass: firstly forest & wood, secondly energy crops, agricultural by-products & livestock wastes, and thirdly urban waste. At the level of the sub-projects, participants will focus on the identification of good practices at local level, the transfer of some of them among partners and the definition of a model approach for territorial biomass action plans.

The main outputs of BIO-EN-AREA will be five drafted regional Biomass Action Plans (BAP), two implementation guidelines for partners who already have their own BAPs or a strategic policy paper for energy, a good practice database available online and a publication that will compile the results of the exchange and transfer of experience among partners at regional level, and among participants in sub-projects.

As an expected result and/or impact of drafted regional Biomass Action Plans and with the analysis that will be carried out at subprojects’ level, BIO-EN-AREA also aims to determine some good examples of sustainable development of bio-energy at territorial level.



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Duration
01/2010 – 06/2013

Total budget
€3,160,000.00

ERDF contribution
€2,500,000.00

- Partnership**
- **Regional Entity of Energy of Castilla y León (EREN) (ES)**
 - Region of Western Macedonia (EL)
 - Autonomous Province of Trento, Division for Energy Planning and Incentives (IT)
 - Kosice Self-Governing Region (SK)
 - South-East Regional Authority (SERA) (IE)
 - Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden (SE)
 - Tartu Regional Energy Agency (Region of Tartu) (EE)



CATCH_MR

Cooperative Approaches to Transport Challenges in Metropolitan Regions



Efficient and reliable transport is a key precondition for economic growth. A major challenge for metropolitan regions is to ensure transport is also sustainable. As main transport-nodes, metropolitan regions handle large volumes of local, regional and international traffic. At the same time, there is an urgent need to develop patterns and forms of transport which have less impact on the environment. CATCH_MR is promoting sustainable transport solutions between metropolises and surrounding regions by reducing transport without reducing mobility, by increasing the share of environmentally-friendly transportation and by combining all crucial elements within the multidimensional nature of developing sustainable transport.

The project contributes to the technical dimension of sustainable transport by analysing the role of alternative fuels in the reduction of emission levels associated with transport in metropolitan environments and the decrease of traffic pollution contributing to climate change. The project aims to design strategies to achieve environmentally-sustainable transport by defining the role of different transport modes in a framework based on sustainability, efficiency and competitiveness objectives. It also integrates environmental and socio-economic analyses in order to identify policy strategies for sustainable transport and to assess their environmental, social and economic impacts.

12 partners, representing seven Metropolitan Regions are working towards these objectives, identifying and promoting good practices through:

- Analysis of urban sprawl and development of new planning solutions.
- Promoting public transport through incentives/disincentives.
- Promoting the substitution of fossil-based fuel by developing affordable technology and the necessary infrastructure.
- Connecting regional and metropolitan transport policies.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,004,601.96

ERDF contribution
€1 394 002.68

Norwegian funding
€103,525.00

Partnership

- **Joint Spatial Planning**
Department Berlin-Brandenburg (DE)
 - Municipality of the City of Budapest (HU)
 - Budapest Transport Association Co. (HU)
 - City of Oslo, Department for Environmental Affairs and Transport (NO)
 - Akershus County Council, Department of Regional Development (NO)
 - Vienna City Administration, Municipal Department 18 (AT)
 - Government of Lower Austria, Department for Spatial Planning and Regional Policy (AT)
 - Province of Rome (IT)
 - BIC Lazio SpA – Enterprise Europe Network (IT)
 - The Gothenburg Region Association of Local Authorities (SE)
 - Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region (SI)
 - Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SI)

EnercitEE



European networks, experience and recommendations helping cities and citizens to become Energy Efficient

The European Union calls for action to limit global warming to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures. EnercitEE seeks to practically implement the goals of the European Commission by identifying, analysing and transferring best practices, fostering the exchange of experience in order to help local authorities and their citizens become energy-efficient.

Building on its INTERREG IIIC forerunner project energy’regio, EnercitEE moves its focus from the municipalities to the citizens. The already existing partner network has been extended in order to cover an even wider range of European regions. All Regions expressed a pressing need for more innovative energy efficiency policies and instruments to be developed and exchanged.

EnercitEE is carried out as a mini-programme including seven partners from six European Regions. A long-lasting effect of the project will be ensured by directly involving public policy makers and private consumers in the activities of EnercitEE. The exchange of experience will be a core element of this mini-programme: the partners themselves compile policy instruments, best practices, case studies and organise training sessions and component seminars.

EnercitEE will help improve local and regional policies and the entire project will provide assistance in the transfer of knowledge on energy efficiency and sustainable transport. In particular, a change in energy patterns in the communities and their citizens is expected. Practical guidelines and policy recommendations generated within EnercitEE will provide valuable assistance for European regions aiming to improve their energy performance and policies.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2013

Total budget
€5,116,696.00

ERDF contribution
€3,965,732.00

Partnership
• **Saxon State Ministry for the Environment and Agriculture (DE)**
• Energy Agency of Southeast Sweden (SE)
• ASTER Science Technology Business (IT)
• Haute-Savoie local authorities (FR)
• Region of Crete (EL)
• Lower Silesian Voivodeship (PL)
• Emilia-Romagna Region – Council for Productive Activities – Energy Policy Dep. (IT)



LoCaRe

Low Carbon Economy Regions

LoCaRe (Low Carbon Economy Regions) is a mini-programme in which Regions and Municipalities connect and work closely together to integrate issues related to transitions in the field of energy reduction (renewable energy, transportation systems, etc.) to more sustainable regional policies and local implementation. LoCaRe stems from the Sustainable European Regions Network (SERN).



LoCaRe’s activities are designed to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies through interregional cooperation and thereby contribute to economic and environmental modernisation as well as increased competitiveness in Europe. The six project partners located in six different European countries face a wide range of development threats and opportunities through their spatial location and different socio-economic characteristics.

The activities in the project include networking and experience exchange (joint annual conferences, workshops and site visits) and sub-projects implemented by local public organisations. This will allow for much needed intense intra- and inter-regional collaboration. Activities on both a strategic and a tactical level are thus ensured. The Regions will focus on three cross-cutting themes: “New Climate”, “New Energy”, and “New leadership”. The sub-projects, in which the municipalities play an important role, will deal with the use of renewables in local energy systems, carbon sinks and carbon capture, procurement practices, low carbon territorial planning, and the public as a driver for low carbon economy.



Lead partner Region of Southern Denmark (DK)	Partnership • Region of Southern Denmark (DK) • Region Västra Götaland (SE) • Principality of Asturias (ES) • Business Support Centre Ltd., Kranj, Gorenjski (SI) • Emilia-Romagna Region (IT) • Province of Zeeland (NL)
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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2013	
Total budget €4,216,111.00	
ERDF contribution €3,227,502.87	



PORT INTEGRATION

Multi-modal Innovation for Sustainable Maritime & Hinterland Transport Structures

In recent years intra- and extra-European transport flows have increased dramatically leading to imbalances in the usage of different transport modes. While coastlines and the open sea remain largely underused options for transport, overland transport modes are heavily overloaded. These imbalances may only be harmonised by combining maritime and surrounding area aspects of transportation in an integrated transport chain. Ports are important actors for a comprehensive integration of transport chains as maritime and hinterland transport flows meet there.

Port Integration’s partnership, consisting of 13 partners from 10 EU countries and Russia, therefore involves both political actors and port authorities. The multi-level approach includes actors from sub-national up to EU-level in the field of environmental protection, transport policy and foreign trade. All will be involved to promote and to implement the environmental and economic goals of the project.

Port Integration is designed to identify, exchange and transfer best practice examples in the transport sector with the aim of an overall integration of related policies. It focuses on transport chains as a whole by combining best practice examples dedicated to maritime transport with those tackling issues of hinterland transport. Strengthening of maritime transport shall be carried out in compliance with the establishment of innovative hinterland concepts, combining both aspects of the transport chain within one strategy. Thereby, further steps towards environmentally sustainable and commercially more efficient transport practices in Europe will be achieved.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,472,250.00

ERDF contribution
€1,115,512.50

- Partnership**
- Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Ministry for Economy and Labor Affairs (DE)
 - Hamburg Port Authority (DE)
 - Essex County Council (UK)
 - Valencia Port Authority (ES)
 - Antwerp Port Authority (BE)
 - Marseille Fos (FR)
 - Port of Hamina (FI)
 - Chamber of Commerce of Genoa (IT)
 - Municipality of Ancona (IT)
 - Port of Tallin (EE)
 - Freeport of Riga Authority (LV)
 - Klaipeda State Seaport Authority (LT)
 - ROSMORPORT Kaliningrad Branch (RU)



RENREN

Renewable Energy Regions Network



This project grew out of a collaboration of six core Regions concerned to play their part in global climate action and security of energy supply, and seeking to improve regional policy-making to nurture renewable energy sources.

The overall objective of RENREN is to improve regional policies so that existing regional frameworks are optimised to foster and strengthen renewable energy sources. The partners wish to enable the network’s key regional governmental bodies to exchange experiences. Another goal is establishing strategic cooperation related to new approaches, projects and solutions, thus ensuring the transfer of the findings into regional renewable energy sources policies.

The 14 partners from 11 EU Member States and Iceland include expert regions in wind power, hydropower, solarthermal, photovoltaic, biomass, geothermal, and ocean energy, as well as learning regions. All of the partners are committed to making a contribution to the achievement of EU 2020 renewable energy strategy targets.

Working groups contribute to a best practice database and a review of policy actions in several cross-cutting topics:

- Strategic planning for renewable energy sources at regional level;
- Permits and compliance;
- Fostering job market development, research and technology development and innovation;
- Finance and incentives.

Eight on-site visits provide further insight into best practices and facilitate the exchange.

Outputs of the RENREN project include policy recommendations to aid all partners and other EU Regions to optimise their policy frameworks and achieve or go beyond their stated renewable energy targets.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,095,359.85

ERDF contribution
€1,646,507.20

- Partnership**
- **Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein (DE)**
 - Welsh Assembly Government (UK)
 - County Council of Jämtland, Institute of Rural Development (SE)
 - The Association of municipalities in the Westfjords (IS)
 - Cyprus Institute of Energy (CY)
 - Department of Innovation, Enterprise and Employment of Government of Navarre (ES)
 - Regional Energy Agency of Castilla y Leon (ES)
 - Pays de la Loire Region (FR)
 - The Agency for Social and Economic Development of Timis County (RO)
 - Lodz Region (PL)
 - Ústí Region (PL)
 - Region of Central Macedonia (EL)
 - Andalusia Energy Agency (ES)
 - Bay Zoltán Foundation for Applied Research, Institute for Logistics and Production Systems (HU)

RETS

Renewable Energies Transfer System



The RETS: Renewable Energies Transfer System project has grown up out of a local experience in the field of renewable energies in Northern Alsace (France): the PEREN project.

The project aims to tackle the challenges of renewable energies for local and regional authorities (in particular those with less than 25,000 inhabitants) in association with the expertise of existing competency centres that produce research and provide services on renewable energies. These small-sized authorities have to combat issues linked to their territorial competitiveness and access to project management skills for the implementation of complex projects (energy-mix).

The main objective of RETS is to improve the knowledge and competencies of local and regional policymakers in renewable energies in order to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy policies.

The core RETS activities concern the creation of simple usable tools for local authorities in order to help them make informed choices for the implementation of the right renewable energy strategy within their territories. The main activities consist of the following:

- Collection and analysis of regional renewable energies initiatives and production of a good practice guidebook;
- Study visits;
- Tailored seminars to transfer good practices and stimulate policy implementation;
- Creation of an online community through a collaborative IT platform.

The RETS partnership counts 12 partners from nine EU Member States: France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, UK, the Netherlands, Romania and Slovenia. The panel contains local authorities, universities, energy agencies and associations, more or less advanced in their policy and experiences.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,908,715.00

ERDF contribution
€1,484,054.25

Partnership

- **Association pour le Développement des Entreprises et des Compétences (FR)**
- Sertã Town Council (PT)
- Pinhel Town Council (PT)
- Institute for Environment, Sustainability and Regeneration, Staffordshire University (UK)
- West Wales Eco Centre (UK)
- IHK Zetis GmbH – Center for Technology and Innovation Consulting South-West (DE)
- City of Pezenas (FR)
- City of Sittard-Geleen (NL)
- Energy Agency of Podravje – Institution for Sustainable Energy Use (SI)
- Energy Research and Modernizing Institute Icemenerg Bucharest (RO)
- Province of Varese (IT)
- Town of Vecsés (HU)

CivPro

Regional Strategies for Disaster Prevention

Over the last few years, many regions in Europe have suffered from natural and man-made disasters such as forest fires, floods and droughts. Their devastating effects on citizens’ lives, environment and economy have led European, national and regional authorities dealing with Civil Protection to strongly focus on response and recovery measures. However, there is also a need for more actions and efforts on disaster prevention strategies.

The CivPro project, which brings together 12 partners from 11 EU countries, has been designed to respond to this need. The overall objective is twofold. First, it aims to improve the coordination and effectiveness of regional policies in preventing disasters and mitigating their consequences. Second, the partnership wishes to further develop instruments and establish modalities to strengthen the link between disaster prevention and crisis management.

The partnership is exchanging experiences, know-how and good practices on risk mapping, early warning systems, risk screening models and awareness-raising policies. Partners are also working on the development of a strategic approach to prevent and reduce any potential threat and damages resulting from natural calamities and man-made disasters. Overall policy recommendations and tailor-made local/regional Disaster Prevention Policy Plans developed on the basis of a pre-defined model tested at regional level are the final aim and challenge of the CivPro cooperation.



Lead partner Secretariat of Civil Protection, Ministry of Citizen Protection (EL)	Partnership • Secretariat of Civil Protection, Ministry of Citizen Protection (EL) • Evros Prefecture (EL) • Municipality of Miskolc (HU) • Harghita County Council (RO) • Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Wroclaw Branch (PL) • Municipality of Popovo (BG) • Delegation of the Government in Castile and León, Civil Defence (ES) • AG Port of Oostende (BE) • Cyprus Civil Defence (CY) • City of Kosice (SK) • Development Agency ROD (SI) • Municipality of Alcobaça (PT)
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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2012	
Total budget €1,892,220.00	
ERDF contribution €1,567,979.00	

CLIMACT

Regions for Climate Protection: toward Governance from Knowledge to Action

In the global context of the fight against climate change, the European Union has committed itself to the reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020. The main decisions are taken at the European and national levels but the results have to be achieved in the field. The regional and local levels have therefore a crucial role to play. The objective of the project is to improve the capacity of Regions to build and apply greenhouse gases reduction policies in order to contribute to climate protection.

The three knowledge areas that are developed by partners and shared as part of the project are:

- 1) monitoring and observing greenhouse gases;
- 2) developing regional policies and action plans for greenhouse gas mitigation;
- 3) implementing strong regional governance.

Through the identification of best practices on regional climate change policies, the results of the project include addressing regional climate protection regional policies and preparing implementation plans on climate change policies. Moreover, the project also transfers successful best practices in order to improve regional climate change policies and to create a network of regional greenhouse gas observatories. In the short term, the project enables Regions to set up greenhouse gas observatories, develop efficient climate change policies and use regional governance processes. In the medium term, it is expected that greenhouse gas emissions are reduced significantly.



The project gathers 11 partners representing 10 Regions (four of which are supported by their regional agency) and one international association of energy agencies and Regions, with a balanced coverage of the EU Member States from a political and geographical point of view.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,133,000.00

ERDF contribution
€1,627,476.40

- Partnership**
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 - Rhônalpénergie-Environnement (FR)
 - Nord – Pas de Calais Regional Council (FR)
 - European Federation of Regional Energy and Environment Agencies (BE)
 - Berlin Senate Department of Economics, Technology and Women’s Issues (DE)
 - Fundaci3n Comunitat Valenciana Regi3n Europea (ES)
 - Norrbotten Energy Network (SE)
 - Kent County Council (UK)
 - Maramures County Council (RO)
 - Regional Energy Agency of Liguria (IT)
 - Energy Agency of the Zlin Region (CZ)

DELTANET

Network of European Delta Regions – Sustainable Delta Governance

The delta and estuaries regions in Europe share similar characteristics, problems and opportunities as they have to deal with a very dynamic development of urbanisation, economic activities, infrastructure, natural and technological risks. The high spatial and economic demands are a threat to sustainable development and to the safeguarding of the uniqueness of Delta regions. This is why nine Delta areas from seven EU Member States decided to exchange experiences and improve their regional policy instruments, methods and approaches by joining DeltaNet.

The overall objective of DeltaNet is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in Delta Regions through interregional cooperation in the areas of environmental risk prevention, specifically through the development of appropriate coordinated spatial planning measures in geographically sensitive areas. Sub-objectives are to enable a(n):

- Better integrated delta approach (a sustainable economic and ecologic use of port areas);
- Improved flood risk & sediment management;
- Improved environment (wetland restoration);
- Higher delta awareness (public participation and communication to public);
- Better coordinated Delta policy;
- As a result of these, a sustainable network of Delta regions.



The project will result in an overview of good practices, policy recommendations for EU, Delta regions in general and the specific involved Delta regions. Also a work plan for each involved Delta region will be developed to follow-up on the implementation of the policy recommendations. The involved partners aim for good examples, policy instruments and arguments to convince politicians and raise people’s awareness of the need for a coordinated Delta policy. Working together on common challenges provides partners with innovative insights on how to balance the different demands in regional policy.



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Duration
03/2010 – 02/2013

Total budget
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ERDF contribution
€913,113.09

- Partnership**
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 - Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (ES)
 - Metropolitan Area of Lisbon (PT)
 - Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (RO)
 - Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship (PL)
 - Hamburg Port Authority (DE)
 - University of Vigo (ES)
 - Local Government of El Prat of Llobregat (ES)
 - Cardiff University (UK)

F:ACTS!

Forms for: Adapting to Climate change through Territorial Strategies

F:ACTS! means “Forms for: Adapting to Climate change through Territorial Strategies”. Climate change and its effects in terms of natural hazards offer a big challenge for policy makers at regional and local level that deal with integrated territorial approaches. Territorial strategies in the F:ACTS! context is a pro-active implementation-oriented package of interventions in which governments and private parties work together in active stakeholder approaches.

F:ACTS! brings together a partnership of 14 organisations from eight countries dealing with policy making, implementation and innovation at relevant government levels, each of which having the competence to carry out, support or innovate in the field of integrated territorial development and all have the urgent task to anticipate on climate change.



F:ACTS! is focused on risk-prone areas that lack resilience to respond to and recover from extreme weather. Prevention of hazards often has a spatial dimension affecting land use structures and functions, for example when creating room to prevent flooding, or when improving access, zoning and managing of forests to reduce risks of wild fires.

Via review, study visits, thematic workshops and identification of good practice, the stage is set for concrete work in pilot areas. The pilots – in tune with a well-planned dissemination approach – will deliver important outcome for policy makers and practitioners and it will facilitate the active transfer of approaches. F:ACTS! will deliver useful accessible documents, a handbook and recommendations for policy makers.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
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ERDF contribution
€1,805,000.00

- Partnership**
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 - Flemish Land Agency (BE)
 - Regional Ministry of Rural Affairs. Government of Galicia (ES)
 - University of Santiago de Compostela (ES)
 - General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development (PT)
 - National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture (LT)
 - Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (LT)
 - General Directorate for Spatial Planning and Urban Development (PT)
 - Province of Limburg (BE)
 - Almere Municipality (NL)
 - Municipality of Varna (BG)
 - Prefecture of Achaia (EL)
 - National Union of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Authorities (IT)



FLOOD-WISE

Sustainable flood management strategies for cross border river basins

European border regions regularly suffer from major floods, causing fatalities, displacement of people, great economic losses and large impact on nature. Floods are basin wide phenomena which do not respect borders and therefore often create cross-border problems between regions and countries. It is widely recognised that effective flood management requires cooperation within the river basin. European water legislation such as the Water Framework Directive and the recently approved Flood Risk Management Directive embrace sustainable water resources management on a river basin scale.

The FLOOD-WISE project stimulates a joint approach in sustainable flood management in six international river basins (Meuse, Rur, Elbe, Sava, Western Bug and Tisza-Somes) represented by 15 selected partners.

The overall objective of the project is the identification, sharing and transfer of good practices on sustainable cross-border flood management in European river basins, using the instruments of the Flood Risk Management Directive. The project is divided into three phases addressing the three different flood risk management tools:

- flood risk assessment;
- flood risk mapping;
- flood risk management plans.



This overall objective is reinforced by the integration of other EU directives and national policies, taking into account the hydrological, ecological and socio-economic functions of the river.

The project will result in the collection of good practices and recommendations for the European Commission, Member States and other relevant stakeholders. For the future implementation of the project's results, it will also create actions plans per river basin.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,003,900.00

ERDF contribution
€1,526,090.00

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 - Province of Limburg (NL)
 - Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management, Regional Office Limburg (NL)
 - Ministry of the Walloon Region, General Direction of Natural Ressources & Environnement (BE)
 - Roer en Overmaas Regional Water Authority (NL)
 - Water Board Eifel-Rur (DE)
 - Saxon State Agency for Environment, Agriculture and Geology (DE)
 - Brandenburg State Office for Environment (DE)
 - Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (SI)
 - Croatian Waters (HR)
 - National University of Water Management and Nature Resources Use (UA)
 - District Office of Wlodawa (PL)
 - Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (BY)
 - Upper-Tisza-region Environmental and Water Directorate (HU)
 - National Administration “Romanian Waters”, Somes Tisa Water Division (RO)



MiSRaR

Mitigating Spatial Relevant Risks in European Regions and Towns

The MiSRaR project is about protecting the environment, people and property against the destructive impact of natural and technological hazards. Recently many instances of such hazards, which did much harm to homes and businesses and had a devastating impact on the landscape, could be observed in Europe. In response to this risk a growing number of European local and regional authorities have started to design and implement strategies to minimise the impact of such extreme events. These are called “spatial mitigation strategies” and are the first step in disaster management.

So far, extensive attention has been given to the reaction to disastrous events in regional policy development, which means that disaster management was aimed primarily at preparedness, response and recovery. However prevention, which entails long-term safety measures and tools, is still underestimated. European experience and best practices are widespread but rarely exchanged, which often leads to reinventing the “mitigation process wheel”. But this is specifically an aspect of disaster management that consists of similar processes, tools and models that can be applied by local and regional governments throughout the EU.

MiSRaR addresses the issue of mitigating relevant hazards through the inclusion of risk assessment and risk management in spatial planning. The project aims to develop an integrated approach for this to assist regional and local governments in the EU in developing their spatial mitigation plan for relevant risks. The dissemination of knowledge envisages a number of seminars, producing brochures on risk assessment and management accompanied by a “mitigation handbook” for local and regional policy and decision makers.



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Duration
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Total budget
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ERDF contribution
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• Tallinn City Government (EE)
• Euro Perspectives Foundation (BG)
• Mirandela’s Municipality (PT)
• Aveiro Municipality (PT)
• Province of Forlì-Cesena (IT)
• Prefecture Thesprotia (EL)



C2CN

Cradle to Cradle Network

The Cradle to Cradle (C2C) concept on “waste equals food” offers a breakthrough in waste management and prevention, and was initiated by Messrs Braungart and McDonough. The C2C approach means that products should be designed for high-value re-use in a new product after they are discarded, or to serve a nutritional purpose. The concept envisages a challenging future where the emphasis is on creating eco-effective solutions.

The Cradle to Cradle Network (C2CN) is a Capitalisation project which aims to reduce raw materials’ utilisation, to generate less waste and less environmental pollution, as well as to enhance innovation and economic development. In addition, C2CN inspires other EU regions to take actions towards a more recycling society.



The overall objective of the project itself is to develop regional action plans, reflecting the principles of the C2C concept, systematising its regional interpretations and setting out how the good practices critically assessed by the network are implemented within regional mainstream Structural Funds Programmes.

The project is designed in two phases. Phase 1 mainly focuses on the transferability of the already identified good practices. Phase 2 addresses the development of regional actions plans, which is supported by both regional and joint activities.

The project produces 10 regional action plans, a Good Practice Handbook and a Guide on Waste Management & C2C, which is also of great value for other parties concerned outside the partnership.

The partnership comprises of 10 partners from 10 Member States. Partners bring different levels of development in the field of Cradle to Cradle.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2011

Total budget
€2,479,234.37

ERDF contribution
€1,905,167.98

Partnership

- **Province of Limburg (NL)**
- Flemish Public Waste Agency (BE)
- Milano Metropoli Development Agency (IT)
- Department for Economic and Tourism Development of the City of Graz (AT)
- Regional Agency of Development and Innovation Design Centre (FR)
- Kainuun Etu ltd (FI)
- West Transdanubian Regional Development Agency Non-profit Limited Liability Company (HU)
- Suffolk County Council (UK)
- North-East Regional Development Agency (RO)
- Government Office for Development and European Affairs (SI)

PRE-WASTE

Improve the effectiveness of waste prevention policies in EU territories

Waste prevention is considered as a priority within the existing national and regional strategies. However, many efforts still need to be made at European level. In this context, the project Pre-waste addresses waste prevention regional policies, with the objective to improve the effectiveness of existing policies and to significantly reduce waste production and hazardousness. This challenging work requires the close collaboration of local and regional authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

In this respect, the involved partners in the project are public entities, which are directly involved in the planning or in the implementation of waste management policies according to their competences. In total, there are ten partners representing nine countries from the four programme areas. They are jointly working on the identification of good practices in the field tackled and on the efficiency and monitoring assessment of waste prevention actions. One of the final aims of Pre-waste is also to define a common methodology that will enable regional and local authorities to plan and implement an effective waste prevention. The transferability of one or more good practices into each partner's territory will be assessed individually through feasibility studies and joint interregional training sessions. In addition, common indicators and a web tool aimed at assessing the effectiveness of waste prevention actions and policies will be defined.



The partners will gain a better knowledge of the good practices identified and the initiatives and policies experimented in other regions, as well as a higher capacity in assessing waste prevention policies effectiveness. The Pre-waste outputs will finally be used to influence the design of local strategies for waste prevention. The organisation of one European Conference and nine national events will also help ensure maximum dissemination of Pre-waste results across Europe.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
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ERDF contribution
€1,437,335.00

Partnership

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- Ile-de-France Region Waste Management Observatory (FR)
- ACR+ Association of Cities & Regions for Recycling and for sustainable Resource management (BE)
- Municipality of Roquetas de Mar (ES)
- Municipality of Sofia (BG)
- Brussels Environment IBGE (BE)
- Public Cooperation Department of Ilfov County (RO)
- Municipality of Karlskrona (SE)
- Tampere Regional Solid Waste Management Ltd (FI)
- WasteServ Malta Ltd (MT)



SUFALNET4EU

Sustainable use of former and abandoned landfills network for you

SufalNet4EU is a Capitalisation project that aims to provide regional and local authorities from various EU countries with specific instruments to redevelop closed and abandoned landfills in their territories.

Lead by the Province of Noord-Brabant (NL) SufalNet4EU brings together 15 regional authorities from 10 different EU Member States. The project builds on the results and good practices in redevelopment of landfill sites developed in the INTERREG IIIC project SufalNet (2005-2007) and several other (EU-funded) projects. The key best practice capitalised on in this project is the SufalNet Model Strategy for Landfill Redevelopment.

The core activity of SufalNet4EU is the development of regional Action Plans for redevelopment of one or more closed landfill sites. Each partner works intensively with the various key stakeholders in his region while developing its regional action plan. Besides all partners have obtained the cooperative support of the Managing Authority of the

relevant Structural Funds Operational Programme in their area which ensures the action plans meet all regional needs and requirements and have the necessary commitment for successful future implementation. The main activities of the project are carried out in three thematic working groups focusing on redevelopment on a regional scale, redevelopment into landscape and nature and redevelopment for economic functions.

The SufalNet4EU partners put also considerable effort in the dissemination of their best practices in landfill redevelopment to practitioners and policymakers across the EU.



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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2011	
Total budget €2,595,738.00	
ERDF contribution €2,012,969.30	

W2E

Waste To Energy

The W2E project focuses on the potential to improve the sustainable management of waste in Europe’s Regions, and to produce energy from waste. Waste volumes in the EU are growing, as is the interest in achieving more cost-effective solutions diverting waste from landfill. However, due to national and regional specificities, there is a lot of variation between Regions and countries in how waste is managed.

W2E’s objective is to exchange knowledge and good practices about regional policies for sustainable waste management by changing the perception of waste as a potential resource, and to increase energy recovery from waste.



W2E brings together eight partners from seven different countries who agree on the importance of putting into place a common waste management strategy. In doing this, the project addresses three intertwined issues affecting Europe’s Regions:

- It supports policies which divert waste from landfill;
- It demonstrates ways to increase production of sustainable energy and;
- It contributes to low-carbon economic growth in the partner Regions.

The two main results of W2E will be the development of a policy tool which can support Regions in the development of more sustainable waste management strategies, and the development of sustainable waste management action plans – one in each partner Region – which will focus on the reduction of waste going into landfill, and the potential to recover energy from that waste.

The development of W2E is particularly timely as Regions are under obligation by EU Directives to develop sustainable waste management strategies. W2E will contribute to those strategies not only in the eight participating Regions, but also for other Regions outside the project by presenting a transferable model.



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01/2010 – 06/2012

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ERDF contribution
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Partnership
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• Cumbria County Council (UK)
• A.R.A.E.N. – Abruzzo Regional Energy Agency (IT)
• South Great Plain Regional Development Agency (HU)
• Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (PL)
• Slovak innovation and energy agency (SK)
• Regional Energy Agency (SK)
• Dâmbovița County Council (RO)



SHARP

Sustainable Hydro Assessment and Groundwater Recharge Projects

Groundwater provides the steady base flow of rivers and wetlands. Maintaining this flow and keeping it free from pollution is vital for surface water ecosystems. Groundwater is also a crucial source of drinking water, supplying the water systems for three out of four EU citizens. Furthermore, European economies tap groundwater for industrial cooling and for agricultural irrigation.

In this context, SHARP focuses on the exchange of knowledge on innovative techniques to protect groundwater resources in the eight partner Regions. The partners will exchange practical know-how and also determine demand concerning key contents: general groundwater management tools, artificial groundwater recharge technologies, groundwater monitoring systems, strategic use of groundwater resources for drinking water, irrigation and industry, techniques to save water quality and quantity, drinking water safety plans, risk management tools and water balance models.



The exchange of experiences and transfer of knowledge is primarily achieved via seminars, study visits and interregional conferences. In addition, a virtual information centre (an IT-based communication system) supports the know-how transfer and facilitates the cooperation between project partners, decision makers and relevant stakeholders.

Finally, SHARP aims at influencing the regional policies of its partners by proposing sustainable groundwater management techniques to save and improve the quality and quantity of groundwater reservoirs for future generations.



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Duration
01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€1,871,978.50

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 - Region of North Aegean (EL)
 - Regional Agency for Rural Development of Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT)
 - Local Councils' Association (MT)
 - Institute of Meteorology and Water Management- Wroclaw Branch (PL)
 - International Resources & Recycling Institute (UK)
 - Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology (DE)
 - Graz AG water supply (AT)



SIGMA FOR WATER

Sustainable InteGral Management

Approaches for Water Areas

In the recent past human activities within the partner Regions, such as intensified agriculture, industrial activities and man-made flood management measures (building of dikes and canals), have had many negative impacts on the various water eco-systems. These negative impacts include increased pressure on existing water systems resulting in poor water quality, pollution, lack of available drinking water, exhaustion of flora and fauna and a general reduction of the environmental quality of the affected areas. Additionally, climate change forces the partners to deal with water quantity problems resulting in high water levels or lack of water and drought. The SIGMA for Water project is developed as a response to these regional issues.

Using the experience of the INTERREG IIIC project Lake Promo, the 11 partner Regions adopted an integrated approach, convinced that the cooperation of different stakeholders can ensure the necessary political support and real implementation of the results.

The activities of the SIGMA for Water operation include identifying existing good practices in the development of lake and wetland areas, building up a special knowledge database for exchange of experience among the partners, and the organisation of seven interregional workshops with the aim of developing water management master plans for each partner Region. At the end of the project, relevant regional policies within the partnership will be evaluated in order to promote future lake and wetland development. The conclusions will become the basis of policy recommendations and a toolkit for lake and wetland development. The implementation of the master plans is envisaged beyond the project’s lifetime and will be facilitated by the development of action and funding plans. The financial means for the implementation will be sought both in EU Structural Funds and non-EU resources.



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Total budget
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ERDF contribution
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 - District administration of Demmin (DE)
 - International Resources & Recycling Institute (UK)
 - Mineral & Energy Economy Research Institute of Polish Academy of Sciences (PL)
 - National Administration “Romanian Waters” Buzau Ialomita Directorate (RO)
 - Local Action Group Appennino Genovese (IT)
 - University of Debrecen Centre for Environmental Management & Policy (HU)
 - South-Transdanubian Environment Protection & Water Management Directorate (HU)
 - Prefecture of Magnesia (EL)

SuPorts

Sustainable Management for European Local Ports

This project endeavours to help smaller ports and the local authorities managing them address environmental issues. Most EU ports are small-scale, combining shipping, fishing and leisure activities. They face challenges related to the application of the EU environmental policy and legislation, as well as to the residents' high expectations towards the development of small ports regions. At the same time local ports lack the tools to respond to these challenges. The aim of the SuPorts project is to help local ports design better environmental strategies and to have easy access to suitable environmental management tools in order for them to remain competitive and to contribute to a more sustainable EU.

The project activities are carried out along two axes:

- The exchange of experience to identify and promote better practice in the fields of dredging, protecting the marine biodiversity and involving stakeholders;
- The development of appropriate environmental management tools for smaller ports.



The partners come from seven countries representing small ports on the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean, as well as the North, Baltic and Aegean Seas. Through trainings, studies, workshops, field work and the drafting of easy-to-read technical documentation the partners will customise existing environmental management tools that have been developed for large ports or other economic fields. The result will be practical guides on how to design and implement sustainable strategies and environmental management tools relevant for use by local ports, as well as improved port policies. Three specifically selected management tools will be tested to ensure their efficiency and transferability. The project's outcomes will be put at the disposal of all European ports during Europe-wide conferences organised by the project partners.



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01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget
€2,088,971.06

ERDF contribution
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Partnership
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- East Sussex County Council (ESCC) (UK)
- Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) (IT)
- Klaipėda State Seaport Authority (KSSA) (LT)
- Mediterranean SOS Network (MedSOS) (EL)
- DANETH-Intermun. Dev. Co. of the Prefecture of Thessaloniki (EL)
- EcoPorts Foundation (EPF) (NL)
- Piombino Port Authority (APP) (IT)
- ANCI IDEALI European Foundation of Cities (IDEALI) (IT)



SUSTAIN

Assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy

The key objective of SUSTAIN is to create a fully implementable policy tool, applicable for all 22 coastal states of the EU, which will ensure that the integrated management of coastal issues will be sustainable. The creation of this indicator entails the partners’ agreement on a set of criteria which are readily quantifiable and which cover both the threats of an unsustainable development and the opportunities provided by a sustainable future, for coastal authorities and communities throughout Europe.

The increasing intensity of human activities along our coastline (development of ports and harbours, land reclamation, tourism, sand/gravel extraction, etc.) has a severe impact on coastal communities and natural habitats. The EC has adopted a renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy in 2006, which aims to bring about a high level of environmental protection, social equity and cohesion, economic prosperity and active promotion of sustainable development worldwide. However, the lack of a commonly agreed set of indicators limits the measurement of sustainability achieved in coastal management – which has a negative impact on sustainability itself.

The SUSTAIN partnership consists of 12 partners including eight Authorities (four regional & four local) covering the Northern Atlantic Seaboard, the Southern Atlantic Seaboard, the Mediterranean and the Baltic. It is noteworthy that on top of the classic communication and dissemination tools (reports, press releases, website, etc.), a series of web-based podcasts will be put online for a more direct transfer of experience to interested parties.



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Duration 01/2010 – 12/2012	
Total budget €1,798,023.00	
ERDF contribution €1,406,845.45	



Water CoRe

Water scarcity and droughts: coordinated actions in European regions



The Water CoRe project provides an exchange platform for water scarcity and drought issues at regional and local level. Policies and practical experience related to the management of water scarcity and droughts already exist in Europe. Water CoRe compiles this knowledge and makes it accessible to all regional and local actors in the European Union so that they can create their own tailor-made approaches.

The 14 partners from seven EU Member States are committed to exchanging good practices and adapting these to their local or regional conditions. The overall objective of the Water CoRe project is creating tools to improve water management in all European Regions. In addition, the partners wish to raise the awareness of the inhabitants

and stakeholders in partner Regions about the water-saving potential. The thematic working groups cover various topics such as the demand-side of water management, handling of drought periods, effects of climate change, public awareness and participation.

The main project results include:

- a digital exchange platform;
- a good practice handbook;
- a survey on the opportunities to exchange good practices within the partnership;
- regional action plans to transfer experiences between Regions;
- an e-learning programme with thematic modules;
- policy recommendations.

Special attention is given to regions in Central and Eastern Europe by establishing a focal point on water scarcity and droughts in Hungary.

Water CoRe leads to improved water scarcity and drought management policies and instruments in all partner Regions. Regional policy-makers already underlined their commitment to this project in a “memorandum of understanding”. The results are made available to other European Regions via the project website.



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01/2010 – 04/2013

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ERDF contribution
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 - Ministry for Environment of the Government of Aragon (ES)
 - Aragonese Water Institute (ES)
 - General Directorate for Environment and for Soil and Coast Protection of Emilia-Romagna (IT)
 - Environmental Agency of Emilia-Romagna – Hydro-Meteo-Climate Service (IT)
 - Ministry of Environment and Water (HU)
 - Directorate for Environmental Protection and Water Management of Lower Tisza District (HU)
 - Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) (HU)
 - Ministry of Environment (RO)
 - National Meteorological Administration (RO)
 - Environmental Protection Agency Covasna (RO)
 - Province of North-Brabant (NL)
 - General Council of Herault (FR)



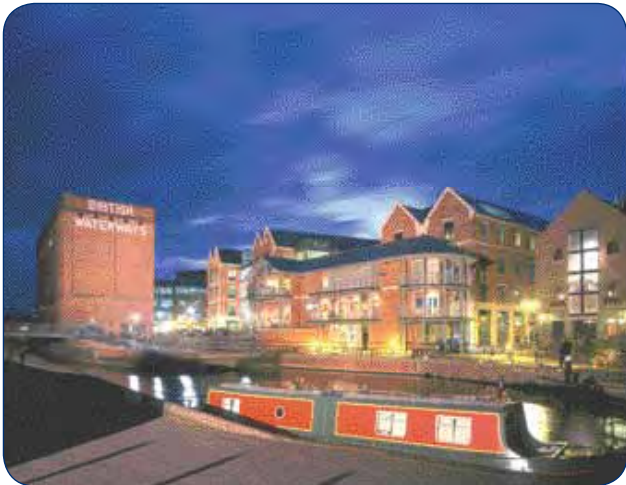
WF

Waterways Forward

The main objective of the Waterways Forward project is to improve the management of regional inland waterways and the regions adjacent to these waterways by promoting an integrated, sustainable and participatory approach. The project aims to develop recommendations for improved governance models that will create a sound basis for more integrated regional policies, respecting nature and the environment, e.g. by linking River Basin Management under the Water Framework Directive with spatial planning of the Regions adjacent to inland waterways.

The increased multifunctional use of regional waterways can have negative impacts on the quality of the environment such as more pollution and waste water problems affecting aquatic ecology, unique habitats and drinking water resources. Climate change requires specific policies and approaches to manage regional waterways in order to avoid periodic surpluses and shortages of water. On the other hand, the socio-economic benefit of being a Region adjacent to waterways requires up-to-date governance structures, models and management that takes into account the environmental impacts and climate effects of the increased multifunctional use of the waterways.

The project involves an intensive transfer of knowledge on management strategies and regional policies concerning how to deal with the conflicting interests arising from an increased multifunctional use of the waterways. By creating better conditions for a mixed use of regional waterways, taking into account environmental constraints, the Water Framework Directive, and the effects of climate change, the project supports the sustainable development of waterway Regions in Europe.



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01/2010 – 12/2012
Total budget
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€2,043,171.33
Norwegian funding
€70,375.00

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 - Waterways Ireland (UK)
 - British Waterways (UK)
 - Association Regio Water (NL)
 - Telemark County Council (NO)
 - County Administrative Board of Värmland (SE)
 - Savonlinna Region Federation of Municipalities (FI)
 - Central Directorate for Water and Environment (HU)
 - Province of Ferrara (IT)
 - Navigli Lombardi s.c.a.r.l. (IT)
 - French Waterways (FR)
 - Association of Riverside Towns of the Castille Channel, SIRGA (ES)
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 - Municipality of Brzeg Dolny (PL)
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Index of project acronyms

B2N	p.12	MKW.....	p.45
BIO-EN-AREA	p.57	ORGANZA	p.20
BRAINFLOW.....	p.5	OSAIS.....	p.21
B-TEAM	p.54	OSEPA.....	p.33
C2CN.....	p.70	PADIMA	p.7
CATCH MR	p.58	PERIA	p.46
CHEMCLUST	p.35	PERIURBAN	p.51
CIVPRO	p.64	POOLING4CLUSTERS.....	p.47
CLIMACT	p.65	PORT INTEGRATION.....	p.61
CREA.RE	p.13	PRE-WASTE	p.71
CREATOR.....	p.14	PROSESC.....	p.48
DART	p.6	PROSPECTS	p.22
DE-LAN	p.27	RENREN	p.62
DELTANET	p.66	RETS	p.63
DISTRICT+	p.36	REVERSE	p.52
DLA.....	p.28	ROBINWOOD PLUS.....	p.23
ECITIZEN II.....	p.29	RTF	p.34
ECREIN+	p.37	RURALAND	p.24
ENERCITEE	p.59	SCINNOPOLI.....	p.49
ENSPIRE EU.....	p.15	SHARP	p.74
ENTREDI.....	p.16	SIGMA FOR WATER.....	p.75
ERMIS	p.38	SMART+	p.25
EURIS	p.39	SOLIDARCITY	p.8
EUROSCAPES	p.55	SUFALNET4EU.....	p.72
F:ACTS!	p.67	SUPPORTS.....	p.76
FLOODWISE.....	p.68	SURF-NATURE.....	p.53
FRESH.....	p.40	SUSTAIN.....	p.77
ICER	p.17	TOOL QUIZ.....	p.9
ICT-VN	p.30	UNICREDS	p.10
IMAGEEN	p.18	VITOUR LANDSCAPE	p.56
IMMODI	p.31	W2E	p.73
INNOHUBS.....	p.19	WATER CORE.....	p.78
INNOPOLIS	p.41	WF	p.79
INOLINK	p.42	WINNET 8.....	p.11
IPP	p.43	YES.....	p.26
I-SPEED.....	p.32		
KNOW-MAN	p.44		
LOCARE	p.60		
MISRAR.....	p.69		

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Witold Mierzejewski: p.12
Konrad Mostert: p.13
Ariel da Silva Parreira: p.16
Jean-Pierre Soissons: p.17
Mark Robinson: p.18
Alexander Pfann: p.19
Stock.xchng: p.20/27/29/30/31/32/41/42/46/49
Michael Illuchine: p.21
Timo Balk: p.24
Kirils Kirasirovs: p.26
Ilker: p.28
Flavio Takemoto: p.33
Jordi Graels: p.36
Erkin Sahin: p.37
Lukas Patkan: p.38
M. Paradis: p.39
A. Monteiro: p.43
Barbara Robinson: p.44
Verrees-Barbier: p.47
Christophe Libert: p.55
Konrad Mostert: p.58
Gesine Kuhlmann: p.59
Hafen Hamburg Marketing: p.60
Christa Richert: p.61
Ilona Burgers: p.63
Hans Thoursie: p.64
Gavin Katman: p.66
Sorina Bindea: p.67
Ronald Schuster: p.70
John Nyberg: p.72
Mrs Klamming: p.73
Erik Devilee (EUCC): p.76
Lorant Fulop: p.77

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