



July 2009

Interregional Cooperation Projects First collection



INTERREG IVC

INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENT
REGIONS OF EUROPE SHARING SOLUTIONS



European Union

European Regional Development Fund



Europe is cooperation!

Interregional cooperation has developed hand in hand with European integration, providing concrete tools and measures to identify what works, and what doesn't, in terms of regional development policy. Interregional cooperation in Europe is unique in its ability to allow diverse Regions of Europe to work together, at a distance and on a large scale, to share experience and find solutions to common problems. It also has an objective to allow more and less advanced Regions to work together.

This brochure provides an insight into the first series of 41 projects funded under the INTERREG IVC programme, and how they aim to improve one particular aspect of their region through exchanging good practice beyond their borders.

From developing policies to assist small businesses, to tackling the challenges of demographic change; from improving the coordination of public transport services to developing common responses to natural disasters – these projects show how interregional cooperation has an obvious impact on the quality of life of citizens in each region.

The INTERREG IVC programme, running from 2007-2013, focuses on two clear priorities: Innovation and the knowledge economy, and Environment and risk prevention. Following the approval of the first round of projects, almost 25% of the programme budget has been allocated. Consider, however, that the programme received almost 500 applications in the first call, requesting over three times the total available programme budget and it is clear that only the most relevant projects could be selected.

As President of the Nord-Pas de Calais Region, Managing Authority of the programme, I am encouraged by the high interest shown by the Regions for this kind of cooperation. With over 400 partners currently involved – Local authorities, City councils, Regional governments or Regional development agencies – the benefits of cooperation will be available for all.

This brochure is designed not only to showcase current projects, but also to help Regional and Local authorities across Europe capitalise on already-existing exchanges of good practice. At this time of economic uncertainty, it is clear that interregional cooperation has an important and intelligent role to play in boosting the economic competitiveness of Regions and may alleviate the impact of the crisis. The projects in this brochure are the first steps in cooperation for success.

Enjoy your read!

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

Overview

Welcome to the first collection of interregional cooperation projects, part-financed by the INTERREG IVC programme and the European Regional Development Fund.

This brochure is the first global vision of the forty-one projects approved following the first call for proposals. It includes all the most relevant data concerning project funding and partnership, along with a summary of what the project aims to achieve. More details on the content of this brochure can be found on the following pages.

How this publication is organised

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

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

The following two sections are separated by programme priorities: **Innovation & the knowledge economy** and **Environment & risk prevention**, and detail by theme the first collection of forty-one projects approved following the first call for projects in 2008.

You will find a description of each of these priorities on the appropriately-tabbed page. In addition, the themes within each priority have been colour-coded, as explained below, so that you can easily identify them.

You can identify the different themes in Priority 1:

Innovation and the knowledge economy using the following colour code:

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

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

Project types

INTERREG IVC can be considered as a capitalisation programme as it focuses on activities related to the identification, analysis, dissemination and, under certain conditions, transfer of good practices related to regional development policies.

Alongside the two main priorities, projects can fall into two different types: **Regional Initiative projects** and **Capitalisation projects**.

Out of the 41 projects approved in this first collection, 35 are Regional Initiative projects, 6 are Capitalisation projects.

Regional Initiative projects, initiated by regional actors aiming at exchange of experience in a specific policy field, are the “classic” interregional cooperation projects. They allow partners from the different EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and even from non-EU countries to work together on a shared regional policy issue. They contribute directly to achieving the programme’s overall objective of improving the effectiveness of regional policies.

Capitalisation projects have a main, very specific objective to transfer the practices identified into the Structural Funds programme of each Region involved.

Capitalisation projects therefore must build on **existing good practices** that have been identified through previous programmes (e.g. INTERREG III programmes, regional operational programmes, research programmes). The duration of these projects is shorter (2 years instead of 3 years) as the project does not need to begin with identifying good practices, but can immediately start the preparation for transferring these good practices.

These projects aim to have a direct impact on regional policy therefore it is important that the appropriate regional authority for policy-making is involved. Each participating Region in a Capitalisation project will produce an **action plan** detailing how the processes exchanged during the project will be implemented by the Region.

Fast Track

Fast Track projects are Capitalisation projects which benefit from additional expertise from the European Commission in order to contribute to its ‘Regions for Economic Change’ initiative. This initiative seeks to make a stronger direct link between the good practices identified in the INTERREG IVC programme and the main body of regional development funding. The EC has identified a series of 30 themes, 23 of which are relevant to the INTERREG IVC programme. The other themes are covered by the URBACT II programme for urban development.

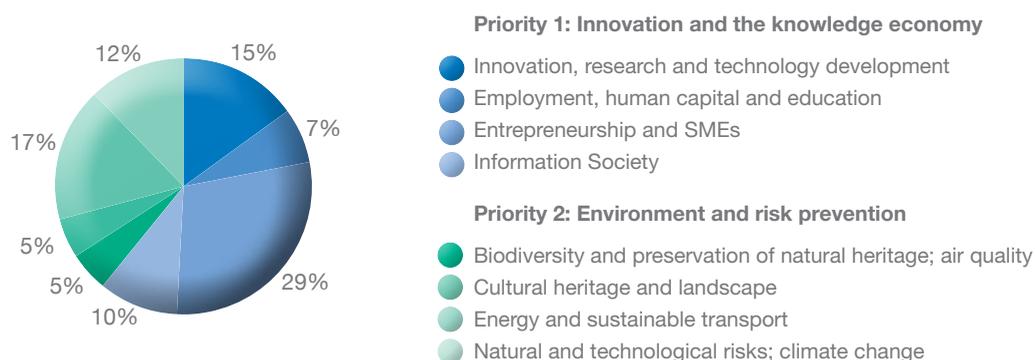


Fast track projects – identifiable by a special logo – receive additional assistance from the European Commission’s thematic units in implementing the project activities and communicating the results. Five out of the six Capitalisation projects approved so far under INTERREG IVC have been selected by the EC to be labelled ‘Fast Track’.

Facts and figures

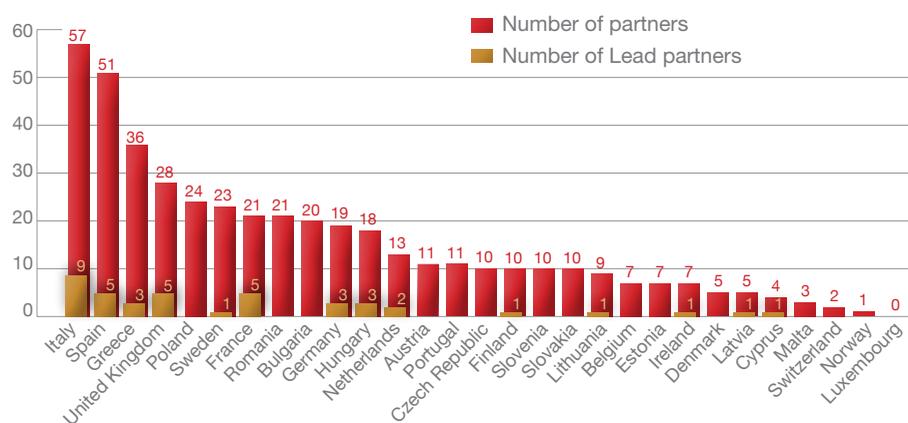
The projects detailed in this publication were approved following the first call for proposals of the INTERREG IVC programme in April and September 2008. The high level of interest in this programme was evident through the 491 applications received, requesting over three times the budget available for the whole programme! Forty-one high-quality applications were approved for funding, whose results will certainly be of benefit to all European regions.

Projects approved by subtheme (1st call)*



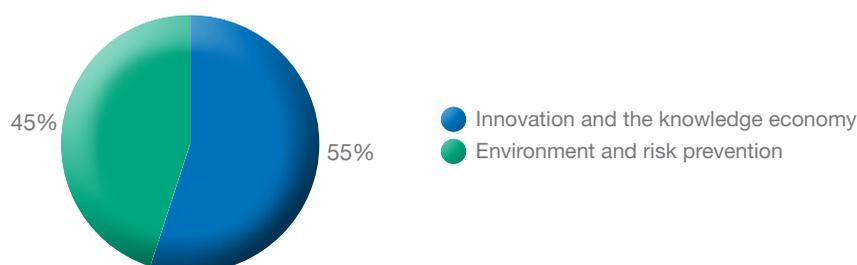
443
= number of regional partners involved in projects

Lead partners and partners of approved projects per country (1st call)



EUR 302 million
= funds available for the programme 2007-2013

Percentage of programme funds allocated to each priority



23%
= percentage of funds allocated after first call

* No projects were approved under the theme of waste management or water management in the first call.

Innovation and the knowledge economy

The renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs in the European Union places a strong emphasis on further developing the knowledge society. This 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, that are capable of competing with the best in the world.

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.

In this field, the EU invests for instance in R&D infrastructures, the entrepreneurial climate and business innovation, as well as the use of ICT's. Projects approved in this priority cover policies to improve and support the promotion of creative and cultural industries, for example, as a new sector for growth; to improve the effectiveness of cluster support policies; to examine the role of regional authorities in driving innovation, and more...

Innovation, research and technology development

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CLiQ

Creating Local Innovation through a Quadruple Helix



CLiQ focuses on the role of local authorities in medium-sized cities (populations of 50,000-250,000) in driving innovation to support the Lisbon goals for jobs and growth. Developed by the Eurotowns network, it builds on previous research evidence highlighting the importance of local quadruple helix partnerships i.e. universities, business, civil society and local authorities.

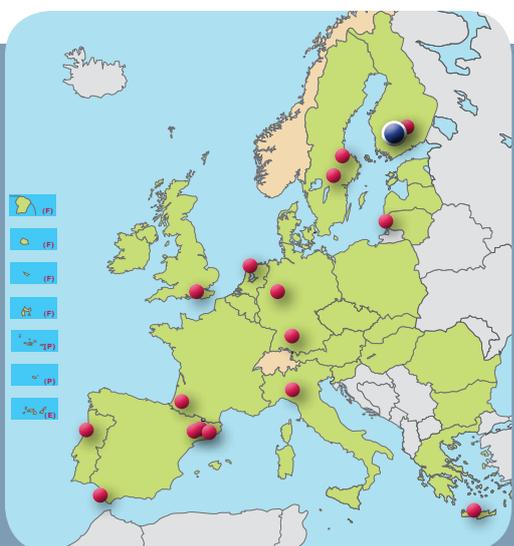
CLiQ has 17 partners from 11 countries, all representing or based in medium-sized cities. The CLiQ partnership includes 9 local and regional authorities as well as representatives of other innovation stakeholders such as chambers of commerce, research institutes and incubators, to reflect the different roles, competencies and perspectives within the quadruple helix.

The objectives of CLiQ are:

- to research and exchange good practice between regions on supporting SMEs to innovate, to define and benchmark medium-sized city authorities' roles in driving innovation,
- to create a set of transferable tools to improve local authorities' innovation policies,
- to integrate innovation, entrepreneurship and internationalisation processes to improve competitiveness,
- to develop close links between quadruple helix partners at local level,
- to exchange models of civil society engagement in innovation,
- to disseminate findings and results.

CLiQ interregional exchange will include study visits, master classes, round tables, network meetings and a micro pilot. Each partner region will engage local stakeholders through consultation events and develop case studies for print publication and dynamic use online. Existing research will be built upon to create an innovation benchmarking methodology and an 'Innovating Medium Sized Cities Toolkit' for local authorities.

The CLiQ network will operate as a live open innovation system and disseminate processes and results throughout the lifetime of the project at relevant events and through its website, using innovative multimedia tools. Findings will be presented within and outside partner regions on an ongoing basis.



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Duration
11/2008-10/2011

Total budget
€1,951,637.00

ERDF contribution
€1,492,107.85

Partnership

- **City of Jyväskylä (FI)**
- Manresa City Council (ES)
- Girona City Council (ES)
- Eskilstuna Municipality (SE)
- Municipality of Leeuwarden (NL)
- Municipality of Gävle (SE)
- Business- and Innovation-Center Lippe-Detmold (DE)
- City of Ulm (DE)
- Beira Atlantic Park Incubator Association – BIC Beira Atlantic (PT)
- Centre for Technological Research Crete (EL)
- Sussex Innovation Centre (UK)
- Government of Catalonia (ES)
- Klaipeda Regional Development Agency (LT)
- Pau Chamber of Commerce (FR)
- City of Mikkeli (FI)
- Chamber of Commerce of Cremona (IT)
- BIC Bay of Cadiz (Bay of Cadiz Foundation for Economical Development) (ES)



I4W

Innovation for Welfare

The objective of Innovation4Welfare (I4W) is to improve, through interregional cooperation, the effectiveness of regional development policies that stimulate technology-driven innovation in the field of health and safety ('welfare').

Across Europe, economic and demographic developments pose new challenges in public health: a general tendency to prioritise health and safety, the strong increase in welfare-related diseases and the increased need for home and health care for an ageing population is causing health care costs to increase rapidly. Innovative solutions are necessary to meet these challenges to avoid health care becoming unaffordable. These challenges are also an opportunity: because of the scope of the public health issue, and the increasing need for products and services in this area, it is an attractive target area for developing innovative new technologies and applications.



Through one integrated (cross-cutting) approach, I4W aims to achieve three main goals:

- to stimulate regional economic activity by better use of innovative processes and technologies in the field of health and safety, especially by SME's and start-ups as important drivers for economic growth and jobs,
- to contribute to welfare as a societal objective through the uptake of these innovations,
- to forge new (inter)regional coalitions between business (principally entrepreneurs and SME's), knowledge institutes and public welfare organisations that currently do not work together sufficiently, to stimulate the uptake of these innovations.

I4W is a mini-programme involving partners representing regional authorities from 6 regions across Europe. It focuses on the analysis, development and transfer of good practices in a limited number of carefully selected subprojects. In this way the project will not only capitalise on the general knowledge of the regional authorities, but on the extensive and in-depth expertise of the specific actors that implement policies and strategies to technology-based innovation in health and safety, such as universities, technology centres, hospitals and incubators. The partners will ensure that the good practices identified and developed in I4W will have a strong impact in the regional innovation and health-related policy through active involvement of, and intensive dissemination to policy-makers across Europe.



Lead partner

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Duration

10/2008-09/2012

Total budget

€4,804,754.00

ERDF contribution

€3,732,570.90

Partnership

- **CIDEM – Centre for Innovation and Business Development (ES)**
- Centre for the Technological Development, Energy and Competitiveness of the Lombard Small- and medium-sized enterprises (IT)
- Province of Noord-Brabant (NL)
- Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia RERA, j.s.c. (CZ)
- Austrian Technology and Marketing Company (AT)
- Tartu Science park (EE)



MINI EUROPE

Mainstreaming INnovative Instruments for SME development in Europe

Small and medium sized enterprises (SME) make an important contribution to regional economic performance by creating jobs, supporting innovation and delivering economic growth. MINI EUROPE aims to exchange and develop regional policies in SME development, focusing on providing a transparent infrastructure for innovation to SMEs. Partners in the project will improve existing mechanisms and import new ones that will strengthen regional infrastructures to support SMEs in innovation. The project will specifically deal with enhancing cooperation and knowledge exchange between SMEs and knowledge institutes and getting more people involved in entrepreneurship, in particular underrepresented groups.



The MINI EUROPE partnership combines the experience of 8 regions from all parts of Europe: Flevoland (NL, lead), Tameside (UK), Észak-Alföld (HU), Maramures (RO), Almi Företagspartner Mitt AB (SE), Valencia/IMPIVA (ES), Georama (Western Greece) and Veneto (IT). MINI EUROPE will document existing good practice in SME development in the partner regions and from relevant INTERREG projects in a catalogue of experience. The partners will then engage in bilateral experience transfers, matching a partner ‘exporting’ a specific good practice with a partner ‘importing’ it. Each partner will both export and import two tools.

At the end of the project each region will develop an action plan to implement the lessons of this project, including policy recommendations and actions to be implemented in regional competitiveness and convergence programmes and other EU programmes.



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Duration
09/2008-08/2011

Total budget
€1,991,639.00

ERDF contribution
€1,556,420.25

Partnership

- **Province of Flevoland (NL)**
- Tameside MBC (UK)
- Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency (HU)
- Maramures County Council (RO)
- Almi Företagspartner Mitt AB (SE)
- Institute for Small & Medium Sized Industrial Firms of the Valencian Government (ES)
- GEORAMA (EL)
- Veneto Region (IT)

NANO4M

Nanotechnology for Market

NANO4M aims to improve strategies and build networks to design nanotechnology for market. The project tackles some of the challenges identified in relation to the functioning of the regional innovation systems with the following objectives:

- to improve the regions' capacity to shorten the gap between R&D and market testing new Research-to-Market processes,
- to strengthen the interregional collaboration by identifying and developing specific research and business opportunities of common interest in the emerging field of nano/microtechnology,
- to increase competitiveness of innovation infrastructure at regional, national and European level,
- to improve the efficiency of regional innovation policies by drawing up recommendations and implementing best practices.

NANO4M involves four regions and twelve partners. The different profiles of the regional R+D+I strategies of these four regions as well as their common interest in several markets/technologies are the best basis for the project to reach its objectives. Each region is represented by a Regional or Local Authority and one or two research and technology centres.

The implementation of new knowledge obtained through interdisciplinary collaboration will be used for the development of feasibility studies concerning the market opportunities of new products in the nano/micro areas and identifying success and failure factors for Research-to-Market process in each region. Furthermore, the expertise obtained in the expert groups will also be embedded in the elaboration of strategic plans for the participating research and technology centres. NANO4M will contribute to the INTERREG IVC goal of improving the efficiency of regional policies by drawing up recommendations for Regional Innovation Policies.



Lead partner

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Duration

10/2008-09/2011

Total budget

€1,845,892.00

ERDF contribution

€1,384,419.00

Partnership

- **IDEPA – Regional Development Agency of Asturias (ES)**
- Center for Research on Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology CINN-CSIC (ES)
- Foundation PRODINTEC (ES)
- City of Dortmund, Wirtschaftsförderung Dortmund (DE)
- Dortmund Technology Center Management Ltd. (DE)
- Technology Development Agency Münster (DE)
- CeNTech – Center for Nanotechnology (DE)
- Empolese Valdelsa Circondario (IT)
- ASEV – Development Agency of Empoli Valdelsa (IT)
- Regional Council of Lorraine (FR)
- UMI GeorgiaTech-CNRS (FR)
- Institute Jean Lamour (FR)



ERIK ACTION

Upgrading the innovation capacity of existing firms

ERIK ACTION is a Capitalisation project born from 4 years of networking experience within the ERIK network. ERIK ACTION builds on a consolidated experience of exchange by moving towards concrete transfer of identified good practices (already available in the ERIK database) into mainstream Structural Funds programmes in regions wishing to improve policies.

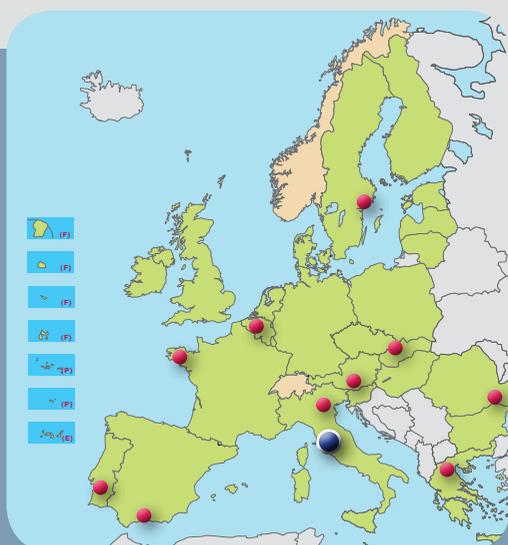


ERIK ACTION's overall objective is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the field of innovation and the knowledge economy and, specifically, in upgrading the innovation capacity of existing enterprises. This project aims to create additional value for firms by improving regional innovation support services and infrastructure. The good practices transferred, in the form of regional action plans, should have a quantifiable and measurable impact on the statistics of the participating regions.

The project consortium is composed of 11 regions from 10 European countries, all involving (through direct participation or guaranteed support) ROP Managing Authorities. All partners have identified innovation as a key priority in regional development and have confirmed the importance of the project theme in their current

environment. Partners differ in development levels in this field. In some, policies on innovation are not yet at an advanced stage. Others have established a comprehensive innovation support system but still look to improve services. ERIK ACTION will go some way to bridging these gaps through intensive cooperation with a view to mutual learning and benefits.

The project will produce 11 regional action plans for transfer. It will also produce a mainstreaming guide which will be widely distributed, above all during the final conference. 11 European regions will see their regional policies, instruments and staff capacities being improved as a result of intensive cooperation and concrete transfer actions.



Lead partner

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Duration

07/2008-06/2010

Total budget

€1,893,784.00

ERDF contribution

€1,464,640.00

Partnership

- **Regional Government of Tuscany (IT)**
- Lower Austrian Government, Dept. Economic Affairs, Tourism and Technology (AT)
- Emilia Romagna Region, Department for Industry, Unit for Local Development (IT)
- ADRAL – Alentejo Regional Development Agency (PT)
- Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia (IDEA) (ES)
- Banska Bystrica Self-governing Region (SK)
- Bretagne Innovation (FR)
- Flemish government Agency for Economy (BE)
- The South-East Regional Development Agency (RO)
- LTC AB (SE)
- University of West Macedonia, Research Committee (EL)

RAPIDE

Regional Action Plans for Innovation Development and Enterprise



RAPIDE is a capitalisation network involving 13 partners from 11 Member States. Its aim is to implement new ideas relating to the role of the public sector in stimulating innovation in partner regions, in particular helping businesses (primarily SMEs) to bring innovative products and services to market more quickly. The long term objective of the project is to stimulate innovation in partner regions, increase economic growth and therefore to contribute directly to the Lisbon agenda. Three factors critical to stimulating innovation – managing risk, financing innovation and effective partnerships – have become the three themes that form the primary emphasis of the RAPIDE network.

The project works through 2 main phases. Phase 1 involves three 'Beyond Best Practice' working summits at which host regions will share experiences in relation to good practice initiatives/projects that have successfully addressed one or more of the key themes (risk, finance, partnership), overcoming these barriers to bringing innovation to market.

The second phase of the project involves regions developing action plans for innovation in partnership with their Managing Authorities and the European Commission based on evidence from phase 1. They will be developed in an environment of peer review with bilateral and informal working groups of RAPIDE partners and EC experts. These will be applied and implemented through mainstream Competitiveness and Convergence Programmes. The project will also ensure a wider audience for the mainstreaming of good practice and will be influential in relation to regional and EU policy.



Lead partner

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Duration

09/2008-08/2010

Total budget

€1,810,099.37

ERDF contribution

€1,430,473.71

Partnership

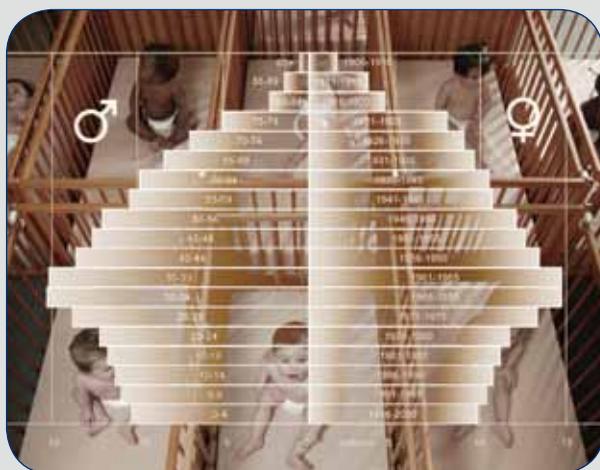
- **South West of England Regional Development Agency (UK)**
- Galician Ministry of Innovation and Industry (ES)
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (PL)
- Örebro Regional Development Council (SE)
- Region Western Greece (EL)
- Ministry of Economy and Labour Saxony-Anhalt (DE)
- Tartu Science Park (EE)
- Welsh Assembly Government (UK)
- Presov Self-Governing Region (SK)
- South Bohemian Agency for Support to Innovative Enterprising (CZ)
- Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences (KTUAS) (FI)
- Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency (HU)
- Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences (RAMK) (FI)

ESF6 CIA

Capitalising Innovative Approaches towards Demographic Change



ESF6 CIA aims to transfer the best practices from projects funded under the European Social Fund Article 6 programme (ESF 6) to, especially, new member states. Demographic change is a subject which affects our society as elderly people become a more important and outstanding group in our daily lives. A great potential of knowledge is available for transfer to younger generations, and best practices that have been identified will be allocated and transferred to regions facing the same issue of demographic change.



The partnership matches less experienced with more advanced regions. Providers, meaning advanced partners in the development and improvement of best practices, form the basis of the partner structure as they guarantee and offer their experiences through the development of best practices. The receivers on the other side are in the position to take over well proven best practices, and to be, at the end, at the same level as the providers.

Following the first step, the development and improvement of best practices in ESF Art. 6 projects, the second logical step is the capitalisation and transfer of identified best practices to other regions with the need to address demographic change. Through the involvement of managing authorities and other relevant stakeholders, the third step will be the implementation of the best

practices analysed and formulated in action plans.

With a running time of two years, the main outcome of ESF6 CIA will be the formulation of action plans for each region of best practices. The action plans form the end result of an intensive interregional exchange between the partners through sensitising workshops and joint thematic seminars during the project lifetime. The successful realisation of the project lies firstly in the cooperation and experience exchange between the partners, and secondly in the involvement and sensitising of relevant stakeholders of each region within the field of demographic change.



Lead partner

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Duration

07/2008-06/2010

Total budget

€1,445,248.00

ERDF contribution

€1,124,016.00

Partnership

- **Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH (DE)**
- Working Lives Research Institute – London Metropolitan University (UK)
- RESOC Mechelen (BE)
- University of L'Aquila (IT)
- Region of Western Greece (RWG) (EL)
- AICCRE (IT)
- Roses City Council (ES)
- Institute of Sociology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IS) (BG)
- Region Abruzzo (IT)
- South-Transdanubian Regional Development Financial & Servicing (HU)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (BG)



**IMPLEMENTING
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICE**

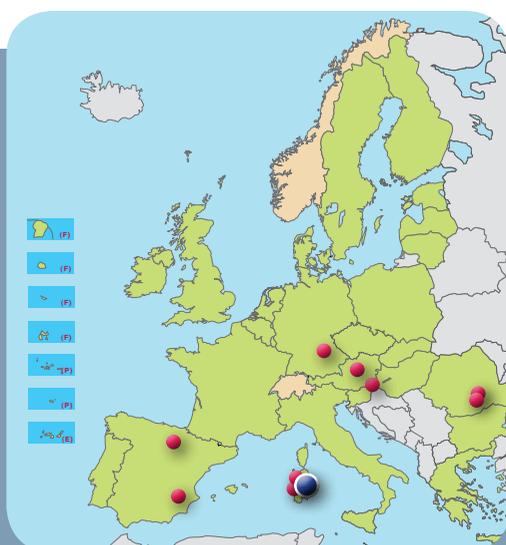
IES

Implementing Employment Service

The Public Employment Service System, a system composed of several actors, is defined by the European Commission as a key element for combating unemployment and for favouring the access of job seekers to the labour market at local, national and European level. The IES project will contribute to improve the quality and the implementation of the partners' regional policies on Public Employment Service. IES identifies five key issues: governance, choice orientations, labour demand-supply matching and job placement, participation of unprivileged people to the labour market and promotion of the individual employability.

Through an intense exchange of experiences, the partnership, composed of actors coming from Italy, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, Germany, Austria, and Italy will gain valuable results for building a more efficient system and provide their local customers with more useful services.

Ultimately, the project will result in improved efficacy in implementing employment policies at regional level, supporting the accomplishment of the local employment strategies and increasing the quality of the employment policies in Europe.



Lead partner

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Duration

11/2008-10/2011

Total budget

€1,955,448.07

ERDF contribution

€1,499,884.23

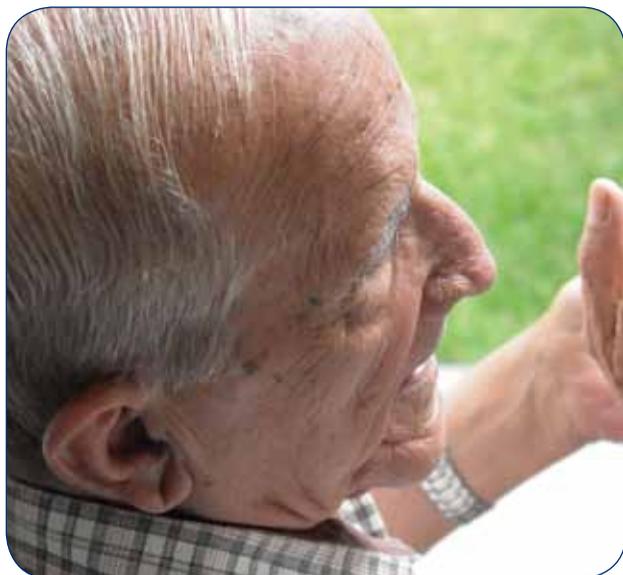
Partnership

- **Regional Labour Agency of Sardinia (IT)**
- FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences (AT)
- Regional Direction Bavaria of the Federal Agency for Labour (DE)
- University Enterprise Training Partnership of The Region of Murcia (ES)
- Autonomous Administration depending of the Regional Government that directs and coordinates all the employment policies in La Rioja region (ES)
- Province of Oristano (IT)
- Province of Sassari – Education-Training-Work Department (IT)
- County Agency for Employment ARAD (RO)
- Ilfov County Council (RO)
- Regional Labour Foundation of Podravje, institution for active labour policy measures implementation (SI)

PEOPLE

Innovation for Societal Change

The PEOPLE partnership is engaged to explore the opportunities for new employment and ways of reinforcing cohesion and well-being in the context of demographic and societal changes faced by European regions. The nascent trends are the ageing population, new family structures, legal/illegal immigration and the emergence of new vulnerable groups, all of this impacting on the interrelation between people, generations and across countries. The PEOPLE partners are proposing to launch a joint regional PEOPLE Action Plan to deliver innovation on societal change at regional level.



The PEOPLE project comprises six sub-objectives:

1. Reconciliation of work and private life
2. E-health & Independence
3. Silver economy
4. Social and e-inclusion
5. Social entrepreneurship
6. Civil society empowerment

The proposed Action Plan is linked to the regional strategic planning and will raise awareness on the opportunity for employment and growth in the context of social cohesion amongst regional policy makers and other players of the civil society. PEOPLE will benchmark and support the creation of new schemes and policies to promote self-employment and home business start-up, e-health or e-inclusion, social enterprises and other advanced mechanisms to foster local and regional services for social service based companies.

Through the transfer of good practices, the organisation of 6 international conferences and the exchange of regional experts, all PEOPLE partners are fully committed to tackling these common societal challenges. PEOPLE mini-programme is also co-funding 10 interregional sub-projects, providing a suitable framework for developing and sharing innovative tools and methodologies and for influencing policy-makers and regional stakeholders.



Lead partner

Government of Andalusia – Ministry for the Equality and Social Welfare (ES)

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Duration

10/2008-12/2011

Total budget

€3,856,320.00

ERDF contribution

€2,942,936.00

Partnership

- **Government of Andalusia – Ministry for the Equality and Social Welfare (ES)**
- South East England Development Agency (UK)
- Stockholm Region (SE)
- Province of Noord-Brabant (NL)
- Marshal Office of the Małopolska Region (PL)
- Province of Venice (IT)
- Timis County Council (RO)



Gender4Growth

Gender4Growth deals with two economic obligations: growth and gender equity. Gender4Growth addresses economic gender inequalities, in particular lower female employment rates, wages and positions; job market segmentation; and lack of conciliation between career and family life. As a matter of fact, gender inequality triggers two main problems: a structural obstacle against growth, because a significant share of the population (mainly women) is faced with restrictions to access job market and entrepreneurial opportunities, and a source of unacceptable inequality in democratic societies.

This issue has been addressed by the Lisbon Strategy with the objective of reaching 60% of female employment in 2010. In this context, Gender4Growth aims to update partners' economic policies so that gender issues are increasingly taken into consideration at policy level.

Project activities are based around the identification of best practices upon methodological basis, exchange and review between partners, transfer sessions through European workshops and local trainings. Three European conferences, exchange about orientations and commitments between regional executives and social partners are also planned.

During the 3 years, partners will grant "Awards" to local economic initiatives that most resolve gender issues; they will previously be offered technical support so as to ease emergence of such initiatives.



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Duration
11/2008-10/2011

Total budget
€1,689,094.20

ERDF contribution
€1,317,116.15

Partnership

- **Region Ile-de-France (FR)**
- Catalan Women Institute (ES)
- Region of the Balearic Islands (ES)
- Veneto Region – Department for International relations, International cooperation, Human rights and Equal opportunities (IT)
- Regional Social Welfare Resource Center Budapest (HU)
- County of Timis (RO)
- Research Center for Gender Equality (EL)
- Lidköping Municipality (SE)



Creative Growth

The Creative Growth project was initiated by the Östergötland region (SE). The aim of the project is to develop the creative sector as a new business sector and influence regional and local policy development by adopting new knowledge and good practices into the policy making process. More precisely, the project will achieve:

- Improved and more effective policies on regional and local level through evidence-based policy making
- Improved business support services and solutions for the creative sector
- Increased knowledge on how creativity can be a catalyst for increased regional competitiveness.



The partnership consists of 11 partners from nine countries. The activities in the project are divided into 3 parts. Firstly, a limited mapping of the creative sector is carried out in each region using a joint set of standards followed by a joint interregional analysis comparing the regions based on the regional mapping. Secondly, the project benchmarks business support services and identifies solutions through exchange of experiences in thematic working groups on topics such as access to finance, support structures, cluster development, incubator facilities etc. Thirdly, interregional thematic seminars are hosted by different partner regions, focusing on creativity as a catalyst for increased regional competitiveness. Three pilot cases will test three different approaches to business support solutions by pooling joint experiences (“traditional” business support services, virtual incubators and physical environments for SMEs).

The main result of the project will be improved policy making processes on regional and local level by adopting evidence-based policy making (i.e. policy making based on new facts, knowledge and exchange of experiences), the creation of a European Network of Creative regions for long-term collaboration, and increased knowledge about the sector among key stakeholders. The project will also result in increased numbers of business support services and solutions tailor-made for SMEs in the creative sector and higher quality of the services provided by business support actors.



Lead partner
Östsam Regional Development Council (SE)

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Duration
10/2008-09/2011

Total budget
€1,921,108.00

ERDF contribution
€1,479,267.20

- Partnership**
- Östsam Regional Development Council (SE)
 - Regional Council of Southern Småland (SE)
 - Edinburgh Napier University (UK)
 - Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency (HU)
 - BIZ-Art – Municipality of Vejle, Business Development dept. (DK)
 - South Denmark European Office (SDEO) (DK)
 - Kaunas County Governor’s Administration (LT)
 - Aster s.cons.p.a. (IT)
 - Business and Innovation Centre of Asturias (BIC Asturias) (ES)
 - Timis County Council (RO)
 - Regional Association of Municipalities “Central Stara Planina” (BG)

CLUSNET

Clusters & Cities Network

Clusters – proximate groups of interconnected companies and associated institutions in a particular field – have generated interest due to the Lisbon Agenda goal of making Europe “the world’s most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy”. Mobilising the potential of clusters is seen as critical to reach this objective because they allow companies to be more productive than they would be in isolation.

Local and regional authorities are best placed to implement cluster-support policies. City-regions are key players in promoting, animating and financing clusters due to their proximity to market and a strong knowledge of company needs. Such elements facilitate the creation of partnerships (public-private, private-private) and stimulate the involvement of universities and research institutions into clusters. The impact and character of these efforts however vary considerably and no transparency currently exists as to their effectiveness.

The objective of Clusters & Cities is to improve the effectiveness of cluster support policies in larger European city-regions. This project will produce highly operational policy recommendations targeting each partner city on how to strengthen their cluster support policies. To improve critical mass and cluster competitiveness, the project will also facilitate the creation of links between clusters from partner cities.

Clusters & Cities is based on a partnership consisting of Lyon (Lead Partner), Barcelona, Munich, Dortmund, Leipzig, Manchester, Helsinki, Budapest, Gothenburg and Eindhoven. All cities are actively involved in cluster support and hold experience in this policy field. The partnership includes Eurocities, the network of major European cities and the cluster policy experts from the Stockholm School of Economics.



Lead partner
Greater Lyon (FR)

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Duration
10/2008-12/2011

Total budget
€1,642,127.00

ERDF contribution
€1,239,245.65

Partnership

- **Greater Lyon (FR)**
- Barcelona Activa (ES)
- Municipality of the city of Budapest (HU)
- Economic Development Agency Dortmund (DE)
- Eindhoven Municipality (NL)
- Business Region Göteborg AB (SE)
- City of Helsinki (FI)
- Leipzig Department of Economic Development and Employment (DE)
- Manchester Enterprises Ltd (UK)
- City of Munich – Department of Labor and Economic Development (DE)
- Eurocities (BE)
- Stockholm School of Economics (SE)



CASTLE

Cooperation Among SMEs Towards Logistic Excellence

CASTLE was born to answer regional needs to improve SMEs logistics policies.



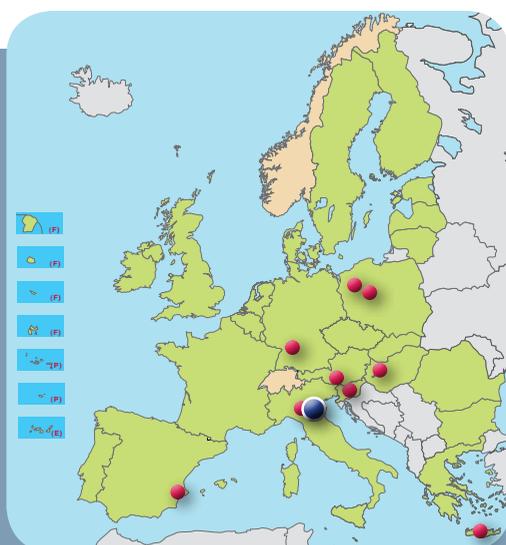
It relies on a solid past cooperation among ten partners in Italy, Poland, Greece, Slovenia, Spain, Germany, Hungary & Austria, especially developed in Interreg initiatives. The CASTLE objectives and rationale are rooted in past research & study activities on the EU status and perspectives of regional logistics, which identified SMEs logistics networking as a priority intervention area for public policies. Logistics is the oil in SMEs' economic machine and in a regions' sustainable development, as its efficiency impacts on SMEs market presence and on the environment.

CASTLE creates an operational matrix of best practices & exchange of experiences for the development of SMEs logistics public policies. This could help reduce the divide between transport & logistics efficiency against environmental protection & energy saving. Thanks to the set up of Regional Forums on Logistics, SME's can bring their logistics needs to the attention of policy-makers.

CASTLE's "policy-learning" matches more & less experienced regions and improves policy-makers' skills on 4 fundamental innovation topics:

1. strengthening the logistics supply & the logistics industry,
2. improving the logistics demand in the production systems (industrial areas & clusters),
3. strengthening logistics training for SMEs systems,
4. institutional & governance consolidation in logistics, public-private cooperation in policies set up.

An ongoing best practices capitalisation, dialogue and transfer among the partners and with other EU regions is established also thanks to a specific enlarged transfer programme which targets 40 EU regions.



Lead partner
Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation (IT)

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Duration
11/2008-10/2011

Total budget
€2,275,000.00

ERDF contribution
€1,804,250.00

Partnership

- **Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation (IT)**
- Emilia-Romagna Region (IT)
- Institute of Logistics and Warehousing (PL)
- Marshall Office of the Wielkopolska Region (PL)
- Region of Crete (EL)
- Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation (DE)
- University of Maribor, Faculty of civil engineering (SI)
- Foundation Comunidad Valenciana European Region (FCVRE) (ES)
- Development Agency of Carinthia (AT)
- Pannon Business Network Association (HU)



NEEBOR

Networking for Enterprises in the Eastern External Border Regions

The NEEBOR project has grown out of the Network of Eastern External Border Regions, a wide European initiative for the collaboration of regions from 11 European countries on the external borders of the European Union, who decided to work more closely together and to elaborate joint actions for their common challenges.

The partnership of the project includes the regional authorities/bodies in 10 regions from 8 European countries, and intends to involve further interested European and non-EU member partners to their activities.

Core elements of successful SME development and innovation policies in these areas have been identified as cross-border business cooperation with non-EU member neighbouring countries and better structures of access to knowledge and access to finance for SMEs in peripheral areas.

The good practices and the opportunities in these common fields should be better exploited and strengthened. The overall objective of the NEEBOR project is to exchange and exploit solutions for a more competitive and innovative SME sector while increasing the efficiency of regional SME development and innovation policies in the external border areas. The specific objectives of the project are:

- to develop a clear understanding of the external border regions' key challenges, key strategies, key actors and key actions on SME development and innovation
- to identify and exchange good practices which can help to unlock business potential in these regions such as cross-border business cooperation, access to finance and access to knowledge for SMEs
- to exchange and exploit experiences in these areas through successful seminars, study visits, staff exchange and transferability actions
- to develop joint methodologies and give policy recommendations on the above-mentioned areas
- to deepen the relations among the external border regions, and to upgrade their networking capacity.



The project is expected to improve SME development and innovation policies in the external border regions and it will improve the cross-border cooperation of SMEs, create better access to finance and access to knowledge for SMEs.



Lead partner

Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency (HU)

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Duration

10/2008-09/2011

Total budget

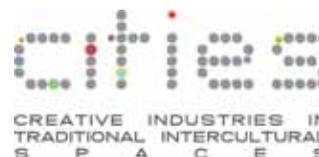
€1,336,703.65

ERDF contribution

€1,106,530.90

Partnership

- **Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency (HU)**
- Észak-Alföld Regional Development Council (HU)
- Regional Development Agency of the Presov Self-governing Region (SK)
- Regional Council of North Karelia (FI)
- Foundation "Vidzeme Development Agency" (LV)
- Vidzeme planning region (LV)
- Warmia and Mazury Regional Development Agency (PL)
- South Transdanubia Regional Development Agency (HU)
- Region of East Macedonia – Thrace (EL)
- Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences, University of Lapland, Finnarents (FI)
- Agency for Regional Development and Innovation Bourgas (BG)
- North-West Regional Development Agency (RO)



CITIES

Creative Industries in Traditional Intercultural Spaces



According to the European Commission’s report ‘Culture and the Economy’ (2006), the creative industries have a growing relevance to European competitiveness, sustainability and social cohesion: they represented 2.6% of the GDP of the EU in 2003 and 3.1% of employment in 2004.

The project “Creative Industries in Traditional Intercultural Spaces” (CITIES) is a joint initiative generated by 10 partners from 7 countries: Lithuania, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Slovenia, and Finland. The project aims to improve, through interregional cooperation, regional and local policies addressing the promotion and support of creative and cultural industries, being one of the most significant growth sectors for the European economy in terms of GDP and added-value.

In most partner countries this sector can hardly be estimated as separate economic activity and most countries do not have sound analysis of the impact of this sector on local or national economy, or business competitiveness. Thereby only several participating partners (such as Finland or Italy) have set-up special instruments to promote the growth of these industries. Some of these instruments have proven to be successful and have already provided tangible and measurable results. These approaches as good practice examples will be identified, analysed and transferred to other participating countries and exhaustive benchmarking research and mapping will be made on local levels.

Project activities are gathered around several main goals:

- supporting creativity among SMEs as an important condition for developing innovation-based businesses, and fostering knowledge economy,
- performing benchmarking research in different countries,
- developing, piloting and introducing new strategies, instruments and tools to be used at regional or local level in order to promote and support entrepreneurship in creative and cultural industries, especially revitalising abandoned, retrogressive, traditional city zones,
- establishing a virtual platform for constant exchange, share and transfer of experience, knowledge and good practice, thus ensuring that project-created added value will be shared to the organisations outside the partnership, EU wide.



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Duration
10/2008-09/2011

Total budget
€1,551,605.00

ERDF contribution
€1,231,931.44

- Partnership**
- **Klaipeda City Municipality Administration (LT)**
 - Klaipeda Economic Development Agency (LT)
 - Municipality of Modena (IT)
 - Municipal Centre of Enterprises (ES)
 - INTELI – Intelligence in Innovation, Innovation Centre (PT)
 - City of Tampere (FI)
 - Municipalities Association of the Danube and Pilis (HU)
 - Institution for Cultural Events and Tourism CELEIA Celje (SI)
 - Chamber of Commerce of Venice (IT)
 - Sevilla Global, Urban Agency for Economic Development (ES)



EuroPROC

EU Regional Cooperation for SMEs access to Public Procurement

EU regions have developed different policies to provide support to SMEs when participating in projects funded by multilateral donors. However, the performance of SMEs varies from region to region, as shown by EC studies on SMEs access to EU public procurement. Since January 2006 any company from a non-EU member state (based on specific EU bilateral agreements) is allowed to participate in EU public procurement, thus increasing competition. There is a need therefore to better prepare European SMEs. The overall objective is to increase the competitiveness of EU regions' SMEs in the field of participation in EU tendering systems (including Structural Funds).

To this end, the EuroPROC project gathers a balanced partnership of 11 regions from Member States all across Europe. This approach will also help newer Member State regions to learn about past mistakes made by EU15 states in managing EU Structural Funds. Project activities have been jointly designed and involve an active cooperation among all partners aimed at improving capacities and knowledge, thus narrowing the existing gap between strategies actually implemented by them. The environment sector will be given a specific focus.

As a result, the project will contribute to increase the competitiveness of EU SMEs and to achieve the EU strategies for growth, jobs and sustainable development. Key results expected are: improved regional policies based on the internationalisation of SMEs, increased innovation in regional mechanisms to promote efficiently and effectively the participation of SMEs in public procurement, regional stakeholders with improved capacities and know-how to support SMEs raising their success in public procurements, and increased networking among less experienced and more experienced regions.



Lead partner

Consortium for the Trade Promotion of Catalonia (COPCA) (ES)

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Duration

09/2008-08/2011

Total budget

€1,513,780.10

ERDF contribution

€1,198,516.51

Partnership

- Consortium for the Trade Promotion of Catalonia (COPCA) (ES)
- ERAI-Entreprise Rhône-Alpes International (FR)
- Business Link Central Denmark (DK)
- Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Craft Trade and Agriculture of Milan (IT)
- Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development (RO)
- Institute for Enterprise Development of Madeira Autonomous Region (PT)
- The Upper Silesian Regional Development Agency Co (PL)
- Regional Development Agency Ostrava (CZ)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa (BG)
- Vratsa Regional Administration (BG)
- ITD Hungary Non-profit Public Benefit Private Limited Company (HU)



SHARING EXPERIENCE EUROPE
POLICY INNOVATION DESIGN

SEE

Sharing Experience Europe – policy innovation design

As Europe strives to develop a knowledge-based economy and exploit innovation as a tool for economic growth, it is vital to ensure that innovative ideas actually manifest as successful products and services. Investment in R&D and innovation must be encouraged, but it is equally important for countries to be prepared to convert this knowledge into commercial products and services. Design is seen around the world, particularly in emerging industrial nations, as an essential step in the process of transforming innovative ideas into products and services fit for purpose.



There is currently a shortfall in this area in most EU countries, particularly within SMEs. The SEE project is a partnership of 11 organisations wishing to establish how this shortfall can be reduced to best effect by sharing experience, developing new thinking and influencing regional policy.

The group will share information on policies that have been successful in using design to boost innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability or economic development. All the partners are already active in establishing design programmes or strategies at regional or national levels which target SMEs and their lack of resources for implementing design practice and innovation into their business. This group is now willing to develop an interregional cooperation to exchange information and experiences in order to identify, analyse and disseminate good practices on innovation and design policy and other related areas (e.g. sustainability, R&D).

The partner organisations, from UK, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Spain, all work as an integral part of regional innovation policy and have commitment from regional government to improve their provision and delivery of policies for innovation, entrepreneurship and design.

The aim of the SEE project is to establish an active dialogue within each region at both an operational and strategic level in order to positively influence regional policies for innovation and design.



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Design Wales – UWIC (UK)

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Duration
10/2008-06/2011

Total budget
€1,498,492.56

ERDF contribution
€1,141,426.45

- Partnership**
- **Design Wales – UWIC (UK)**
 - Design Flanders (BE)
 - Danish Design Centre (DK)
 - Estonian Design Centre (EE)
 - University of Art and Design Helsinki TAIK (FI)
 - Regional Agency of Development and Innovation – Design Centre (FR)
 - Centre for Design Innovation (IE)
 - Casa Toscana Consortium (IT)
 - Silesian Castle of Art and Enterprise (PL)
 - Architecture Museum of Ljubljana (SI)
 - BCD – Barcelona Design Centre (ES)

PASE

Public policies And Social Enterprises

The overall objective of this project is to enforce the effectiveness of the regional public policies in promoting and supporting social entrepreneurship as an asset for local economic development and territorial competitiveness. The European Parliament, the Commission and the Economic and Social Committee have recognised the specificities of the enterprises of the social economy and their capacity to correct major economic and social imbalances and to help to achieve a number of general interest objectives.

The public policies in the field of social enterprises are the result of interactions between the promoters of social enterprises and representatives of the public bodies. In Europe, this interaction has led to different policy models and different channels through which public bodies support the mission of social entrepreneurship.

Starting from different level of competences and experiences, the nine partners intend to exchange experiences, methods and tools which have proved successful in strengthening the economic viability and entrepreneurial spirit of the social enterprises.

The activities have been organised into 4 working steps which concern the identification, examination, transferring of good practices, and developing joint guidelines for managing public procurement in this domain.

The expected results of the project refer to an increased capacity of the policy makers in detecting the needs of social enterprises in their territories, thus favouring a local sustainable development. Those partners with more experience in this domain aim to enrich and strengthen their current policies with new tools and visions; those with less experience intend to acquire new policy models for social enterprises, transferring good practices that have proved successful in other countries.



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Duration
11/2008-10/2011

Total budget
€1,834,412.00

ERDF contribution
€1,408,923.00

Partnership

- **Marche Region (IT)**
- Andalusian Governemnt, Gen. Manag. of Social Economy and Entrepreneurship (ES)
- City of Forest – Brussels Capital-Region (BE)
- Country Council Arges (RO)
- Cracow University of Economics, the Malopolska School of Public Administration (PL)
- Adult Education Centre of the City of Hannover (DE)
- South Madrid Consortium (ES)
- Regional Council Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (FR)
- Municipality of Rome, Councillorship for the Peripheral Areas (IT)



CREATIVE METROPOLES

Public Policies and Instruments in Support of Creative Industries

Creative industries play an important role in the urban ecosystem – their contribution to economic development is growing despite the global economic downturn, they stimulate innovation capacity in the other sectors of economy as well as have a positive impact on a city as a place to live and work which is significant to attract and keep talents. The CREATIVE METROPOLES project aims to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of public support to unlock and support the economic potential of the creative economy.



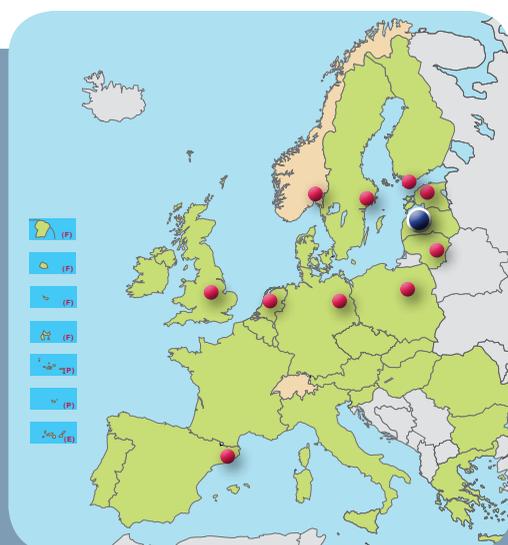
Five policy areas are addressed within the project, the first one being an overarching objective:

1. Structure of public support for creative industries,
2. Business capacity and internationalisation of creative industries,
3. Space and creative city districts,
4. Funding for creative businesses,
5. Demand for creative industry products and services.

The partnership of the project is constituted of municipalities and development agencies of 11 metropolitan cities of Europe, each of whom play a central role in the economies of their regions and countries.

Core activities are the identification and analysis of good practices that feed into the exchange of experience, which will take place in the form of joint events and partner-to-partner study visits. Some cities will integrate the learned experience into strategies that, along with the individual study visit results and discussions of policy implications, will be presented at a final joint event. For the benefit of cities outside project partnership, the experience gathered within the project will be summarised into a Portfolio of Good Practices, and discussed in a number of dissemination events and conferences.

The project will result in a strengthened knowledge base and capacity of 11 cities to make informed decisions and focused policies as well as design support instruments that would help boost economic activity of their creative sectors.



Lead partner
Riga City Council (LV)

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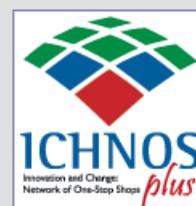
Duration
10/2008-09/2011

Total budget
€2,442,176.00

ERDF contribution
€1,717,928.60

Partnership

- **Riga City Council (LV)**
- City of Helsinki (FI)
- Oslo Teknopol (NO)
- Tallinn City Government (EE)
- Vilnius City Municipal Government Administration (LT)
- Hågersten-Liljeholmen City District Council of Stockholm (SE)
- City of Warsaw (PL)
- Birmingham City University (UK)
- Amsterdam Innovation Motor (NL)
- Barcelona Activa, S.A. (ES)
- Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Women's Issues (DE)



ICHNOS PLUS

Innovation and CHange: Network of One-stop Shops for Business – PLUS

The project ICHNOS PLUS aims to build on the achievements of the Interreg III C project entitled “ICHNOS: Innovation and CHange – Network of One-Stop Shops”, concluded in April 2007, that produced a model of Regional Centre of Competence (RCC) for One-Stop Shops for business (OSS).

To start-up a new business, an entrepreneur undertakes a wide range of activities: developing a business plan; obtaining financial resources; registering the business entity; and obtaining any mandatory sector or activity specific licences. A recent survey (2006-2007), carried out by the Observatory of European SMEs, highlighted that the most significant business constraints perceived by SMEs is the compliance with the administrative regulations.

As a Capitalisation project, ICHNOS PLUS focuses on the transfer and deployment of the RCC model and its mainstreaming into the regional policies through the ERDF Operational Programmes. The RCC model has been conceived as a structure to co-ordinate one-stop shops acting as single points of contact for enterprises. Although the establishment of one-stop shops is foreseen by the EU legislation and was expected in all Member States by 2007, most regions have not accomplished yet this task.

The partnership is made of 6 partners: Ancitel Sardegna (Italy); CESGA – Galicia (Spain), Vysocina Region (Czech Republic), North Aegean Region (Greece), Science & Technology Park of Tartu (Estonia) and Ruda Slaska Business Incubator (Poland).

The main objectives of ICHNOS PLUS are both optimising the implementation of this model in the three regions which carried out ICHNOS and promoting its effective transfer and deployment in other European regions.



Lead partner
Ancitel Sardinia (IT)

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Duration
07/2008-06/2010

Total budget
€1,124,747.00

ERDF contribution
€909,322.25

Partnership

- **Ancitel Sardinia (IT)**
- Supercomputing Centre of Galicia Foundation – e-Business Dept. Galicia e-Commerce Leveraging Centre (ES)
- Vysocina Region (CZ)
- North Aegean Region (EL)
- Tartu Science Park (EE)
- The Ruda Slaska Business Incubator (PL)



MITKE

Managing the Industrial Territories in the Knowledge Era

Business Areas and Industrial Parks (BAIPs) are an important policy and planning instrument for local and regional development. The successful development of a region depends on its capacity to support and sustain the competitiveness of its local firms by creating synergies between agencies, firms and the science-technology base.

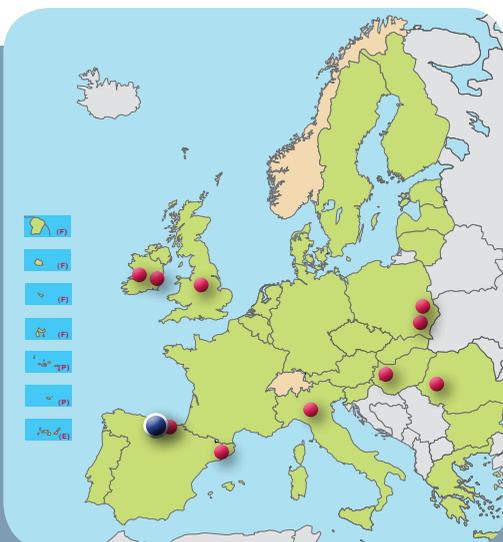
Well planned and equipped BAIPs stimulate the relocation of industries, but managers must find new ways to support and revitalise BAIPs as spaces that can support innovation, dynamic growth and higher added value in SMEs.



MITKE focuses on providing a platform and mechanisms for collection, exchange and transfer of experiences among the partner regions in order to find and test better solutions for intervention and thus contribute to an improved management of Business Areas and Industrial Parks (BAIPs) across Europe.

The transfer of good practices and the definition of Improvement Plans for specific BAIPs are expected to contribute to the improvement of regional policies and instruments in order to help BAIPs better face the challenges posed by the global economy.

MITKE pays special attention to matching less experienced regions with the ones with more experience in the consortium. The MITKE partnership is composed of 11 partners with several years of experience in managing BAIPs, 6 of them being regional development agencies, 4 business networks and land developers and 1 research centre. The partnership is representing 10 regions spread over 7 different EU countries.



Lead partner
SPRILUR S.A (ES)

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Duration
11/2008-10/2011

Total budget
€1,925,799.89

ERDF contribution
€1,480,943.13

Partnership

- **SPRILUR S.A (ES)**
- LABEIN Foundation (ES)
- Pannon Business Network Association (HU)
- Rzeszow Regional Development Agency Co. (PL)
- Lubelskie Voivodeship (PL)
- West Regional Development Agency Romania (RO)
- SOPRIP (IT)
- FIRST – the Wakefield District Development Agency (UK)
- Shannon Development (IE)
- The Gaeltacht Authority (IE)
- Catalan Land Institute (ES)



EVITA

Exchange, Valorisation and Transfer of regional best policy measures for SME support on IT and e-business Adoption

Reinforcing social, economic and territorial cohesion, by making ICT products and services more accessible within less-developed regions becomes an economic, social, ethical and political imperative, according to the Lisbon agenda.

In this context, the EVITA project builds upon various good practices developed under different regional or interregional development programs, and attempts to improve the effectiveness of relevant regional policies in partner countries.

The consortium includes 3 types of players:

1. “donor” partners who have implemented “best-practice” policy initiatives for the adoption of IT and e-business practices,
2. “beneficiary” partners representing “Objective 1” regions who are lagging behind in terms of e-business penetration and who are about to design relevant regional policies in the framework of the 2007-2013 funding period,
3. partners with expertise in e-learning, IT training, SME competitiveness and regional development plans and who can act as catalysts for the successful transfer of the good practices.

In addition to the exchange of know-how, EVITA proposes the pilot implementation of these practices, together with the development of new approaches, such as the integration of e-learning techniques and methodologies for reaching SMEs in remote areas.

The expected results of the project in the targeted areas are the improvement of relevant regional policies, the improvement of e-skills and the increase in IT use and e-business practices adoption by SMEs. In the long term, EVITA aims to have sustained impacts on innovation, competitiveness and economic growth in the targeted regions.



Lead partner

Greek Research and Technology Network (GRNET) (EL)

Contact person

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Duration

10/2008-09/2011

Total budget

€1,703,110.00

ERDF contribution

€1,386,976.80

Partnership

• Greek Research and Technology Network (GRNET) (EL)

- Consortium for Commercial Promotion of Catalonia (COPCA) (ES)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Marseille Provence (CCIMP) (FR)
- Temi Zammit Foundation (FTZ) (MT)
- Supercomputing Centre of Galicia Foundation – e-Business Dept. Galicia e-Commerce Leveraging Centre (ES)
- State agency for IT and communications (SAITC) (BG)
- Southern Aegean Region (SAR) (EL)
- Sinergija Development Agency (SI)
- Latvian Technological Centre (LTC) (LV)
- Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (TILLVAXVERKET) (SE)



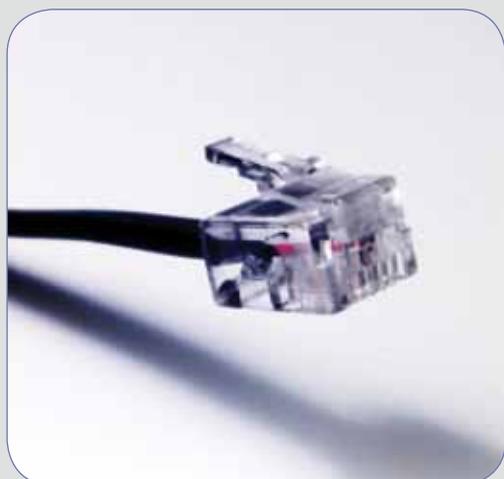
B3 Regions

Regions for Better Broadband connection

B3 Regions aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the Information Society area, by optimising the expert partners' good practices (mainly achieved through Structural Funds Plans 2000-2006) that are related to broadband implementation in disadvantaged areas.

This capitalisation process will be achieved thanks to two main activities:

1. A transfer process which aims to share and structure in a harmonised way all the broadband experiences around specific sub-themes (such as demand aggregation, state aid regulation). A specific Action Plan Support Tool will help the Managing Authorities involved to develop strategic action plans through Operational Programmes (OPs) 2007-2013.
2. A dissemination process that will spread the benefits achieved among the consortium to external stakeholders and that will particularly target Managing Authorities and ICT agencies willing to implement successful broadband strategies through Structural Funds.



The consortium represents 8 different Member States: 4 'old' MS (Italy, United Kingdom, Greece, and Spain) and 4 'new' MS (Poland, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Hungary). Among the partners there are 8 Regional Managing Authorities (MAs), 5 ICT implementing Agencies, 1 Local authority and 2 ICT University Departments. The partnership composition reflects the willingness of matching less experienced with more advanced regions with regard to broadband implementation through Structural Funds in remote and rural areas. Moreover all the Managing authorities involved have already foreseen broadband projects in their Operational Programme 2007-2013 and will proceed to their planning phases supported by B3 Regions results.



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Duration
09/2008-10/2010

Total budget
€3,495,380.69

ERDF contribution
€2,826,181.94

Partnership

• Piedmont Region (IT)

- CSI-Piemonte (IT)
- NYnet (UK)
- National Communications Authority (HU)
- Region of Sterea Ellada (EL)
- University of Crete (EL)
- National iCentres Association (BG)
- Regional Government of Sardinia (IT)
- Secretariat of Telecommunications and Information Society (ES)
- University of Cyprus (CY)
- Malopolska Region (PL)
- Lodz Region (PL)
- City of Lodz – City of Lodz Office (PL)
- Region of Crete (EL)
- Marshal Office of Lower Silesia (PL)
- Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology, Fundecyt (ES)



DC

Digital Cities: A network for rapid and sustainable ICT regional adoption

The main objective of the Digital Cities (DC) project is to tackle the very low penetration rate of ICT (Information Communication Technologies) at the local level by providing the tools and strategies (known as the DC model) to enable this.

Specific objectives of the DC project include developing and evaluating the DC model and establishing an open, sustainable cooperation network for sharing knowledge, exchanging best practices/experiences and developing synergies among local authorities. The final outcome of the project should be a new organisational structure that will manage and evolve the project results, making them widely available through information services and providing consultation and training programs, all through a feasible and viable business model.

The starting point of Digital Cities is a variety of best practices identified within a number of cities and organisations involved within the partnership. The partnership is made up of ten partners, spread across Europe. The core group of partners have been selected from International Network of E-Communities (INEC) and the consortium has expanded to include regions of low ICT adoption that have shown a potential for development.

Following a joint study, the DC project will develop a strategic management model that will facilitate local ICT adoption.



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Duration
10/2008-09/2011

Total budget
€1,810,000.00

ERDF contribution
€1,498,500.00

Partnership

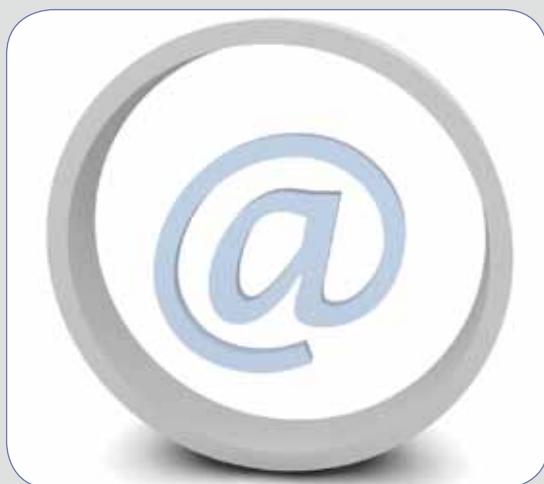
- **Municipality of Trikala (EL)**
- Almere Knowledge City Foundation (NL)
- University Transilvania of Brasov (RO)
- Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (EL)
- Municipality of Xanthi (EL)
- Manchester Digital Development Agency (MDDA) – Manchester City Council (MCC) (UK)
- Paralimni Municipality (CY)
- Malta Government Technology Investments Ltd.(MGITIL) (MT)
- Town of Jeseník (CZ)
- Town of Skalica (SK)



PIKE

Promoting Innovation and the Knowledge Economy

PIKE is a Capitalisation project that builds upon the work done under the INTERREG IIIC project, BRISE, and aims to improve regional and local Innovation & Knowledge Economy policies through the exchange, sharing and transfer of eGovernment and Wireless Broadband good practices. As a Capitalisation project, the ultimate goal is the integration of these good practices into the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment policies of all the participating regions.



PIKE involves 5 of the former BRISE partners: Donegal, Derry, Olomouc, Cantabria and Bologna. Västernorrland and Galway have participated with the lead partner in other ICT projects. They share the same ICT challenges and needs and have endorsed the good practices identified. With the aim of balancing the geographic scope of the project, broaden the partners' experiences and test the good practices in different socio-economic contexts, the regions of Bulgaria South East and Sterea Ellada were invited to participate. All 9 participating regions will develop an Action Plan to transfer the good practices into the mainstream Structural Funds programmes.

As a result of this cooperation, the eGovernment and Wireless Broadband policies and instruments of participating regions should be improved.



Lead partner
ERNACT EEIG (IE)

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Duration
07/2008-06/2010

Total budget
€1,665,523.00

ERDF contribution
€1,284,668.87

Partnership

- **ERNACT EEIG (IE)**
- Donegal County Council (IE)
- Olomouc Regional Authority (CZ)
- Derry City Council (UK)
- Cantabrian Enterprise for the Development of New Technologies in the Administration (EMCANTA) (ES)
- Association of Local Authorities in Västernorrland County (SE)
- Bologna Municipality (IT)
- Agency for Regional Development and Innovations (BG)
- Region of Sterea Ellada (EL)
- Galway County Council (IE)



Environment & risk prevention

The European Union is committed to sustainable development, which involves protecting and improving the quality of environment. Globally, that means safeguarding the Earth's capacity to support life in all its diversity, and respecting the limits of the planet's natural resources. An EU-wide environmental policy makes sense, because all EU citizens are entitled to the same level of environmental protection and all businesses are entitled to operate in the same competitive conditions.

The aim of this priority is to maintain and to improve the quality of the environment and to increase the attractiveness of the regions in Europe.

More specifically, this priority aims at strengthening environmental protection and improving the provision of environmental services. Projects financed deal with, for example, comparing regional strategies on renewable energy policies and measuring the effectiveness of these; evaluating the impacts of policies on flexible and sustainable transport services; analysing climate change adaptation strategies and so on.

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Natural and technological risks; climate change

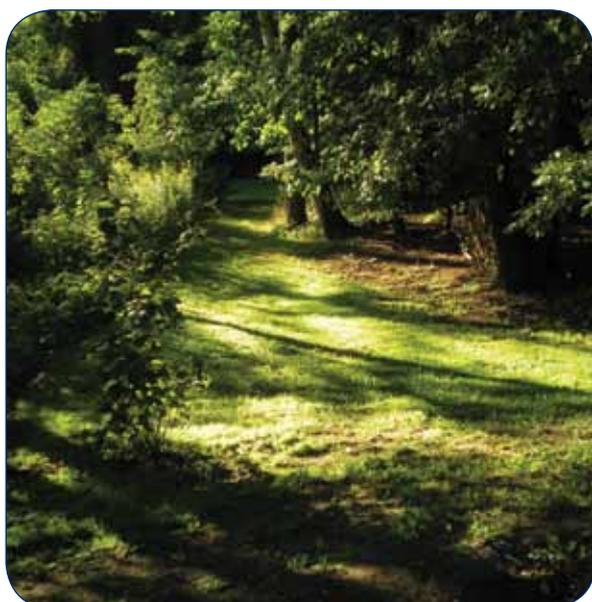
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COMMONS

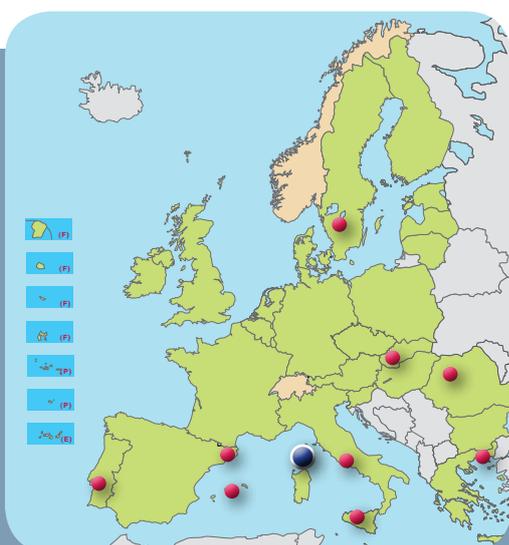
Common Land for sustainable management

COMMONS project faces the challenge of territorial management in the framework of a continuous concentration of former rural population towards urban or peri-urban areas. Important natural areas risk environment depletion because of changing use and abandoning of traditional land practices. Generally common land is a natural area owned by one person, public or private, but over which another is entitled to exercise right of use in common with others, such as a local community.



COMMONS intends to reassess the value of the uncultivated common lands – called forest-based common lands to distinguish from rural common lands – as a valid instrument for preserving natural resources and valorise natural products in order to both preserve the natural heritage and reduce the phenomenon of depopulation. The overall aim of the project is to compare regional policies and strategies for the identification and management of forest based common lands in order to assess their effectiveness facing the goal of global environment conservation.

The ten partners involved all face common problems with forest-based common land management. The project final output will consist of a collection of best practices in use for forest-based common land management.



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Duration
10/2008-09/2011

Total budget
□1,491,740.00

ERDF contribution
□1,168,561.00

Partnership

- **Corsica Environment Office (FR)**
- Regional Agency for the Development and Innovation of Agriculture of Latium (IT)
- Agriculture Department Sicilian Region (IT)
- Border Region Delta Rhodopi (EL)
- Mallorca Council, Environment Department (ES)
- Forest Technology Centre of Catalonia (ES)
- Norte Alentejano Municipalities Association (PT)
- Municipality of Nitra (SK)
- University of Cluj Napoca TBC (RO)
- Swedish Forest Agency (SE)



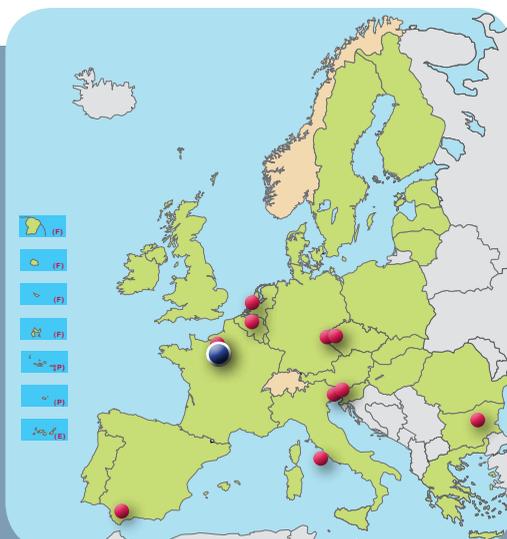
CITEAIR II

Common Information to European Air

Measures to mitigate air pollution and climate change constitute a tremendous challenge all planning authorities are faced with and many decisions directly or indirectly influencing the emissions are taken at the local and regional level. The aim of CITEAIR II is to jointly identify, test and transfer a set of good practices through the exchange of experiences and to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the area of air quality protection, sustainable transport and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Cities and regions are facing risks such as exposure to high air pollution and emerging impacts from climate change. Given the difficulty to improve air quality and reduce the CO₂ emissions, there is ample scope for collaboration, exchange of experiences, to jointly formulate policies and transferable measures in spite of past and ongoing actions. The European Union is continuously working in this field, however local policy developments tend to respond faster to new challenges than supranational policy. If implemented in a concerted way they can have a substantial impact.

Based on a previous project, CITEAIR II innovates. It will enhance comparability across Europe and public information by adding these good practices to the existing web service www.airqualitynow.eu. These comparisons also facilitate the exchange of experiences and mutual learning. Through the involvement of local authorities beyond the project partnership and intense international cooperation, CITEAIR II intends to have an impact on the development of local policies.



Lead partner
Airparif (FR)

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Duration
10/2008-09/2011

Total budget
€1,986,697.00

ERDF contribution
€1,517,395.45

Partnership

- **Airparif (FR)**
- DCMR – Environment Protection Agency Rijnmond (NL)
- ATAC – Mobility Agency of the City of Rome (IT)
- INERIS – National Institute of Industrial environment and risks (FR)
- Polis (BE)
- CHMI – Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CZ)
- City Development Authority of Prague (CZ)
- RIEW Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Waters – Burgas (BG)
- Municipality of Maribor (SI)
- EGMASA – Andalusian Environment Agency (ES)
- REC Slovenia (SI)



CeRamIca

Ceramics and CRafts Industries' Increased Cooperation

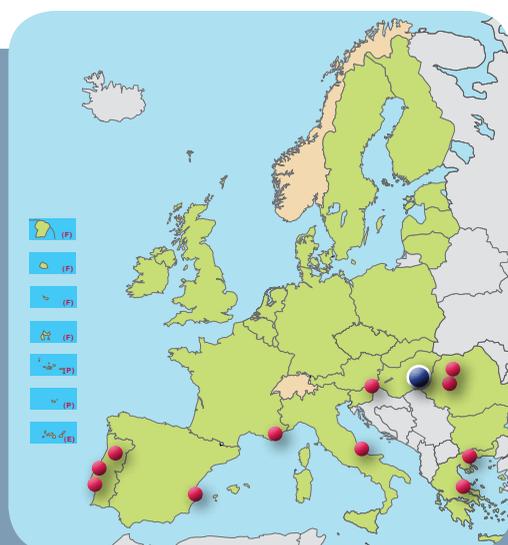
Many European cities and regions can boast of deep-rooted cultural traditions in the field of ceramics and small crafts. Preserving cultural values and cultural heritage has long since been a priority area for the European Union. However, besides preservation, cultural heritage is a major asset in economic terms for European regions: it also generates jobs, household income and stimulates local economic development.

Towns of ceramic and small crafts traditions, endowed with a rich artistic heritage, are nevertheless facing severe problems: globalisation exacerbating competition and ageing population of craftspeople, both leading to a continuous decline of the sector.



CeRamIca is the result of a long cooperation of the municipality of Hódmezővásárhely, lead partner in Hungary, with eleven other European cities with whom they share a common cultural heritage and face the same difficulties and eagerness to preserve and promote the ceramic and small crafts sector in Europe.

Partners will join forces and exchange best practices to jointly develop local and regional development strategy recommendations and instruments to support and boost the ceramics and small crafts sector in the partner regions. These sets of recommendations will be drawn up with the aim of preserving and promoting this significant European cultural heritage and thus making the sector a competitive driving force of the local economies.



Lead partner

Municipality of
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Duration

11/2008-10/2011

Total budget

€2,117,734.00

ERDF contribution

€1,760,682.30

Partnership

• Municipality of Hódmezővásárhely (HU)

- Municipality of Vallauris (FR)
- Municipality of Turda (RO)
- Abruzzo Sviluppo (IT)
- Municipality Velika Polana (SI)
- Socioeconomic Promotion Association for Hoya Buñol-Chiva Region (ES)
- Municipality of Milies (EL)
- Municipality of Paggaio (EL)
- Municipality of Baia Mare (RO)
- ADERE-PG – Development Association of the Regions of the Peneda Geres National Park (PT)
- Alcobaca City Hall (PT)
- INTELI – Intelligence in Innovation, Innovation Centre (PT)

PRESERVE

Peer Reviews for Sustainable Eco-Regions via Europe

Alongside promoting eco-innovation, or supporting renewable energy sources and greater energy efficiency, Regions use the preservation and sustainable promotion of their landscape and cultural heritage as an important tool to support the diversification of their economies and the reconciliation of economic development with environmental interests.

The sound development of these sectors can indeed improve the quality of life of the local population, creating high quality jobs, facilities and services. The aim of PRESERVE is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies, specifically focusing upon cultural heritage and landscape policies as endogenous factors of economic development.

The PRESERVE concept developed as a logical progression of an exchange on a core regional development issue: 14 regional and local representatives from 11 different countries – representing old and new member states and a wide EU-geographical coverage – gathered and discussed the difficulties they faced when implementing cultural heritage and landscape policies, and decided to join forces with the Assembly of European Regions in this project.

The project places a strong emphasis on the dissemination of results to other regions: the aim is to include the PRESERVE partner regions and new regions in a follow-up project aimed at defining “paths” of sustainable eco-Regions in Europe, thereby contributing to the promotion of lesser-known areas. As a pre-condition to their participation, Regions will be asked to apply the tool developed through PRESERVE, thus ensuring that the project has a spill-over effect and that regional best practices are widely disseminated, benefiting Europe’s diversity and sustainable development.



Lead partner

Assembly of European Regions (FR)

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Duration

11/2008-10/2011

Total budget

€1,589,281.22

ERDF contribution

€1,222,160.23

Partnership

• Assembly of European Regions (FR)

- Region Abruzzo (IT)
- Alba County Council (RO)
- Alytus County Governor's administration (LT)
- Avila County Council (ES)
- Office of Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region (SK)
- Municipality of Cerchiara of Calabria (IT)
- Office of the Carinthian Government, Department 20 – Spatial Development (AT)
- Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency (HU)
- Syddansk Turism (DK)
- Örebro Regional Development Council (SE)
- Region of Sterea Ellada (EL)
- Internationalisationcenter Styria (AT)
- South Tuscany Business Innovation Centre (IT)



MORE4NRG

European regions play a key role in promoting, developing and implementing renewable energy sources (RES) combined with energy efficiency strategies to reduce the effects of climate change and prepare for the decline of the oil-age. In the wake of the Declaration “European Regions for Energy efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources”, initiated by the Association of European Regions (AER) in 2006 and signed by more than 80 European regions, 11 EU partners joined forces with the AER in this project: Flevoland (NL, lead), Abruzzo (IT), EPF (BG), Lazio (IT), Maramures (RO), Norrbotten (SE), Noord-Brabant (NL), Prahova (RO), Västernorrland (SE), Valencia (ES) and Western Greece.



The objective of MORE4NRG is to strengthen the delivery of regional strategies for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency by exchanging best practices on sustainable energy policies. In addition, the partners will jointly develop an integrated monitoring tool for measuring the effect of regional sustainable energy strategies.

MORE4NRG will address the interrelated challenges facing regions developing sustainable energy policies at an interregional level, combining the identification, analysis and processing of best practices in RES and energy efficiency for the benefit of all partners. Specific support is provided to the partner regions with less developed sustainable energy strategies.

The project places strong emphasis on dissemination of results to other regions and raising awareness on the sustainable energy issue. All project results will feed into a toolkit for regional sustainable energy strategies including monitoring tools for measuring the effect of regional sustainable energy strategies. This toolkit will be available for all EU regions.



Lead partner

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Duration

09/2008-09/2011

Total budget

€1,326,559.00

ERDF contribution

€1,032,084.05

Partnership

- **Province of Flevoland (NL)**
- County Council of Norrbotten (SE)
- Maramures County Council (RO)
- Region Abruzzo (IT)
- Valencia Agency of Energy (ES)
- Lazio Region – Direction for Environment and Cooperation Among Peoples (IT)
- Prahova County Council (RO)
- Assembly of European Regions (FR)
- County Council of Västernorrland (SE)
- GEORAMA (EL)
- Euro Perspectives Foundation (BG)
- Province of Noord-Brabant (NL)



FLIPPER

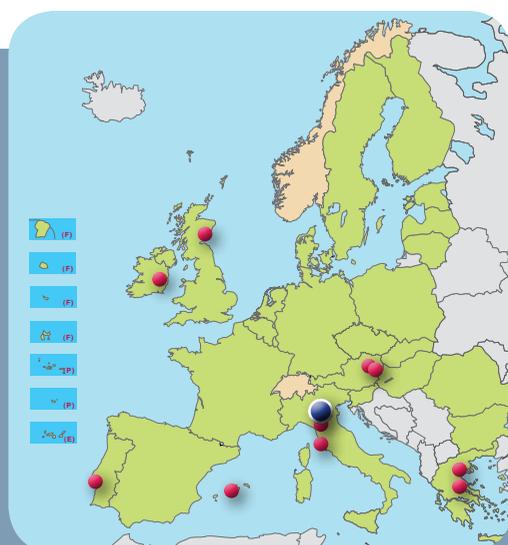
Flexible Transport Services and ICT platform for Eco-Mobility in urban and rural European areas

Throughout Europe the challenge of providing a cost-effective integrated public transport system is seen as a prerequisite to reducing pollution and congestion whilst encouraging sustainable economic growth.

The changing patterns of habitation and work activities in today's society have created different mobility needs for which conventional transport is neither suited nor cost-effective. In the last few years Flexible Transport Services (FTS) have proved to be an advantageous solution to the provision of public transport services. FTS are complementary to conventional passenger transport and usually serve non-scheduled mobility needs, either in low demand time periods or in weak demand areas.

The FLIPPER project addresses a key factor of eco-sustainable and competitive development and social cohesion of European areas and Regions, through the investigation, exchange of experience, transfer of good practices and profitable co-operation on FTS in relation to mobility in cities, rural areas and small towns. FLIPPER aims to establish a Knowledge Transfer Network among different EU areas and authorities in the domain of FTS.

Moreover FLIPPER's objective is to achieve capability-building environmental, sustainable and innovative solutions in the public transport domain by evaluating the viability and real impacts of the different propositions and by gathering the good practices identified at site level. FLIPPER consortium is composed of 11 partners (Local Authorities, Transport Operator Companies and Universities) from 9 EU Regions representing different transport/mobility environments. This provides an ideal context for exchanging experiences and good practices on mobility services accessibility, environmentally friendly transport services and for reducing social exclusion of vulnerable citizens' groups.



Lead partner

SRM – Networks and Mobility
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Duration

09/2008-08/2011

Total budget

€2,696,700.00

ERDF contribution

€2,093,025.00

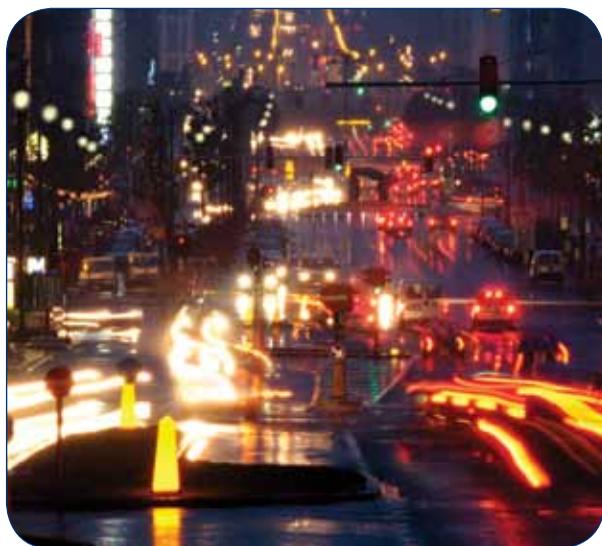
Partnership

- **SRM – Networks and Mobility (Public Transport Authority Bologna) (IT)**
- ATAF (IT)
- AUTH – University of Thessaloniki, Transport Systems Research Group (EL)
- BOKU – Institute for Transport Studies; Department of Landscape, Spatial and Infrastructure Sciences; University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (AT)
- Municipality of Purbach (AT)
- University of Aberdeen – Centre for Transport Research, School of Geosciences (UK)
- Municipality of Volos (EL)
- ATL – Livorno Transport Operator (IT)
- Mallorca Train Services S.F.M. (ES)
- Almada City Council (PT)
- Ring a Link (Carlow Kilkenny & Tipperary South Rural Transport Ltd) (IE)

MMOVE

Mobility Management oVer Europe: Changing Mobility Patterns

MMOVE supports interregional exchange on sustainable mobility policies for medium sized European cities (populations 50-250,000). Through networking, analysis of best practice and a series of study visits, MMOVE will raise the level of knowledge and awareness of mobility management innovations. These focus on transport demand and low cost interventions to change public perceptions and behaviour in the way citizens move about our cities. In the final phase of the project, partners will work in parallel on feasibility studies to prepare implementation of one good practice locally, and present results and recommendations to regional policy makers.

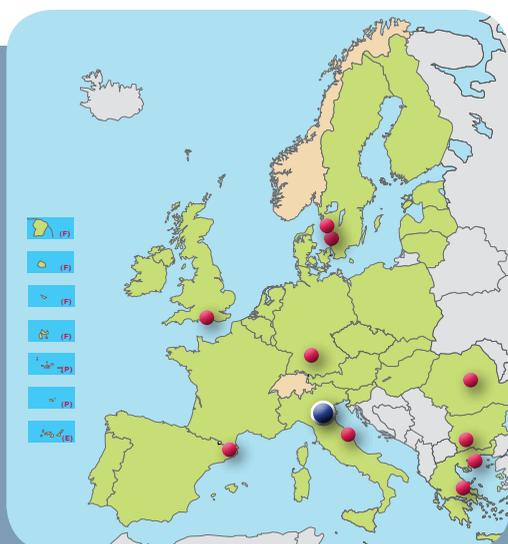


The MMOVE partnership incorporates 8 local authorities from medium sized cities, 1 region, 1 Municipal Agency and 1 Intercommunitarian Development Agency. 8 EU states, including 2 new member states are represented, with a broad geographical and cultural diversity. Several of the Northern European partners bring best practice and expertise in mobility management and methodologies.

Ultimately MMOVE aims to influence regional authority policy-making by providing mobility management solutions which will help small and medium sized cities make best use of their mobility infrastructure and services. Good practice and findings will be collated and classified in a coherent way in the form of a permanent online toolbox for municipalities and transport planners across Europe. Results will also include presentation of critical success factors in transferring mobility interventions across EU regions, to help similar cities to share in the learning.

MMOVE findings, results and recommendations will be disseminated widely through the Eurotowns network of medium sized cities, and through professional forums of mobility planners, city networks and local stakeholders.

MMOVE will make a contribution to European Transport policy (currently under development) and targets – by helping medium sized cities to improve road safety – to reduce congestion, to improve air quality and to increase take up of sustainable transport forms.



Lead partner

Municipality of Reggio Emilia (IT)

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Duration

11/2008-10/2011

Total budget

€1,859,321.23

ERDF contribution

€1,438,007.60

Partnership

- **Municipality of Reggio Emilia (IT)**
- Marche Region (IT)
- Brighton & Hove City Council (UK)
- Girona City Council (ES)
- City of Mölndal (SE)
- Municipality of Varberg (SE)
- City of Ulm (DE)
- Volos Municipal Enterprise for Urban Studies, Construction and Development (DEMEKAV) (EL)
- Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development of Brasov (RO)
- Municipality of Razlog (BG)
- Municipality of Kavala (EL)

SUGAR

Sustainable Urban Goods logistics Achieved by Regional and local policies



SUGAR focuses on addressing the problem of inefficient and ineffective management of urban freight distribution, a critical component of the overall urban transport system and a primary source of vehicle pollutant emissions. To accomplish this, SUGAR promotes the exchange, discussion and transfer of policy experience, knowledge and good practices in the field of urban freight management, with regards to policy and planning levers between and among advanced and less experienced sites.

SUGAR bases its approach on the study of EU good practices for the development of tools to support policy making, including:

- Training sessions, workshops and joint planning events, in which the administrations will directly benefit from participation through the knowledge gained and successively utilised in addressing national, regional and municipal policy developments;
- Development of city logistics publications and training products, which will record the knowledge gained during SUGAR.

The SUGAR sites use these tools to develop local action plans, outlining the local roadmap for city logistics policy development. Moreover, SUGAR actively dialogues with new transfer sites (at least 5) from outside the SUGAR partnership, offering support for bilateral exchange on selected topics as well as a training on city logistics. Altogether SUGAR contributes importantly to:

- Increased capacity of public administration staff (partner and non-partner) in implementing more effective and efficient policy levers and planning approaches for city logistics;
- Direct improvement of regional and local policies for city logistics (12 sites directly, with a second wave of minimum 5 sites in the enlarged transfer programme).

The SUGAR partnership brings together 17 partners across Europe.



Lead partner

Emilia-Romagna Region (IT)

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Duration

11/2008-02/2012

Total budget

€3,641,565.00

ERDF contribution

€2,884,348.75

Partnership

- **Emilia-Romagna Region (IT)**
- Institute for Transport and Logistics (IT)
- Transport for London (UK)
- National Institute for Transport and Safety Research (FR)
- City of Paris – Road and Mobility Direction (FR)
- Barcelona City Council (ES)
- POLIS – Promotion of Operational Links with Integrated Services (BE)
- Central European Initiative Executive Secretariat (IT)
- Palma de Mallorca City Council (ES)
- Region of Crete (EL)
- Municipality of Athens (EL)
- Poznan City Hall (PL)
- Institute of Logistics and Warehousing (PL)
- Municipality of Vratsa (BG)
- Municipality of Celje (SI)
- City of Usti nad Labem (CZ)
- Czech Railways (CZ)

CAPRICE

Capital regions integrating collective transport for increased energy efficiency

CAPRICE – Capital regions integrating collective transport for increased energy efficiency – comprises a network of actors from European capital regions who are responsible for public transport. CAPRICE will provide a platform for exchange on the best way of setting up and running a Public Transport Authority, with the aim to:

- increase efficiency of public transport services in regions,
- implement policies to stimulate the accelerated introduction of ‘clean’ vehicle fleets in public transport,
- provide policy recommendations to road transport authorities to change behaviour in favour of public transport use,
- provide integrated and ‘seamless’ passenger information services to stimulate use of public transport and to bring down barriers for access to public transport services.



The CAPRICE partnership consists of five regional and local authorities responsible for policy implementation in public transport. The actors are key players in their regions for improving efficiency of public transport services also in terms of energy consumption, and for implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly new propulsion and emission reducing technologies in public transport fleets. While in some of the participating regions, public transport authorities (PTA) already exist and have been working successfully for a number of years (Paris, Berlin), the establishment of a PTA is foreseen in other regions (Warsaw, Riga, Vilnius) in the near future.

CAPRICE will provide a platform for the identification of good practice and barriers to overcome, such as the development of the legal framework, contractual framework between key players in the regions, practical handling of efficient procurement of public transport services, the split of income from fares and subsidies, passenger information integration etc.



Lead partner

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Duration

10/2008-06/2011

Total budget

€1,110,367.95

ERDF contribution

€885,467.95

Partnership

• VBB – Public Transport Authority of Berlin-Brandenburg (DE)

- Municipal Enterprise “Susisiekimo Paslaugos” (MESP) (LT)
- City of Warsaw – Warsaw Transport Authority (PL)
- Bucharest Municipality (RO)
- STIF – Organising Authority for Public Transport in Ile-de-France (FR)



PIMMS TRANSFER

TRansferring Actions iN Sustainable mobility For European Regions

Mobility Management uses ‘soft’ measures (e.g. information or coordination of existing user services), which enhance the effectiveness of ‘hard’ measures of traffic planning to improve sustainable mobility. It faces resistance from key decision makers and remains a “minority” policy field that is established in very few European regions. PIMMS (INTERREG IIIC) developed a “transfer methodology” based on identifying the ‘critical success factors’ behind best practice case studies, and transferring these factors from one region to another. PIMMS TRANSFER will extend, deepen and promote this, by involving new Member State regions, and by an array of medium-intensity actions to drive the methodology further.

PIMMS TRANSFER aims therefore to simulate a shift towards more sustainable forms of transport by increasing the implementation of high quality mobility management techniques and policies in European regions and to extend, deepen and promote best practice in mobility management.

The partners are regions from 15 different Member States, represented by municipalities or regional agencies, almost half of whom have experience from the previous PIMMS project. The partnership will EXTEND the programme of study trips and staff exchanges, DEEPEN EU-wide analysis of best practice in sustainable urban transport planning, and PROMOTE campaigns to change behaviour.



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Duration
11/2008-10/2011

Total budget
€3,296,955.76

ERDF contribution
€2,610,135.08

Partnership

- **London Councils (UK)**
- City of Graz (AT)
- County Administrative Board of Stockholm (SE)
- Province of Treviso (IT)
- City of Almada (PT)
- traffiQ – Frankfurt Public Transport Authority (DE)
- Erasmus University, Rotterdam (NL)
- City of Serres (EL)
- Bratislava Self-Governing Region (SK)
- Klaipeda public transport authority (LT)
- City of Maribor (SI)
- Larnaca Municipality (CY)
- City of Gdansk (PL)
- City of Sofia (BG)
- City of Timișoara (RO)



POWER

In the context of ambitious EU targets for climate protection, the POWER mini-programme will explore ways to move towards a low carbon economy at regional level. In particular the project partners will look at re-formulating regional development strategies and policy instruments and identifying effective forms of sub-regional action which also contribute to regional competitiveness.



The seven participating regions of South East England, Malopolska, Emilia-Romagna, North-Brabant, Stockholm, Tallinn, and Andalusia have come together to work towards achieving long-term policy objectives of fossil-free Europe by developing appropriate road-maps, finding the best path together in response to these future challenges. The five areas selected for joint co-operation and networking activities are:

1. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies
2. Sustainable Transport
3. Eco-innovation and Environmental Technologies
4. Behavioural Change and
5. Mainstreaming with EU structural funds.

The POWER policy groups will inform future policy development, embedding of policy good practices at local level.

These will result in 15,000 citizens, industrial customers and public authorities with increased capacity and awareness in reducing carbon footprint. In addition, the project will also have a catalyst effect on carbon reduction in participating regions, reduction of greenhouse gas emission, generation of electricity from renewable resources, enhancing the use of environmental technologies and eco-innovation.



Lead partner
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Duration
09/2008-03/2012

Total budget
€5,789,856.00

ERDF contribution
€4,432,604.80

Partnership

- **South East England Development Agency (UK)**
- Marshal Office of the Malopolska Region (PL)
- Province of North-Brabant (NL)
- Andalusian Energy Agency, Andalusian Regional Energy (ES)
- Stockholm Region (SE)
- Tallinn City Government (EE)
- Environmental Protection Agency of Emilia-Romagna Region (IT)



FUTUREforest

Woodlands for Climate Change

FUTUREforest is contributing to the objectives of the European Union for growth, jobs and sustainable development (Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas) by exchange and dissemination of experience, transfer of practices and development of new approaches related to forestry. This should result in improved knowledge and skills, successful transfer of practices and improved regional and local policies and strategies.

The project aims to ensure that future European forests continue to deliver multiple benefits and to leave future generations forests that are well adapted and resilient to natural risks, including effects of climate change. FUTUREforest improves our knowledge on how forestry mitigates the effects of climate change on water balance, soil, biodiversity, and timber and non-timber forest products. The forest's role in carbon sequestration and how to prevent forests from natural risks like fires, pests and pathogens are also being examined. This exchange, sharing and transfer of policy experience, knowledge and good practices through interregional co-operation will provide political decision-makers and other stakeholders in all European regions with the knowledge and tools that enable them to decide on effective forestry policies and forest management practices. The outputs and results of FUTUREforest will be made available to all European regions.



The partnership consists of three regional public forestry authorities, one regional association, the regional branch of a national environmental agency and three national public forestry authorities, from seven EU Member States. The partner organisations have proven experience in the issues tackled by the planned project. The seven regions are characterised by different climatic and soil conditions. This facilitates the transfer of the project results to other European regions.



Lead partner

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Duration

10/2008-09/2011

Total budget

€1,900,000.00

ERDF contribution

€1,492,182.92

Partnership

- **Ministry of Rural Development, Environment and Consumer Protection (DE)**
- Forestry Commission Wales (UK)
- French Forestry Office Auvergne branch (FR)
- Forest Management Service; Government of Catalonia (ES)
- State Forestry Agency (BG)
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia (LV)
- Slovak Environmental Agency (SK)
- The Association For Education of Sabinov (SK)



GRaBS

Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns

Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations are now at their highest since records began and as a result urban areas are vulnerable to increased temperatures and flooding. Regional spatial planning and urban design can provide solutions to reduce vulnerability and risk. The Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns (GRaBS) project aims to improve the regional decision and policy making process in relation to the planning and development of new and existing urban areas in the context of climate change. 'Green' infrastructure including gardens, parks, and green corridors and 'blue' infrastructure such as rivers, streams, and sustainable drainage systems, play a vital role in creating climate resilient development. This role is currently not sufficiently recognised and exploited in urban planning.



There are 14 partners drawn from eight member states representing a broad spectrum of authorities with differing climate change challenges and with varying degrees of strategic policy and experience. The project facilitates the much-needed exchange of knowledge and experience and the transfer of good practice on climate change adaptation strategies to local and regional authorities. In addition, a user-friendly and easily transferable strategic planning methodology together with a climate change risks and vulnerability assessment tool will be produced through this interregional collaboration.

The project will also deliver a database of good practice green and blue space adaptation approaches and Expert Papers for dissemination throughout Europe. By advancing the knowledge and expertise of partner staff, decisions makers, politicians and communities, regional and local municipalities will be able to make a more informed and strategic response to climate change adaptation. In the long term communities will reduce their vulnerability to the environmental, social and economic damage related to climate change impacts including extreme temperature increases and flooding incidents.



Lead partner

Town and Country Planning Association (UK)

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Duration

09/2008-08/2011

Total budget

€3,182,929.00

ERDF contribution

€2,430,198.75

Partnership

• Town and Country Planning Association (UK)

- The University of Manchester (UK)
- City District of Geuzenveld-Slotermeer (NL)
- London Borough of Sutton (UK)
- Province of Genoa (IT)
- City of Malmö (SE)
- Regional Environment Centre for Eastern Europe, Country Office Slovakia (SK)
- Municipality of Kalamaria (EL)
- Etnambiente (IT)
- University of Catania (IT)
- Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) (UK)
- Southampton City Council (UK)
- Klaipeda University Coastal Research and Planning Institute (LT)
- Provincial Government of Styria, Department of Spatial Planning (AT)



REGIOCLIMA

REGIOCLIMA

Regional cooperation towards adaptation to climate change

Societies have come to a point where they are asked to adapt to a changing climate irrespective of the result of global mitigation efforts. In this respect, the overarching objective of the REGIOCLIMA project is to assist societies to adapt to the new climate conditions both by minimising the risk of damage and exploiting the new opportunities arising from a changing climate. The action aims at enhancing cooperation among selected EU regions towards facilitating the elaboration of climate change adaptation strategies and the implementation of policy guidelines. The foreseen approach places emphasis on the implementation of joint initiatives; the project partners will have the opportunity to work together in (among other activities) a series of joint thematic seminars and workshops, the identification of good practices and the elaboration of adaptation strategies.



The project action is expected to result in:

- raised awareness about the need to adapt to a changing climate, among citizens, policy-makers, and other stakeholders across EU regions, including academic/research institutions and the private sector,
- regional authorities in at least 9 countries, with sufficient capacity to facilitate the implementation of climate change,
- the integration of climate change adaptation strategies and best practices into sectoral policies and legislation,
- EU Regions with widely developed capacities that enable them to minimise risk and maximise benefits from a changing climate,
- adaptation measures, in terms of trained and experienced staff, policy tools at strategic level and draft policies,
- an EU-wide regional network for cooperation on climate change adaptation at both strategic (policy) and operational (implementation) levels.



Lead partner

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Duration

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Total budget

€1,999,970.00

ERDF contribution

€1,621,793.50

Partnership

- **Larnaca District Development Agency (CY)**
- Veneto Regional Authority (IT)
- Fundación Comunidad Valenciana Region Europea (ES)
- Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu (EE)
- Bratislava Self-Governing Region (SK)
- Pays d'Aubagne et de l'Etoile urban communities (FR)
- Region of Crete (EL)
- Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations – Varna (BG)



RSC

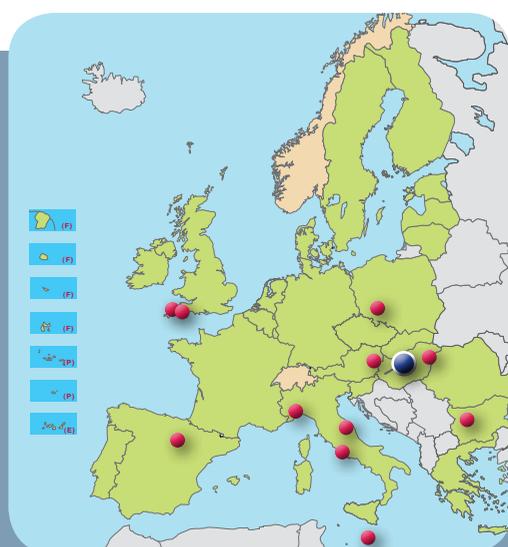
Regions for Sustainable Change

The Regions for Sustainable Change (RSC) project is a partnership of 12 organisations working together to help regions deliver sustainable socio-economic development through the implementation of innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and a move towards low carbon economies. Regions tend to focus on economic growth, and lack concrete reasoning for the integration of climate change issues into their policies and practices, as well as practical tools to help them reach these objectives. The RSC project will address this issue.



Several RSC partners already have a history of successful cooperation on issues impacting sustainability and regional development programmes. The INTERREG IIIC project “Greening Regional Development Programmes” produced a definitive methodology on integrating environmental sustainability into programmes through tools like partnership, networking, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), greening projects, and using the environment as an economic driver. The RSC project builds upon this successful cooperation and takes the work further by focusing on climate change and low carbon economies, a critical political and environmental topic which is only just beginning to appear on priority agendas at the regional level.

The project will carry out a macro-economic analysis of three partners’ carbon economies, to identify opportunities for and the costs and effects of moving to a low carbon economy. The project will investigate and compare SEA and sustainability assessment approaches across the partnership, and identify how these tools can best be used to meet the project objectives.



Lead partner

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Duration

10/2008-09/2011

Total budget

€2,099,980.64

ERDF contribution

€1,661,380.72

Partnership

- **The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (HU)**
- Cornwall Council (UK)
- Debrecen University (HU)
- Regionalmanagement Burgenland Ltd. (AT)
- General Directorate of Environmental Quality, Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Territorial Politics – La Rioja (ES)
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (BG)
- Marche Region – Environment and Landscape Department (IT)
- Liguria Region – Environment Department (IT)
- LaMoRo (IT)
- Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) (MT)
- Cornwall Development Company (UK)
- Commune of Wroclaw (PL)



PRoMPt

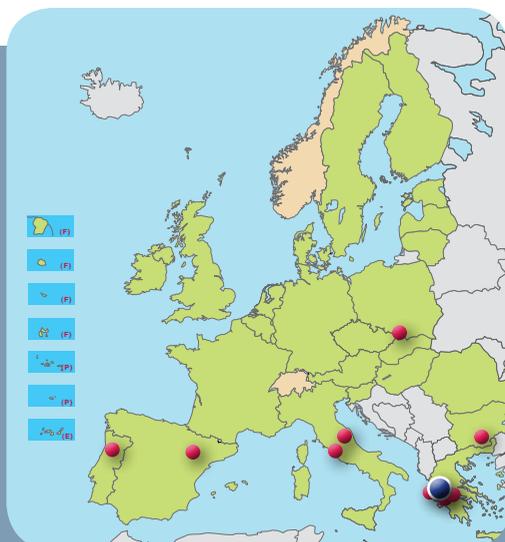
Proactive Human Response to Wildfires Outbreak: Measure and Prepare for it

PRoMPt's aim is to exchange experiences and good practices in order to improve regional policies for coping with the outbreak of fires in at-risk areas, such as forest fires.

This project, based on previously related activities focused on risk management, intends to move further and deal with exchange of experiences and good practices on methods, action plans or even tools, addressing the danger of forest fires and crisis management following the fire outbreak. Ultimately, regions will be prepared to avoid as far as possible the huge human, animal and agricultural losses, associated with forest fires.

In this perspective, a handbook entitled "Wildfires' Response: Best Cases Study Collection" and the conclusions from the "Benchmarking on Readiness and Effectiveness Indicators" will take the form of official policy documents to become the common base for the future adoption and application of such practices. Well-structured education programmes and training sessions for effective evacuation as well as strategic emergency response exercises, will be developed. Furthermore, the results could also prove useful to other similar regions of the EU and be used as a "reference" document for the improvement of the commonly agreed policies on the aforementioned issues inside the EU.

The lead partner, the Region of Western Greece, had 15.2% of its total area destroyed by wildfires in 2007. The other partner regions face similar risks and are determined to work together to improve policy effectiveness in this area.



Lead partner

Region of Western Greece (EL)

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Duration

10/2008-09/2011

Total budget

€1,517,423.30

ERDF contribution

€1,244,847.80

Partnership

• Region of Western Greece (EL)

- Research Academic Computer Technology Institute (EL)
- Industrial Systems Institute (EL)
- Province of Macerata (IT)
- Bielsko-Biala District Office (PL)
- Mountain Union of Laga – M Zone (IT)
- Camara Municipal de Baiao (PT)
- Stambolovo Municipality (BG)
- Municipality of Diakofto (EL)
- Aragonese Association of Local Authorities (ASAE) (ES)

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