



PIKE

PROMOTING INNOVATION AND
THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY.

A fast track to success.

For those who don't want to reinvent the wheel.

Regions for Economic Change – Fast Track Networks

PIKE - Promoting Innovation and the Knowledge Economy

The aim of the project: *“To improve Innovation & Knowledge Economy Policies through the exchange, sharing and transfer of eGovernment and Wireless Broadband good practices, and through the integration of these good practices into the mainstream Structural Funds programmes”*

Partners:

- ERNACT (Lead partner) • Donegal County Council (IE)
- Derry City Council (UK) • Galway County Council (IE)
- EMCANTA (ES) • ALA Vasternorrland (SE)
- Bologna Municipality (IT) • Olomouc Regional Authority (CZ)
- Agency for Regional Development and Innovations (BG)
- Region of Sterea Ellada (GR)

*“The Interregional Cooperation Programme **INTERREG IVC**, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers”*

Recent Events:

3rd Steering/Fast Track Committee Meeting

23 September 2009, Cantabria Office, Brussels



The PIKE consortium recently had their 3rd Steering/Fast Track Committee meeting which was also attended by Mr. Latsch and Mr. G. Mellizo from the EC and Ms. Silke Brocks from the INTERREG IVC JTS. The meeting took place at the Offices of the Region of Cantabria in Brussels on September 23rd. The PIKE Steering Committee reviewed progress made and agreed next steps and deadlines for the pending deliverables.

In addition, important issues were discussed at the meeting such as the use of the ePractice portal (<http://www.epractice.eu/community/PIKEFORUM>) as an additional communication tool, the format of the closing conference which will be taking place in Burgas (Bulgaria) in June '2010 and the main items to be discussed at the workshop which would be taking place the following day at DG Information Society.

It was decided that the next PIKE Steering Committee meeting would be taking place on March 4th, 2010 in Santander, Cantabria, Spain.



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PIKE Workshop

„eGovernment good practices transfer between regional authorities: experiences and challenges of Interreg IVC Capitalisation projects”

24 September 2009, European Commission, DG Information Society, Brussels



A workshop was organized in Brussels by the PIKE partnership in conjunction with INTERREG IVC and the EC with the twofold aim of:

- Disseminating the award-winning eGovernment and Wireless broadband good practices which form the basis of the PIKE project;
- Sharing and discussing the issues surrounding the transfer of good practices into mainstream EU Structural Funds programmes

Ms. Rohen and Mr. Landabaso set the scene, explaining what the EC wanted to achieve through the Capitalization projects and the Fast Tracking process. Several of the PIKE partners, together with a representative from another capitalization project, B3 Regions, put forward what have been their experiences so far, and explained the opportunities and challenges they are facing while transferring or adopting Good Practices.

The presentations were followed by a round table discussion coordinated by Mr. Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC Programme Director, where some of the challenges facing the Capitalization projects and the mainstreaming process were also discussed, such as:

- timing, particularly in the face of political change and/or staff changes
- rapidly moving technology which renders some of the elements of the good practices obsolete very quickly
- the financial problems being dealt with by some project partners which might have made them unable to co finance the ERDF obtained from the ROP

The conclusions of the workshop were chiefly that the Capitalization projects were a very positive mechanism to try to exploit existing Good Practices and to make use of the ERDF that the EC bequeaths to the regions. There are of course some stumbling blocks along the process, but they are not insurmountable ones, the partners themselves are doing their best to minimize and/or to overcome them. Moreover, the regions are not alone in the process and the EC has and will assist the partners along the way.

Local Developments:

Local Workshop – August 2009: Donegal attended the 2nd local workshop hosted by Galway County Council at the Clarion Hotel in Sligo in August 2009. Representatives from Donegal and Galway met with Michael O'Brien from the BMW Assembly. The focus was on progress with the project to date and working through ideas and planned activities. Advice given on developing the Action Plans centred on fit under the Regional Operational Programme's priorities, the identification of a gap that offered potential for innovation as well as transferrable capability within the region.

Identification of next generation technology applications: In the last quarter of 2009, Donegal began looking into suitable products for upgrading in terms of its technology architecture. This included initiating selection processes for Content Management Systems and WebGIS.

Action Plan Development: The decision was taken to focus development of an Action Plan within the remit of strategic planning processes having an initial emphasis on the County Development Plan process. This Action Plan will look at integration and optimisation of existing technologies and applications and capitalise on the learning outcomes from the EMCANTA eLOCAL Good Practice as well as the experience derived from being a transferring partner of the Donegal Online Planning Services (DOPS) Good Practice.

Closing Conference:

PIKE Closing Conference will be taking place on June 3rd, 2010 in Burgas, Bulgaria. More details and conference programme and registration will be made available at the PIKE website: <http://www.project-pike.eu>



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