Interregional cooperation in South area regions
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Regional policy, by supporting job creation, competitiveness and economic growth, is designed to reduce the economic, social and territorial disparities between Europe's regions. In this context, regional policy aims to improve quality of life and to promote sustainable development. These aims have become a joint task for all EU regions, more now than ever, with the deadline and objectives presented in the EU2020 strategy. It is therefore important to mobilise regional and local authorities, to give them access to the knowledge available throughout Europe and to enable them to dialogue and exchange examples of good practices.

The INTERREG IVC Programme was specially designed to meet the need for experience exchange, to help regions to reduce regional and local disparities and to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies. The examples of projects undertaken during the period 2007-2013 that are presented in this brochure clearly show how the funding has helped to improve transport and internet links to remote regions, boost small and medium-sized enterprises in disadvantaged areas, allow a cleaner environment and improve education and skills, as well as to make possible many other important improvements. EU funding was also invested in innovation, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation projects.

All these achievements directly benefit EU citizens! - Not only by creating jobs and developing the right conditions for growth, but also by bringing about numerous environmental improvements. Letting the public know what has been accomplished with programmes such as INTERREG IVC is key to their success and transparency. I am therefore pleased to present this publication, which includes a sample of the achievements from the 204 INTERREG projects co-financed within the 2007-2013 programming period, with a special focus on the South area.

José Palma Andres

Director, European Commission, DG Regional Policy

Directorate E - Territorial Cooperation, Belgium, France, Ireland, France, United Kingdom
FOREWORD

After more than four years of hard work to enable the exchange of experience all across Europe, the achievements of interregional cooperation are becoming increasingly visible. This publication, which has been produced by the programme’s South Area Information Point, presents the achievements of the South area countries involved in the programme, that is, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. The success stories listed in the publication show how EU-funded INTERREG IVC projects are serving European Regions and how they are providing solutions to common policy challenges. Equally as importantly, they are a testament to the spirit and enthusiasm shown by the South Area countries for territorial cooperation.

The INTERREG IVC Programme has now committed its entire budget in support of 204 innovative projects, involving 2,276 partners from 29 States (the EU 27 + Norway and Switzerland). These impressive figures illustrate the solutions that different European Regions have either identified or have developed together - across borders - to the problems they share. In tangible terms, they represent solutions to a diverse range of specific policy challenges under the programme’s two overarching priorities: Innovation and knowledge economy and Environment and risk prevention. They mean better public policies, better ways to tackle problems and better instruments, some of which have already been adopted, and are even already being implemented in certain Regions.

The 2007-2013 programme will soon be coming to an end, so it is now time to concentrate our efforts on publicising and capitalising on its achievements. In this crucial phase of the programme, our priorities are to share good practices with interested stakeholders across Europe and to inform EU citizens about the use of European Regional Development Funds, and in particular the benefits of interregional cooperation. This publication is one of the ways we hope to achieve these goals.

Michel Lamblin
Programme Director, INTERREG IVC
What is INTERREG IVC?

INTERREG IVC is an EU programme that brings regions together so they can learn from each other, exchange know-how and develop joint solutions to common policy challenges. In other words, it aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies.

During the current 2007-2013 programming period, the programme invited local and regional public authorities from all over Europe (including Norway and Switzerland) to propose projects and apply for funding through four calls for proposals. As a result, it has co-financed **204 projects**, involving **2,274 partners**. The Programme's main priorities, which were defined to contribute to the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, cover a wide range of themes, as presented below:

**Priority 1 "Innovation and knowledge economy"**
- Employment, human capital and education
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- Information society
- Innovation, research and technology development

**Priority 2 "Environment and risk prevention"**
- 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

![Number of projects approved per call](attachment:image.png)

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What kinds of project have been financed?

Two different types of project have been co-financed during this programming period. First, Regional Initiative Projects, which follow a 'standard' format focusing mainly on the exchange of experience among partners. Most projects follow this format. The second type of project (i.e. Capitalisation Project), enables project partners to go a step further, by transferring 'identified' good practices into the mainstream EU Structural Funds programmes of the regions represented in the partnership.

Project partners cooperate to identify and transfer good practices through networking activities, such as thematic workshops, seminars, conferences, surveys, and study visits. Examples of project achievements may include case study collections, policy recommendations, strategic guidelines and action plans. INTERREG IVC also supported light implementation or pilot actions, when these were clearly grounded in the exchange of experience.

How much funding has been allocated?

INTERREG IVC is financed by the European Regional Development Fund, as part of the EU’s Structural Funds. A total sum of 302 million euros has been allocated to the 204 projects for the 2007-2013 period.

WHOLE budget committed 302 M€

1st call
2nd call
3rd call
4th call

Priority 1 “Innovation and knowledge economy”
Priority 2 “Environment and risk prevention”
**Who are the main beneficiaries?**

The INTERREG IVC programme targets public authorities (in particular regional and local authorities) and bodies governed by public law. Regions in all 27 EU Member States, plus Switzerland and Norway, are eligible for funding. Other non-EU Member States and private bodies may participate at their own cost.

Both the programme and the projects disseminate information about actions and achievements. This way, any interested stakeholder in Europe is able to benefit. A major effort is also undertaken to raise awareness among EU citizens about the use of EU funds and about project results.

**How can you find out more about the projects?**

Full details about the INTERREG IVC programme and its projects are available at [www.interreg4c.eu](http://www.interreg4c.eu). There is also a database allowing local, regional and national policymakers to access the ideas and techniques that have been successfully implemented by their European counterparts. More than 200 good practices in the fields of ‘innovation and the knowledge economy’ and the ‘environment and risk prevention’ are readily available. They include contact details so that any interested parties can find out more about the conditions for transfer directly from those involved in the projects ([http://www.interreg4c.eu/findGoodpractices.html](http://www.interreg4c.eu/findGoodpractices.html)).
Southern Europe's participation in the INTERREG IVC Programme: An overview

From the outset, southern European countries have shown a strong interest in the programme. This translated into a strong rate of participation in all four calls for proposals between 2007 and 2011, with more than half of all the applications submitted coming from these countries. As a consequence, there has been a high number of South area partners involved in approved projects.

![Chart showing the number of approved partners per country.]

**Lead partners and partners of approved projects per country (IP South - all calls)**

- **6 countries** assisted and advised on how to develop an application (i.e. Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain)
- **820 applications** received through 4 calls for proposals
- **69 projects with lead partners** from the South area approved
- **758 partners involved**
- **32,42% of programme funds** used in the South area

This publication is organised by country. For each country, five project examples from different sub-themes are presented. The objective is not only to provide an overview of the contribution made by the southern regions of Europe, but also to highlight the benefits to these countries from participating in the INTERREG IVC programme.
01. CYPRUS

The Republic of Cyprus joined the European Union in 2004. However, since the northern part of the island of Cyprus is under Turkish occupation, only partners from the southern part of this relatively recent Member State are eligible to participate in the programme.
In total, there have been 22 Cypriot public bodies involved in 21 approved projects. Cypriot partners have been involved in projects in both priorities and in all sub-themes, with the exception of ‘Waste prevention and management’. Cypriot participation has been highest in the sub-themes ‘Energy and sustainable transport’ and ‘Information Society’.

**Priority 1 Innovation and knowledge economy**
- Innovation, research & development
- Entrepreneurship & SMEs
- The Information Society
- Employment, human capital & education

**Priority 2 Environment and risk prevention**
- Natural & technological risks
- Water management
- Biodiversity & natural heritage
- Energy & sustainable transport
- Cultural heritage & landscape

Country-specific information related to the INTERREG IVC programme, such as national guidelines, information on first level control procedures, partners involved, etc. can be provided by the National Contact Point.

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REGIOCLIMA - Regional cooperation towards adaptation to climate change

Climate change has become a high priority issue across Europe for citizens, policymakers and other bodies such as research institutions or the private sector. Our societies are being asked to adapt to a changing climate regardless of the result of climate change mitigation efforts. In this context, REGIOCLIMA, a project led by the Larnaca District Development Agency, strove to help society to adapt to the new climate conditions both by minimising potential impacts and by exploiting new opportunities arising from a changing climate. Michael Zanos, director of the Larnaca District Development Agency, the only Cypriot lead partner in this programming period, explained to us how his region contributed to this project and what its benefits have been.

After three years of cooperation, the project achieved useful and transferable results. Could you describe one good practice identified during the course of the project?

The project selected 17 good practices using multi-criteria assessment. One of them, which was identified and even transferred during the lifetime of the project, was called ‘Water recycling and Re-use’. Due to the scarcity of water in Cyprus, the government has been investigating alternative/non-conventional water resources, including water recycling and re-use. This good practice was implemented by the Water Development Department (WDD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Environment. The WDD’s main effort to promote the use of recycled water focused on technical issues related to water quality standards and the treatment process. The use of treated effluents for irrigation is considered the most appropriate option for effluent disposal in Cyprus because it supplements the water resources of the island and provides a solution to the disposal problem. It also benefits both agriculture and the economy as a whole, as it turns a waste effluent into an asset, one which even generates revenue.

In addition to this, Cypriot standards have been formulated in such way as to protect the environment, taking into account public perception and acceptance, as well as local conditions and irrigation practices. They prioritise the protection of public health and also incorporate a number of barriers to crop disease transmission such as crop type selection, methods of treatment (mechanised and natural) and microbiological and biological quality. A Code of Practice has been incorporated into the standards to ensure the proper operation of treatment facilities and to control irrigation methods and practices. However, although this code does provide additional barriers to crop disease transmission, it also engenders fear and reservations on the part of farmers and citizens. Standards and codes are, of course, subject to change, depending on the future experience gained by farmers, as well as potential changes in public behaviour.

The best practice ‘Water recycling and Re-use’ was transferred to the Region of Crete. The municipality of Agios Nikolaos has already started investing in water recycling and re-use schemes by installing the necessary equipment, and the municipality of Sitia has just prepared a public procurement process for this purpose.

A series of regional action plans were also drawn up for the possible future transfer of a number of other practices. What are the main features of the action plan for your region?

The climate in Cyprus is characterised by vast variability, increasing temperatures, and decreasing levels of precipitation. Owing to its vulnerable location, Cyprus is facing the challenge of extreme climatic change with a wide range of socio-
economic and environmental impacts. In this context, climate change is expected to have impact on, notably: agriculture, ecosystems (including forests), water resources, infrastructure, tourism, industry, health, and social services. A comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy has not yet been clearly established in Cyprus, which is why actions and practices designed to mitigate problems and prepare for adaptation are of paramount importance. For this reason, our action plan focused on the implementation of two selected best practices in Cyprus, the 'Geo exchange in space heating and cooling' and 'Vine management', both of which come from the Veneto Region of Italy.

The first practice concerned the introduction of an innovative approach accomplishing three long-standing objectives:

1) minimise water demand in the agricultural sector;
2) reduce energy demand through the use of geothermal energy and,
3) reduce pollution generated by agriculture.

The second concerned vine cultivation and more specifically the vine management response to climate change through the introduction of new varieties of vines into new zones possessing the right temperatures and sun exposition and by using the right vine trellising system. Novel approaches for vine irrigation systems, land management, the preservation of soil organic matter and protection against fungal diseases were also introduced.

**What are the benefits for your own region and for policymakers?**

The REGIOCLIMA project gave us the opportunity to emphasise the importance of adapting to climate change (awareness raising and understanding of opportunities & threats). It also supported the broad public debate about adaptation strategies launched by the European Commission (Green Paper & public debate), to guide action within the EU and particularly by regional and local authorities. Finally, through 'joint capacity building' among the participating regional authorities and institutions (in terms of knowledge, staff skills, policy tools and access to EU wide regional cooperation mechanisms), it has made adapting to climate change possible. For Cyprus it helped us especially to integrate - and adapt to - existing and forthcoming legislation and policies, as well as to draw up climate change adaptation strategies.

Interregional cooperation was crucial for the success of the project, as it made possible the joint development of regional climate change adaptation strategies addressing different contexts across EU Member States, as well as the joint development of policy recommendations applicable to a wide range of local and regional authorities. Moreover, it facilitated contacts with policymakers, providing project partners with EU network status, which undoubtedly attracted the interest of politicians at local, regional and often national levels (for example, the Cyprus Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources attended the REGIOCLIMA networking event). Interregional cooperation was seen by project partners as an active learning process, which improved their awareness and knowledge about climate change adaptation.
**COGITA - Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility through Public Policy**

The COGITA project, approved under the fourth and last call for proposals, focuses on entrepreneurship and SMEs. In particular, this recently-launched project promotes regional policies for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by identifying and designing integrated solutions for SMEs that combine social and environmental responsibility. COGITA was born from work carried out by a transfer group on CSR created within another INTERREG IVC project (ERIK ACTION) on innovation in businesses.

*Creating synergies to promote CSR*

By participating in this project, the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), together with 12 other EU partners, are able to share experience and identify and implement tools that can be adapted and adopted by public authorities, thereby facilitating the promotion of an integrated CSR approach in their territory. CSR in Cyprus is still in its infancy as far as public policies are concerned. CUT therefore operates on two levels, both of which mainly involve CSR awareness raising and CSR capacity building. Firstly, CUT promotes cooperation between academia and companies and will use this project to link university graduates trained in CSR with SMEs. Secondly, CUT has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Planning Bureau, the government body responsible for promoting CSR, and will work with a range of other stakeholders, including the Union of Local Councils. Thanks to these agreements, CUT will assist authorities by creating synergies across the policy community concerned. One example is the co-organisation of the CSR conference under the Cyprus EU Presidency in October 2012.

**DC - DIGITAL CITIES: A network for rapid and sustainable ICT regional adoption**

Digital Cities worked for three years on the problem of low ICT adoption by European local authorities in isolated areas. This project, which involved experts in the digital sector as well as local stakeholders, promoted the 'Digital City' concept by selecting best practices from all over Europe and then applying them in the local context.

*Envisaging a Digital Laboratory in Cyprus (Practice from UK)*

The Digital Cities team strove to develop practical tools. The exchange of knowledge through seminars and study visits was fruitful for the whole partnership. For example, partners from Manchester involved in the cooperation visited the Cypriot partner, the Municipality of Paralimni, to share their Digital Laboratory model called 'Madlab'. Madlab is a grassroots initiative that provides a virtual space for Manchester’s digital and creative communities (www.madlab.org.uk). Launched in 2009, the number of users continues to rise, making MadLab a hub for the digital and creative sector in the city of Manchester. Working with agencies and the local government, MadLab provides an opportunity for policymakers to talk directly to potential audiences and hear their views. It also provides citizens with direct access to the tools and networks required to influence or change the digital landscape of their environment. It even helps to facilitate partnerships between commercial partners and Manchester City Council leaders. As a result, MadLab is now considered to be an essential partner in the City’s future ICT developments.
Digital Cities developed a digital portal (http://www.dc-portal.org/web/guest/home). This user-friendly portal allowed local authorities and other stakeholders, including businesses, to access a wide range of case studies from European cities in such areas as e-Government, e-business, e-Health and e-Education. It also offered analyses of the strategic opportunities, challenges and threats for each of these areas with a view to encouraging and recommending suitable objectives for ICT adoption strategies. A Digital Cities Planner Toolkit (DCPT) was also produced to support Cities to better develop local and regional ICT adoption strategies in a sustainable way. Integrating ICT at local level and deploying a suitable strategy can clearly lead to improvements in infrastructure and in the products and services offered to citizens.

Cyprus is envisaging developing a similar Digital Laboratory initiative after observing the potential of this model for citizen engagement.

**PIMMS TRANSFER - TReansferring Actions iN Sustainable mobility For European Regions**

PIMMS TRANSFER brought together 'Progression Regions' with experience of mobility management, with 'Initiation Regions' from new Member States, which are less familiar with the concept and whose regional and local policymakers wished to learn more about innovative practices and the possibilities of transfer to their own locality. In particular, the partners focused on methods to stimulate a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport by increasing the provision of high quality mobility management techniques and policies in European regions. Numerous activities were conducted during the project’s ten different stages dedicated to mobility themes, including knowledge transfer activities, 14 innovative pilot projects, European Mobility Week and campaigns to reduce CO₂ in schools by promoting travel behaviour change.

*Creating a traffic circulation and awareness park (Practice from Greece)*

Larnaca Municipality benefited greatly from the exchange of experience between project partners and transferred several good practices from other project partners. In October 2009, a delegation from the municipality visited the Greek partner, Serres, to learn how the city was, through its Traffic Circulation and Awareness Park, promoting traffic safety and cycling among children. Following the visit, the municipal council approved a proposal for a similar park, adapting the specifications provided by Serres to the local conditions. A plan was submitted to the central government for agreement and funding, and the park was built in 2010.
Creating a traffic island information centre (Practice from Germany)

Based on a good practice identified during a visit to the German partner, traffQ (the public transport authority for Frankfurt) Larnaca now intends to build a traffic island information centre in its own city centre. It will form the starting point of the creation of a modern, multimodal transport and mobility information centre, designed to increase the uptake of sustainable modes of transport.

Envisaging automated public transport systems (Practice from Bulgaria)

In June 2011, Larnaca also visited the Bulgarian partner, Sofia, to learn about the automated public transport systems used in its city centre. The Cypriots particularly appreciated the idea of a central monitoring location for all buses designed to improve bus reliability and scheduling. This system appeared to be simple to duplicate in as far as only software, as well as a GIS system in each bus and radio voice connection, was needed. It proved more difficult, however, to show both drivers and users how to use the system. Although the system was expensive, Larnaca believed it to be a good and necessary solution.

A blue-zone parking area for the disabled and residents (Practice from Bulgaria)

Another example of a good practice identified in Sofia was a blue-zone parking area permitting up to only two hours’ parking with preferential access for disabled persons and residents. The Cypriots found this system both useful and simple to introduce. As an SMS parking payment method already existed in Larnaca, only a blue zone area remained to be defined. In this example, the most challenging task for the municipality is now to convince policymakers to adopt a law authorising the use of car clamps and the towing of illegally parked cars.
**SUSTAIN - Assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy**

With 12 partners from 12 different Member States, the SUSTAIN project kicked off in February 2010 in Cyprus with the objective to design a policy tool to help coastal authorities and communities throughout Europe to deliver sustainability in Europe’s coastal areas. This policy tool, which aims to be relevant for the 22 coastal states of the European Union, is based on a set of easily measurable sustainability indicators that were also developed and assessed by the project. When implemented, the tool will ensure the long-term sustainability of the integrated management of Europe’s coastal areas. It will play a part in delivering Europe’s renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy, which was adopted by the European Council in June 2006 and aims to bring about a high level of environmental protection, social equity and cohesion, economic prosperity and active promotion of sustainable development worldwide.

The partnership has organised several interregional events to debate issues such as the role of local authorities in sustainability, whether sustainability can bridge neighbouring communities, and how sustainability issues can provide opportunities for new Member States. Sets of good practices have been identified by partners, including how communities are finding ways to work together across administrative boundaries and how cultural heritage and associated infrastructure can successfully be utilised for tourism.

**Sustainable energy production**

In the case of Cyprus, the Koukla Community Council has made the subject of sustainability a standing item on its agenda: more than 50% of its energy production comes from renewable resources, compared to the overall EU Member State target of 20% to be achieved by the year 2020.

**Sustainable waste management (Practice from the Netherlands)**

During an interregional visit to the Netherlands, the partners were shown footpaths and cycle tracks constructed from local, natural products - in this case seashells - instead of asphalt. The Koukla President asked whether green, organic, agricultural waste (i.e. trimmings) could be used as an alternative viable surfacing for footpaths. Following a positive response and also recognising the need to improve their waste management policy, the community invested €20,000 in a wood-shredding machine in early 2011. The shredding machine is now producing approx. 4 tonnes of material an hour. This amounts to approx. 20 tonnes a day, as it is operated for about 6 hours a day. It is also only used 2 days a week and so produces 40 tonnes of material a month. This is well ahead of its target of 300 tonnes a year, set by the community at the outset. The material is being successfully used for public footpaths, saving money on the purchase and upkeep of traditional clay pathways. Furthermore, a surplus of material is produced and is being used as mulch for trees in public areas, helping to reduce water evaporation from the soil.

Key success factors have been discussed with the agriculturalists, including the (financial) benefits, specific training requirements and on-the-job experience of working with the machinery. In addition, dust contamination from the formerly used clay roads has significantly been reduced, and oil is no longer applied to prevent the dust from rising. The community is now considering other organic waste management schemes (e.g. for domestic waste, to convert it into usable, agricultural compost) and other councils are looking into using the technique.
02.

GREECE

There are 158 Greek public bodies involved in 82 projects, exchanging experience and good practices with other European regions. These partners are represented in projects in both priorities and in all themes.
Greek participation has been highest in the sub-themes 'Entrepreneurship & SMEs' and 'Energy & sustainable transport'.

**Priority 1 Innovation and knowledge economy**
- Innovation, research & development
- Entrepreneurship & SMEs
- The Information Society
- Employment, human capital & education

**Priority 2 Environment and risk prevention**
- Natural & technological risks
- Water management
- Biodiversity & natural heritage
- Energy & sustainable transport
- Cultural heritage & landscape
- Waste management

Country-specific information related to the INTERREG IVC programme, such as national guidelines, information on first level control procedures, partners involved, etc. can be provided by the national contact point.

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**SOLIDARCITY - The role and involvement of local authorities in employment rate increase**

SolidarCity addresses local employment policies, which are of course extremely important for European regional and local communities. The consortium, led by Efini Poli, a Greek local authority network for social, cultural, tourist, environmental and agricultural development, aims to enhance the role and involvement of local & regional authorities and civil society in the effort to increase the employment rate. In order to do this, the consortium is working to target the parameters hindering active participation in the local labour market, and is seeking ways to create more and better jobs at local level.

*Banca Tempo* service exchange scheme

The project began with a study to determine why citizens were being excluded from the labour market. After intensive exchange on the policies, strategies and experiences between the different partners involved, worthwhile practices are now being tested. For instance, the Greek partner is currently testing the *'Banca Tempo'* services scheme ('Time Bank' in English). At its most fundamental level, Banca Tempo is simply about spending an hour doing something for somebody else in your community. That hour then goes into the Banca Tempo as a *Time Dollar*. You can then spend this Time Dollar on having someone do something for you. It is a simple idea, but it has powerful ripple effects in building community connections. Individuals can offer their time and knowledge to help inactive or non/under-qualified citizens develop new skills and thereby increase their employability.

**Promoting Solidarity**

‘Solidarity groups’ and ‘SolidarCity Pilot Houses’ are also being set up in order to test whether it is possible to create jobs at the local and regional levels through the following activities:

- promoting the locality to inward investors,
- encouraging the creation of new businesses and social enterprises,
- encouraging a local culture of enterprise, or by identifying job vacancies in neighbouring localities.

These activities are being supported by a SolidarCity Policy Group, which is made up of both policymakers and representatives from civil society.

**OSEPA - Open Source software usage by European Public Administrations**

The OSEPA project promotes the use of open source software in Public Administration at all levels of government. To achieve this goal, it fosters networking between European territories, both virtually and face-to-face, and demonstrates the benefits to public organisations by comparing experiences in European regions and municipalities. Led by the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, OSEPA is a consortium of twelve partners exploring the main qualitative and quantitative benefits stemming from the adoption and use of Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) by public authorities.
Identifying the use and effect of Free and Open-Source Software

Within a two-year period, twelve best practices on FOSS used by various organisations in different technical implementation fields have been identified and compiled in a Good Practice Guide, a concise document on FOSS procurement for European Public Administrations. The OSEPA team has also developed other important, useful documents such as technical efficiency guidelines for selecting between or among FOSS and proprietary software solutions, a report on the impact of FOSS on business models and strategies, and a Policy Recommendation paper on Technical Standards. At the end of 2011, the consortium also carried out a survey on FOSS use in 19 European countries.

It is worth mentioning that the contribution made by the Greek project partner 'Computer Technology Institute and Press (CTI)' to these achievements was significant. Yet, of course, these achievements would not have been possible without the strong cooperation and involvement from the entire project team. A manifesto has also been signed by the politicians of the participating regions. The document presents the main advantages of FOSS in Public Administrations and establishes a commitment by the signatories to promote awareness-raising. Issues such as licensing, the transfer of good practices, human aspects, initiatives utilising FOSS to run commercial development projects, and, of course, FOSS economic benefits have all been analysed.

Gaining FOSS support

A Policy Recommendation Statement was also released during a project conference with a view to gathering signatories from FOSS supporters. The objective of such an initiative was to influence policymakers and to increase recognition of FOSS as a viable alternative to software procurement through purchasing. A number of documents produced as part of Europe's 2020 flagship initiative 'Digital Agenda for Europe' see the use of FOSS as being of strategic importance (e.g. e-Europe2005, i2010, OSS Strategy), and also networking mechanisms such as JOINUP (https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/), emphasise the effectiveness of FOSS in the public sector. Within this context and on behalf of the OSEPA Policy statement signatories, the intention is to ask the European Commission to maintain their efforts to promote open standards and FOSS, and to invite them to support the OSEPA Statement by adopting its content in their future strategic documents.

➤ PRESERVE - Peer Reviews for Sustainable Eco-Regions via Europe

PRESERVE partners sought solutions to improve regional tourism policies and support sustainable tourism.

A common working methodology was first defined based on the peer review approach, consisting of a one-week study tour where meetings with key stakeholders and policymakers were held by the review team to ascertain the strengths, weaknesses and potential of the host region’s tourism policies. After the visit, the review team prepared a report outlining a series of recommendations on how to improve the region’s policies. The report also assessed the region’s potential for development and current strengths through the identification of good practices. A toolkit including detailed criteria was developed enabling the partners to define the concept of sustainability with a view to applying it to the host region. The three aspects of sustainability (i.e. economic competitiveness, social coherence and environmental management of tourism policies) were considered. Other tools were produced in order to support the partners with the implementation of sustainability policies,
including an evaluation grid designed to measure the application of each criterion, as well as templates for drafting the report and recommendations.

**Reviving tourism development: Creating the Plutarcheio Historical & Cultural Park**

The Municipality of Chaeronea, located in the region of Sterea Ellada, brought to fruition the idea of the Plutarcheio Historical & Cultural Park. The aim of the park is to boost tourism by promoting its cultural and natural identity. The approach not only fosters the preservation of cultural heritage, but also offers the opportunity to combine education with alternative, sustainable forms of tourism in a natural environment. The archaeological sites of Chaeronea, which include an ancient theatre and an archaeological museum, and the surrounding area, were developed as an integrated theme park with paths connecting the different sites, and areas for educational activities. The Municipality also made use of innovative applications and created a Centre of Virtual Reality. The use of such technologies allows visitors to discover important historic events through innovative and imaginative methods. For instance, tourists can watch the battle of Chaeronea in real time through special polarized 3D glasses. At the end of the tour, they can also be actively involved in the revival of the restoration of the 'León of Chaeronea', have access to computers and play educational games to learn more about the history of Chaeronea and Plutarch. The Centre of Virtual Reality has been open to the public since March 2009 and had already welcomed 1,100 visitors by August 2009. The attracting of visitors has also allowed the development of other 'soft' tourism activities such as 'agri-tourism' and outdoor sport activities such as hiking in the surrounding area. The Plutarcheio Historical & Cultural Park represents a good example of how to exploit historic, cultural and natural resources in an innovative and sustainable way.

**Developing sustainable tourism**

In the context of the Peer Review conducted in Sterea Ellada, regional and local authorities and stakeholders became involved in a process to identify deficiencies and establish priorities. Based on the experience gained through the project, the region has improved its collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders by establishing guidelines for developing sustainable tourism in a coordinated and balanced way. The Region of Sterea Ellada has redefined its tourism policy, placing a special focus on a more sustainable approach. A monitoring and evaluation procedure has also been set up to enable the region to measure its performance against its targets as well as identify Good Practices and successful examples that can be communicated to and adopted by other local authorities and private tourism institutions of the region.
**EUFOFINET - European Forest Fire Network**

Fires cause severe damage to the environment and, more often than not, human casualties. Every summer, owing to hot and dry weather conditions, there is a major fire risk in the south of Europe, but risks also exist in northern regions as a consequence of forests being abandoned in rural areas. In addition, forest fires sometimes spread beyond national borders, and many countries lack resources to tackle them. The frequency of fires can be reduced by an effective fire management policy and close cooperation between the national, regional and local authorities concerned.

In this context, the main objective of the project EUFOFINET is to transfer good practices with a view to improving national and/or regional policies on both forest fires & risk prevention and forest management. It places a special focus on five good practices that were identified during a previous project (i.e. INTERREG IIIC South 'INCENDI') but have now been further analysed and assessed in light of new experiences and approaches coming from European Northern countries. The five good practices are being deployed in the following areas:

- Fire intervention strategy (i.e. intervening when fires start),
- Training with simulation tools,
- Territorial surveillance, detection and prevention strategies,
- Risk or hazard cartography,
- Burnt area restoration.

**Identifying post-fire management practices**

Knowledge is transferred among the partners with a view to studying the feasibility and integration of these practices into their respective national/regional policies. The Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica (PEDA), the North Aegean Region, the Region of Thessaly and the Region of Ipeiros are all participating in the project and are impatient to see the results, since in Greece there is currently no central planning for post-fire management. In several regions, as in the North Aegean, post-fire management depends on the knowledge, sources and tools at the disposal of local forestry officials. Through the EUFOFINET project, Greece has the opportunity to see in-situ and in real time the methods applied across its territories with regards to post-fire restoration. It was clear to Greece that the development of a common guide or protocol outlining the steps for assessing the needs for post-fire restoration would be of great value.

**Aerial Fire monitoring (Practice from Slovakia)**

The Region of Epirus, which mostly participates as a recipient partner, also contributed with one practice under the 'Strategies of territories, detection' theme: the 'Formal Warning System and Management of Fire Protection in the Regional Unit of Arta'. This system, which is based on the use of four optical cameras to monitor the forest area, has proven successful for the prompt detection of forest fires. Another practice, this time from Slovakia, that the region of Epirus is interested in incorporating into its Action Plan, is 'aerial fire monitoring'. Aerial fire monitoring via light aircraft patrols for the detection of forest fires could be easily transferred and implemented, as it would be well suited to the terrain of the area, which is dominated by high
mountains rendering monitoring via cameras or ground patrols insufficient. Thus, the use of aerial monitoring should prove to be quite effective. In addition, the cost of operating such a system is moderate as light aircraft with a low flight cost can be used, and the flights can be programmed to operate only on days where the risk of fire is particularly high.

**SIGMA for Water - Sustainable InteGral Management Approaches for Water areas**

The overall objective of ‘SIGMA for Water is to adapt to climate change and improve the quality of the environment in the regions involved in the project, to build capacity in their respective regions in the restoration and development of new lakes and wetlands. Due to the enlarged water surface and increased room for nature in the area, the development of new lakes and wetland areas can in fact significantly increase the water quality of the water system. It can also make the water system more flexible in terms of the quantity of water, through increased retention capacity to store excess water and thus create the opportunity to be able to use this water in the event of a future shortage.

*Restoring Lake Karla*

To improve regional policies in this field, the consortium is mainly working on the development of integrated master plans in which water management issues play a vital role. The Thessaly Region and the University of Thessaly, both partners in the project, are focusing on the restoration of Lake Karla, which was fully drained in 1964, with dramatic effects on the environment. The draining of Lake Karla is considered to have been the most significant environmental disaster in Greece in the 20th century, and in 1999, the state government decided that it should be restored. Problems specific to the area have already been identified and solutions are being sought together with the rest of the partnership through the SIGMA for Water initiative. The central idea is to re-flood the area and a reservoir is being constructed for this purpose. A great deal of work has yet to be done to restore the damaged area, and the Greek partners need to learn from other regions. An evaluation of the restoration of Lake Karla will therefore be undertaken to explore new possibilities. It may for instance include recreational activities, and other strategies that could help to attract visitors.
03. ITALY

Italy has been the most active country in terms of submitting applications and has a strong participation rate in the INTERREG IVC Programme.
There are 266 Italian public bodies involved in 136 projects and 33 Italian lead partners. These partners are represented in projects in both priorities and all themes. Italian participation is highest in the sub-themes ‘Entrepreneurship & SMEs' and ‘Energy & sustainable transport’.

**Priority 1 Innovation and knowledge economy**
- Innovation, research & development
- Entrepreneurship & SMEs
- The Information Society
- Employment, human capital & education

**Priority 2 Environment and risk prevention**
- Natural & technological risks
- Water management
- Biodiversity & natural heritage
- Energy & sustainable transport
- Cultural heritage & landscape
- Waste management

Country-specific information related to the INTERREG IVC programme, such as national guidelines, information on first level control procedures, partners involved, etc. can be provided by the national contact point.

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**ERIK ACTION - Upgrading the innovation capacity of existing firms**

For two years, ERIK ACTION worked to improve regional policy in the field of innovation and knowledge with a view to upgrading the innovation capacity of existing businesses.

*TIP Coaching (Practice from Austria)*

This exchange of experience allowed the Tuscany Region, lead partner of the project, to test and adapt (through transfer workshops, study visits, and staff exchanges) a number of different initiatives. For example, the Region introduced 'TIP Coaching' (Technologie - und InnovationsPartner Innovation Coaching) transferred from the Region of Lower Austria. TIP Coaching consists in visiting regional firms to gain an overview of their situation, including an analysis of the innovation context covering, for example, technological, financial and organisational aspects. Following the visit, the TIP Coach offers advice on innovation and refers the entrepreneur to potential partners, appropriate funding schemes, helpful services and suggests events of interest (public and private). TIP coaching has already given the participating firms access to a comprehensive innovation service portfolio in Lower Austria and beyond the region.

*Virtual Enterprise*

The Italian lead partner also shared practices that certain project partners are committed to implementing in their own regions.

For example, in Tuscany PRAI VINCI promotes the Virtual Enterprise (VE)/Virtual Organisation (VO) designed to strengthen the competitiveness of the main industrial systems in the Tuscan economy. A Virtual Enterprise is a temporary alliance of companies pooling skills or core competencies and resources in order to better respond to business opportunities, and whose cooperation is supported by computer networks. The VE/VO’s created have particular experience in the field of technological innovation and technology transfer which, in an industrial system characterised by micro-firms, such as in Tuscany, represents one of the weakest links in the value chain.

A second example of good practice promoted by the Tuscany Region involved cooperation on CSR. The company Fabrica Ethica devised a production process that is making the regional economy more competitive and that enables the company to differentiate its production through achieving higher product and service quality. Fabrica Ethica is based on the respect of worker and consumer rights and the environment. It fosters an approach based on continuous improvements that anchor CSR in SME strategies and management systems.

*Innovation Assistant (Practice from Austria)*

The second Italian partner in the project ERIK ACTION was from Emilia Romagna. This Region adopted the Lower Austrian good practice - Innovation Assistant - to strengthen technological e-Innovation capacity in regional SMEs. The main aim was to stimulate SMEs, especially those with no or little experience with graduate employees, to recruit recently-graduated personnel. In this practice the Innovation Assistant must be employed full-time on a specific innovation project in an SME and with a permanent contract. The Assistant must at the same time complete a specific post-graduate training programme.
The 'Industrial research projects and pre-competitive development' project

Emilia Romagna also proposed a good practice. The 'Industrial research projects and pre-competitive development' project is part of the Regional Programme for Industrial Research, Innovation and Technological Transfer (PRRITT), which is designed to reinforce the regional production system, strengthen the local community through innovation and disseminate knowledge. The aim is to promote the translation of research project results into pre-competitive development plans, projects and prototypes; and to develop new patents and other forms of protection for intellectual property and the achievements of experimentation.

On validating the 11 regional action plans, the project expects to mobilise over €25 million among the partners and to involve over 1,000 SMEs. In addition, as a great deal of work will still need to be done to ensure successful implementation of the action plans, even after the project’s end date, partners will continue to cooperate on different opportunities, providing support and information to importing regions.

◆ PERIURBAN - Periurban Parks - Improving Environmental Conditions in Suburban Areas

PERIURBAN is the integration of two European initiatives: GreenLink, led by Tuscany, and CityNature, promoted by the European Federation of Natural and Rural, Metropolitan and Periurban spaces of Barcelona. Through cooperation, the leaders of these initiatives saw the potential for real progress in the environmental management of suburban areas. PERIURBAN, therefore, uses the interregional exchange of experience to improve policies relating to the management of natural peri-urban areas; and more precisely relating to policy and management solutions for mitigating pressures on biodiversity.

Through exchange workshops, thematic seminars and study visits, the partners have produced territorial analyses, which include a series of identified good practices. These analyses are compiled in a joint report and used to form the basis of a tool kit for the creation and management of peri-urban parks. In the final stage of the project, the partners are now testing the methodology in four partner areas and, through intense activities and peer reviews, are integrating feedback into the methodology as a way to improve and consolidate it.

Creating the Parco della Piana fiorentina

In recent years, the Regional Government of Tuscany has used its experience in creating and managing regional parks to initiate the creation of the Parco della Piana fiorentina (www.parcoellapiana.it), an ambitious project for the creation of a green infrastructure network in the flatlands around Florence. This process involving various local councils and a range of other stakeholders has led to a modification of the Regional Spatial Planning document, which now defines the boundaries of the Parco. By participating in this project,
this partner learnt from a number of good practices implemented in other partner areas and has participated in a pilot action and peer review process in one specific area of the park territory.

**Periurbanicity**

The other Italian partner, the Regional Government of Lombardy, started out from an advanced position vis-à-vis peri-urban parks. Peri-urban parks are a type of park recognised by regional law. Two specific parks (Parco Nord Milano and Parco Agricolo Sud Milano) have actively participated in the project, both sharing their extensive experience and seeking input to improve the management of these areas. In particular, PERIURBAN is part of and builds on the concept of the Regional Ecological Network, a planning instrument in development since 2009. Thanks to PERIURBAN, the Regional Government of Lombardy has been able to set out a working project involving all local stakeholders (environmental, territorial and administrative) and to schedule local events, round tables, and communication tools focusing on the theme of ‘periurbanicity’.

**SUGAR - Sustainable Urban Goods logistics Achieved by Regional and local policies**

The Emilia Romagna Region has been gaining valuable experience in the field of city logistics since 2002, both through EU INTERREG projects and dedicated regional policies. It also introduced a regional law financing city logistics projects involving all the main cities in Emilia-Romagna. As the SUGAR Lead Partner, the Emilia Romagna Region now shares its experience on city logistics methodologies and tools with 16 partners from 10 EU countries.

This interregional cooperation project more accurately addresses the problem of the inefficient and ineffective management of urban freight distribution, which is a critical component of the overall urban transport system and one of the main sources of vehicle pollutant emissions. All partners have worked on identifying good practices and transferring experience and knowledge at the policy and planning level in the field of urban freight management. One example of a related policy from the UK partner (i.e. Transport for London) is called ‘Low Emission Zone’, which aims to decrease air pollutants generated by road transport. An analysis of all good
practices and areas of innovation was carefully carried out to determine which ones could be implemented in Emilia-Romagna.

SUGAR has helped define, re-shape, consolidate and improve the following main regional policies, public measures and strategies for greener, more sustainable and attractive cities in Emilia-Romagna:

- The electro-mobility programme at regional level,
- The planning of loading and unloading areas in Bologna,
- Strategies for the standardisation on a regional level of time-slots for access to city centres for all the main regional small-medium-sized cities within the 2010-2020 Emilia-Romagna Regional Integrated Transport Plan.

**Pre-Waste - Improve the effectiveness of waste prevention policies in EU territories**

The Pre-waste project is founded on a simple premise: the best waste is waste that is not produced in the first place. However, waste prevention measures are not necessarily easy to formulate, due to a lack of knowledge about what strategies actually work, the difficulty of assessing the results of a given prevention action, etc. With this in mind, Pre-waste has developed a comprehensive and standardized approach to help local and regional authorities, providing them with the tools to instigate measures to prevent the production of waste and to implement and monitor local and regional waste prevention policies. Out of a stock of fifty waste prevention practices implemented by local or regional authorities in the European Union, 20 of the most promising were selected and analysed in-depth.

**Marche Food Bank Onlus**

One example worth mentioning is the 'Marche Food Bank Onlus' (Banco Alimentare) developed in Italy. This Food Bank, which operates in the Marche Region, is responsible for the redistribution of food all over the region, as well as for the implementation of three pilot experiences designed to recover fresh food in Marche’s three sub-regions (Pesaro, Ascoli Piceno and San Benedetto del Tronto). These pilot actions are being progressively extended to the whole region. The main objective is to reduce waste costs and the impact on the environment. The aim is also to recover food surpluses and support people in need.

**Reducing detergent packaging**

Another practice from the Piemonte Region, the 'self-service detergents in large retail initiative', aims to reduce the production of packaging waste generated by the purchase and use of detergents. This is being accomplished by promoting the sale of on-tap detergents in retail chains which make use of reusable bottles. The project addresses the bulk sale of detergents such as dish-washing liquids, fabric conditioners, laundry liquids, and all-purpose cleaners and was developed in collaboration with the Piemonte region, the retail sector (GDO), and detergent producers. Detergent dispensers have been
placed in over 40 points of sale, and some 74% of detergent purchased at these dispensers has involved the re-use of a bottle. As a result, over 780,000 bottles have been reused, avoiding the use of about 47 tonnes of HDPE (i.e. High Density Polyethylene) and 26 tonnes of paperboard. This represents an emission avoidance of 130.5 tonnes of CO₂, a saving of 2,011 MWH of energy and 196 million litres of water. Four years after the beginning of the experimental phase of the project, no shop has returned the dispenser.

**WF - Waterways Forward**

Although many waterways are still important for the transport of goods, it is becoming increasingly recognised that inland waterways perform other functions that contribute to the quality of life of citizens. Waterways are now being restored and revitalised across Europe for economic and social development. To accomplish this, a coordinated approach to their management and development is required. The WF project led by the Dutch Recreational Waterways, brings together 17 partners from 11 EU countries, plus Norway and Serbia, to support the on-going development of the multi-functional use of these inland waterways.

*Innovative bike map*

Two Italian partners are actively participating in the cooperation, bringing their knowledge and respective practices. The Province of Ferrara has developed an innovative Bike Map for cycling tourists, which transforms a simple map into a handy tool for cycling trips - all based on clear and detailed cartography. This tool also includes a list of services, including bike hire, repair shops and places to eat en route. The first handlebar map was created to document an itinerary of roughly 23 km, and it is also possible to board a boat for the return journey, making it a half-day excursion. This initiative immediately aroused the interest of the authorities from the surrounding areas, which have asked for a patent concession to duplicate the idea in Bologna, Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Faenza and Forlì.
Developing local canals to boost tourism

In Lombardy, the Navigli Lombardy Company has been established to exploit the local canals surrounding the city of Milan (called 'navigli lombardi'), and to define a natural, local and sustainable 'tourist system'. When tourist-oriented navigation reopened in 2006, after 30 years of abandonment, the promotion of new services became necessary. A rich cultural and architectural heritage was already established along the canals, so integrated tourist packages were therefore considered as an opportunity to promote the restored navigli waterways. The biggest challenge was to convince the various public and private stakeholders to think collectively about creating a tourist itinerary capable of integrating an ancient canal experience, while at the same time providing opportunities for the discovery of the local historical buildings, traditions and products in a sustainable way. A promotion plan of the integrated tourist package was developed by Navigli Lombardi, and now five tourist lines (and more tourist packages) are being organised in various forms. With a tourist-focused approach, people are now able to learn about the historical significance of the canals for the Milanese area, and thereby understand why many architectural and cultural sites still exist today.
04. MALTA

There are 23 Maltese public bodies involved in 24 projects, exchanging experience and good practices with other European regions. Some 20 of these are from Malta and the other 3 are from Gozo and Comino.
Partners from Malta have shown interest in all INTERREG IVC themes across both programme priorities, with the exception of 'Employment, human capital & education'. There is no lead partner from Malta. Maltese participation was highest in the sub-themes 'Entrepreneurship & SMEs' and 'Information Society'.

Priorities 1: Innovation and knowledge economy
- Innovation, research & development
- Entrepreneurship & SMEs
- The Information Society
- Employment, human capital & education

Priorities 2: Environment and risk prevention
- Natural & technological risks
- Water management
- Biodiversity & natural heritage
- Energy & sustainable transport
- Cultural heritage & landscape
- Waste management

Country-specific information related to the INTERREG IVC programme, such as national guidelines, information on first level control procedures, partners involved, etc. can be provided by the national contact point.

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

The ICER project, approved in November 2009, mainly targets representatives of public authorities and tourism professional networks. The partners initiated the process of exchange of good practices by making use of a questionnaire to analyse their respective public policies regarding the attracting of investors and the tourist accommodation economy. The second step was to organise study visits to Gozo (Malta) in September, the South Transdanubian region (Hungary) in October and the Lahti region (Finland) in December 2010, which led to the identification of seven good practices.

Achieving sustainable development objectives for Malta

In the case of Malta, the eco-Island vision for Gozo, which is in effect an action plan aimed at achieving sustainable development goals for the island, was looked at carefully (www.ecogozo.com). To implement it, the Maltese government has allocated a €25 million budget from national funds (excluding EU funding and private investment). The innovative component of the Eco-Gozo idea is to translate this plan into a marketable brand which can be used to improve the image of the island. This practice is in line with EU and UN strategic policies related to Sustainable Development and Growth, and is inspired by the Local Agenda 21 framework. This short-term action plan includes 80 measures, which the Government (through the Ministry for Gozo) has pledged to implement in the 2010-2012 period. This concept has also resulted in the creation of a number of jobs both in public as well as private sectors.

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

Since the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy almost a decade ago, there has been a major effort across the whole of Europe to boost the competitiveness of SMEs through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and e-business tools. Some regions have implemented regional policies which have significantly helped SMEs to access the Information Society, enabling them to face the challenges of the digital economy. It has become a political and economic imperative to make ICT products and services
more accessible in less developed regions as a means to reinforce social, economic and territorial cohesion. It is therefore vital that successful policy practices are transferred to regions seeking to implement policy measures designed to improve SME competitiveness through better access to the knowledge economy.

In this context, EVITA worked at improving the effectiveness of regional development policies by making it easier for SMEs in regions with low IT penetration to access e-business knowledge & practices and the global digital economy. To accomplish this, the partners first analysed and then exchanged thoughts on their own policy initiatives through study visits and seminars. For instance, in Athens the ‘Goonline’ initiative, was presented. This initiative enabled 50,000 SMEs to be trained on the ‘business use’ of the internet. In Barcelona, partners could learn about the ‘2BDigital’ model that the government is using as a means to support the development of a digital marketing plan designed:

- to optimise the performance of local SMEs,
- to provide guidance on how to increase the number of customers via the web 2.0,
- to improve Search Engine ‘Findability’ and
- to generate new business opportunities.

Creating a training platform

At a later stage of the project, the Maltese partner of the consortium (Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit - FTZ) developed a platform, which is now freely accessible online (http://vle.ftz.org.mt/course/view.php?id=30) and is being used by trainers, tutors, policymakers and local SMEs. In addition, a three-day seminar was organised to focus on the use of this e-learning platform and on the techniques and practices of e-business, digital marketing and Search Engine Optimisation, web 2.0 tools, web analytics and related topics. Experts from Malta presented the tools made available through the platform, explaining how to attract visitors to a website and how these visitors could be turned into customers. Following their participation in this course, the certified tutors could offer local training to SMEs in their respective regions, including Malta, effectively acting as catalysts and multipliers of the good practices identified.

Hybrid Parks: Combining abilities, creating synergies and enhancing the performance of parks for sustainable local and regional development policies

Parks, both historic and modern, are intensively managed, high quality environments that add to the attractiveness and success of cities and regions and to the quality of life for citizens and visitors. With this in mind, the Hybrid Parks project includes cities and regions seeking to enhance and use parks in a wider policy context. Indeed, the partners acknowledge that parks constitute unique resources, the advantages of cooperation and the need to achieve additional economic, social and environmental benefits to lower the risks of decline or loss caused by conflicting demands, budget reductions, etc. Climate change is also a growing threat, the effects of which are not yet fully clear and which could directly affect park features and flora. The project’s key objective is therefore to make full use of parks for sustainable local and
regional development and for policies to mitigate climate change:
- by enhancing their capacity to better serve economic, social and environmental needs,
- by combining the improved capacity to create synergies and to increase performance and benefits,
- by providing guidance on how to relate the above with local and regional mitigation policies.

Such policies ensure that in each park’s different functions work ‘hand in hand’. An analogy would be the hybrid car, where two sources of energy and engine types are combined to make full use of their individual advantages, supporting each other to enhance performance and sustainability. Activities cover the three pillars of sustainability through individual and inter-related activities, based on experiences and resources of the partnership and the objectives of ‘Hybrid Parks’. Best practice studies are centred on three priorities:

**Economy:** Tourism and urban (re)development,

**Social:** Reaching a larger audience and

**Environment:** Public awareness.

**Identifying integrated, sustainable park management practices**

Policies using parks for economic, environmental or social development are each investigated through two workshops. Another six, cross-cutting or ‘hybrid’ workshops investigate how to combine these approaches to increase the contribution and synergies of parks to sustainable development policies and mitigation of climate change. At the end of the project, the Paola Local Council together with the rest of the consortium intends to deliver a detailed report with best practice case studies and the ‘Hybrid Parks Model’ for an integrated management of parks in line with sustainable development and climate change policies.

**4POWER - Policy and Public-Private Partnerships for Offshore Wind EneRgy**

The European Energy Agency has calculated that it is economically feasible to generate over 60 to 70% of the EU’s total energy demand using OSW (i.e. offshore wind energy) by 2020. Regions are crucial for further OSW development not only for practical reasons, i.e. electricity cables have to ‘come ashore’ in coastal regions but also because of the political and strategic role they can play, e.g. creating Triple Helix linkages and stimulating business networks.

In this context, the 4POWER project brings together players - all leaders in the exploitation of offshore wind energy - from Rostock and Emden in Germany, and Dundee in the UK and also involves the less advanced regions in the field like Groningen in the Netherlands and Rimini in Italy, as well as regions that are still at an early phase like Azores in Portugal, Corfu in Greece, Latvia and Malta. The overall objective of the project is to create an efficient regional policy framework and a favourable business and innovation climate for OSW development. The consortium also intends to prepare a common policy charter including practical policy recommendations at EU policy-making level on how to increase awareness among regions and better equip them to create a level EU playing field for OSW implementation.
Envisaging offshore wind energy in Malta

The Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency is based in Paola and its participation in 4POWER will act as an enabler to learn from other partners like those from Germany, where 36 wind farms have been licensed so far, contributing to the reliability of the country’s electricity system. This growing sector ensures not only the creation of jobs in the offshore field but also provides vast opportunities for different maritime industries (e.g. 1 billion Euros of investments along the German coast in offshore port infrastructure, production facilities offshore turbines/components, construction vessels, etc.). As Malta is heavily dependent on fossil fuels (99%), the 2020 goals would seem to be an impossible target. Malta is a very densely populated island making onshore wind farms unfeasible. The objective of the 4POWER project is well suited to the case of Malta since there are a substantial number of zones where the sea depth makes it virtually impossible to anchor wind turbines to the seabed. For the Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency, the benefit of 4POWER is therefore in learning more about how other regions cope with these challenging scenarios.

By taking part in 4POWER, the less experienced regions can also identify the obstacles to be overcome at local and regional levels and the challenges that differ from one region to another. The experienced regions highlighted difficulties such as regulatory and financial issues, grid connections involving possible conflicts with land owners, a lack of manufacturing and a shortage of technical staff, infrastructure and logistics. Others also face conflicting sector-related interests (e.g. fishery, navigation, defence and marine archaeology, tourism industry) and even evoked challenges related to the ecological sensitivity of the concerned territories.

RSC - Regions for Sustainable Change

In 2008, twelve partners from eight European countries joined efforts to promote an EU-wide shift to a climate friendly economy. The focus of the project was to provide regions with the methodological means to move towards economies with minimal greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by orientating all aspects of the economy around technologies and practices with low emissions. By analysing regional practices, developing benchmarks, criteria and indicators for regions, and preparing a methodological handbook on integrating climate change issues into regional development programmes, the RSC consortium successfully demonstrated the common understanding that exists between regions, enabling a joint approach to the complex path towards low-carbon economies and climate resilience. The project has also laid the ground for implementing low-carbon economies at regional level, offering valuable expertise and methodologies that can be disseminated and implemented in other regions.
More specifically, the partners developed an innovative assessment methodology: the Regional Climate Confidence Index. With this index, the RSC partners identified the key characteristics of climate confident regions and evaluated their positions, strengths and weaknesses. A set of useful tools was also developed including the Low Carbon Indicators Toolkit, which helps regions to track their progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation policy delivery. Another tool called PACE (Prioritisation of Actions for a Low Carbon Economy) was also designed to support regional low carbon strategy and action planning. The PACE tool is a mechanism for comparing a whole range of carbon mitigation measures that might be considered by a region when moving towards a low carbon economy. The methodology was tested in the regions of Burgenland (Austria), Marche (Italy) and Cornwall (UK) and is applicable to other European regions. The RSC project also investigated the use of strategic assessment, e.g. strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sustainability assessment or appraisal (SA), in the integration of climate and low-carbon objectives into regional planning. It also produced a discussion and guidance paper on the subject.

*Integrating climate change considerations into Malta’s environmental policies*

For the Maltese partner involved in this project (i.e. Malta Environment and Planning Authority - MEPA), their participation in the project was of great value. Maltese land-use planning structures and processes were reviewed and recommendations designed to better take into account climate change were submitted to improve the system. All aspects of land-use planning were considered, including organisational aspects, planning policy, development control, and environmental impact assessment processes. The review focused on the potential of the planning system to promote better control of GHG emissions and on adaptation to climatic changes. Recommendations ranged from training and capacity building, to policy changes or modifications to current decision making processes. A sample climate change ‘lens’, which is a checklist for climate proofing of policies, was designed, and key indicators for the integration of climate change objectives into the planning system were proposed. The recommendations were discussed with key stakeholders in the land-use planning process and are now being considered by the MEPA and the Maltese Government in the context of environmental reform.
05.

PORTUGAL

There are 64 Portuguese public bodies involved in 50 projects, exchanging experience and good practices with other European regions.
Partners from Portugal showed interest in all INTERREG IVC themes in both programme priorities. Portuguese participation was highest in the sub-themes ‘Entrepreneurship & SMEs' and ‘Energy and sustainable transport'. They are also lead partners in three projects.

**Priority 1 Innovation and knowledge economy**
- Innovation, research & development
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- Water management
- Biodiversity & natural heritage
- Energy & sustainable transport
- Cultural heritage & landscape
- Waste management

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WINNET 8 - WOMEN IN NET 8

Over a period of two years, WINNET 8 sought solutions to increase women’s participation in the labour market. The project focused particularly on the low employment rates among women, the horizontally segregated labour markets, and the lack of women in entrepreneurship as well as in the innovating and high-technology sectors.

Partners from nine different European regions worked together to build on good practices identified in previous projects aimed at attracting women into non-traditional fields. Through study visits and research, action plans were developed to improve the status of women in the labour market. Regional Multi-Actor Groups were also formed to act as an arena for cooperation between Managing Authorities, local and regional authorities, businesses, research institutions, Women’s Resource Centres (WRCs) and other voluntary sector organisations and NGO’s.

The centre for employment, entrepreneurship and gender equality (Practice from Greece)

Among the partners were the University of Évora and its Research Centre CISA-AS, plus the Regional Coordination and Development Committee of Alentejo from Portugal. This active participation allowed the Alentejo Central Region to define an action plan for setting up a Centre for Employment, Entrepreneurship and Gender Equality in the Alentejo Central Region with a view to reinforcing women’s skills in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation and new information technologies. Women are offered consultancy services, specific training and long-term support, combined with financial assistance (micro credit) and support related to gender issues (i.e. psychological support, legal advice, etc.). The Portuguese Region drew inspiration from the North of Greece, which already has such a centre in place. The Ergani Centre is a Women’s Resource Centre that was founded as an informal initiative in 1991 by public and private organisations and became an NGO in 2001. This Centre implements projects and actions in favour of women in the North of Greece. Over the span of the project, the Portuguese partners have learnt how to promote feminine entrepreneurial and associative spirit, how to inform and mobilise the target audience and finally how to guide and/or deliver services aimed at women, such as legal support, making applications to programmes, marketing and commercialisation, training, consultancy and customer support.
**KTFORCE - Knowledge Transfer joint forces for efficient innovation policies**

Knowledge Transfer (KT) has been recognised as a key tool for boosting innovation and competitiveness in Europe and its regions. In line with this strategy, KTFORCE aims to benchmark both innovation policies and Knowledge Transfer practices in the partner regions with a view to applying a set of strategic recommendations for the future design of innovation policies and implementation of KT practices.

*Increasing the efficiency of KT policies and practices*

Led by the University of Porto, the proposal includes ‘Modest and Moderate innovator’ regions (Lithuania, Portugal and Romania) and ‘Innovation follower and leader’ regions (France, Germany and Ireland), as classified by the 2010 Innovation Scoreboard. Moreover, entities of a political nature as well as others with an operational mission have been involved in all regions concerned, as part of a strategy to engage in multi-level discussions on how to increase the efficiency of KT policies and practices in future policy design.

To achieve its objectives, the project focuses on three KT areas: Technology Licensing, Spin-off creation and Entrepreneurship and University-Industry relations. In more tangible terms, KTFORCE proposes:

- to map existing KT policies and practices,
- to analyse regional needs through scenario planning, in particular using ‘*Where are we now?*’ and ‘*Where do we want to be?*’ scenarios,
- to benchmark and measure the impact innovation policies have on KT practices and the type of policies that would need to be developed to meet the challenges and needs of the region.

The partners also aim to produce a roadmap and implementation plan for future policy design and development of practices.
**COMMONS - Common Land for sustainable management**

A 'common land' is a natural area owned by one person be it public or private, but over which another is entitled to exercise right of use in common with others (known as commoners) such as a local community. These lands face threats due to the complexity of defining the legal entity and rights of the commoners. Moreover, common lands do not necessarily represent a high source of income for communities. Therefore, the COMMONS project intends to reassess the value of uncultivated common lands as a valid means for preserving natural resources and for promoting natural products thereby protecting natural heritage, associated employment opportunities and, ultimately, therefore, reducing out-migration.

The first step of COMMONS was to compare and analyse the situation in the partners' territories. The consortium developed three analytical grids to determine the best approaches for detailed case studies depending on the good practices identified. They were also used for workshops which analysed the future of these territories. During the workshops, the contributions of various stakeholders such as academics and researchers were also taken into consideration.

*Studying how to use common resources effectively*

While some of the partners provided the potentially transferable good practices, others such as the Alto Alentejo Intermunicipality Community of Portugal, organised local seminars in order to prepare the pilot areas and study visits to strengthen the knowledge acquired through the comparative analysis. The partners could thus assess to what extent institutional arrangements enable local community actors to effectively govern common resources. These meetings also enabled partners to obtain further evidence that COMMONS based forms of governance have the capacity to protect and use common resources sustainably and at lower costs than other public bodies. For example, a group of different local stakeholders met in Belver in April 2011 to discuss specific problems related to forest management. In particular, a local Forest Production Association of Belver, responsible for the management of the Forest Intervention Area, gave a presentation of the area and the management tools they use. A lecturer from a local University explained how they efficiently manage the forest, showing an example of how and when trees are cut. Finally, the National Forestry Authorities also contributed by explaining how initiatives like forest intervention areas were being supported. The involvement of a variety of stakeholders such as landowners, foresters, civil protection, fire services and authorities was key to the project’s success. The participation of academic bodies also allowed for a more scientific perspective on forest management. The Forestall Intervention Areas management model presented seems to be consistent with municipalities’ fire prevention plans and they envisage promoting it further.
ViTour Landscape - Innovative sustainable development policies and strategies for the effective safeguarding and innovative enhancement of European 'UNESCO World heritage' wine-growing landscapes

From 2005 to 2007, an INTERREG III C project called ViTour allowed partners from six different European countries to work together and prepare a common 'International Convention on World Heritage Vineyards'. Through this Agreement, they agreed to preserve and enhance their valuable cultural wine-growing landscapes and to promote the sustainable development of these areas. Building on these results, the ViTour Landscape project, approved in 2011 under the INTERREG IVC Programme, aimed at improving local and regional policies related to the preservation and enhancement of cultural landscapes in 10 European UNESCO World Heritage wine growing areas in seven European countries, including Switzerland.

Innovative vineyard management

After one and a half years of identifying and analysing practices, the partners are now actively working on the drafting of common guidelines for European Cultural Wine-growing landscapes and are preparing to transfer identified good policy practices to each partner area. In this context, a specific workshop dealing with the transfer of good policy practices for cultural landscape preservation, enhancement and development was organised in Douro, Portugal, in October 2011. One good practice identified in Douro was the reconstruction of terraced vineyards in Ervedosa do Douro, county of São João da Pesqueira, by Real Comunhia Velha in the estate Quinta das Carvalhas. This reconstruction employed innovative and highly cost-efficient building techniques that preserved the hills’ shape and slope, while optimising the dimensions and solar exposition of the terraces and the newly-planted vineyards for an easier and highly productive vineyard management. Similar to the Mission Alto Douro, the UNESCO World Heritage Office at the Regional Coordination Body CCDR-N will be reformed next year. The partner is currently evaluating the results of its own Management Plan for the site approved a decade ago, and is determining the feasibility of transferring strategic and organisational innovations already adopted by the French and German partners in managing their sites.

The Island of Pico in the Azores is also one the project partners. This partner shared its experience with policy measures designed to provide economic support to winegrowers with a view to rebuilding the traditional volcanic stone walls, which create a network of small cells where one or two vines can take root in the bare volcanic rock, producing distinctive, sweet wines with the salty taste of the Atlantic Ocean. These stone walls and vineyards had been progressively abandoned over the last 20 years, owing to their very low profitability and unaesthetic nature. This Portuguese partner will also be participating in a light pilot action, consisting in testing the potential of transferability and applicability of an identified Swiss good practice,
i.e. the installation of a multi-media platform for guiding tourists through the vineyards and other natural resources on Pico Island. The action involved local administrations as well as wine and tourism sector SMEs.

**The MyViTour blog**

The project has developed a good practice database, as well as the MyViTour blog ([http://my.vitour.org](http://my.vitour.org)) which can be accessed via the project website ([www.vitour.org](http://www.vitour.org)). Both try to invite visitors, cultural landscape managers and winegrowers to exchange thoughts on ways to enhance landscape use and value. The consortium has even launched a ‘ViTour AWARDS’ scheme - Selecting Best Policy Practices for the safeguarding, use, promotion and sustainable development of cultural landscapes in Europe, particularly wine-growing cultural landscapes. This will be awarded in October 2012 during the final events of the project in Piedmont (Turin & Fontanafredda) and in Cinque Terre (Liguria).
In order to move towards a European Recycling Society, European waste policy aims to prevent waste generation and optimise re-use. The full involvement of regional and local authorities is indispensable because they are responsible for many of the relevant policy areas. Yet local authorities face many new challenges. For example, while the quantity of waste generated is continuously rising, local authorities must comply with stricter legislation and put in place more complex waste management systems which encourage a more active involvement of the population.

In 2010, the Brussels Association of Cities & Regions for Recycling and for sustainable Resource management (ACR+) created the European Decentralised Observatory of municipal waste recycling performances scheme, where local authorities can compare their performances through the use of common concepts and indicators. The R4R project uses these initial results to gain better knowledge on the monitoring of performances. It then goes further and identifies local factors and instruments that allowed any high performances in waste recycling to be achieved, based on sound comparisons of local data. In other words, R4R aims at optimising data collection and benchmarking recycling performances. It then links this data with legal, economic, educational, technical and organisational waste management instruments so as to obtain high recycling performances. Economics instruments designed to improve recycling performances such as pay as you throw systems, tax on disposal, incentives and extended producer responsibility schemes are especially analysed.

**Sharing experience on urban waste management**

Project partners are public and private entities involved in waste management, monitoring or planning, representing a variety of experienced and less experienced territories. The Lisbon City Council was invited to take part in the project during its participation in 'European Decentralised Observatory for municipal waste recycling performances'. The Municipality of Lisbon is directly responsible for the waste collection services and urban cleaning activities in Lisbon, including staff and fleet management. The Municipality can therefore share its valuable experience in selective and mixed waste door-to-door collection schemes and related data collection and analyses. Moreover, it intends to identify the most efficient local instruments as a means to improve its overall performance in waste recycling, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, taking into account the external factors and constraints that strongly affect waste management, especially in the southern countries of Europe, such as weather, topography, lack of waste storage space inside buildings and in public spaces, citizens' behaviour and the economic crisis.

At a national level, the Municipality of Lisbon is leading an R&D project called 4Guide for Urban Waste - Technical, Social and Economic Indicators’, in partnership with Portuguese universities and metropolitan municipal systems. This project is supported financially by the Sociedade Ponto Verde (the Portuguese Green Dot Organisation). The Lisbon City Council also obtained the European Green Capital Award.
There are 225 Spanish public bodies involved in 95 projects, exchanging experience and good practices with other European regions.
Partners from Spain showed interest in all INTERREG IVC themes in both programme priorities. Spanish participation was highest in the sub-themes 'Entrepreneurship & SMEs', 'Innovation, research and development', and 'Energy and sustainable transport'. Spain is lead partner in 21 projects.

**Priority 1 Innovation and knowledge economy**
- Innovation, research & development
- Entrepreneurship & SMEs
- The Information Society
- Employment, human capital & education

**Priority 2 Environment and risk prevention**
- Natural & technological risks
- Water management
- Biodiversity & natural heritage
- Energy & sustainable transport
- Cultural heritage & landscape
- Waste management

Country-specific information related to the INTERREG IVC programme, such as national guidelines, information on first level control procedures, partners involved, etc. can be provided by the national contact point.

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Working4Talent - Human capital and innovation: employment policies in local and regional innovation networks for talent attraction and better job opportunities

Working4Talent tackles employment policy issues related to local and regional innovation systems. Although innovation is an important source of employment in itself, it does depend on the level of development of regions. In less developed regions, since innovation demand is low, there are insufficient for innovation related jobs, causing many talented young people to leave to find work abroad.

The project therefore tries to identify the employment policies that address such new realities, policies that help match up talent supply with demand, and that provide the right incentives for talent creation and talent attraction so as to make talent mobility an instrument for growth. Working4Talent brings together 11 local and regional partners from nine Member States, including one Norwegian partner, all with their own different perspectives on how to deal with employment and innovation issues. This cooperation is particularly attractive to local and regional authorities located in peripheral and less developed areas, since they are more often confronted with this problem.

Working with common guidelines, partners firstly analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their employment markets in connection with their local/regional innovation systems. Thematic workshops and seminars help raise the partners’ awareness about policy implications, and study visits allow them to forge a deeper understanding of policies implemented in other areas. The partners also aim to produce a compilation of best practices as well as a policy document. A limited number of pilot projects is also foreseen to further illustrate policy options.

Promoting innovation and supporting business

The project is led by Fomento de San Sebastián, the local agency responsible for the sustainable development of San Sebastián. Fomento de San Sebastián has extensive experience in supporting businesses and encouraging innovation in production processes, services and final products. This Spanish lead partner has also implemented different employment support programmes, using innovative tools. The City of San Sebastián has placed R&D and Innovation at the heart of its cross-sectorial strategy with a view to:

- boosting economic sectors, both traditional ones and those emerging sectors set to become the driving force of the local economy;
- fostering the generation of technology-based companies; and
- promoting collaboration networks with the agents linked to innovation and research.

The Talent House project

An example of practice that could be shared is the Talent House project (www.fomentosansebastian.org/talenthouse/) which aims to promote the integration of talented researchers newly arriving in San Sebastián. The project offers different services, and aims to open up new lines of work with research/technology centres and other institutions focused on the generation of innovation, with a view to seeking a ‘socialisation’ of innovation knowledge, and to improving the conditions for the development of local talent.
EUroPROC - EU Regional Cooperation for SMEs access to Public Procurement

The overall objective of the EuroPROC project was to increase the competitiveness of EU regions and SMEs in the field of participation in EU tendering systems (including Structural Funds - either Cohesion Fund or EDRF). The EuroPROC partnership sought solutions designed to facilitate the access of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to European and international public procurement contracts with a view to stimulating growth and innovation for SMEs and to giving public administrations a wider choice when selecting the best available service provider.

Benchmarking International Public Procurement Support for businesses

The project was coordinated by the Catalonia Competitiveness Agency (ACC1Ó), which brought with it extensive knowledge and successful tools, such as the International Public Procurement (IPP) community ‘Anella CPI’, a virtual meeting place for networking and exchanging experiences between companies, institutions and consultants interested in the IPP market. Following a common, precise methodology, a benchmarking study on IPP support given by EU regional agencies to their SMEs was carried out in more than 630 institutions. Amongst the 38 surveys and more than 96 services/instruments identified, 17 services were selected to be shared and described in a practical guide, and at least 10 of them were adopted by project partners. This document is now a source of inspiration for Business Support Organisations planning to take further steps into providing SMEs with services on IPP business opportunities. In addition, this document offers clear information on services that could meet the needs of SMEs and also explains how to set them up and finance them. A second guide about New Approaches to IPP was also made available for SMEs interested in IPP and in how new IPP policies will affect their business prospects.

Enhancing business IPP capacity

In 2010, two pilot actions were carried out to improve the IPP capacity of the partners and to provide them with a roadmap designed to develop an enhanced SME support service on IPP. The first project activity was a ‘Training for Trainers’ session organised by ACC1Ó and the Romanian partner providing essential information on how to be ‘bid-ready’. The second activity consisted of a prospection mission on Green Public Procurement in Denmark. This action was not only designed for project partners but also open to any SME interested in prospecting these markets. Finally, the project succeeded in creating synergies with other Programmes and International Organisations. In particular, European Commission directorates for Enterprise, for Environment, for Regional Policy among others as well as EU co-financed projects, and UN agencies showed strong interest in the Guide of Good Practices produced.
SMART+ - Mini-Programme for SME Innovation and Promotion of RTD

Following up on the INTERREG IIIc project SMART, the mini-programme SMART+ goes further in defining a joint strategy, using SMEs as the key force for the transition from a traditional-industries-based economy towards a knowledge-based one. More precisely, the project aims to boost regional businesses through knowledge transfer and to increase their competitiveness in the global market.

SMART+ has approved seven interregional sub-projects based on regional analyses carried out to assess the level of small businesses’ RTD and innovation in each of the six European partner regions. The seven sub-projects are:

- IART Territories, which aims to create a business network in the field of sustainable tourism;
- Innofin, which is dedicated to strengthening the skills of early-stage finance managers;
- regioNet, which lays the ground for the transfer of good practices in the field of network management;
- SMART TOURISM, which makes use of the good practices in destination management systems to increase the attractiveness of tourism destinations;
- SMEGoNET, which targets SMEs and academia in life sciences and related sectors to increase their capacity for networking and collaboration;
- STP, which contributes to the development of Science and Technology Parks in the partner regions; and finally
- TREC, which aims to create a Transnational Renewable Energy Cluster.

Implementing SMART+ in Spain

Each sub-project involves partners from at least three different SMART+ partner regions. In total, 28 public and public equivalent institutions from various fields of expertise participate in the sub-projects for 24 months. The Aragonese Federation of Municipalities, Regions and Provinces, which is the lead partner, is playing an important role in the implementation of EU policy development, programmes and legislation in its own region. The exchange of experience is proving to be one of the most useful tools for the practical implementation of project activities. In addition to this, as all the sub-project participants have some working knowledge of the issues addressed, the contribution of the project to the development of the region has been all the more effective.
CITEAIR II - Common Information to European Air

The CITEAIR II partnership worked on identifying, testing and transferring a set of good practices by instigating interregional meetings and studies as a means to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the areas of air quality protection, sustainable transport and greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction.

One of the main results of the project was the publication of a good practice guide on integrated emission inventories which combines GHG emissions and other pollutants and includes tools designed to reduce GHG, manage emission inventories and assess scenarios. A mobility indicator designed to determine pollution mobility status and any related impact on citizens and the environment was also developed and tested using real traffic data from Rome, Paris and Maribor. Finally, the project set up an air quality, forecast as part of the Common Air Quality Index (CAQI), which includes different levels of data complexity depending on the information available from cities. A calculation grid of the CAQI is available at www.airqualitynow.eu where 111 cities provide their air quality data.

Sharing its air quality expertise

One Spanish partner - the Environmental and Water Agency of Andalusia - directly benefited from the cooperation by actively participating in the activities and in the development of the project tools. It also brought with it its own expertise, particularly in the field of air quality. Indeed, on behalf of the Environment Department of the Andalusia regional government, this Agency prepares the annual Air Emission Inventory in Andalusia (AEI), which calculates the emissions for all major air pollutants, including greenhouse gas emissions produced by different source categories. The AEI provides essential information on the level of environmental quality, which can be used to design environmental policies and programmes and to evaluate the progress of these policies or to carry out environmental social and economic studies and research. The AEI obtains its findings based on methods using emission measure, material balance, emission factors and computer models. This inventory is essential for evaluating the progress achieved through projects both on a global level, i.e. projects related to phenomena such as climate change, as well as on a local level through local environmental programs, which in Andalusia consist of various Air Quality Improvement Plans promoted by the regional government.
SufalNet4EU - Sustainable use of former and abandoned landfills network for you

SufalNet4EU was a capitalisation project that aimed to provide regional and local authorities with instruments designed to redevelop closed and abandoned landfills in their territories through the development of action plans in each participating region. Led by the Province of Noord-Brabant (NL), the project built on the results and good practices identified during previous projects, particularly on the Model Strategy for Landfill Redevelopment developed by the INTERREG IIIC project SufalNet (2005-2007). The activities are centred on three pillars:

1- The redevelopment on a Regional Scale (multiple sites),
2- The redevelopment of Landscape and Nature, and
3- The redevelopment for Economic functions.

Project partners analysed and assessed the landfill sites in detail, so as to minimise any potential environmental risks.
**Transforming two landfill sites**

Two Spanish regions participated in the project. First, the Directorate on Environmental assessment and Quality of the Extremadura Regional Government, in charge of regulating and controlling waste and landfill management, including monitoring and post-use, was involved. An integrated waste plan for Extremadura had been implemented, but there was still a need to promote landfill redevelopment projects in Extremadura. The Extremadura Region selected two closed landfills for redevelopment. Local authorities, together with private investors, considered new uses for the sites. For both sites in Plasencia and Mérida, they opted to build a multifunctional leisure park, which could include an archery field, a karting track, an athletics track, a track for remote-controlled cars, an area for air-models or a playground and picnic area.

The second Spanish public authority represented in the partnership was the County of Malaga, situated in the South of Spain. Out of the 55 closed landfills, two sites were selected by SufalNet4EU: Viñuela and Ronda. Although environmental facilities such as a drainage system, leachate collection apparatus and capping layer along the edge were installed at both sites, the landfills were not fully waterproof and isolated. Additional environmental control was needed to ensure high landscape value. The communities had already requested alternative uses for the sites.

The local authority now intends to regenerate the landscape, construct an open air theatre and build a solar photovoltaic power plant. Existing buildings will be renovated into an awareness centre and environmental classroom designed to inform the public about alternative energy, waste management and nature conservation.
CONCLUSIONS

The examples of project results provided in this brochure are a strong starting point for future cooperation. The number of practices identified and even transferred in the framework of the INTERREG IVC Programme will continue to increase since many of the projects will be running until the end of 2014. In addition, the programme has launched a thematic capitalisation exercise to further exploit the results gained so far and to create more synergies between the projects tackling common issues in a certain field of interest. In total, 111 projects are taking part in this thematic programme capitalisation.

Building upon these achievements and existing knowledge but without reinventing the wheel! This will also be one of the objectives of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes for the future. The European Commission has already drafted new proposals for the next programming period intended to increase territorial cohesion in the European Union and thereby giving substance to the EU2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for the European Regions in the long term. Achieving the Europe 2020 goals will require active involvement across all regions of the EU, and interregional cooperation will be key.

In the current context of economic crisis, more cooperation is needed to bring solutions to common problems at national, regional and local levels in Europe. Regional policy is an investment policy. And regional policy is also the expression of the EU’s solidarity with less developed countries and regions, concentrating funds on the areas and sectors where they are most needed.
# List of Projects Mentioned in the Publication

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