



Minutes of the “*eGovernment good practices transfer between regional authorities: experiences and challenges of Interreg IVC Capitalisation projects*” workshop

Thursday, 24th September 2009

European Commission
Avenue de Beaulieu, 25
1160 Auderghem
Brussels

1. Workshop introduction

Ms. Mechthild Rohen, Head of Unit ICT for Government and Public Services, DG INFSO & MEDIA, introduced the workshop, explaining the agenda, welcoming everybody and giving an overview of the eGovernment Action Plan, its priorities and explaining the support offered by the EC to the Capitalisation projects via de ePractice portal.

2. Overview of PIKE project & presentation of PIKE good practices

Ms. Rocío Rubio, PIKE Project Coordinator, made a general presentation of the PIKE project giving an overview of key facts, methodology and the four selected Good Practices. She also highlighted what the challenges and opportunities presented by the Capitalisation process have been, including the complexity of documenting and transferring the Good Practices taking into account different local contexts and attaining the Managing Authorities commitment to the Action Plans.

3. Online spatial planning – transferring Donegal's experience to other regions.

Mr. Seán Dunnion from Donegal County Council presented their perspective as a transferring partner giving a broad outline of the tasks they had to do including documenting the GP, coordinating the GP transfer workshop, hosting a study visits; the challenges encountered such as having to do a retrospective view and making a realistic assessment of the GP. Seán also explained the benefits they had obtained from the process including affirmation and staff awareness.

4. Learning from partners - Adopting and mainstreaming good



practices in Sweden

Mr. Charlie Wallin from the Association of Local Authorities Vasternorrland County made a presentation based on their experience as an adopting partner and the role played by ALAV as leader of the Dissemination work package. He explained the challenges they are facing and how they are handling them (i.e., different organizations handling the implementation of the ROP and the approval of new ERDF projects) as well as the benefits and the lessons learned from the Capitalization process.

5. Adapting good practice to new contexts in the Southeast region of Bulgaria

Ms. Sonya Enilova from the Agency for Regional Development and Innovations in Southeast Bulgaria presented what has been their experience as an adopting partner, explaining how the chosen GP had to be adapted to fit in with the regional context (i.e., lack of telecommunications infrastructure) and the ROP (i.e., provides funding only for local and regional administrations). She also explained what are the main challenges associated with the mainstreaming of the GP including the political change within their Managing Authorities and the need to submit a funding application early next year to the Operational Plan.

6. Regions for Better Broadband - B3 Regions project: Transfer and mainstreaming process

Ms. Sara di Falco representing the B3 Regions Capitalization Project gave an overview of their project highlighting the methodology being used for the transfer of the Broadband Good Practices, and the problems and challenges encountered in the transferring process. She mentioned delays in the Regional Operational Programme budget allocation; and a sometimes simpler way to get funds from the national authority vis-à-vis the ERDF as the main challenges the B3 regions face in the mainstreaming process.

7. Fast tracking experience: EC perspective on the transfer and mainstreaming process

Mr. Mikel Landabaso from DG Regio explained what the EC wanted to achieve through the Capitalization projects and the Fast Tracking process, which is to find a system to help regions tap into the ERDF funds in their regions.

8. Round table discussion

There was a round table discussion coordinated by Mr. Michel Lamblin, INTERREG IVC Programme Director, where some of the other challenges facing the Capitalisation projects and the mainstreaming process were also discussed, such as:

- timing, due to political change or staff changes
- rapidly moving technology which renders some of the elements of the GPs obsolete very quickly
- the financial problems being faced by some project partners which might render them unable to co finance the ERDF obtained from the ROP

Promoting Innovation and the Knowledge Society

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