

Minutes of SRNeurope Network Steering Group Meeting

Thursday 7th September 2006

Finlayson's Palace
Blue Salon
Kuninkaankatu 1
TAMPERE
Finland

This Network Steering Group Meeting was preceded by a meeting of network partners unable to physically attend on 7th September. This initial meeting, was held on 5th September at: Sokos Hotel, Hamburger Börs, Turku, Finland. The initial meeting was to enable virtual representation of these partners at the Network Steering Group meeting, and to ensure that matters which these partners wanted to raise were addressed.

Present 7th September 2006

| Name | Partner |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gillian Elliott | Regeneration Support Team, Cumbria |
| Ian Hill | Regeneration Support Team, Cumbria |
| Paul Owens | Bristol City Council |
| Laura Carletti | Sviluppo Marche Spa |
| Tiziana Osio | Province of Modena |
| Orinta Minalgaite | Klaipeda |
| Olga Trčková | City of Hranice |
| Lucie Humplíková | City of Hranice |
| Marta Ferrero | Langhe Monferrato Roero |
| Minna Jalonen | City of Tampere |
| Jukka Järvinen | City of Tampere |
| Tomi Virkkunen | City of Turku, Linkki-project |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Outi Laikko | City of Turku, Linkki-project |
| Sabine Germe | Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine |

| Name | Observer |
|---------------|----------------|
| Liz Mills | Network Expert |
| Richard Essex | Network Expert |

Present 5th September 2006

| Name | Partner |
|--------------------------|---|
| Ian Hill | Regeneration Support Team, Cumbria |
| Paul Owens | Bristol City Council |
| Gianluca Baldoni | Province of Modena |
| María Teresa Manescau | Sociedad Desarrollo de Santa Cruz de Tenerife |
| Xavier Tiana Casablanças | Diputació de Barcelona |
| Joseph Rodriguez Lopez | Diputació de Barcelona |

Initial Meeting, 5th September 2006

- i) It was agreed that 23-24th November would be suitable dates for the next Workshop and SRN Meeting.
- ii) It was agreed that the Network Expert would be asked to prepare a draft structure of the Good Practice Guide in advance of the next Workshop and SRN Meeting so that it could be discussed in Langhe Monferrato Roero. A discussion then ensued to the effect that the Good Practice Guide should focus not so much on Programming issues, but more upon delivery tools.
- iii) It was agreed to discuss the final conference programme at the Network Progress Meeting in Langhe Monferrato Roero.
- iv) It was agreed to discuss INTERREG IVC possibilities at the next Network Progress Meeting.

Main Meeting, 7th September 2006.

Next workshop and Progress Meeting:

- i) It was agreed that the next Workshop and Network Progress Meeting, to be hosted by Langhe Monferrato Roero, would take place 23-24th November, in Alba, Italy.
- ii) It was noted that Network Expert Richard Essex would be unable to attend. Cumbria agreed to chair the thematic workshop so that Liz Mills can focus on reporting.
- iii) It was agreed that these meetings would take place over two days. The indicative schedule would include 1 day for workshops, a Network Progress meeting, and an optional half day study visit on the topic of the workshop at the end.
- iv) At the Barcelona meeting in March 2006 it was agreed that the Monferrato workshops would focus on the 'Quality dimension' (partners having addressed the Territorial Dimension in Klaipeda and the Partnership Dimension in Turku and Tampere). Following discussion it was agreed that there should be a single workshop on the topic of 'How to achieve high quality projects in line with the Lisbon and Gothenburg goals'. Sviluppo Marche Spa to introduce the topic and provide a presentation, with supporting presentations from Bristol and Barcelona. The Network Expert will provide a briefing by mid October. It was agreed that this should be on the lines of the briefings provided for the previous workshops.
- v) It was noted that Alba is difficult to get to from airports. It was agreed that partners should seek to share transport (cars/taxis/minibuses) from airports to Alba as far as possible. Colleagues from Langhe Monferrato Roero were asked to consider arranging minibus transport or shared taxis on behalf of the visiting partners.

Travel options to be posted on SRN website by Langhe Monferrato Roero/Bristol as soon as possible. **Good Practice Guide**

- i) It was agreed that the Network Expert would prepare a draft structure of the Good Practice Guide prior to the Langhe Monferrato Roero Network Progress Meeting to enable it to be discussed. Bristol agreed to circulate the brief previously provided to the Network Expert on the Good Practice Guide to partners in advance. The Network Expert reminded the partners that the content of the Good Practice Guide would be substantially based on the evidence presented by the partners during the thematic workshops and earlier meetings. It was agreed that it is therefore essential for partners to check and augment the workshop reports as required, meeting the deadlines specified.

Final Conference

- i) The Final Conference will be held in Bristol in June 2007. It was agreed to discuss the conference programme at the Langhe Monferrato Roero Network Progress Group meeting. Lille suggested inviting M. Michel Delbarre, President of the Committee of the Regions, to speak at the conference.

Lead Partner Report

- i) Network Coordinator, Krystyna Pitt, has changed jobs, and has been replaced by Pippin Sadler.
- ii) The Position Statement of the SRN network has been endorsed by a senior politician in Bristol (Bristol City Council Executive Member), and circulated in Brussels.
- iii) A presentation on the work of the SRN network will be made in Brussels as a part of the European Week of Cities & Regions event, to be chaired by Elisabeth Helander (Director, DG Regio).

Lead Partner Financial Report

- I) The SRN network progress report and claim for the period up to June 2006 currently with Bristol City Council's auditors prior to submission to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS). This report did not include the claims of 4 partners which have not yet been received.
- II) The above claim is 36% behind JTS agreed spend profile. However, initial calculations indicate that had the 4 missing claims been received, the SRN network would only be 20% spend profile.
- III) The JTS will be opening another call on 1st November 2006 for existing INTERREG IIIC West Zone operations to apply for additional money. This call is restricted to operations with less than 20% underspend reported on their June progress report. The SRN network therefore does not qualify!
- IV) It is anticipated that the JTS will require an intermediate claim form from the network at the beginning of December. As last year, it is expected that all partners will have to submit a simple un-audited report to the Lead Partner listing expenditure for the period 1st July-30th November 2006. Dee Harding in Bristol will send detailed instructions to all partners once the details of the JTS requirements are known. It was noted that careful monitoring of costs by partners relating to the Langhe Monferrato Roero event in late November will be required.

- V) **Budget re-profiling:** as discussed at the previous 2 Steering Group meetings, partners have been invited to suggest updated spend profiles for the individual partner budgets. Only 3 partners failed to submit the requested profiles. Bristol has suggested revised profiles on behalf of these partners. Copies of the individual partner revised profiles were distributed together with a revised profile for the network. Bristol agreed to also e-mail copies to all partners. Bristol stated that partners had 3 weeks to comment on their individual profile revisions, after which time the Lead Partner (Bristol) would announce to all partners whether there would be changes or whether this would form the (informal) revised operational budget. The Lead Partner stated that it reserved the right to subsequently change the budget if there were problems with the JTS (for example, due to N+2 difficulties). The Lead Partner reminded partners that the Network was only allowed to formally agree a budget revision once during the lifetime of the network with the JTS. Bristol expects to negotiate a revision in early 2007 once all partner claims for the period to December 2006 have been satisfactorily received. For the time being, any practical operational budget changes agreed with partners by the Lead Partner do not represent binding contractual changes!
- VI) It was clarified that proposed budget re-profiling does not affect payments to be made to the Network Expert.

INTERREG IVC

- i) It was agreed that Cumbria and Barcelona would draft an INTERREG IV C proposal to be considered by the Langhe Monferrato Roero Steering Group meeting.

Network Progress

- i) all partners expressed general satisfaction as to the progress of the network.

Any other business

The Network Experts reminded the partners that there would be an INTERREG IIIC Forum in Lille on 14 & 15 November. Invitations will be sent to the lead partners of running IIIC operations, with priority to be given to projects focusing on Lisbon and Gothenburg themes, since these will be the two main thematic priorities in the forthcoming IV C programme. Cumbria may attend this event in connection with the Tower RFO. No decision was taken on whether SRN would be represented.

Thanks

- i) The network recorded thanks to partners from Turku and Tampere (and their staff) for their fabulous hospitality and the success and smooth running of the Finland workshops.