

## **Report of the SRN workshop held in Ancona, Italy**

### **8 March 2007**

#### **Progress towards the Network Good Practice Guide**

This workshop, hosted by Sviluppo Marche SpA (SVIM), was devoted mainly to consideration of the draft Good Practice Guide and the steps needed to produce a final document, due to be launched at SRN's Final Conference in June.

Liz Mills introduced the draft of the Guide and the approach used in its preparation. The Guide will make an important contribution to meeting the two key aims of the SRN project : recognising and disseminating transferable solutions on sub-regional delivery of Structural Funds and linking the project results to on-going EU policy developments.

As agreed at the previous meeting in Alba, the Guide is based on the evidence presented and discussed by the partners in their meetings and workshops. It is in three parts, covering, respectively, objectives and context, the good practice approaches the partners want to highlight, and lessons and recommendations.

Lively discussion centred on how lessons from the project may be applied, given that the role of sub-regional organisations in the management and delivery of Structural Funds is changing. SRN is in position to deliver a strong political message on the competence of sub-regional bodies both to deliver quality projects and to undertake a more strategic role in the context of multi-level governance, confident that they are well-rooted in their local areas.

In the light of this discussion the partners proposed some revisions to the structure of the Guide and then broke into smaller groups to work on the content of the revised chapters and the main recommendations. The discussion and workshop activities resulted in detailed guidance to the Network Experts on the next steps in drafting. A timetable has been agreed and the tasks necessary to complete the document have been allocated to the partners. An editorial group has been set up to bring together the main messages – including the partners' 'top 10 tips' for sub-regional delivery – and to oversee completion of the Guide.

#### **Presentations from Ancona and Marche Region**

There was also an opportunity during the day to learn more about the policy context and projects taking place in the city of Ancona and more generally in Marche region. Guest speakers Piero Remitti, Head of the Environment Department for the City of Ancona , and Paola Bellabona from Marche Region reinforced the sub-regional role and stressed the need for close cooperation between local authorities, regional governments and regional development agencies like SVIM.

Piero Remitti presented the complementary INTERREG IIIC project AAP2020, focusing on the Adriatic Action Plan which brings together the 6 countries facing the Adriatic Sea. This was a demonstration of the effective use of a range of different EU funds in pursuit of a particular policy agenda. SRN partners Bristol and Turku have been involved in AAP2020 as technical partners. Relationships between local authorities and regions were also mentioned in the presentation. The City of Ancona and Marche region intend to develop closer cooperation on EU-funded projects in the coming period.

Paola Bellabona made some informal additions to the comprehensive presentation she gave to SRN partners in Alba, focusing on the policy to support SMEs in the region using all available EU funds, a topic of great interest to all SRN partners.