

<b>Title</b>
Incasis
<b>Thematic Area</b>
Supporting regional development and strengthening cohesion by optimising the use of Structural Funds (SF). Specific objectives are to improve the institutional capacity of regions to evaluate the effectiveness of projects financed with SF.
<b>Main Aspects of Interests</b>
Promoting interregional cooperation, information exchange as well as the transfer of instruments and good practices, the development and implementation of new approaches, policies, instruments and their promotion throughout the regions and public opinion at large
<b>Duration</b>
From 2005 to 2007
<b>Total Budget</b>
€ 1.310.000,00
<b>Background or Context or Context opportunities and constraints</b>
The partnership is formed by public bodies (regional authorities) and public equivalent bodies (regional development agencies, universities, associations). Partners originate from all INTERREG IIIC zones and from both new and old Member States (lead Partner is Malopolska Region, PL). They act in favour of regional development and strengthening cohesion. Their diverse and rich expertise, different stages of development in terms of approaches and instruments used for evaluation cause that partners are complementary towards one another, while the sum and the quality of their knowledge gives rise to a synergic effect.
<b>Lessons Learned</b>
<p>The project aims at transferring, further developing and putting into practice methods to evaluate the effectiveness of Structural Funds. INCASIS provides participating regions with a set of policies and tools to conduct evaluations that are not only effective and comprehensive but also comparable with other regions and useful for developing regional policies. In the long run, INCASIS contributes to making Structural Funds more effective and thus supports regional development and cohesion.</p> <p>Activities include identifying existing policies and tools for Structural Funds evaluation in each of the partner regions and defining the regions' needs. Based on meetings, seminars and conferences, partners further develop the evaluation process and implement the new approach in their respective regions. Partners also design a comprehensive catalogue of tools for evaluating Structural Funds and disseminate it among interested stakeholders.</p>
<b>Source of finances, Organisations involved, Objectives and Actions</b>
<p>The project organisation and work is centred around 5 components (C) and 12 observatories (OB), the responsibility for which lies with a different region each time. The components include the implementation of the 3 thematic issues PRINCIPLES &amp; INSTRUMENTS, RESOURCES, NETWORKING) and MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION (C1), EVALUATION, DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION (C5). The interregional cooperation will expand in 4 directions. Steering Group (SG) will define the work programme, identify the key elements for transfer and experimentation, monitor the progress and disseminate the results. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> direction, work will be organised in between plenary seminars (as milestones) for each of the 3 thematic components attended by all partners and supported by matrix summaries. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> direction, the actual instruments and the joint design and development of new approaches including demonstration projects will take place. In the 4<sup>th</sup> direction, each observatory will present tools on the thematic observatory to the plenary - using the project website as a "virtual marketplace" - and to the local partners and experts, in order to be implemented in the regions.</p> <p>A final conference in Krakow will be a platform enabling information exchange on the products of the seminar in the form of catalogue of tools for evaluation SF and dissemination to interested stakeholders and a wider audience. Principal results of the project will be the implementation of tools transferred from one partner to another, newly developed and tested models and the improvement of the quality and accessibility of existing methods. This will lead to a more comprehensive evaluation support scheme in each partner region and new evaluation tools.</p>

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