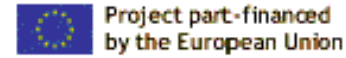




Effective Use and Delivery of Structural Funds and Regeneration Programmes in Sub-Regional Areas:

Mid-term Seminar - Tenerife

www.SRNeurope.net



Richard Essex (Liz Mills and Associates)

SRN Network Expert

INTERREG

To strengthen economic and social cohesion

- IIIA – Promoting cross border cooperation
- IIIB – Promoting trans-national cooperation
- IIIC – Promoting interregional cooperation



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by the European Union

North East South West
INTERREG III C

INTERREG III C

- Cooperation between regional & other public authorities
- Across to whole EU & neighbouring countries
- Cooperation between regions without joint borders

Overall aim:

“Improve the effectiveness of regional development policies & instruments through large scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks) in a structured way”

Background to the Network

- 2004: Bristol City Council led on developing a network
- November 2004 SRN project approved
- Inaugural meeting of SRN network, Lille - November 2004
- Dedicated SRNeurope.net web site established - March 2005
- First Network Workshop, Modena – May 2005
- Second & Third Workshops, Hranice – September 2005
- Appointment of Network Expert – November 2005.



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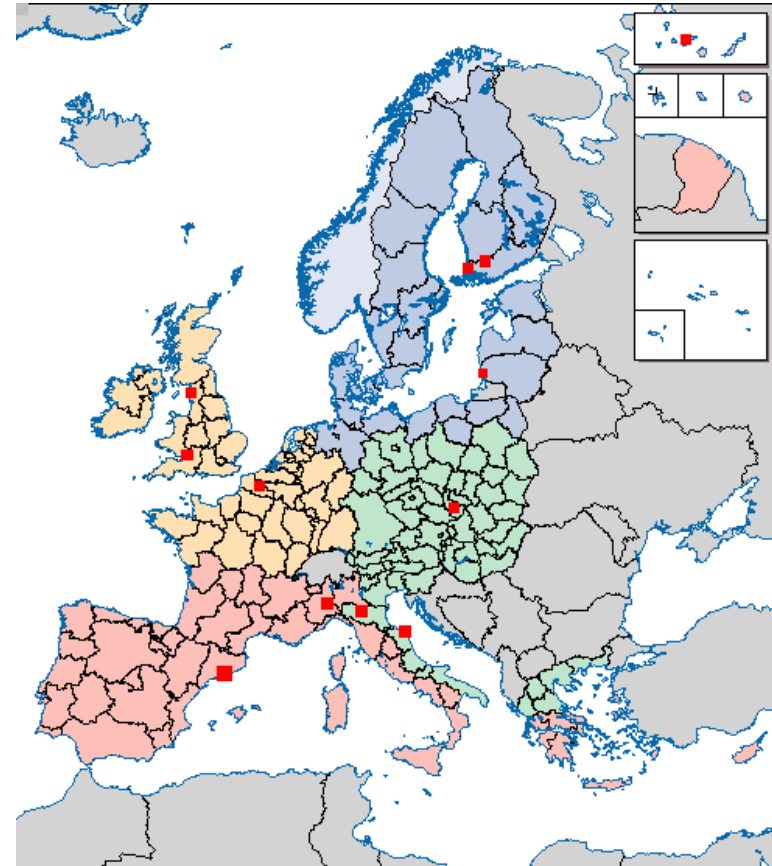


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Twelve network partners:

Bristol		UK
Barcelona		ES
Santa Cruz De Tenerife		ES
Lille		FR
Klaipeda RDA		LT
Hranice		CZ
Langhe Monferrato	IT	
SVIM Ancona		IT
Modena	IT	
Cumbria	UK	
Tampere	FI	
Turku		FI

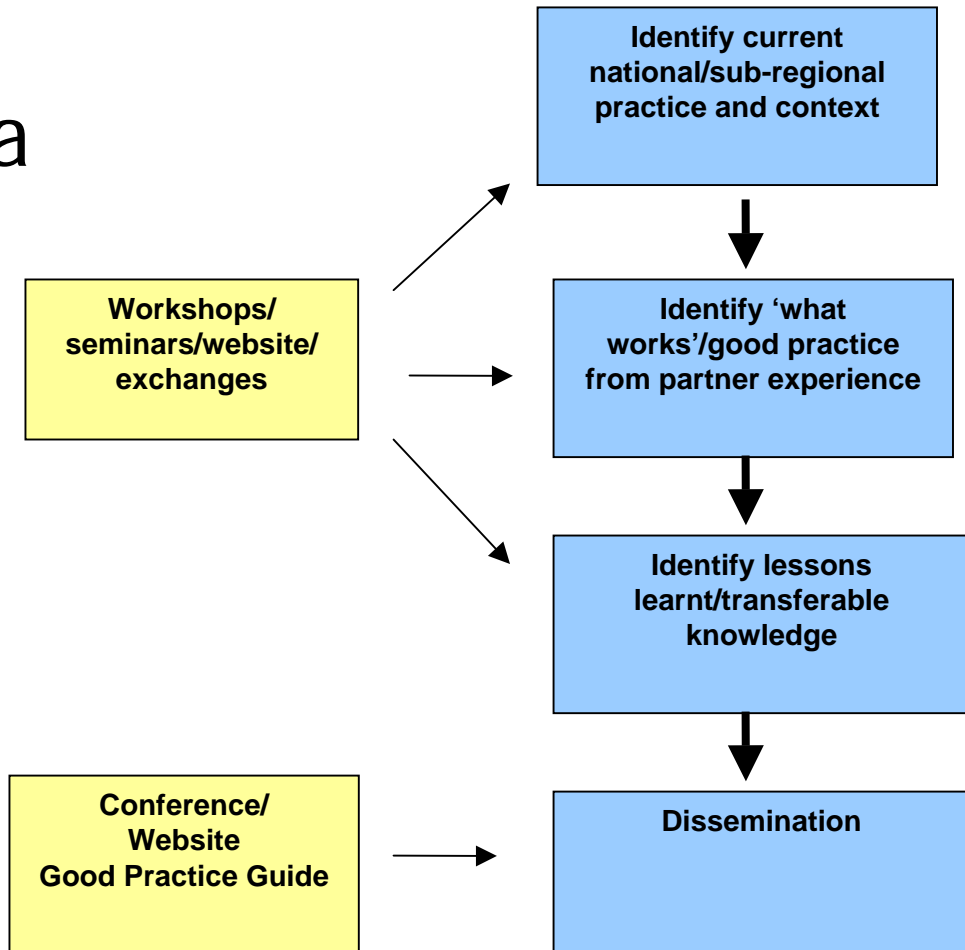




Aims and Objectives:

- Share best practice in the management and delivery of structural funds and regeneration programmes in sub-regional areas, meeting the needs of local populations and regional strategies.
- Build a trans-national exchange on the local management led approach to the organisation and delivery of Structural Funds and regeneration programmes.
- Endeavour to improve performance in the remaining programming period. Experiences gained could be used in the development and construction of new programmes.

The Project Idea





ANALYSIS OF PARTNER PRESENTATIONS:

OVERVIEW OF CONTEXT

- Regional Profile
- Structural Fund & regeneration programme delivery models
- Case study of Structural Funds implementation

ANALYSIS OF PARTNER PRESENTATIONS:

DETAILS OF DELIVERY PRACTICE.

- Local & national programme management
- Planning process & strategic systems
- Project selection processes
- Match-funding systems and sources
- Partnership relations & structures
- Added value of Structural Fund programmes

Diversity of Network Partners (1)

- Population and area.
 - o City regions / Provinces of > 1 to 5 mill. population; urban sub regions of < ½ mill. ; to 'rural sub regions' of up to ½ mill.
 - o Major differences of scale at national, regional & sub-regional levels for Network partners
- Economic and social characteristics
 - o High profile regions / sub-regions
 - o Regions / sub-regions experiencing / requiring restructuring
- Representative Network partner bodies
 - o Large city regions to rural counties
 - o Local authorities to Development Agencies

Diversity of Network Partners (2)

- Duration of national membership of the E.U.
 - Original EEC member to recent EU enlargement member
- National policy priorities
 - Reflected in programme measures & project activities.
 - National, regional & local diversity can be accommodated.
- Institutional structures within the Member States
 - Highly centralised to devolved government
 - Relative strengths at national, regional, sub-regional & local levels vary

Programme Management

Strong national government (Member State) direction.

Significant, but varying levels of, devolution to Regions.

- Devolution tends to be to regional 'partnerships', often led by government regional offices.
- The nature of the specific EU programme can determine level of devolution (eg main Structural Funds c.f. Community Initiatives)

Devolution to sub-regional structures seems to vary and selective

Project Management / Delivery

- Greater level of devolution of project development & management
- A significant reliance on sub-regional project delivery by all sectors
- Participation in the project selection process at sub-regional level and is mainly advisory.

Match Funding

Little evidence of committed national co-financing.

At local / sub-regional level, mainly project by project basis.

- Lack of planned match funding creates problems

Sources of match funding can vary

Partnership Structures

Different types of Partnership.

- Vertical: between national, regional, sub-regional and local.
- Horizontal: between public, private & voluntary / local community
- Role of the non public sectors vary

Added value of Structural Funds

- Funds actions which would not otherwise be taken
- Enables investment into activities that would not otherwise happen
- General agreement that Structural Funds are a benefit, despite the challenges that management & delivery creates!

Provincia de Modena

- Strong functions at national, regional & sub-regional levels
- Strong vertical institutional links on regeneration priorities and Structural Fund measures
- Region & sub-region proactive in a number of Structural Fund and domestic regeneration programmes
- Balance between strategic context & local needs.
- Success in **project** management has lead to decentralisation of aspects of **programme** management.
- Sub-region to assume a stronger coordinating function
- With devolved responsibilities, sub-region better able to lead partnerships.
- National government provides 35% match funding at source

Klaipeda

- New EU member, with small national population.
- A relatively successful 'regional' economy, with proactive RDA (supported by public sector & Chamber of Commerce).
- National government programme management & strategic direction (1 SDP)
- Wide focus of actions (Economic / social infrastructure; Human Resources; Business support; Agriculture & fisheries)
- Project proposals (development & implementation) will require regional & Municipal authorities, regional agency and business (private sector)

Diputacio de Barcelona

Sub-regional entities and Structural Funds

- No direct management; only project delivery
- Devolution / decentralisation to the regions.
- Access to Structural Funds through national & regional level managing authorities
- Importance of political agreement
- Poor participation in programming, decision-making & evaluation.
- Low level of resources allocated to local authorities / Municipalities
- Different levels of decentralised management for different Structural Fund programmes
- Structural Fund objectives: strategic versus basic needs
- Poor links with regeneration programmes.