

2<sup>nd</sup> press release

## **BORDWIIS+ seminar introduced European experiences on ICT innovation policies**

BORDWIIS+ consortium held its second meeting and seminar in Florence, Italy on December 4-5th 2012. During the seminar partners introduced their regional experiences in developing innovation policies and ICT strategies. In addition, Tuscany's best examples of cluster development were presented.

Seminar was hosted by [Regione Toscana](#) and started with regional partners giving an overview about the main focus points in their [Regional ICT Inventory](#). Compiled reports on regional strengths and weaknesses gave an overview about the situation in BORDWIIS+ partner regions – the groundwork crucial to continue to next steps in the process of developing smart specialization strategies. All regions summarized their respective data concerning existing ICT policies and future plans. The identification of the policies addressed gives a general picture of each region's specific context and insight into the ICT-policy-strategies, as well as main innovation stakeholders and relationships among them.

Second part of the seminar focused on the innovation environment of Tuscany region. Optics is one of the fastest developing sectors in Tuscany and it has applications in various fields, for example in restoring art pieces as pointed out by Dr. Robert Pini from Tuscany Innovation Pole of optoelectronics for industrial, biomedical, and aero spatial applications. ICT sector is not less important represented by Tuscany ICT Innovation Pole (Navacchio Technology Pole) and Regione Toscana Department of Infrastructures and Technologies for the Information Society.

The next step in developing regional smart specialization strategies is a comparative analysis on regional knowledge basis and capabilities available soon on project website.

[BORDWIIS+](#) (Boosting Regional Development with ICT-Innovation-Strategies) is a pan-European project focusing on developing smart specialization strategies in the field of ICT and designing innovation policies. The consortium consists of 10 partners from 8 regions across Europe. Project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and within the INTERREG IVC Programme.

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