

## Special Report: Regional development with ICT-innovation strategies



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Smart specialisation has gained significant importance as a base for the European regional policy within the new Europe 2020 strategy. The new programming period for 2014-2020 will be working within the development of regional strategies based on smart specialisation patterns.

Smart specialisation and growth mean strengthening knowledge and innovation as drivers of our future growth. This requires improving the quality of education, strengthening the research performance, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer throughout the Union, making full use of information and communication technologies and ensuring that innovative ideas can be turned into new products and services that create growth and quality jobs and help address European and global societal challenges.



Within the INTERREG IVC Programme, the BORDWIS+ project (Boosting Regional Development with ICT-Innovation Strategies), aims to contribute to the development of smart specialisation strategies in the field of ICT at the regional level and to formulate recommendations for the collaboration between partner regions. The consortium, consisting of ten partners representing eight European regions with complementary ICT competencies and policies, strives to create the best environment for ICT innovation and business opportunities in strategic sectors for their regions.

The BORDWIS+ specific objectives aim to provide European regions with the necessary knowhow that enables them to initiate and carry out a smart specialisation process concerning the most relevant domains of ICT-based innovation; safeguard and advance successful ICT innovation strategies; exchange experiences and knowledge between the regions.

The project activities, planned between January 2012 and June 2014, include an analysis of regional policies, preparation of regional ICT inventories, a comparative analysis on the different regional knowledge bases and capabilities and a final publication on 'ICT Innovation Strategy for European Regions: Recommendations for Regional Specialisation'.

### Project partners

During the project lifetime, partners have the opportunity to exchange experiences on collaborative models for open innovation in their respective regions. This co-operation should not only bring opportunities regarding future European proposals, but also regarding interregional co-operation between regional clusters, enterprises and research institutions and SMEs.

In two preparatory steps, the partners analysed existing ICT policies in their regions and accomplished ICT-inventories, collecting quantitative as well as qualitative data on the respective regions. The comparative analysis on the findings of the ICT inventories will be the basis for the final publication 'ICT Innovations Strategy for European Regions: Recommendations for Regional Specialisation'.

The study 'Comparative analysis concerning the innovation potential of information – and communication technologies (ICT) in eight European regions' analyses the specific assets and potentials in European ICT regions being partners of the EU funded BORDWIS+ project according to the following questions:

- ★ What are the specific characteristics of the ICT sector in the region?
- ★ What are the relevant ttt?
- ★ What is the specific technological profile in the region's ICT sector?
- ★ Are there specific interfaces to other relevant sectors/fields of technology in the region?
- ★ Which governance structures have been put in place to support the region's ICT sector development?

Based on these relevant questions, smart specialisation scenarios have been described and a SWOT analysis was carried out for each region.

Following the project implementation, the results expected at the level of the partner regions include:

- ★ To introduce the key actions and strategies identified within the BORDWIS+ project into the regional innovation policies;
- ★ To influence the regional policy enhancing ICT innovation policies and strategies;
- ★ To generate interregional co-operation among different ICT actors to innovate (policy makers, research centres, universities and SMEs); and
- ★ To contribute to the economic development through a better understanding of the regional competitive advantages in the innovation field in order to create employment and wealth.



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