

1st press release

Eight regions join hands in boosting regional ICT strategy

A new initiative, an Interreg IVC project BORDWIIS+ (*Boosting Regional Development with ICT-Innovation-Strategies*) was kick-started with its first meeting and seminar in Metz (Regional Council of Lorraine) and Nancy (Inria Nancy-Grand Est), France on March 20-21. The project aims at creating the best environment for ICT innovation and business opportunities in regionally strategic sectors and building a role model for the European community through smart specialization strategy.

During the seminar opened by Mr. Jean-Pierre Moinaux, Regional Councillor and Delegate for Innovation of Lorraine, partners shared their experience and knowledge about regional ICT development. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is considered crucial to European competitiveness, innovation strength and industrial development, especially as innovation is often made possible by developments in advanced ICT and their application. However, new policies and strategies are required to maximise the opportunities and meet the challenges that the rapid development of ICT creates. Policy-makers are facing problems in identifying appropriate targets and means for implementing development strategies.

BORDWIIS+ tackles this challenge with wide range of activities – mapping regional *status quo*, comparing and learning from partners and sharing new knowledge with regional stakeholders or decision-makers. As a result, "ICT innovation Strategy for European Regions: Recommendations for Regional Specialization" will be published and each region will be provided with regional implementation plan.

Kick-off meeting culminated with visit to INRIA (www.inria.fr), a major public research institution in the field of computational sciences. Two development projects – smart home and computer virus DNA – were introduced to the delegates.

The consortium consists of 10 partners from 8 regions across Europe actively participating in designing their ICT innovation policy. Consortium represents wide range of different ICT competencies and policies. Project is co-financed by European Regional Development Fund through Interreg IVC Programme.

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