

BORDWIIS+ study visit in North Rhine-Westphalia

Partners from 8 regions across Europe visited North Rhine-Westphalia during the study visit held in the framework of the BORDWIIS+ project. The study visit started with a workshop at the [dortmund-project](#) on March 5th, followed by a visit to the [Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics](#). Both are excellent examples of smart specialization processes.

Dortmund-project is a collaborative association of the city council and several partners from economy and science, advancing the evolution of promising future industries such as ICT, logistics and micro/nanotechnology. At the *Fraunhofer IML*, the visitors were shown state-of-the-art research going with the smart specialization strategy of the EU. On a guided tour through the so-called ZFT-hall, an example of efficient logistics making use of swarm intelligence was given in the form of “Cellular Transport Systems”. Around 50 autonomous vehicles are handling the transport of goods between a high-rise store and several working stations. The vehicles are able to move on rails in the high-rise store and freely on the ground, communicating with each other and coordinating their movement without a central control.

On the next day participants visited [CeBIT](#) - the world’s largest information and communication technology fair held in Hannover; an ideal place to discuss the latest IT trends. The delegation visited several exhibitors from NRW, including global players like [Deutsche Telekom](#) and [itelligence](#), a very successful “hidden champion” of North Rhine-Westphalia working in the field of various [SAP](#) software solutions.

A well-appreciated opportunity of visiting CeBIT ended the study visit. The two exciting days in North Rhine-Westphalia gave an impression of the ICT development in the region. Participants of the successful collaboration and learning event are waiting forward to the next Study Visit in Øresund, Sweden taking place this summer.

