

Press release

Smart ICT strategies taken to new pathways in Tartu

Partners from 8 regions across Europe came together in Tartu, Estonia during the meeting held from May 29th to May 30th in the framework of the BORDWIIS+ project. Main goal of the meeting was to get an overview of progress made so far and plan future steps of how partners can take active role in the development of SMART specialization strategies around Europe. Last, but not least, aim of the meeting was also to become more familiar with famous Estonian ICT landscape.

May 29th was dedicated to key sections of comparative analysis of regional inventories and regional smart specialization processes. Comparative analysis of regional inventories shows how different regions are positioned in today's complex economic, political and social situation. These inventories serve as ground basis for Smart Specialization Process. Importance of smart specialization can't be underestimated, especially since all regions in Europe are actively working with it in the framework of Europe 2020 strategy. Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy addressing the shortcomings and creating the conditions for a different type of growth that is smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive.

During the second day a well-appreciated opportunity of visiting key players in Estonia's ICT landscape was provided. Tartu University Institute of Technology (<http://www.tuit.ut.ee/>), established in June 2001, is a research and development institution, which aims to create a new cultural environment to facilitate the generation of new technological solutions. In order to fulfil the mission, the institute works in close co-operation with its support units and R&D centres, which have a key role in commercialising the generated intellectual property. Partners visited robotics department where examples of applying electroactive polymers in robotics were showcased.

Software Technology and Applications Competence Centre (<http://www.stacc.ee/>), visited next, is a research and development organization established in 2009 to conduct high-priority industrial research in the field of data mining and software engineering. STACC is one of eight competence centres in Estonia aiming to bridge the gap between scientific and economic innovation.

Presentations of intermediate results and study visit locations are available on project website www.bordwiis.eu and all questions about cooperation opportunities in Estonia are welcomed by Estonian partner.

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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