

ERIK ACTION

**Upgrading the Innovation capacity
of Existing Enterprises through
INTERREG IVC**

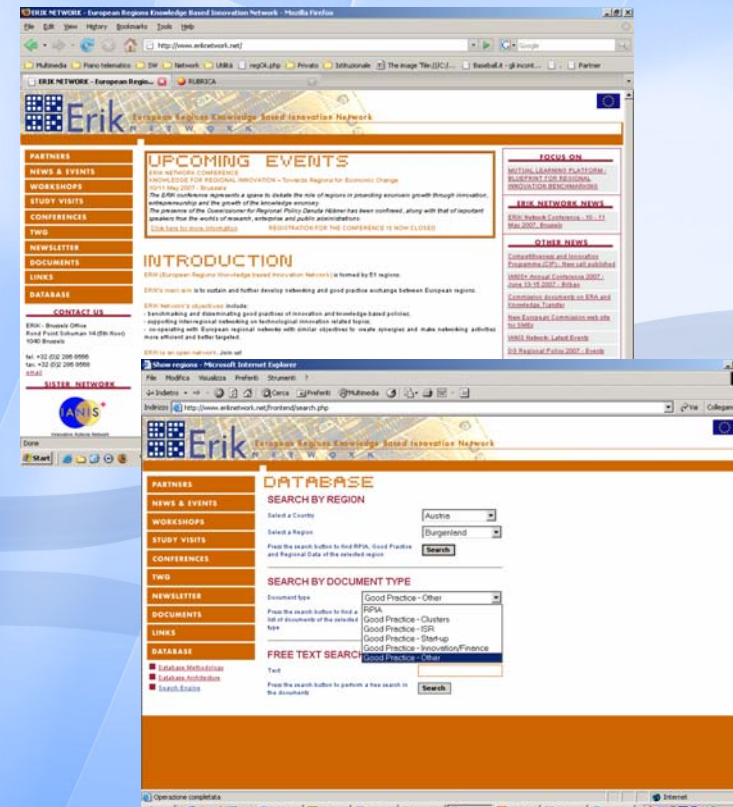
Overview

- Background: project origins, why capitalisation?
- Project consortium
- Project Themes
- Activities and Expected Results
- Conclusions

Background: Project Origins

Born from the ERIK / ERIK+ Network (***European Regions Knowledge Based Innovation Network***):

- 51 regions
- 4 TWGs
- 3 international conferences, 11 study visits, 8 workshops
- 1 web site with 40000 visitors / year
- Publications and newsletter
- Database with 60 GPs
- Methodology to analyse and compare innovation policies



Why Capitalisation?

ERIK NETWORK SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Participation, collaboration and commitment of key regions
- Wide and varied partnership
- Addressing a real / current problem
- Experience in management
- Good division of work

Weaknesses

- Lack of instruments to ensure active participation of all partner regions
- Lack of concrete actions

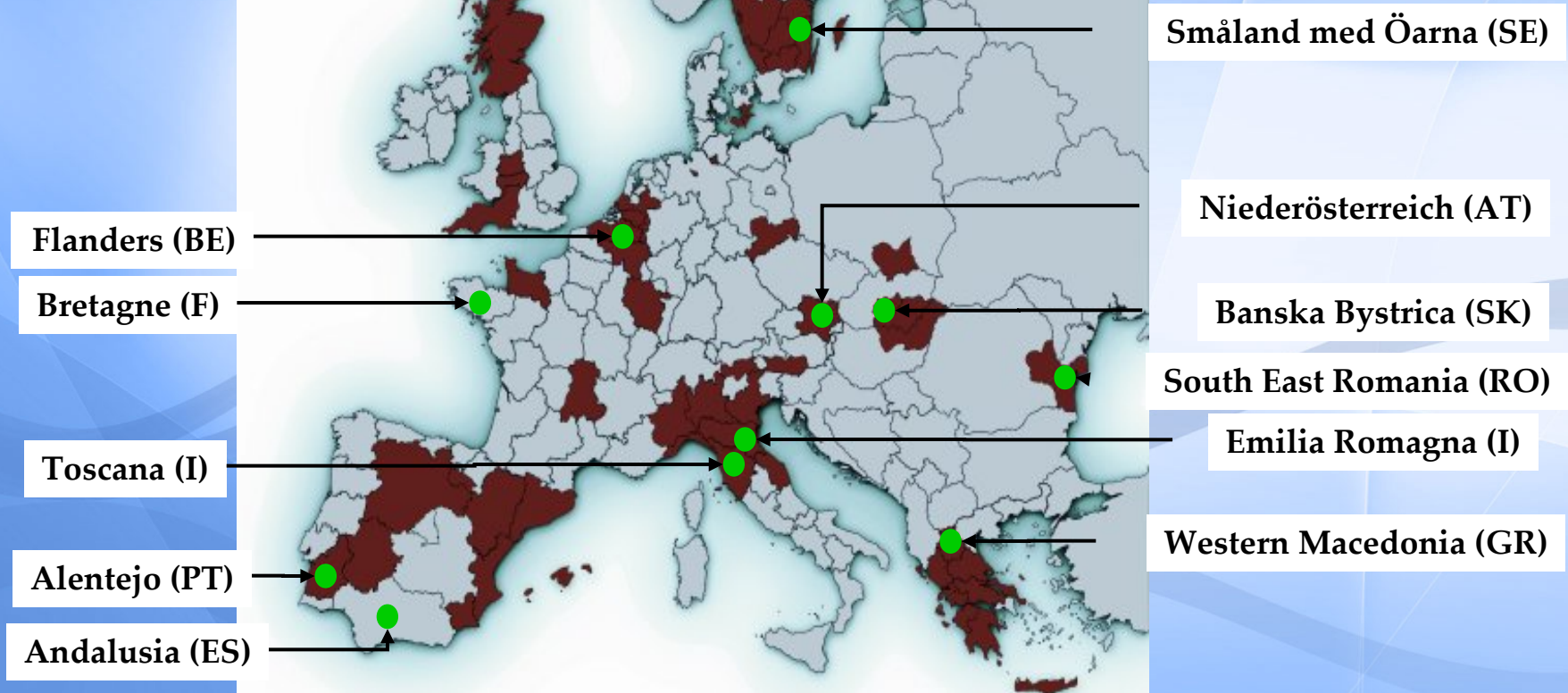
Lessons

- Important to clearly define, focus and divide activities
- Essential to involve political actors from the start
- Important to develop tools to involve all partners
- Important to pass from networking to concrete actions with a measurable impact

Project Consortium

11 regions from 10 European countries, involving ROP Managing Authorities:

- All partners identified innovation as a key priority in regional development and confirmed the importance of the project theme
- Partners identified common needs, but vary in knowledge, economic strength and governance, a gap which ERIK ACTION will go some way to bridging



Project Themes

Overall Objective

improve regional development policies in innovation and the knowledge economy and, specifically, in upgrading the innovation capacity of existing enterprises

Theme identified from analysis of strengths / needs:

- Addressing limited competitiveness and innovation capacity / investment
- Guiding culture, HR and management towards innovation
- Developing a comprehensive innovation support system: innovation strategy, knowledge management, innovation finance, HR management, innovation friendly environment

Activities and Expected Results

3 Interrelated Components:

Management, Communication, Interregional Transfer

Expected Results:

- 55 staff with increased capacity (awareness / knowledge / skills)
- 11 good practices transferred (minimum 1 per action plan)
- € 60 million euro of mainstream funds for GP implementation
- 11 inter-regional partnerships with long-term perspective
- 5 Convergence regions with improved regional innovation policy
- 8 further regions involved in project activities

Focus on GP transfer

- **Selection of GPs**
 - Inter-regional exchange within ERIK NETWORK and ERIK DATABASE
 - Decision on regional GPs to offer for transfer
 - Transfer Matching Session to select GPs for transfer
 - Training sessions on key factors for firms' innovation
- **Development of transfer actions**
 - Transfer workshops for selected GPs
 - Study visits
 - Help desks
 - Staff exchange
- **Individual regional action plans by EVERY PARTNER**
 - Description of intended inter-regional transfer incl. resources
 - Approved & signed by the managing authority
- **Concrete GP transfer and tool implementation / improvement**
 - Not part of ERIK ACTION but welcome as additional measure
 - To be paid by Regional Operational Programme not ERIK ACTION!

Conclusions and Recommendations

Why ERIK Action was successful:

- Based on a real need (theme) and desire to capitalise
- Preparation (early and partner contribution)
- Full understanding of programme / capitalisation projects
- Careful choice of partners

Critical points on which ERIK Action must focus:

- Mobilising stakeholders at regional level
- Mobilising funds at regional level
- Involvement of other regions (outside of partnership) and collaboration with other capitalisation projects

Thank you for your attention

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