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PROVINCIA
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TWINNOVATE

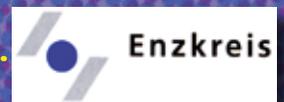
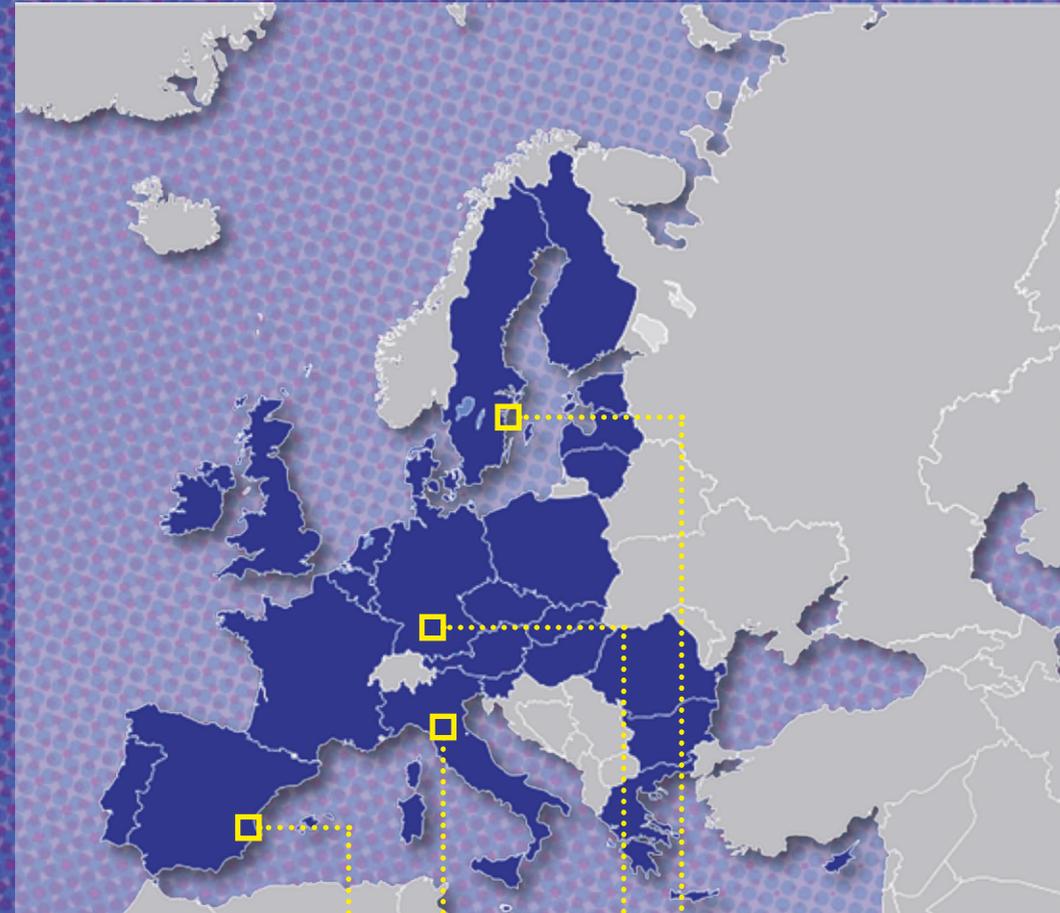
INNOVATION IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT





Innovation and Local Development are two key words nowadays and they are closely linked to each other. The organizations participating in this project, co-financed by the European Union in the framework of the programme "Europe for Citizens", has developed a network of cooperation on the process through which different public and private actors mobilize themselves in order to create innovation, reinforce and foster economic growth using in the best way the economic, social, human and cultural resources of their territories. The project developed through 5 events: a kick-off meeting, 3 specific events focusing on innovation topic in the public, third and private sector, and a closing meeting. During these events the participating organizations had the possibility to confront, exchange their experiences and present each other their local best practices.

Since numerous years, the Province of Reggio Emilia has developed its international relations towards various European countries. In particular, it has signed twinning agreements with the Spanish Province of Albacete and the German Province of Enzkreis. Moreover, both the Province of Reggio Emilia and the Regionförbundet Östsam (and the municipalities of Motala and Söderköping) are member of SERN and within this network they have decided to cooperate on the matter of innovation and local development.





The Twinnovate delegations in Reggio Emilia

Innovation and Local Development are features working closely to each other in Reggio Emilia. As opening session, the meeting was held in the main hall of the Chamber of Commerce of the City with several representatives of University, private companies, third sector and public local organizations. First of all, the status of the art for each partner has been presented in order to define the European scenario on innovation policies and experiences linked to local development; then three working groups have been settled for themes and field of activities, as public, private and third sector.

Local best practices:

REI – Reggio Emilia Innovazione: Innovation, Research and Services

Mectron – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia Mechatronics Laboratory

Reggio Children – The Reggio Emilia approach to Early Childhood Education

KICK-OFF MEETING

Reggio Emilia, 22-25 September 2009



Visiting the Mectron laboratories





A moment of the Albacete conference

PUBLIC SECTOR MEETING

Albacete, 16-18 March 2010

The topic of the Albacete event was the definition of innovation with particular reference to its link with the public services sector. From this perspective, the participants had the possibility to confront each other about the importance of the implementation of innovative solutions for the citizens' participation at local level, as the creation and use of new web services and the development of specific territorial strategies.

In this circumstance the different target groups got increased knowledge about the different structure of public sector in the participating countries and had the opportunity to establish beneficial contacts for their work.

Local best practices:

- The forum of citizens participation of the City of Albacete (Ayuntamiento de Albacete)
- The web server of the Province and its service to the citizens (Diputación de Albacete)
- The Innovation, a tool to improve local development of the Albacete province (Science and Technology Park of Albacete)
- The role of the Innovation for the strategic

development of the territory (Castilla-La Mancha University)

- Promoting Innovation among SMEs (CEEI Albacete)



During a workshop session





The Twinnovate delegations at the Archipelago

During the Twinnovate event in Söderköping and Motala the different target groups got increased knowledge about the different structure of the non-profit/third sector in the participating countries and have learnt more about the Swedish structure and organisations within the non-profit sector. The participants have also had the opportunity to explore different models for cooperation between the public/private and non-profit sector.

The event has had an impact on the territory in terms of increased knowledge of the participants and the possibility for people working in the non-profit sector to meet people from other countries, which is not rather common in a sector where the activities are very local and normally without any foreign contacts.

Local best practices:

Omstvädden: introduction into the labour market

Återvinningen: second hand market generating job opportunities and aid to Latvia

Väntjänsten: support and social activities for elderly people

Vätternrundan: the largest recreational bicycle ride in the world

THIRD SECTOR MEETING

Östergötland, 14-17 June 2010



Visiting the Återvinningen





Working session in Pforzheim

The Twinnovate event in Pforzheim focused on the definition of the link between sustainable resources, innovation in private framework and local development. The target groups discussed about the importance of networking for local businesses, in order to cooperate, to collaborate and to change perspectives among different target groups at local level. Also the education and the research sectors emerged as essentials for innovation, through the empathy with partners and consumers, understanding the basic needs of the people. During the event the networks of participants have increased widely and created "cross-over contacts" like between private and public sector or between the non-profit and the business sector.

Local best practices:

- The **Sparkasse** as promoter and supporter of regional development and organizational culture
- The **Schmuckwelten** as a part of regional business promotion
- Schmuckmuseum** - Pforzheim Museum of Jewelry
- Naturparkzentrum** in Zaberfeld
- Maulbronn** monastery
- Study visits** - Framework and setting to make SMEs innovative: Gindele, Altatec / Camlog, econ solutions, Eugen Geyer

PRIVATE SECTOR MEETING

Enzkreis, 21-24 September 2010



Visiting the Sparkasse Pforzheim Calw





Mrs Beati (EACEA) illustrating the Europe for Citizens programme

The last step of the Twinnovate project was thought as the sum-up of shared and transferred knowledge from previous events. In particular, a deepening was dedicated to the innovative approaches and tools to face the economic crisis. The participants presented results achieved and discussed on what has still to be done in each country in the field of innovative policies. Special attention has been paid on communication strategy: citizens should be more involved and informed on European projects and initiatives. In this perspective, a specific and public event involving a representative from the Citizenship Unit of the EACEA was dedicated to the Europe for Citizens funding opportunities 2011.

Local best practices:

- Solutions of **Industry Association** of Reggio Emilia in facing the crisis
- Visit to a **local farm business** producing organic meat
- The innovative experience of **Circolo ARCI "Fuori Orario"**

CLOSING MEETING

Reggio Emilia, 11-14 April 2011



A moment of the visit at the organic farm business



CONCLUSIONS

At the end of the project, the main results achieved by Twinnovate are:

1. Exchange of best practices about the implementation of innovative policies on local development
2. Involvement and networking among social actors, such as local public authorities, private companies, NGOs and voluntary organizations, and private citizens
3. Experimentation of new solutions for the promotion of entrepreneurship and young human capital, for the creation of sustainable jobs and for the implementation of innovative public services.

Furthermore, Twinnovate conferences and workshops gave the opportunity for setting the basis of a long-standing cooperation and for the creation of conditions to develop new projects among the partnership and the actors involved. It has also been registered a multiplying effect due to a strong spill-over process in the contexts in which the project participants operate.

The numbers of Twinnovate:

- 19 months of project life (from September 2009 to April 2011)
- 5 events
- 4 Member States visited
- 307 participants speaking 4 EU official languages
- 14 study visits
- 62 best practices shared
- 1 website: www.twinnovate.eu
- 1 publication

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