

P-IRIS Brochure

P-IRIS

is an Interreg Europe funded project with the ambition to professionalise management of innovative business networks in rural areas in order to facilitate knowledge intensive workplaces that are attractive for educated youths of today.

Program goal: support the development and attractiveness of rural areas

The project budget of € 1,3 M is 74 % funded by Interreg Europe.



Spain, autumn 2017

P-IRIS STUDY VISITS



Norway, spring 2017



Finland, spring 2018

Slovenia, autumn 2018



Croatia, winter 2017



P-IRIS = Policies to Improve Rural area's Innovation Systems

by professionalising networking activities
and use of innovation tools

P-IRIS wants to **build skills** in establishing, maintaining and developing innovative business **networks** in **rural areas**.

The interregional partnership has

- » Studied good practices in six European countries
- » Implemented lessons learned in regional actions plans

By project finals, we hope to have

- » Improved skills in innovative network management
- » Improved policy instruments targeting rural networks
- » Facilitated attractive jobs for educated youths of today

Why P-IRIS?

Young people are leaving rural areas because they do not find jobs answering their professional aspirations. There is therefore a need to boost innovation in these areas in order to develop knowledge-based or creative businesses, offering attractive jobs for well-educated and creative young people. The P-IRIS partnership have identified that triple helix (3H) or quadruple helix (4H) cooperation is important to boost innovation in rural areas. Management of innovation tools must not copy lessons and solutions from metropolitan areas but be adapted to the specific features of rural innovation systems, which are characterised by asymmetric relations and uneven resources between public, R&D and SMEs actors, and by shortage of scientific disciplines.

The overall objective of PIRIS is to improve policies related to 3H / 4H cooperation in rural innovation systems. We want to increase the number of SMEs in innovative networks and the number of innovation projects including R&D. It is also an ambition to improve the skills of public authorities & support systems as managers and mentors of 3H or 4H networks, and the use of related innovation tools.

Good Practices

Exchange of experience in thematic seminars and demonstration of potential good practice in Study Visits were part of key steps in phase one of the project.



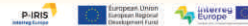
E-COUNTRY PROJECT

A long-term plan for a well-balanced development concerning the ICT infrastructure and e-services. Platform which will transform the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County into a modern e-public administration and will include its institutions and citizens in the contemporary information society.



CENTRAL OSTROBOTHNIA CO-WORKING SPACES

provide connectivity and community place, are developing the Cental Ostrobothnia Region and are spreading the word of experts in the area.



ALL-YEAR ACTIVITY FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY IN RURAL AREA

In Aurland, we do not want visitors to meet closed doors in low season. We have found a collaborative approach to enable all-year activity.

Photo credit: Sine Karlsen/Saksla.no



BURGOS ALIMENTA

A successful network for food producers, where all stakeholders linked to the supply chain are involved for promoting rural gastronomy all over the world.



KIKŠTARTER, Slovenia

Cooperative entrepreneurship and co-working centre from Kamnik

Offers inspiring solution to improve regional policies and entrepreneurship support

- » positive supportive environment;
- » creation, growth and development of entrepreneurial activity;
- » new employment opportunities by encouraging entrepreneurship;
- » rich programme:
workshops, networking events,
mentoring, educational initiatives etc.



KIKŠTARTER

is a coworking space, incubator and accelerator. They offer regular training and demonstration of GPs and stimulating environment, spanning the industrial heritage and cultural center of Kamnik, Slovenia. Besides it offers 13 offices, conference room, lecture room, and laboratory.



More info: www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices

"I have learnt a lot about **different good practices** and will use that as important input in the future."

Anders Haugen, Tech Yard [Norway]

"As a technician working daily with local associations and spontaneous groups, I found the **project's toolbox** and the **recommendations for the management** of innovative networks very useful. I gained operational management abilities and a better understanding of the internal dynamics of the subjects which relate with me. Study visits made me understand **that innovation in rural areas** can take quite different shapes depending on the characteristics of the area, its resources and history, and gave me insights about possibilities of evolution for our area."

Guido Calvi, Parco dell'Adamello [Italy].

"Amazing opportunity to meet partners from different parts of Europe, with different background knowledge and working towards **stronger support initiatives and knowledge sharing for rural local communities.**"

Matija Matičič, KIKŠARTER [Slovenia]

"P-IRIS gave me the opportunity to **discover smart projects** in marginal areas of Europe, and **good ideas** about how to **enhance cooperation** among different subjects."

Nora Annesi, Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e Perfezionamento Sant'Anna [Italy].

P-IRIS STAKEHOLDERS STATEMENTS

"Through active participation in project activities I have learned that **bottom-up initiatives based on the principle of social responsibility can be transform into concrete innovative models of networking, cooperation and communication between main actors and stakeholders of rural development.** I also find toolbox very useful tool for specific research purposes in the field of solving fragmentation problems in innovation value chains and networks."

Saša Čegar, PhD, Faculty of Economics, University of Rijeka [Croatia]

Visiting young companies in the Heart of Slovenia showed us different rural businesses. We found differences in the innovation concept, and we realized that Spanish co-working spaces are not more productive than the Slovenian ones since we have a lot of empty spaces and it is difficult to attract entrepreneurs to start up their businesses.

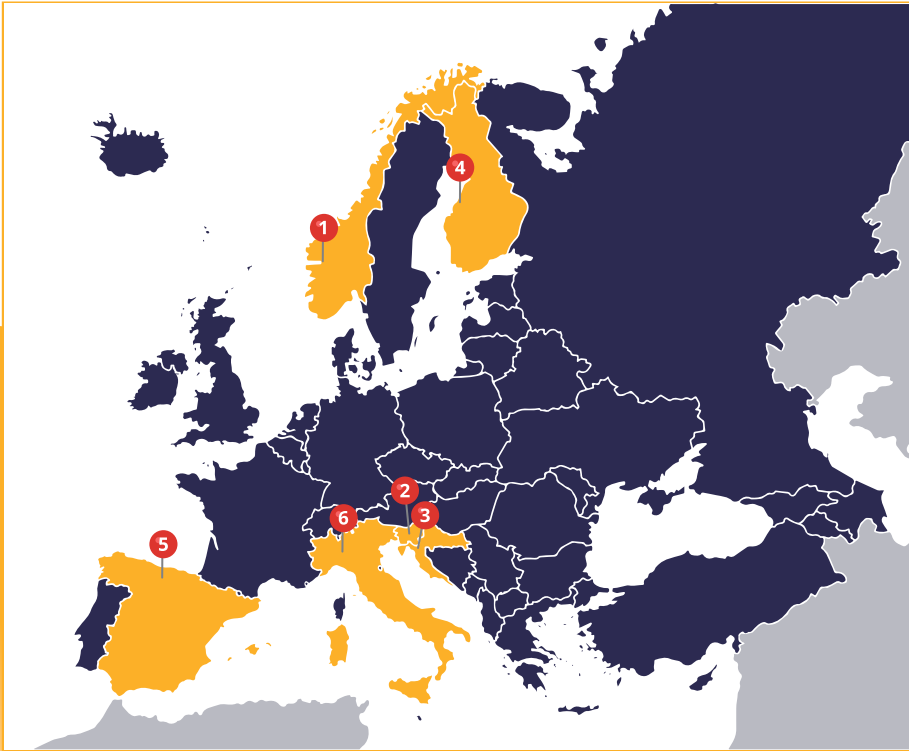
Working on Toolbox and Action Plans with P-IRIS project gave us the opportunity to participate and to provide SODEBUR (the Spanish partner) with new ideas to improve the template.

Jorge Raúl Mujico (Vice – Dean Research) and Paula Cuadra (Technology Transfer Office). University Isabel I [Burgos – Spain].

"The study visit opened my eyes for the **possibilities that lie in involvement of the third sector and whole community in the development work of rural areas in financially sustainable way.** The enthusiasm of the developers and way to think differently was inspiring to experience"

Anne Jokela, Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius [Finland]

P-IRIS project partners



1. **Sogn og Fjordane County Municipality** (SFCM), Norway – Lead Partner
2. **Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia**, Slovenia
3. **Local Development Agency PINS**, Croatia
4. **Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia**, Finland
5. **Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos** (SODEBUR), Spain
6. **Poliedra, Politecnico di Milano**, Italy

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