

ERIK ACTION

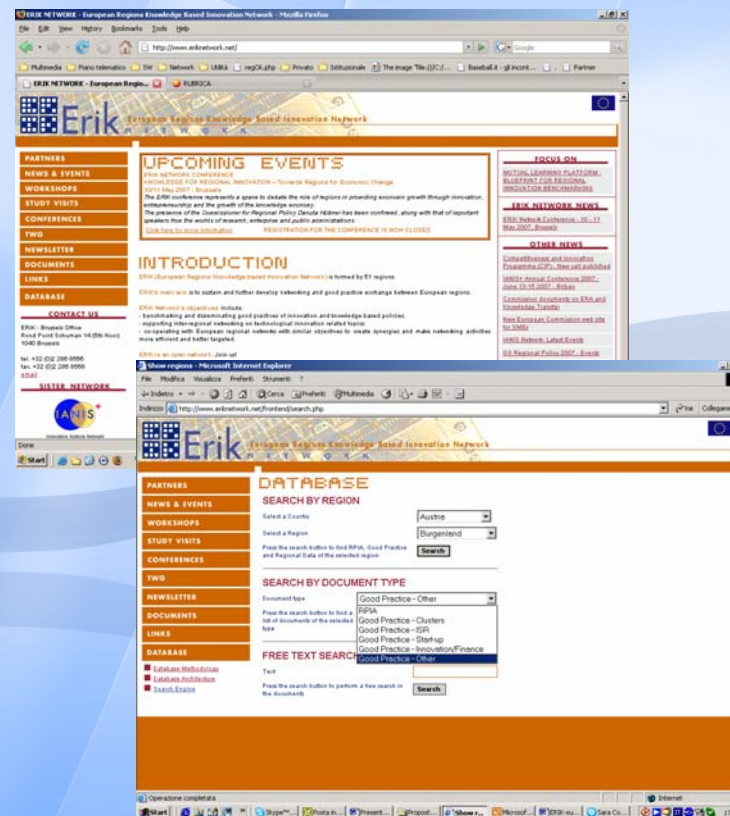
Upgrading the Innovation capacity of Existing Enterprises through INTERREG IVC and Fast Track

Regions for Economic Change, 17th February 2009

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



Background:

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
- Partners identified common needs, but vary in knowledge, economic strength and governance, a gap which ERIK ACTION will go some way to bridging
- All partners showed a deep commitment to the idea of Capitalisation

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

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

Why ERIK ACTION is strategic for Tuscany

- In line with Tuscan ROP (Priority Axis 1 – Research, Development and Technology Transfer, Innovation and Entrepreneurship)
- Building on important experience of cooperation with other European regions
- Chosen good practices can really help to overcome obstacles and imperfections in regional initiatives (*Innovation Assistant, TIP Coaching, Industrial Research Projects*)