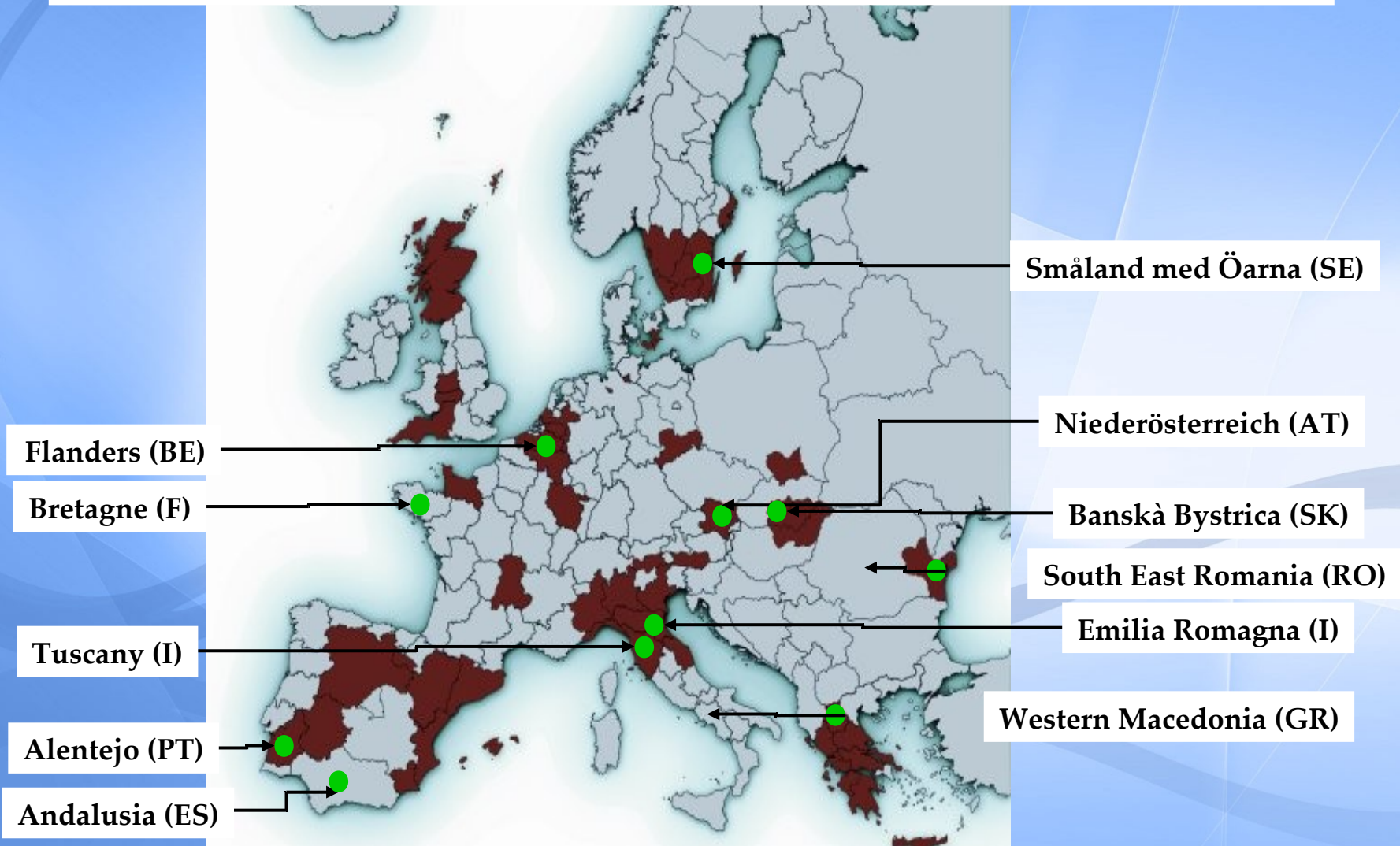


ERIK ACTION

Upgrading the Innovation Capacity of Existing Enterprises through INTERREG IVC

11 regions from 10 European Countries, with direct involvement of ROP Managing Authorities



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:

- limited competitiveness, innovation capacity & investment
- developing a comprehensive innovation support system (strategy, management, funding, environment)
- moving from networking to concrete impact

Expected Results and Means of Measuring

- 55 staff with increased capacity (awareness / knowledge / skills) – *Stakeholder Capacity Analysis carried out by all partners*
- 11 good practices transferred (minimum 1 per action plan) – *Intensive transfer actions & Regional Action Plan being developed*
- €60 million euro of mainstream funds for GP implementation – *detailed budget included in Regional Action Plan*
- 11 inter-regional partnerships with long-term perspective – *Self evaluation, reports including potential / planned collaborations*
- 5 Convergence regions with improved regional innovation policy – *Self evaluation from these regions & Regional Action Plan*
- 8 further regions involved in project activities – *Observer adherence and Communication Plan*

Activities Carried Out

- Choosing good practices and learning about them in detail (*transfer matrix, transfer sessions, first study visits*)
- Involving key stakeholders at regional level (*stakeholder involvement plan, individual meetings, group meetings...*)
- Understanding necessary actions and adaptations for transfer (*first draft Regional Action Plan developed in consultation, sharing among partners*)
- Communicating project activities to other interested entities (*communication plan with relative tools, fast track activities*)

Challenges: Past, Present and Future

- **Past Challenge:** getting partners to understand commitment needed to undertake a Capitalisation project properly
 - **Solution:** hard work from project leader & component 3 coordinator
- **Present Challenge:** ensuring that key stakeholders are not only aware of project but also actively participating and supporting it
 - **Solution:** attractive international events / incentives, partner commitment, sharing problems and possible solutions
- **Future Challenge:** making sure that the good work carried out until now is really translated into transfer
 - **Solution:** action plans developed early to anticipate and address problems, intensive regional level activity

Focus on Transfer Experience

Innovation Assistant exported by Region of Lower Austria

- imported by Regione Toscana – modifications needed as would be part financed by ESF and part by ERDF
- imported by Western Macedonia – evaluating possibility to transfer into regional or national programme

Sideum exported by Region Småland med Öarna

- imported by South East Romania – possibility of funding pilot project with regional development funds

Conclusions

- Capitalisation is an important experience for all project partners and there is much optimism about transfer results
- There is commitment to go beyond standard networking projects – too much time and money already wasted

BUT

- lack of understanding on Capitalisation projects must be clarified at project outset
- lead partner and component coordinators must be fully committed, ready to work hard and to be inventive
- potential difficulties and conflicts of interest at regional level should not be underestimated

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION