



REGIONET

Strategies for Regional Sustainable Development: An Integrated Approach beyond Best Practices

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The Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences



European Commission Fifth Framework Programme



The European Network for Sustainable Urban and Regional Development (ENSURE)

REGIONET will provide an integrated approach to support the implementation of sustainable development in regions across Europe. The project will bring together different stakeholders and contribute knowledge for forward looking regional policy-making and regional development plans to take into account issues of sustainability.

Overall Aims and Approach

The promotion of regional and social cohesion as well as of environmental protection and sustainability are among the most important European Union objectives. REGIONET will contribute knowledge that helps to better integrate environmental issues in regional development plans and management, and to integrate environmental protection with economic development and social policy. The project explicitly addresses these issues by organising four workshops which will bring together different stakeholders, i.e. policy-makers, researchers, business/industry, NGOs and users/consumers.

Specific Objectives

The thematic network REGIONET has the following specific objectives:

1. The improved integration of sustainability issues in the regional development plans put forward to the EU Structural Fund.
2. An understanding of the relationship between the implementation of regional sustainable development and issues of regional and multi-level governance (e.g. subsidiarity).
3. An integrated framework for evaluating regional sustainable development (methods, tools and indicators) at the European, national and regional levels.
4. The cross-fertilisation of sustainable development research and the establishment of regional partnerships.

Outputs

The outputs of REGIONET will be:

- Four workshops to bring together various stakeholders and to elaborate on regional sustainable development.
- A handbook with practical guidelines on integrating sustainable development into regional development plans.
- A project website to provide information on upcoming events, network members and experts, other relevant projects, and to download reports.
- Edited books and other academic publications to contribute to the scientific discourse on regional sustainable development.



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The REGIONET Consortium:

ICCR, Austria

CURE, University of Manchester, UK

Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IOEW), Germany

Graz University of Technology, Austria

ProSus, University of Oslo, Norway

Széchenyi István University of Applied Sciences, Hungary

Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

University of Tours, France

University of Trento, Italy

University of Thessaly, Greece

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

CIR, France

University of Prague, Czech Republic

University of Lisbon, Portugal

Centre for the Enterprises and the Environment (CEMA), Catalonia, Spain

South East Regional Authority, Ireland

Workshops

The work of REGIONET is centred around four workshops:

Workshop 1: "Regional Sustainable Development: The Role of Structural Funds"

The first workshop will bring together the network partners and various stakeholders to discuss the practical implications of European Structural Funds on regional sustainable development. The main aim is to elaborate on the experiences made in the regions with sustainable development and how this has been promoted through the Structural Funds.

9 - 11 September 2002, Seggau (near Graz), Austria

Workshop 2: "Regional Sustainable Development: Strategies for Effective Multi-level Governance"

This workshop will critically assess the conceptual nature and current reality of decision-making for regional sustainable development in Europe. It will be structured along two central dimensions: cross-sector policy integration and multi-level policy coordination.

29 - 31 January 2003, Lillehammer, Norway

Workshop 3: "Regional Sustainable Development: Evaluation Methods and Tools"

The objective is to compare existing evaluation methods, tools and indicators for the purpose of fostering regional sustainable development. What are the experiences with different methods and tools to measure in an integrated way the environmental, economic and social impacts of regional development?

11 - 13 June 2003, Manchester, United Kingdom

Workshop 4: "Regional Sustainable Development: Results of the REGIONET Project"

The final workshop will synthesise and integrate knowledge gathered in the course of the whole REGIONET project. The overall aim is a 'cross-fertilisation' of sustainability research and the establishment of regional partnerships.

14 - 16 January 2004, Brussels, Belgium

Time Plan

The REGIONET project runs from February 2002 until January 2004.

Information

For further information about the REGIONET project, please contact the project managers or visit the project homepage:

www.iccr-international.org/regionet