



Brussels,  
DG REGIO / D2/KR

## **Regions for Economic Change – Fast Track Networks**

### **Theme2.5: Bringing e-government to regions and businesses**

#### **PIKE - Promoting Innovation and the Knowledge Economy**

### **FAST TRACK COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MEETING REPORT:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fast Track Committee: Sundsvall, 3-4 September 2008

PIKE held its kick off meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, embedded in its first project meeting. This Fast Track Committee enabled to draw conclusions from the first local workshops held over summer, to decide on a calendar for the next meetings / events and to discuss on contents and timing of further work.

Partners from all participating regions were present (See the annexed list of participants).

#### **1. Presentation of the project**

PIKE is among the first 5 new INTERREG IV C networks selected for receiving "fast track" support by the Commission. PIKE falls under priority 2 "Improving knowledge and innovation for growth" of the Regions for Economic Change initiative.

PIKE builds on the experiences under the INTERREG IIIC-funded project BRISE, in which the majority of project partners already participated. The PIKE project seeks to stimulate the successful uptake of Information Society policies at regional level, particularly in the area of wireless broadband and internet access, and eGovernment practices.

PIKE brings together former BRISE participants from:

- Spain: Cantabrian Enterprise for the Development of New Technologies in the Administration (EMCANTA) (Cantabria)
- Ireland: Galway County Council, Donegal County Council, Border, Midland and Western Ireland Regional Assembly, ERNACT EEIG
- UK: Derry City Council, Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland)
- Czech Republic: Olomouc Regional Authority (Stredni Morava),
- Italy: Comune di Bologna (Emilia-Romagna),

with new partners from:

- Greece: Eastern Aegean GeoCultural Park, University of Athens (Sterea Ellada)

- Bulgaria: Agency for Regional Development and Innovations (ARDI), Burgas municipality (Yugoiztochen)
- Sweden: Association of Local Authorities in Västernorrland County, (Mellersta Norrland)

Lead Partner: ERNACT EEIG (IE).

Project duration: July 2008 – June 2010

Budget: €1.66 million (INTERREG IV C)

Expected main deliverables:

- A **good practice handbook** with good practice transfer packs to present the 4 good practices in a suitable way for policy-makers and OP implementing authorities.
- **9 action plans** (3 in Convergence regions) that spell out concretely which good practice is taken over in which region with which roadmap. The Action Plans are supposed to be endorsed by the relevant Managing Authorities, following study visits, press work, lobbying with MAs, local workshops, etc.

## 2. Good practices to be transferred

PIKE aims to transfer 4 good practices from 3 regions via the networking partners into mainstream operational programmes:

- **"Wireless City"** project brought wireless broadband connections and applications to the Derry City Council (e.g. Electronic Document & Record Management System), University of Ulster (SMART classrooms, Wireless Technology Demonstration Centre for Businesses) and local tourism (digitised cultural and heritage content, virtual tour)
- **Donegal Online Planning Services (DOPS)** – digital document management for spatial planning system, which won the 2007 EU eGovernment award. DOPS is developing in the future also the possibility for online submission of planning applications.
- **Integrated Aid System (IAS)** of Cantabria which consists of an Internet application to facilitate the management of European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and the Regional European Development Funds (ERDF) by the regional Government of Cantabria.
- **Strategic Plan eLocal** of Cantabria including a Teleprocessing Platform to allow citizens for online applications with the local councils, a Telematic register (documentation management between local councils and Regional Administration), a tax collection system and an Action Plan model for municipalities to manage applications and procedures over the Internet in order to provide services to citizens, professionals, companies and legal entities, municipal servants and local corporations.

The **transfer strategy** consists of the following steps:

- compilation of the four good practices in a standardised format (good practice handbook)

- contacts with Managing Authorities and other relevant bodies and policy-makers to present the good practices (local workshops)
- study visits and staff exchanges to identify the good practice(s) to be adopted by a region
- Local workshops with Managing Authorities / OP implementing bodies to develop transfer roadmaps to set the timing and main mile stones for each region (by July 2009)
- Presentation of good practices and roadmaps to Monitoring Committees (July – Nov. 2009)
- Local workshops to prepare action plans

### 3. State of play with regard to active involvement of Managing Authorities

The large majority of the partners have already established working contacts with Managing Authorities or some are actually Managing Authorities. Therefore all Managing Authorities are aware of PIKE Network. Katja Reppel (Commission, DG REGIO) informed the participants that REGIO's desk officers who are the Commission representatives at the Monitoring Committees of the SF are also informed about the project and can be involved whenever there is the need to engage the regional authorities. A list with their names is included in the note pages of the PPT presentation.

The partners considered that at the moment the relations with the Managing Authorities are developing well. They reported on the first local workshops:

**Olomouc (25/07/2008):** meeting with the Ministry of Interior (Prague), which is in charge of the implementation of ICT actions under Cohesion Policy. It appears that there is a possibility to include the good practices selected by Olomouc within an existing programme; however there will then be a competitive process and other regions might also be bidding for funding.

Relevant operational programmes: ['Integrated Operational Programme'](#) priority 1a ; ['Central Moravia'](#) (confirmed by partner)

**Västernorrland (19/08/2008):** The County Administrative Board, CAB, is managing the (national) Regional Growth Programme, as well as other regional development strategies (i.e. a regional ICT strategy). This growth programme is strongly linked to the Regional Structural Fund Programme for Mid Sweden (Mellersta Norrland), with NUTEK, the Swedish Agency for Economic and regional Growth, as the Managing Authority. The CAB and NUTEK are both informed of the PIKE project, and appear to be interested in adopting the good practices – if eligible by the programmes. The main issues to be tackled are the cost-efficiency of public administration, the improvement of public e-services, reorganisations of public sector departments, and promoting the use of ICT tools in enterprises and households.

Relevant operational programme: ERDF [“Mid Sweden” \(Mellersta Norrland\)](#)

**Derry (31/07/2009):** At the meeting with two Northern Ireland government departments in charge of the operational programme (DETI (Dep. of Enterprise, Trade & Investment)

is the Managing Authority, and DOE (Department of the Environment)) it appeared that in the DETI there was a certain reluctance due to a perception that the PIKE project might interfere with the implementation decisions on the OP. More contacts will be necessary to convince the MA of the practical usefulness of the good practices in the PIKE project. The DOE on the other hand, which is responsible for the reorganization of local government and eGovernment in the region (not EU funded), was more receptive to the idea of taking over good practices (a representative attended the kick-off meeting). This positive attitude stems in part from a positive experience with transferring an eProcurement system developed in an EU project to another city in Northern Ireland.

Relevant operational programme: ['Northern-Ireland'](#)

**Donegal/Galway** (19/08/2008): The BMW Regional Assembly is the Managing Authority and a representative attended the kick-off meeting. The operational programme includes key investment areas for ICT and has scope for introducing innovative projects and proposals coming out of PIKE at the mid-term review/evaluation for the regional operational programmes. Submissions will be invited and the first review is expected in 2009. As regards the good practices they are interested in, the Wireless Cities and eLocal as concepts may fit with existing strategies. Also eGovernment platforms improving public services capitalising on broadband availability would be relevant.

Relevant operational programmes: [Border, Midland and Western \(BMW\)](#)

**Bologna** (29/08/2008): At the first local workshop, which was attended by representatives from the City of Bologna and the Emilia-Romagna Legislative Assembly, some lines of the OPs were identified where the PIKE good practices could be introduced. It has yet to be decided which of the PIKE good practices will be taken over. The OPs concern both the ERDF and the ESF. At a forthcoming meeting is scheduled with the implementing body of the ICT regional plan.

Relevant operational programmes: ['Emilia-Romagna'](#), Emilia-Romagna Regional ICT Plan

**Yugoiztochen**, Bulgaria (10/07/2008): A meeting took place with the national Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works that is in charge of the eGovernment and broadband related elements in the OP, on which local authorities can draw for their projects. There were meetings with the major of Burgas and with representatives of Burgas municipality. The reception of the idea to take over PIKE good practices was rather positive.

Relevant operational programmes: ['Regional Development'](#)

**Cantabria** (20/08/2008): The good practices from IE and UK in PIKE were presented to representatives of the Government General Directorship of Local Administration of Cantabria, which is in charge of the implementing decisions of the relevant multi-regional OP. The result of their workshop was that they were in principle interested in eLocal and in Donegal Planning Services, but they will have to review the schedule in order for the Regional government to be able to allocate a budget.

Relevant operational programmes: ['Cantabria'](#) and ['Knowledge-based Economy'](#) priority 1

**Stereia Ellada**, Greece:

Relevant operational programmes: '[Digital Convergence](#)' (Managing Authority not designated yet) and '[Thessalia - Sterea Ellada - Ipiros](#)' Priorities 7-9 (Managing Authority: Ministry of National Economy and Finances)

**Next steps:** It was agreed that all partners should try to identify which if not all of the 4 good practices they envisage for the transfer into their own region.

It was noted that **additional good practices** could be presented: the eAuctioning system for procurement of office supplies and the CRM system of Belfast (a nominee in the UK e-Government National Awards 2007).

#### **4. Communication and dissemination tools**

##### **(a) Collaboration tool**

Colm McColgan (ERNACT EEIG) demonstrated the collaboration tool "teamworker" that will be used in this project. A users' guide will be sent to the partners

##### **(b) Web-site**

Responsible partner: Charlie Wallin (ALAV, Västernorrland): the web-site is expected to be launched in November . The URL will be: [www.pike-project.eu](http://www.pike-project.eu). All partners must do a page in their corporate websites about PIKE and link it to the project website.

##### **(c) Good practice handbook**

Responsible partner: Jiri Safranek

The partner overall responsible for Component 3, José Manuel San Emeterio (EMCANTA), presented the methodology to be followed for the good practice handbook, the individual activities, schedule and responsibilities. A template for structuring the presentations of the four good practices was discussed and slightly amended.

##### **(d) Communication plan**

Responsible partner: Charlie Wallin (ALAV, Västernorrland)

For the newsletter, all partners will contribute in turns to provide content for Olomouc

All partners have in the budget costs for press releases (or ads) in national/local press and printing services for project brochure. All partners must also help to disseminate the handbook, brochure and newsletter.

#### **4. Internal organisation and evaluation**

##### **(a) Composition of the steering committee ("fast track committee")**

The following persons were nominated as members of the Fast Track Committee

- **ERNACT:** Rocío Rubio
- **Olomouc:** Jiří Šafránek
- **Bulgaria SE:** Nadya Danikova
- **Sterea Ellada:** Andreas Vassilopolus
- **Emcanta:** José Manuel San Emeterio / Oscar Martín

- **Bologna:** Leda Guidi
- **Donegal:** Brian Boyle
- **Galway:** Brian Barrett
- **Derry:** Matt Peachey
- **Västernorrland:** May Anderson

**(b) Template for evaluation of activities**

The template for the immediate evaluation of the workshops and other PIKE activities (e.g. the kick-off meeting) that emanated from another fast-track network had been sent to the PIKE partners beforehand and was briefly discussed.

**(c) Calendar of activities & milestones**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Partners involved</b>
Finalisation of template for good practice presentations	16/09/2008	Donegal
First draft of 4 good practice descriptions Peer review of good practice descriptions	3/11/2008	Donegal, EMCANTA, Derry
Interregional Launch Conference.	25/11/2008	Derry County council
PIKE brochure	...	ALAV
Launch of PIKE web-site	...	ALAV
Workshop	26/11/2008	All
Publication of the Good Practices Handbook	April 2009	Olomouc Input: Donegal, EMCANTA, Derry Design: ALAV
Newsletter		Olomouc
Transfer roadmaps	July 2009	All partners
Presentation of good practices and roadmaps to Monitoring Committees	July – Nov. 2009	All partners
First draft of action plans	Sept. 2009	All partners
Interregional Closing Conference.	2010	Bulgaria South East Region

The **partners' work plans** are in the annex to the Consortium Agreement.

**5. Content related support**

Katja Reppel (Commission) briefly presented the support that the Commission will offer to PIKE, in order to facilitate its objective to transfer good practices. Its main element is the involvement of other Commission departments in the network follow-up (INFSO, ENTR, JRC, DIGIT) in order to benefit from their experiences and contacts also with related networks and activities. Also the relevant country desk officers in REGIO are informed about PIKE and may assist in sensitising Managing Authorities.

Besides this, the Commission offers PIKE publicity support through its [eGovernment](#) and [ePractice](#) portals and through inviting it to actively participate in the Regions for Economic Change annual conference (next in February 2009) and other events.

## REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE

### PIKE - PROMOTING INNOVATION AND THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

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