

INTERREG IVC capitalization project in progress on the issue  
***“Very High Broadband Access in Rural Areas”***  
**Minutes of the 18th of November 2009 meeting in Brussels**

## **I. Introduction**

The goals of this 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were:

- To introduce to each other the potential interested partners
- To present the general methodology for preparing an INTERREG IVC capitalization project
- To identify a first pool of possible good practices.

## **II. About the potential partners**

All participants confirmed at the end of the meeting their interest in the project in progress.

Among them, it is important to note the strong interest from partners already engaged in “B3 Regions” project - Piedmont (IT) and Extremadura (ES) - and in “Pike” project Donegal (IE), both of them capitalization projects approved under INTERREG IVC and labeled as “Fast track” projects by the European Commission. This will help to build a project that would not duplicate what is already done as part of these projects.

The ERIS@ network confirmed its interest to go on exploring the best way to add value concerning the communication and dissemination issues, in close articulation with its own activities.

The participation within each country will be limited to a maximum of three partners, including at least one managing authority/intermediate body in charge of Regional OP. Some entities, not assuming such a task, are invited to contact their regional or national authorities to check their possible involvement in this project, in so far as it is a requisite fixed by INTERREG IVC bodies.

## **III. About the content of the project**

The interested partners agreed to focus the project on the issue of “How to build a high speed broadband network at efficient cost in rural areas” and particularly (without excluding other topics at this stage) on:

- Which technology mix to optimize the cost of the network?
- Which could be the funding models?
- High speed observatories in rural areas (mapping of the uses and speed )
- ICT services as a way to fund high speed networks?
- Which ICT uses to be developed on high speed networks?
- Public Private partnerships for high speed networks (Open networks, ...)

The existence of practices on such issues in the different interested countries should be considered first in view of agreeing later on the stock of good practices to be included in the application form.

## **IV. Next steps**

Niverlan will prepare:

- A first draft of the content that will be then enriched with inputs from every interested partner. A special attention will be paid to check the non redundancy with “B3 Regions” and “Pike” contents.
- Methodological documents (such as factsheet of describing the good practice and its transferability) sent out early December.
- On this basis, each partner will be requested: 1/ to prepare further information on the good practices that could be shared; 2/ to clarify which are the funding lines which could be mobilized in their regional OP for the subsequent transfer of good practices coming from other territories.

Contacts will be established with the “Fast track” EC team in charge of the follow-up of “B3 Regions” and “Pike” projects to have their views on the proposed dividing lines and to take into account their suggestions if any.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be organized mid January (possibly between 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010) in Brussels to jointly agree on a first stock of good practices and to work out the project’ content based on the first draft.

A collaborative platform will be opened up in early December will all power point presentations and other relevant documents.