

## BLED FORUM

# “B3 – Regions for Better Broadband Connections”

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Made possible by the INTERREG IVC Operational Programme

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

- Broadband is a key pillar in Europe's competitive strategy
- Despite the wave of privatisation occurred in the Telco sector, governments still play an important role
- Regional Governments are managing the allocation of significant amount of EU resources
- The Governance of broadband diffusion is a complex process requiring advanced policy intelligence skills.
- It is thus key to foster a process of mutual learning among European Regions

Made possible by the INTERREG IVC Operational Programme

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

- B3 Regions is a fast track project funded under **INTERREG IVC Programme**
- B3 Regions aims at:
  - exchanging and sharing good practices around the common theme of broadband regional development  
(main result indicators: 8 thematic workshops)
- in order to:
  - capitalise expertise under OPs 2007-2013  
(main result indicators: 13 action plans)
- Duration: **26 months** (September 2008 – October 2010)

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project's components:

**Component 1** – Management and coordination

**Component 2** – Communication and dissemination

**Component 3** – Exchange of experience and transfer of good practices into the Structural Funds mainstream programmes

## THE PARTNERSHIP

- **8 Regional Managing Authorities**  
(Piedmont, Sterea Ellada, Catalunya, Malopolska, Lodz, Crete, Lower Silesia)
- **5 ICT Implementation Agencies**  
(CSI -Piemonte, Nynet, NCA, iCentres Association, Fundecyt)
- **1 Local authority** (Lodz)
- **2 ICT University Departments**  
(Crete, Cyprus)



## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND TRANSFER TOOLS

- **8 Thematic workshops** and exchange of broadband good practices;
- **Study visits**;
- **Staff exchange** through twinning between Regions.  
Each twin couple is formed on the basis of common interests by a Region which has already developed a broadband strategy under SF 2000-2006 and a Region which has to develop broadband under SF 2007-2013;
- National and international **conferences** (dissemination events);
- The project platform (**Action Plan Support Tool**).
- **The e-learning platform**

## IDENTIFIED GOOD PRACTICES

The **capitalisation process** is achieved thanks to a **transfer process** of broadband experiences around specific sub-themes in a harmonised way.

The main themes proposed are:

- **Demand Aggregation** (Nynet - UK)
- **E-government services and management of the infrastructure**  
(Lodz/ Malopolska/ Lower Silesia - Poland)
- **State Aid Regulation** (Extremadura/ Catalonia - Spain)
- **Educational services** (Crete/ Sterea Ellada - Greece)
- **Establishing an ICT Observatory** (Piedmont - Italy)
- **Access in remote rural coastal mountain areas**  
(University of Cyprus - Cyprus)
- **EU broadband search engine** (NCA - Hungary)
- **Public Private Partnerships and funding models** (iCentres - Bulgaria)



## WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

- **Report**, a sort of **handbook** containing topics and good practices presented;
- **Audio-video documentation**;
- **Feedback form** (about the workshop satisfaction, contents and improvements);

## AND

- **E-learning modules** containing for each theme the following issues:
  - context definition,
  - statement of objectives set,
  - methods, practices and approaches implemented,
  - transferable lessons learnt,
  - discussion section,
  - glossary,
  - e-game,
  - similar initiatives and projects.

## B3 REGIONS E-LEARNING PLATFORM:

### State Aid Regulation

You are logged in as Sara Di Falco (Logout)

b3regions ▶ B3-State aid regulation

**People** ▾

Participants

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- Broadband
- Education
- Services
- Demand

Topic outline


  


B3 Regions- Regions for Better Broadband Connection

STATE AID REGULATION

- News forum
- State Aid glossary
- All presentations (ppt version)

**To learn more** ▾

State Aid Web Site

European Commission: search case

Commission decision on Broad band

Service of general Economic Interest (SGEI)

N381/2004 Haut débit en Pyrénées-Atlantiques

N382/2004 Haut débit en Limousin - DORSAL

Market Economic Investor Principle (MEIP)

C53/2006(ex. N262/2005)  
Citynet Amsterdam

<http://merope.ucnet.uoc.gr/b3regions/>

## FROM GOOD PRACTICES TO ACTION PLANS: transferred experiences

PARTNER	ACTION PLAN DELIVERY	GOOD PRACTICES TRANSFERRED	
<b>Piedmont Region, I</b>	Jan. 2010	<b>Catalunya, E</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CATNIX (Catalunya Neutral Internet Exchange);</li> <li>▪ business model.</li> </ul>	<b>Nynet, UK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ business model.</li> </ul>
<b>Nynet, UK</b>	Commencing in 2010	<b>Catalunya, E</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regulatory: state aid.</li> </ul>	<b>CSI-Piemonte, I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical: TOP-IX wireless infrastructure (Toring Piemonte Internet Exchange);</li> <li>▪ Economic development: TOP-IX Development Program (to promote innovation projects and broadband).</li> </ul>
<b>NCA, HU</b>	Dec. 2009	<b>Catalunya, E</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regulatory: state aid.</li> </ul>	

## ACTION PLAN SUPPORT TOOL

The APST, based on the **Case Based Reasoning** (CBR), is useful in solving problems studying similar cases.

The tool recognises the policy by searching and retrieving from the data base of good practices those that **better fit the requirements** allowing to identify the starting point in defining the broadband strategy.

Such tool is conceived as a multidimensional matrix making possible to connect 4 types of information:

1. problems / issues targeted;
2. policy solutions;
3. contextual environments;
4. successfulness of policies implemented

The APST aims to **assist regional policy makers** in developing broadband action plans through:

- an intelligent provision of essential information about broadband good practices across Europe;
- an ex-ante evaluation of plans building-blocks

## WHAT NEXT?

- **Training** module included in a project proposal submitted to last INTERREG call
- **Open memorandum of understanding** between Piedmont and Catalunya for the development and exchange of good practices on policy intelligence activities

For further information please visit the B3 Regions official website:



REGIONS FOR **B**BETTER **B**BROAD **B**BAND CONNECTION



- ▢ About the Project
- ▢ News
- ▢ Events
- ▢ Partners
- ▢ Deliverables
- ▢ Dissemination
- ▢ Partners only
- ▢ Contact us

Path: **Home page**

## About the Project

Funded under the European Territorial Cooperation INTERREG IVC Programme, **Regions for Better Broadband Connection** innovative project aims to tackle the difficulties of **implementing broadband connections in remote or disadvantaged areas.**

[read more about the Project](#)



## News

2009-08-12 09:26:54

### **B3 Regions presentation on PIKE workshop**

B3 Regions Lead Partner - Region of Piedmont, will present the initiative during PIKE workshop organized on 24 September [...]

[read more about: B3 Regions presentation on PIKE workshop](#)

2009-08-17 08:04:37

### **B3 Regions presentation on SFERA Annual Conference**

B3 Regions project will be presented on SFERA Annual Conference: Improving the Deployment of Innovative Broadband Ne [...]

[read more about: B3 Regions presentation on SFERA Annual Conference](#)

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Next Generation Network

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