



**B3 Regions
Regions for Better Broadband connection
ABSTRACT**

Main Feature

- Priority: Innovation and the knowledge economy
- Sub-theme: The Information Society
- Length: 26 Months
- Start Date: September 2008
- 8 Member States represented
- Selected by the European Commission as Fast Track

Consortium

Lead Partner: Regione Piemonte
Partner: Region of Sterea Ellada
Partner: Region of Catalonia
Partner: Region of Malopolska
Partner: Region of Lodz
Partner: Region of Crete
Partner: Region of Lower Silesia
Partner: Region of Sardinia
Partner :CSI-Piemonte
Partner: Nynet
Partner: National Communication Authority
Partner: Fundecyt
Partner: iCentres
Partner: City of Lodz
Partner: University of Crete
Partner: University of Cyprus

The project

B3 Regions aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the Information Society area, by optimising the expert partners' good practices (mainly achieved through Structural Funds Plans 2000-2006) that are related to broadband implementation in disadvantaged areas.

The consortium represents 8 different Member States: 4 old MS (Italy, United Kingdom, Greece, and Spain) and 4 new MS (Poland, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Hungary). Among the partners there are 8

Regional Managing Authorities (MAs), 5 ICT implementing Agencies, 1 Local authority and 2 ICT University Departments.

B3 Regions will match less experienced with more advanced regions with regard to Broadband implementation in remote and rural areas. Indeed the latter ones have matured the analytical capacities to identify priorities and management skills to address the organisational issue.

The project will contribute to economic modernisation and increased competitiveness of Europe by exchanging this already identified experience and knowledge in the strategic domain of the Information Society, thus ensuring that the identified good practices will be transferred into mainstream programmes and will be spread out of the consortium, among regional managing Authorities.

Expertise of the consortium

To successfully transfer the Broadband Practices, the following experiences reflect the existing know how:

1) Identified Good Practices in Broadband strategies.

- Piedmont and CSI developed the WI-PIE programme, taking into account the mountain and disadvantaged areas, by using multi-technology infrastructure and a trial of service models for businesses, schools and local PAs;
- NYnet represents one of European largest public, open access, broadband initiative to overcome rural/coastal disadvantages in terms of connectivity. Its PPPs ensures inclusive approach to all citizens.
- NCA that, through Broadband Foundation, sets up the HBSE, the independent portal in Hungary offering broadband search engine.
- University of Crete developed Smart Village project covering the whole town of Archanes with a set of customized applications for e-local government;
- Icentres established in a mountain area a network of 109 iCentres with broadband Internet connectivity
- Fundecyt developed (1998-2007) the Broadband Extension Plans and the Isolated areas broadband, covering 100% of regional area, 41.633 km² mountain and isolated;
- Catalunya deployed (OPs 2000-2006) a broadband infrastructure in the Pyrenees area.

The “transfer knowledge” activity

Broadband good practices will be exchanged among project partners, with a special focus for the Managing Authorities partners having to draft their action plans for Broadband development under 2007-2013 Structural Funds.

Dissemination activity

B3 Regions aims to make relevant stakeholders across EU aware of the project's activities and results. Strong accent is given to Managing and implementing authorities, by making them benefit from good practices achieved in the frame of broadband implementation

Among the main tasks there are the B3 Regions website implementation, the organisation of two international conferences, the organisation of several national press conference.

Total Budget

The project budget is equal to 3,495,380.69 Eur.