

CAPTURE - CAPTURE: The Knowledge Network

Programme zone / Zone de programme:

West / Ouest

Type / Type

Network / Réseau

Topic / Thème

Objective 1 and 2 areas / Régions des objectifs n°1 et n°2

Problem description / Description du problème ciblé par le projet

The idea for CAPTURE came from a group of medium-sized towns and cities which had been working together since 1991 through a network known as Eurotowns. In 2003, Eurotowns conducted detailed research into its members and found that the vast majority shared four main characteristics: first, a manufacturing sector that was restructuring or in decline; second, jobs that were of low value and low pay; third, the presence of a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and lastly, high out-migration, particularly of young people seeking opportunities in larger neighbouring cities.

Overall objective / Objectif général de l'opération

CAPTURE aims to address these problems by stimulating business innovation, growth and regional economic development through technology transfer and the stimulation of knowledge-based companies within network member towns. It also hopes to promote pan-European dialogue and exchange, enabling small and medium-sized towns to strengthen their ability to contribute to regional development and social cohesion. The pre-existing network of Eurotowns will help this dialogue and exchange to be maintained on a long term basis.

Expected results / Résultats attendus

By enabling valuable information to be shared, CAPTURE is establishing the transfer of good practice among members. It is also working to establish a dialogue between small and medium-sized towns and cities on the one hand and regional development agencies and universities on the other. By doing this, it is increasing awareness among network members and regional bodies of the potential of the knowledge economy. This improvement in communications generates in turn wide-ranging economic benefits for all CAPTURE members. The network contributes to the growth of the regional economy, increases the number of higher value jobs, attracts inward investment, increases the number of knowledge-based companies, increases human capital in the member regions and increases capacity within network members.

Lead partner / Partenaire principal	Contact person / Personne à contacter	Duration / Durée
Brighton and Hove City Council Economic Development and Regeneration, Kings House, Grand Avenue, BN3 2LS HOVE UNITED KINGDOM	Rachel Williams Tel.: 44 1273 291100 Fax: 44 1273 291123 E-Mail: rachel.williams@brighton-ho ve.gov.uk Web: www.eurotowns.org/capture	September 2004 - December 2007
		Total budget / Budget total: 587.800 €
		ERDF contribution / Contribution FEDER: 358.400 €
		Norwegian contribution / Contribution des fonds norvégiens: 0 €



Partnership / Partenaires

Name of Institution, Town /Titre de l'institution, Ville	Country / Pays	Region / Région	Contact information / Détails de contact
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Local Development Centre of Western Achaia, Kato	GREECE	DYTIKI ELLADA	Phone: 00 30 269 302 5300 ktada@otenet.gr
City of Mikkeli, Mikkeli	FINLAND	ITÄ-SUOMI	Phone: 00 358 151 94 20 92 kimmo.airas@mikkeli.fi



Activities / achievements so far

The CAPTURE partnership has delivered a successful European wide network focusing on the knowledge economy from the perspective of smaller towns and cities. 19 towns from 11 EU countries came together to explore how to drive their own local and regional policies to compete in the knowledge based economy of the future, and rise to the challenge of the Lisbon agenda. At the heart of CAPTURE has been exchange activity to promote inter regional dialogue. This exchange was based on an initial baseline survey which identified the most important themes for towns to work on. Over a two year period almost 250 participants attended 6 Study Visits, 3 Network meetings, 6 staff exchanges, 7 Management Groups, a Forward Strategy workshop, an Incubation masterclass and a Final Parliamentary Reception. The CAPTURE website served as an information tool with pages for all activities and a project archive with all meeting documents and presentations. In the final stages CAPTURE focussed on analysing impact and disseminating results. The External Evaluation and Follow Up reports formed the basis for the CAPTURE Final Report and Presentations, which communicate the results and learning about the knowledge economy in a concise way. A Reception was held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 17 October hosted by Dan Hannan MEP, and attended by the Interreg III C JTS Director and DG REGIO representatives, as well as many senior political representatives from the CAPTURE towns. CAPTURE partners have developed ideas to capitalise on the network's success and have submitted two new projects to Interreg IVC.

More information:

www.eurotowns.org/capture



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