



8th Interregional policy learning (IPL) and 8th interregional steering committee (ISC)

September 11th & 12th 2018

Organising partner: Regional Council of Kainuu, PP2

Location: Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, PP4
Esterinportti 2, Maakuntasali, Pasila, Helsinki, Finland

11.9.2018 8th IPL: Peer review of the BRIDGES partners' action plans

- 9:00 - 12:30 Opening of the 8th BRIDGES interregional policy learning
Welcome to the BRIDGES meeting & the external peer review (PP2, PP4, PP1)
Peer review coordinator introduces the task, expectations etc.
- Lagging regions project review
State of play and possible synergy themes.
- Peer review, part 1
Presentations of the action plans: project partners in cooperation with their MAs/IBs, (if the organisations are different) present in summary the proposed action plan per region. There are six presentations and each presentation is 15 – 20 minutes maximum.
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch, informal networking**
- 13:30 - 17:00 Peer review, part 2
- Peer review discussion
- Synergy session, coordinated by the Lagging Regions project, Part 1 introduction of the synergy ideas
- Conclusions (the peer review moderator sums up the findings & conclusions, and indicates the steps for the policy learning session on the next day).
- Video:ed impressions at the end of the peer review; explanations on the video in attached document.

Overview of the peer review

Introduction

The BRIDGES project is eventually reaching the end of its Phase 1 (March 31st, 2019). According to the approved project plan, an external peer review of the partner regions' action plans is scheduled for September 2018. The endorsement of the final documents is expected to take place during the 6th semester (October 2018 – March 2019). Phase 2, 1.4.2019 – 31.3.2021, is planned for the implementation of the partners' action plans.

Purpose of the external peer review

The purpose of the external peer review is, above all, to give the opportunity to discuss, among peers, the proposed action plans in view of their final endorsement and implementation during Phase 2. It is also important to enhance learning from each other and possibly identifying synergies with relevant projects, such as the Lagging Regions (JRC, funded by the European Parliament) project. Finally, as this period of the ESI funds is drawing to its conclusion and as the next period is already in advanced planning stage, we hope, during the peer review to have the opportunity to also consider how the proposed actions might reflect longer term development objectives.

Peer reviewers

The aim is to bring together the regional policy makers who are/will be involved in the endorsement of the action plans, regional development researchers / experts / synergy projects and the project partners as developers of the action plans and Phase 2 implementers.

Material for the peer review

- The action plans of the six BRIDGES regions
- Lagging regions project review
- Basis for discussing possible synergies: interregional cooperation schemes and permanence.
- Peer review questions: The peer review will be moderated. Peer reviewers, are expected to discuss with each other such issues as:
 - (1). How does the action plan add to other initiatives in the region?
 - (2). What kind of funding commitments seem to be relevant as well as feasible?
 - (3). Are the proposed action plans sufficiently benefitting from good practice transfer?
 - (4). Are the proposed action plans supporting investments explicitly and convincingly?
 - (5). One of the key aspects of the BRIDGES project is making accessible to the regions the research-to-business approach. Are the proposed action plans sufficiently benefitting from such solutions?
 - (6). Another key aspect of the BRIDGES project is addressing mismatches between the economic and knowledge bases of regions through interregional cooperation schemes. Do the action plans take into account sufficiently this option?
 - (7). What do you like most in each action plan? What are the aspects that could / should be strengthened or changed?

Are the proposed action plans contributing to the improvement of the RIS3 delivery in each one of the partner areas? Is the self-defined indicator realistic? What kind of impact adjustments might be suitable?

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12.9.2018 8th IPL & 8th ISC**9:00 - 11:00****Policy learning**

Synergy options, Part 2: identification of possible joint themes, interests

11:00 – 13:00**Communication and dissemination**

Progress, deliverables, pending outputs

Partner dissemination activities

2nd brochure, 3rd newsletter, videos

Project publication

Our experience from the interregional cooperation (video:ed), partners and regions express their

- What makes your project special?
- What it means to you to work with colleagues from other countries?
- What do you like about implementing a project through Interreg Europe?
- What has the project brought to you/your region/citizens of your region?
- Is there anything that would not have happened in your region without the project?

Each partner region assigns one representative to respond to these questions.

13:00 – 14:00**Lunch****14:00 - 16:00****8th ISC**

Progress towards project objectives, problems, discussion, decisions

Underspending issues relevant to all the partners. We need to report directly to the JTS.

Partner name	Partner state	Total budget	Previously reported	Current report	Total reported so far	%	Remaining budget
PP1	Kahnun Ety Ltd	311,865.00	95,843.84	38,845.36	135,089.20	40.88 %	196,205.80
PP2	Regional Council of Kahnun	231,800.00	10,247.97	44,913.82	55,161.89	23.80 %	176,638.11
PP3	Lubalskie Voivodeship	218,400.00	43,358.02	18,381.35	61,739.37	28.27 %	156,660.63
PP4	Heleńki-Ustronie Regional Council Regional Development	239,975.00	82,620.96	37,190.27	119,811.23	49.95 %	120,063.77
PP5	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF WESTERN MACKEDONIA S.A. ANKO	187,600.00	63,892.86	22,598.40	86,491.35	46.13 %	101,068.65
PP6	Soda Valley Development Centre	180,905.00	60,473.23	34,096.40	103,529.83	57.25 %	77,375.37
PP7	Pannon Business Network Association	192,900.00	48,640.83	19,758.15	68,398.98	35.98 %	129,507.02
PP8	European Business and Innovation Centre of Burgos	188,567.00	84,290.24	33,084.03	117,334.27	69.09 %	61,222.73
PP9	CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY, THESSALY	166,500.00	62,619.85	8,539.39	71,159.24	38.21 %	125,370.76

5th semester reporting & stakeholder survey (separate documents)

6th semester action plan

Next IPL & ISC sessions: 9th ISC online; 10th ISC and mid-term conference

End of the 8th IPL & 8th ISC

19:00**Project dinner on the 10th, 11th, and 12th.****9:00 – 16:00****Coffee and refreshments available throughout the two day meetings**



8th IPL and 8th ISC: video sessions

There are planned to be two video sessions: one at the end of the peer review, in the afternoon of September 11th and one in the morning of September 12th.

Video session 1: peer review impressions

- (1) **Purpose:** to register the experience of the peer review discussion, its usefulness, and any impacts on the action plan of each region.
- (2) **Interviewees:** the representatives of the Managing Authorities / Intermediate Bodies and partners from the respective regions. There are 6 regions; 8 or 9 persons will be interviewed including the peer review coordinator and maybe the regional stakeholder group coordinator from PP1/PP2 region.
- (3) **Interview questions:**
 - First, thanks are expressed to each one of the MAs/IBs for joining the peer review and supporting the BRIDGES project.
 - Then, interview questions
 - (A) How did you find the peer review, was it useful for your region, for the action plan of your region?
 - (B) Has the exchange with peers (i.e. other Managing Authorities or Intermediate Bodies) generated relevant & useful insights? What would you say was the most useful part of the peer review?
 - (C) BRIDGES aims at improving the RIS3 delivery on the ground. In your opinion, does the action plan contribute effectively to this purpose?
 - (D) In your opinion, has the interregional cooperation been useful, has it fulfilled its tasks?
 - (E) What could we have done a little better?
- (4) **Process:** the Communication and Dissemination coordinator (Agata, PP3) guides the interviews. Each interview is 4 minutes long maximum, so the video will be 36 minutes at most.

Video session 2: BRIDGES as part of the Interreg Europe programme

- (5) **Purpose:** to discuss and express partners' points of view regarding the importance / benefits / difficulties of the Interreg Europe programme as perceived through the BRIDGES project experience.
- (6) **Interviewees:** All project partners present in the 8th interregional session of the Communication & Dissemination are concerned. Before the interview, there will be a round table discussion and each region has 10 minutes to respond to the six (6) questions below, and assign one regional representative to present the answers to the video.
- (7) **Interview questions**
- (A) Is there something special in BRIDGES project? How would you describe it?
- (B) In the context of the BRIDGES project, and maybe also in the context of other Interreg Europe projects
- What it means to you to work with colleagues from other countries?
 - What do you like about implementing a project through Interreg Europe?
 - What has BRIDGES project brought to you/your region/citizens of your region?
 - Is there anything that would not have happened in your region without the project?

Process: the Communication and Dissemination coordinator (Agata, PP3) guides the discussion. There will be 8 or 9 interviews maximum; each interview will be maximum 4 minutes long, total length 36 minutes at most.