



RELOS3

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Welcome to the RELOS3 Newsletter!

Summer 2019 is upon us, after a busy first semester in 2019. We have made quite a bit of progress, and we are now getting ready for the last steps in Phase 1 of the project, before we enter the Implementation Phase of the project.

The project has completed two more successful long-term visits, to Bologna (IT) and Tartu (EE). All the time, project partners have been busy with documenting good practices from their region and engaging with stakeholders. Last but not least, all partners are developing their Regional Action Plans, which usually have a very local orientation, owing to the project's theme, so perhaps they should be Local Action Plans.

As you know, RELOS3 concentrates on implementing regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) at the local level by actively involving local authorities, innovation actors and companies.

In this newsletter, we discuss highlights of the long-term visits to Bologna and Tartu. We also have news from the programme that funds our activities activity. As a last point, you can see the planning for the next meetings of the project.

You are most welcome to share this newsletter with colleagues, they themselves can sign up through our website.

For regular updates, please follow us on [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#), or just visit our website: www.relos3.eu.



Long-Term Visit to Bologna

From 14 to 18 May, the Metropolitan City of Bologna hosted delegations of Sabadell (Spain), Tartu (Estonia) and the Wielkopolska Region (Poland) for the third Long Term Visit of the Interreg Europe RELOS3 project.

It was a unique opportunity to discover the innovative aspects of the economic and industrial excellence of the territory with a packed agenda of interesting encounters and opportunities for knowledge exchange.

[\[click here to read more\]](#)

Interreg Europe: unique
now and in the future

State of Play for Interreg Europe

The Interreg Europe programme, the programme that co-funds the activities of the RELOS3 project is one of the most successful and effective EU-programmes, it turns out. The amount of investments generated by the projects by far exceeds the initial outlay of the projects funded, and over 250 projects with more than 2000 partners from almost all (>90%) of EU regions take part in Interreg Europe projects!

There are many examples of practical interregional transfer of knowledge, and many best practices documented.

[\[click here to read more\]](#)



Long-term visit to Tartu

The City of Good Thoughts

The long-term visit concept, consisting of studying a region into depth by visiting it and by actually engaging with its innovation ecosystems turned out to be very effective. Each partner learned a lot, and each partner will now disseminate knowledge in their own area. It is also an important input for the Regional Action Plans.

In late June, the project visited Tartu and the area around it. Some highlights include the visit to the Võru Region, which was an eye-opener in how Smart Specialisation can be applied to more traditional sectors like woodworking and food.

The group visited for example the Centre of Competence for Wood Processing and Furniture Manufacturing, a valuable link to civic society, foreign clients and other stakeholders. All companies visited highlighted their cooperation with universities and other research-based organisations. The involvement of SMEs in Smart Specialisation was considered to be an important factor in the region's success.

The word 'start-up' contains Tartu, and Tartu has a unique sTARTUp Day. Perhaps it's best described as a festival, devoted to entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is -so we learnt- even part of the national curriculum for students who study economy in secondary education - with a proper company!

One of the participants, Daniele Cencioni from the Metropolitan City of Bologna, commented: *"Everywhere you breathe the air of innovation, the desire to succeed, and to give space to ideas, especially by young people. The innovation process seems to benefit from the close collaboration between stakeholders and the lean structure of the institutions.uo;*

A full report will be published on [our website](#) soon.



Events planned

Planning events

Our Regional Action Plans will be presented at a special event in late November in Groningen (the Netherlands).

- Groningen 19-20 November 2019 (more information to follow)

Also, many partners will be present at the [European Week of Regions and Cities](#) (Open Days) from 7-10 October in Brussels.

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