



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Welcome to the RELOS3 Newsletter!

Time flies past... as the end of the year draws near, it's a good moment to reflect on what has been happening in 2018, and to look forward to what is going to happen in 2019.

Of course, RELOS3 keeps on concentrating 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 Emmen and Sabadell. We also have news from the programme that funds our activities activity and you can also see the planning of the next meetings of the project.

You are 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.



First Long-Term Visit in Emmen

In September, the first Long-Term Visit took place in Emmen. All six partners were represented at this meeting. Emmen prepared a programme which involved many stakeholders, including local companies, local educational organisations.

Even the local Management Authority SNN was involved in the visit. Together with some other Interreg Europe projects in the north of the Netherlands, RELOS3 set out to provide advice on how smart specialisation in the area could be improved. In this way, the *wisdom of crowd* was used to its fullest, if only because so many people attended the event.

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



Why is it important to fund interregional cooperation projects post 2020?

The interregional cooperation must be continued. This is the only programme of its type, where **all EU regions can equally collaborate, exchange, learn, network, influence policies and improve their region's and peoples' lives.**

Zane Zeibote
Latvia

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Interreg Europe scrapped post-2020?

As everybody will be aware, the current programming period of the EU ends within two years. Of course, existing projects will still continue as planned, but it also means that we are going to see new funding possibilities, however programmes that we know and love (and hate, sometimes) may be cancelled.

In the current plans for European funding after 2020, Interreg Europe as we know it now is

This will be an important blow to bottom-up transnational cooperation in Smart Specialisation. The good news is that the current proposals are currently in the drafting stage and that opinions and feedback are sought. Opinions from current Interreg Europe stakeholders do count.

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



Long-term visit Sabadell

In November, RELOS3 came back to its roots by visiting Sabadell for a long-term visit. The Spanish lead partner prepared a very interesting programme, that included not only multiple visit to innovation organisations like [LEITAT](#) but also included bi-lateral exchanges with many stakeholders from the area.

This was very much appreciated by all participants. As a stakeholder especially interested in in tourism, Dutch stakeholder Cigdem Zantingh was in talks to the Catalan region on this sector (see picture).

She remarked: "It is very interesting how cities in the region market themselves as destinations, and how cooperation within the Quadruple Helix - and especially entrepreneurs - takes place to show tourists all the attractions of an area, even when they are not close to a touristic hotspot. This is a very good concept which I will certainly share within our Communities of Practice pertaining to tourism and recreation."

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



Events planned

Planning events

After the event in Emmen, the remaining long-term visits are planned as follows:

- Bologna: April 2019
- Tartu: June 2019

The exact dates will be announced when they are known.

Furthermore, to conclude phase 1 of the project, a meeting uniting stakeholders and policy makers will be jointly organised. The precise date and place will be decided later, but it may well be in Brussels.

*Merry
Christmas*



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