

Good Practice template

- All Good Practices identified by an Interreg Europe project and reported in the progress reports have to be submitted to the Programme.
- In order to submit a practice, you will have to register in the Interreg Europe website. Online submission will be available the first semester of 2017.
- NB: in orange: 2 optional fields. All other fields are compulsory.

1. General information	
Title of the practice	I.R.E.NE. Innovative & Responsible Economy Network
Does this practice come from an Interreg Europe Project	No

In case 'yes' is selected, the following sections appear:

Please select the project acronym	Drop down menu with all acronyms
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Specific objective	Drop-down list of the 6 specific objectives <i>[Technical: In case a project is selected, the specific objective is automatically completed]</i>	
Main institution involved	I.R.E.NE. Innovative & Responsible Economy Network, Spoltre	
Location of the practice	Country	Italy (ITALIA)
	NUTS 1	SUD
	NUTS 2	Abruzzo
	NUTS 3	Pescara

2. Detailed description	
Detailed information on the practice	<p>The cluster "I.RE.NE." has the aim of consolidating and promoting models and patterns of social economy among SMEs, spreading the culture of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. This pole started thanks to the profitable collaboration of four trade associations active in Abruzzo (Confcooperative Abruzzo, Compagnia delle Opere Abruzzo Molise, Legacoop Abruzzo and Casartigiani Teramo) and thanks to an investment of around 2.600.000 euro in five years.</p> <p>The current number of members is 240: they belong to various sectors, from the social innovation and civil economy to the social and health care and education, as well as the tourism, culture and sports system, the building and housing field, energy and environment, agriculture and fishery, business supporting services and finance, credit and guarantees.</p> <p>IRENE intends to trigger a network of non-profit and social enterprises, supporting their expansion and innovation, also in order to foster the development of innovative projects and initiatives that can involve companies from different sectors and to propose operational models of social responsibility. To achieve its objectives, the cluster has so far implemented a series of activities, training sessions and services tailored to businesses' needs, becoming one of the "Innovation Poles" identified and approved by the Abruzzo Region.</p>
Resources needed	The practice required the total investment of 2.600.000 euros in five years.

Timescale (start/end date)	May 2011 – onwards
Evidence of success (results achieved)	<p>This practice not only helps social enterprises, but promotes corporate social responsibility. Its field of action is not restricted to specific fields, but its operational practices can be used by a broad range of industries from the social innovation and civil economy to health care and education, tourism, culture and sports system, the building and housing field, energy and environment, agriculture and fishery, business supporting services and finance, credit and guarantees. On the last Assembly of I.RE.NE. Consortium (may 2016) the results showed a higher number of member (220 partners, out of which 7 extra-regional) including universities' researchers, NGO's, cooperatives, and more than 20 implemented initiatives of different dimensions, covering the entire territory of the Abruzzo Region.</p> <p>Furthermore, as one of the regional poles of innovation, it has been able to give a common voice to the different social entities, becoming a key actor in the political discussion about the credit system for social and mutual enterprises and for welfare system's reform.</p>
Difficulties encountered/ lessons learned	Although at EU level social enterprises receive major support, at Italian national level social enterprises have just begun to evolve, as a result our network is left in a more difficult business environment.
Potential for learning or transfer	I.RE.NE. could work in other contexts in another regional or European context, thanks to the core idea of clustering actors and experiences of common social business models not only oriented to profit but even more to mutuality, social responsibility, aggregation, integration, territoriality and respect for tradition (in terms of innovation and development). This initiative could be easily replicated in other contexts, by ensuring to pursue similar values aimed at consolidating and promoting a new model of social responsible economy.
Further information	http://www.consortileirene.it
Contact details <i>[Technical: the contact details will be visible only to "Policy Learning Platforms registered members"]</i>	
Name	Michele Ianniello
Organisation	I.R.E.N.E. Centre
Email	presidenza@consortileirene.it
Expert opinion	<i>[500 characters]</i> [Technical: to be filled in by the Policy Learning Platforms experts]