



WHAT IS P-IRIS? A NEW PROJECT FOR IMPROVING RURAL AREAS' INNOVATION SYSTEMS

Young people are leaving European rural areas because they do not find jobs answering to their professional aspirations. There is therefore a need to **boost innovation in rural areas** in order to develop knowledge-based or creative businesses, offering attractive jobs for well-educated and creative young people.

Six partners from Croatia, Finland, Italy, Norway, Slovenia and Spain have launched the **P-IRIS** project – “**Policies to improve rural areas' innovation systems by professionalising networking activities and use of innovation tools**”. The partnership is led by the **Sogn and Fjordane County Municipality from Norway**. The 4,5 year project (January 2017 - June 2021) was approved within the **Interreg Europe programme** financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

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PARTNERSHIP

The P-IRIS partnership consists of 6 partners from 6 countries: **Norway, Slovenia, Croatia, Finland, Spain and Italy**. They are counties, regional councils, development agencies and research institutions.

Partners in the project:

- Sogn og Fjordane County Municipality (Norway)
- Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia (Slovenia)
- Local Development Agency PINS (Croatia)
- Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia (Finland)
- Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (Spain)
- Poliedra – Politecnico di Milano (Italy)

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GETTING TO KNOW NORWEGIAN INNOVATION SYSTEMS

P-IRIS partners from Norway, Slovenia, Croatia, Finland, Spain and Italy were learning about **Norwegian innovation systems** during the kick-off meeting and study visit from 25th – 26th April 2017 which took place in **Sogn of Fjordane County in Norway**. The organizer Sogn and Fjordane County Municipality invited regional and national actors to present Norwegian cases from the innovation system. Actors from different sectors participated at the event: **regional authorities, universities and research institution and business support actors**.

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A TOOL-BOX FOR INNOVATION NETWORKS

The lead partner of P-IRIS project Sogn and Fjordane County Municipality requested a research on the **innovation system of the rural and mountainous county Sogn and Fjordane in Norway**. The research was done by Western Norway Research Institute and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, and the authors presented the main results to P-IRIS partners at the kick-off meeting in Sogndal in April.

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OECD

P-IRIS RAISED INTEREST AT OECD SEMINAR

P-IRIS was presented as a joint European Interreg project for boosting employment for highly educated young people and supporting the innovation system in rural areas at OECD seminar in Warsaw, Poland in beginning of April. The topic of the seminar was linking rural definitions, policy and coordinated rural development. Finish partner of P-IRIS project, **Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia**, presented main activities in the project.

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P-IRIS PRESENTED AT EU OPEN DAYS IN CROATIA

Our Croatian partners **Local Development Agency PINS** presented the P-IRIS project in Skrad on 11th May 2017 within «**EU Open Days in Croatia**». County vice-president shared his experience from the **study visit in Norway** and the good practices which partners learned about during the kick-off meeting in Sogn and Fjordane County.

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More about P-IRIS project:

<http://www.interreurope.eu/p-iris>

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