



RELOS3 capacity building event in Seville confirms good progress

The event that was jointly organised on 13 and 14 June by the Interreg Europe project RELOS3 and the Joint Research Centre was a great success. About 50 people from all over the EU attended the event. RELOS3 is a five-year EU-project on smart specialisation strategies deployment with a local perspective. Its consortium is made of institutions from Sabadell (Spain - lead partner), Bologna (Italy), Wielkopolska (Poland), Emmen (The Netherlands), Tartu (Estonia) and Malta.

The focus of the RELOS3 project is to find the most effective methods of implementing the EU's guidelines on Smart Specialisation and the related Structural Funds at the local level. They do so by comparing and bench-marking. On that, Councillor Eduard Navarro from Sabadell remarked: *"we need to contrast and compare RIS3 strategies, so we can improve our ERDF operational programmes and can contribute to the welfare and well-being of our regions and cities"*.

This tied in with the presentation made by Javier Gomez Prieto, Scientific Officer at the S3 Platform. He stated that when the new Operational Programmes of the EU come into force in 2020, the challenge is in bringing cohesion closer to the general public. Experts from Sweden and Portugal explained how they tackled this issue, a.o. by having special contests for idea generation and by incorporating best practices from elsewhere.

From there, the conference went into much more specific technical detail in the second day. Professor Nicola Bellini of the *Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna* in Pisa presented the findings of the research commissioned by the project. Besides general thoughts on how to set up collaboration between private and public organisations, educational institutions and civil society (the Quadruple Helix), he called on the RELOS3 partnership to start thinking about co-creation and co-design inside the partnership, in order to maximise the potential of transnational collaboration.

The conference ended with the S3 Platform Leader Manuel Palazuelos, who underlined the relevance of the work of the RELOS3 project, and called upon the participants in the project to develop their local Action Plans to put the concepts discussed during the conference into practice.

This meeting was the last in a series of five Thematic Events. For the next step in the project, mutual visits are planned, that take an in-depth look at the actions that each partner is undertaking to implement the project's goals at the local level. The first visit will take place from 17 September, when the project visits Emmen in the Netherlands.

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