

Press Release



Economic-industrial excellence of Bologna

From fashion to agribusiness, from cultural and creative industries to technology transfer to the world of start-ups. All these aspects of Smart Specialisation Strategies were studied in depth during a four-day visit of the RELOS3 project to Bologna, from 14 to 18 May 2019. The RELOS3 project focuses on smart specialisation strategies deployment with a local perspective and is funded by the Interreg Europe programme.

Cooperation and networking increases synergies

It was found that through robust cooperation, both the Emilia-Romagna region and the Metropolitan City of Bologna, have understood the importance of collaboration and networking to create synergies. Networking led to further cooperation, on many subjects and synergies. A local touch is using culture as a supporting element for spreading innovation across subjects, to integrate and construct projects for consumption in different ways with the general public increasingly protagonist rather than a passive observer.

Research and manufacturing

Fashion Research Italy demonstrated how to pair manufacturing excellence with academic research and innovation. Close cooperation between the two has come to be a powerful catalyst for new ideas. A point of view that was verified at the FICO (the largest agri-food park of the world) and the Hera Ambiente waste treatment facility.

Tradition and future go hand-in-hand

In Italy, and particularly Bologna, tradition and future go hand-in-hand. This was illustrated by a visit to the Museum of Industrial Heritage, and subsequently a visit to the Golinelli Foundation, a research, training, technology transfer and entrepreneurial development centre, and finally to Granarolo, one of Europe's leading dairy companies. Comparison, openness to others and stakeholders, shared planning are elements for the formation of the experience of young people but also for the search for new job and business opportunities.

Finally...

As a summary, knowledge exchange took place, with in-depth discussions on business incubation and crowdfunding, along with an overall summary of the visit. A visit to Start-Up Day, bringing together young entrepreneurs, local institutes, banks and associations completed the visit.

Next stop: Tartu

Building on this programme and the lessons learnt, Tartu (Estonia) will organise in June, followed by an international dissemination event in November 2019. For the latest news, follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter or our website: www.relos3.eu.

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The attached photos may be used without attribution:

1. International stakeholders in debate at FICO agri-food park.
2. Group photo showing the RELOS3 partners in Bologna

For more information, please feel free to contact Wian Stienstra, Communication Manager of the project, at +31 643 068 985, or by mail: w.stienstra@ebdd.nl. The project has a website: www.relos3.eu and is found on Twitter: [@relos3eu](https://twitter.com/relos3eu)