

Project update - May 2006

Dear project partners!

This note is intended to inform you on recent developments as well as on the work schedule and timetable for the next months.

But before entering in these details, we would like to recall the objectives and organisational arrangements of the MATRIOSCA project:

Main objectives of the project are:

Clarify the possibilities and needs of setting up an institutional structure for trans-national co-operation in the co-operation area

This is done within Work Package 2 (Institution building)

Elaborate joint strategies in selected thematic fields, following a three - step approach (Base line analysis, White Paper, Strategy Document)

Task of Work Package 3 (Common strategy and policy making), based on results from Work Package 1 (Base line data and analysis)

Prepare a set of strategic projects for the new programming period, which are based on the joint strategies previously defined

Task of Work Package 4 (Thematic Working Groups), incorporating results from Work Package 3 (especially Strategy Document)

Organisational arrangements:

Two types of structures are foreseen which should interact closely:

- **“Expert Teams”**: They consist of experts nominated by the partners for the respective fields. They should do the ground work (studies, interviews, analyses etc.) and prepare the main project deliverables. So far expert teams have been established for WP 1, 2 and 3:
 - The Team in Work Package 2 is made up by experts in international law and organisational development from all five partner countries.
 - The Team in Work Packages 1 and 3 consists of experts on regional/ national development strategies.

The expert teams within WP 4 will be formed at a later stage for the preparation of strategic projects.

- **“Thematic Working Groups”**: They should form networks of authorities / institutions, which have the competence to represent the partner regions in the selected thematic areas. They discuss draft documents prepared by the expert teams of WP 1 and 3, explore co-operation ideas and prepare the strategic projects. So far, four Thematic Working Groups have been established:
 1. Transport Infrastructure and Location Development
 2. Spatial Planning and Development
 3. Socio-Economic development and co-operation
 4. Co-operation among urban centres and municipalities

In addition, there is a **Management Board**, which consists of one representative (“Contact Point”) from each partner region. This Board is responsible for strategic guidance of the project and also acts as Working Group for institution building (WP 2). The Contact Points are expected to act as “communication nodes” in each region, they should coordinate regional contributions, brief and support their representatives in the Expert Teams and Working Groups.

It is crucial for the proper functioning of the project that the Contact Points assume these functions. And that the members in the Thematic Working Groups have the mandate to discuss the thematic issues at hand. Consistent participation in the meetings is equally important, in case of changes we expect partners to brief their replacements accordingly.

Main achievements so far:

- Thematic Working Groups were established and two meetings were held
- Joint Dataset containing data on socio-economic development, spatial development, transport and polycentric development was elaborated (for download on the project web-site soon)
- Related / relevant INTERREG projects were identified, a list has been established and placed on the website together with links to these projects
- Screening of relevant outputs from these projects was initiated and information collected will be continuously up-dated and posted on the website
- Expert Teams for Work Packages 1, 2 and 3 have (mostly) been appointed (see more information below)
- Cooperation possibilities were explored in the Thematic Working Groups and the MATRIOSCA Network has already been used successfully for identifying partners in several projects.

News and next steps:**Work Package 1 (Baseline data and analysis)**

- Responsible partner is Burgenland (in collaboration with Veneto Region), Lead Expert is Joanneum Research Graz
- The joint Dataset is prepared but needs to be completed or up-dated by the project partners/Contact Points. It will be sent to the CPs in the next days.
- A synoptic study, incorporating existing surveys, will be conducted until end of June 2006, in order to examine the linkages between Clusters and Networks
- A survey will be conducted by regional experts concerning linkages between R&D institutions and private business sector
- The thematic area of tourism is presumably going to be treated within a separate work shop with responsible persons from the partner regions
- Two expert meetings are foreseen, one in July and another in September 2006

Work Package 2 (Institution building)

- The Expert Team is coordinated by Slovenia, being responsible partner for WP 2
- The Expert Team consists of:

Slovenia (Coordinator):

Dr. Milan Bufon (University of Primorska)

milan.bufon@upr.si

Phone: +386/ (0) 5663 77 32; Mobile: +386/ (0)51 344 987

Hungary (to be renegotiated):

Jácint HORVÁTH (West-Pannon Regional Development Agency)

jacint.horvath@westpa.hu

Mobile: +36 30 6408-671

Italy:

Prof. Leopoldo Coen (Ferrara University -Faculty of Law)

coen@isgre.it ; col@unife.it

Mobile: +39 328 4909391

Austria:

Mag. Stefan Börger (Dept. for European Affairs and Int. Relations -Styria)

stefan.boerger@stmk.gv.at

Phone: +43 316/877-4517

Croatian expert still has to be nominated. Nomination procedure is in its final stage.

- The first meeting of the Expert Team will be held in the beginning of June 2006 at the University of Primorska in Koper

Work Package 3 (Common strategy and policy making)

- The Expert Team is coordinated by Friuli Venezia Giulia, being responsible partner for WP 3
- The Expert Team consists of:

Italy (Coordinator):

Paolo Rosso (Advisor - Service for EU relations and Europ. Integration - FVG)
rossopa@tin.it
Phone: +39 040 3721402

Hungary (to be renegotiated):

Jácint HORVÁTH (West-Pannon Regional Development Agency)
jacint.horvath@westpa.hu
Mobile: +36 30 6408-671

Slovenia:

Dr. Milan Bufon (University of Primorska)
milan.bufon@upr.si
Phone: +386/ (0) 5663 77 32; Mobile: +386/ (0)51 344 987
(Work will be done by a national expert team. Mr. Bufon coordinates the Slovene contribution)

Austria:

Mag. Markus Gruber (convelop evaluation and policy design)
markus.gruber@convelop.at
Phone: +43 (0) 316 720813-17, Mobile: +43 (0) 664 4372301

Croatia:

Andreja Vugrinovic (Regional Development Agency, AZRA)
andrea.vugrinovic@mtnet.hr
Phone: 0385 042 390 530 Fax: 0385 42 390 571

in cooperation with

Tihana Kraljic (Center for Entrepreneurship of Koprivnica-Krizevci County)
Phone: 00385 48 621 978, Fax: 00385 48 621 957.

- The first meeting of the Expert Team will be held on 13th of June 2006 in Trieste

Work Package 4 (Thematic Working Groups):

- Due to the delays in establishing the Expert Teams they will still need some time to provide first results. Therefore the next meetings of the thematic Working Groups will now be held during the first half of September 2006 (instead of June 2006). There will be inputs provided from Work Package 2 and Work Package 3.
- A further meeting of the Working Groups will be held in the beginning of November 2006, in order to prepare the material for the Political Conference
- For Working Group 1 (Transport/ Location Development) additional inputs will be provided by an expert contracted to this end (Mr. Rudolf Sebastnik). The contracting of an expert is also envisaged for Working 2 (Spatial Development).

Work Package 5 (Information and dissemination):

- First set of information material is ready to be distributed to all project partners
- MATRIOSCA website is installed as joint communication platform and contains all relevant project information. But partners should use it more intensively. Material and announcements can be posted there and collected in order to be updated.

Work Package 6 (Management and Coordination):

- Next Management Team meeting is foreseen in September 2006
- The next **Management Board** meeting is scheduled to be held in October 2006 (instead of September). Until then the Draft White Paper should be finalized (WP 3) and presented to the MB as well as the first results from WP 2 (analysis of pre-conditions and viability study EGCC/ ECG). Preparation of the first Political Conference will be the main topic.
- The 1st **Political Conference** is planned to be held in Trieste in the end of November or beginning of December 2006.

Attention to co-financing partners!

- **Certifications of Expenditures** for the **next Payment Claim** have to be submitted to the Lead Partner until **15th of June 2006**. Until now only Burgenland has announced their intent to submit expenditure.
- Financial Reporting should be done continuously via the online reporting section on the project's website.

MATRIOSCA provisional Timetable



