

# EURBEST - European Union Regions Benchmarking, Economic Strategy and Transfer

Programme zone / Zone de programme:  
West / Ouest

Type / Type  
Individual Project / Projet Individuel

Topic / Thème  
Other appropriate subjects / Autres sujets appropriés



## Problem description / Description du problème ciblé par le projet

Many public authorities in Europe provide business support services to boost their regional economies. This support is often provided through Regional Development Agencies and can be very important for the effective operation of businesses. From spin outs through to seed capital and from incubation to effective assistance to enable SMEs to export, support is vital if major success is to be found in today's highly competitive world. Regions all across Europe provide this support to varying degrees and with varying degrees of success, but how do they know if they are achieving the results required, and how can they improve without the ability to benchmark against other regions?

## Overall objective / Objectif général de l'opération

The objective of EURBEST is to benchmark best practice in the area of business support at regional and sub-regional levels. Following on from this is the need to create tools and mechanisms that will transfer this best practice from one of the exemplar regions to another in the project. The project builds on a previous project conducted under the auspices of EURADA that involved 14 regions across Europe.

## Expected results / Résultats attendus

The EURBEST operation has created new tools, methodologies and mechanisms to achieve the following results in the area of business support: the identification of best practice at regional level in Europe; the transfer of best practice between regions; and verifying best practice and disseminating information about best practice in Europe. Activities include regular study tours between groups of eight project partners and dissemination via various information tools such as newsletters, websites and reports. Through EURBEST, regions are improving their ability to intervene using public policy and financial instruments to improve business support. Furthermore, representatives from Regional Development Agencies are benefiting from the decrease in duplication of policy information as well as the increased credibility of this interregional cooperation approach.

Lead partner / Partenaire principal	Contact person / Personne à contacter	Duration / Durée
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		Total budget / Budget total: 1.912.447 €
		ERDF contribution / Contribution FEDER: 1.037.749 €
		Norwegian contribution / Contribution des fonds norvégiens: 132.854 €



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Source / Source: [www.interreg3c.net](http://www.interreg3c.net)

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## Partnership / Partenaires

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SIVA - The Industrial Development Corporation of Norway, Tondheim	NORWAY	other	Phone: 47 73546200 ulf.hustad@siva.no



#### Activities / achievements so far

Eurbest is a network project that involves 22 partners from across the whole European Union. The project aims are to benchmark how business's (with a focus on SME's) are supported by different regions, a methodology has been devised in order to ensure this comparison can have value across such a wide variety of organisations. The project has 2 different strands that are used for comparison. A Qualitative and a Quantitative strand. The Qualitative strand is a group of 8 regions that meet on a regular basis in partner regions to discuss an agreed topic i.e. clusters. At these meetings the participants each present to the group the mechanism in their region that best addresses the needs of that given support structure i.e. Cluster polices and financial support. This group is composed of high level representatives form the regions - this is to ensure that the outcomes of the project and the study tours individually can be effectively and quickly absorbed by the participating regions. The Quantitative strand of the project involves all project members and is a statistical based model. All partners are required to complete in depth statistical analysis of their regions business support structures and report on how they have seen success/failure in given measures. Regions have to provide details on how much resource they put into certain support structures and what the results are coming out of this intervention. Regions are also required to provide a substantial amount of data concerning their region and the specific agency they work for in order to make the comparison useful. Once the computer model has analysed the provided data it produces graphs that help inform the result i.e. which region is doing particularly well in a particular support mechanism. This region is then asked to complete a Transfer Template that provides all the required information on this mechanism to make it transferable. Transfer of the 'good practices' is a key objective During this phase of the project the focus has been on achieving its final objectives. Identified best practices have been transferred and measures taken to ensure the sustainability of EURBEST into the futrue have been taken.



More information:

<http://www.eurbest.com/>

