

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

The main idea of REG CON project is the advancement of the concept of "R&D based clustering" across regions of Europe with a thematic focus on construction.

The construction sector is both, dynamic in creation of growth and employment but relatively backward in absorbing innovation. Therefore, having additionally in mind objectives included in the Strategic Research Agenda prepared by ECTP - transforming traditional construction sector into the knowledge driven and R&D based, REG CON activities aim to strength mentioned above goals from regional level.

After having achieved all goals envisaged for the first year of project realization, the most important objectives for the second year, that is from 01/02/2009 until 31/01/2010, included:

1. **R&D based cluster formation together with development of three action plans** for the pilot regional construction clusters (Poland, Greece, Basque Country) covering organisational, operational, and financial aspects,
2. Development of **guidelines** supplemented with examples for construction clustering beyond the pilot regions (Poland, Greece, Basque Country). The ambition being to allow other to replicate the experience and work done in REG CON in an efficient and meaningful manner,
3. **Exploiting the developed mentoring model** that supported communication between three regions with "clusters initiatives" [Poland, Basque Country, Greece] with Partners from Finland and Slovenia [mentors], where two advanced construction clusters already operate successfully,
4. **Intense dissemination activities**

Mentioned above objectives has been achieved by accomplishment of tasks mainly in the **second work package**, which relates to Implementation of a Methodological Framework in the Design of New Clusters – Securing Cluster Sustainability; **third work package** concentrating on dissemination of information about REG CON results, regional and inter-regional promotional activities and the last one, **management work package**. Work has been also continued in the **first work package** which included completing the Methodology for cluster formation in construction sector with REG CON Partners' experience gained during the realization of the project, mainly regarding cluster formation efforts and activities.

The tangible results achieved in the second year of the project realization include mainly preparing detailed action plans for all pilot regions (Poland, Greece, Basque Country) and guidelines for cluster formation supplemented with examples for construction clustering beyond the pilot regions. The Consortium decided in second year of REG CON project that a more effective way of presenting the guidelines and reaching with them relevant stakeholders all over the Europe would be to produce a second REG CON publication instead of report and disseminate it together with first REG CON publication during inter-regional and national cluster events. The publication entitled "Regional Construction Clustering in Action. Strategic Roadmapping & Action Planning" essentially summarises the core content of WP2. It showcases some of the key findings from the REG CON project from the perspective of cluster development and strategic roadmapping methods used for cluster definition, development, and definition of strategic roadmaps and implementation actions.

Simultaneously meetings with potential stakeholders has taken place during that period (6 workshops led by expert in clustering in Poland and several meetings in Greece and Basque Country) as well as intense dissemination activities including:

- updating REG CON website,
- creating third REG CON leaflet (8 page leaflet) with all project results and disseminating it during interregional and national cluster events,
- producing REG CON publication highlighting good practices in clustering and co-operation between regional authorities, business and research,
- organization of national cluster events in Poland, Basque Country and Greece and one inter-regional event on clustering and REG CON project in Basque Country,
- national dissemination of REG CON results by Consortium Partners.

Having performed mentioned above tasks the goals envisaged in the Description of Work has been achieved successfully and on time. It's worth emphasizing that the REG CON Consortium has also performed additional activities in order to achieve more effective and lasting/sustained results and reach with them a wider European level audience, namely:

- elaborating and producing additional leaflet for cluster workshops,
- creating third leaflet summarizing the project and including short overview of all REG CON results (electronic version),
- instead of report in WP2 (T2.4. Use of Knowledge) creating and producing a high-quality publication with guidelines for cluster formation supplemented with examples for construction clustering,
- national and inter-regional dissemination activities has been performed not only by the WP3 Leader and Coordinator but also by all the Partners in the Consortium.