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Project coordinator organisation name: **Stockholm Region**

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- Project Acronym: R4R
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| Participant name | Short name | Country |
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| Stockholm Region | STOK | Sweden |
| Jozef Stefan Institute | JSI | Slovenia |
| Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation | FCRI | Spain |
| Provincie Noord-Brabant | PNB | The Netherlands |
| Veneto Region | REGVEN | Italy |
| Veneto Innovazione | VenInn | Italy |
| Mazovia Region | MR | Poland |
| Flemish Government, Department of Economy, Science & Innovation | MVG-EWI | Belgium |
| Sofia | SM | Bulgaria |

Project website: www.regions4research.eu

Project logotype:



The Project

R4R aims to build up expertise in the public administrations in order to improve the current practice in designing, implementing and monitoring Knowledge Transfer systems in the partner countries or regions. The overriding strategic objective of R4R is therefore to gain a better understanding between the applied Knowledge Transfer system compared to the real needs of the local actors and abroad. From the knowledge of this exercise good practice and conditions for transferability will be identified while dissemination activities towards the stakeholders are planned in the partner countries/regions.

In order to carry this purpose, the project addresses the following specific tasks:

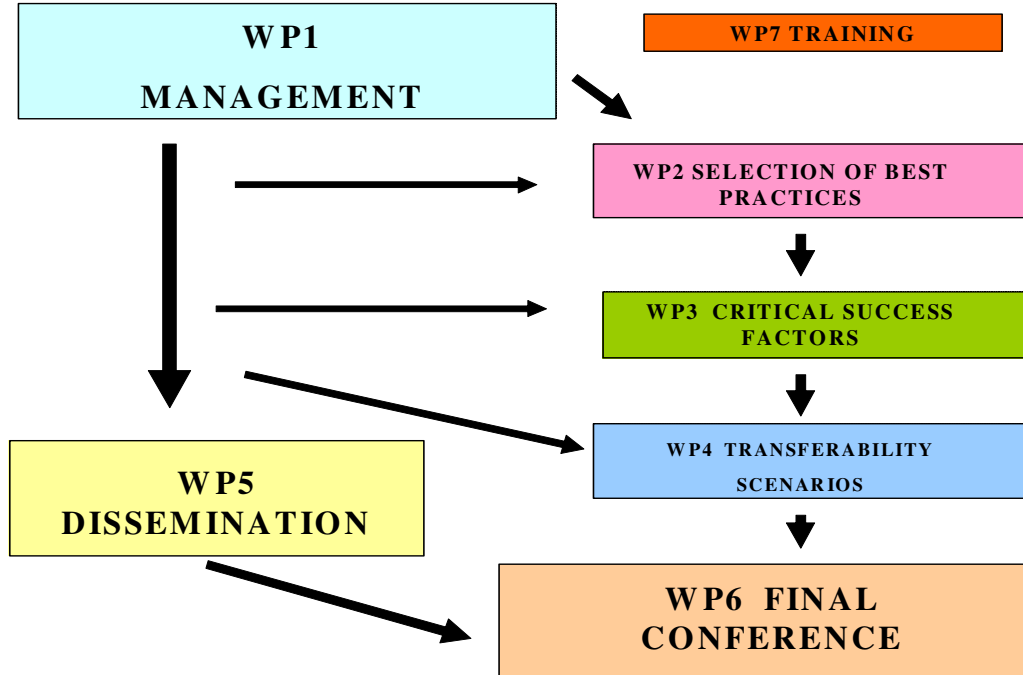
- Build a common toolkit for the identification, description, analysis and categorisation of good practices in Knowledge Transfer of R&D.
- Identify and describe good practices in the different partner regions.
- Analyse weak and strong points, success factors and transferability conditions
- Turn individual good practices into models and build transferability scenarios for the adoption of the models among the partner regions.
- Implement transfer processes of selected good practices between the partner regions and assess the results.
- Offer recommendations to RTD policy makers and R&D stakeholders through dissemination activities at EU level
- Consolidate the circulation of the mechanism of good practice transfer through the promotion of a network of regions interested in experience sharing beyond the timeframe of the project.

The project is set against a background of EU fragmented rules and policies in the area of research collaboration and knowledge transfer between Public Research Organisations and industry. Although a number of Member States and Regions have done valuable work in this area, they do so from a local perspective, stopping at regional/national boundaries.

This means that the EU currently displays a patchwork of national and regional research and innovation systems adapted to the varying local situations and innovation systems. Development of coherent and mutually supportive policies by the regions, Member States and European institutions is essential for strengthening the European Research and Innovation Area and for implementing the new Lisbon partnership for higher and sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs.

Research and innovation policies are one of the key areas of the revised Lisbon Strategy. There is a need for further policy learning and for assessing good practices in support of research and innovation with regard to their transferability and methods of implementation, taking into account regional and national specificities. The proposed work within the R4R project goes into this direction and fully matches the overall European policies on research at regional level. By achieving its stated objectives, R4R will address this set of problems and contribute therefore to the state of the art in this area.

In order to achieve the stated objectives, R4R is structured into seven main tasks or *workpackages*:



The results

The results of the project are:

- A set of Methodological Guidelines designed and implemented into a common Data Collection and Analysis Toolkit. The Toolkit includes a Data Collection Template, based on the CREST questionnaire, and a Knowledge Transfer Assessment Matrix.
- 26 Best Practices in R&D Knowledge Transfer from the 8 partner Regions have been identified and documented through the Data Collection Template and have been organised into a Knowledge Transfer Assessment Matrix that shows both a global overview and their particularities, providing a first insight into the key facts and figures, mission, activities and mechanisms.
- The Best Practices have been clustered into a Cross-Categorisation matrix. The Categories have been extracted from CREST (Organisational initiatives, Fostering linkages and Stimulating private sector participation).
- A list of Success Factors and Transferability Criteria has been produced for each CREST category.
- A detailed analysis has been carried of the Critical Success Factors of the Best Practices with the purpose of understanding which cases can eventually be adopted like models in other specific contexts
- A proposal about Knowledge Transfer Models as a foundation of the transferability scenarios to be applied in the following Best Practices transfer processes has been delivered
- Six different transfer processes of Best Practices in Knowledge Transfer have been initiated and are still alive in this moment. All of the partners have pledged to

continue with these processes, which have reached diverse maturity levels, and in one of the processes its three actors (Jozef Stefan Institute from Slovenia, Veneto Innovazione and Veneto Nanotech) have signed a formal Letter of Intent.

- A set of Reports on transferability based on the experiences of the transfer processes have been delivered
- Six Transregional Workshops have been held during 2008 in order to communicate experiences and results to Observers from other EU Regions
- Project partners have attended more than 25 external events for dissemination purposes
- A hard-cover Final Publication has been printed and distributed including a summary of the project development and a Catalogue of 28 Best Practices in Knowledge Transfer provided by Partners and Observers
- A Final Conference with 110 participants (regional policymakers, EC officers and R&D experts and stakeholders) was held in Brussels on December 11, 2008, in coincidence with the Stockholm Region Annual Nobel Lunch.
- Experiences and public deliverables are available at the R4R website: www.regions4research.eu .

The next steps

The overall rationale of R4R is to constitute a large and acknowledged platform for the elaboration of models and proposals to enhance the OMC and the uptake of models generated by OMC initiatives. To this effect, an Action Plan has been proposed aiming at consolidating the results of the R4R project and identifying actions for the future according to the needs expressed by European regions

- The R4R website www.regions4research.eu will be maintained at least during the period 2009-2010
- The R4R Secretariat secretariat@regions4research.eu will also be maintained, physically located at the Stockholm region office in Brussels, as a one-stop shop for EU regions looking for information, advice and support about good practices in knowledge transfer
- R4R will provide, through the Secretariat and with the support of the partner regions, advice and mentoring about the use of the R4R methodology and toolkit.
- The R4R Catalogue of Good Practices will be maintained and updated
- The six transfer processes ongoing at the moment of the project's administrative end will continue active and the partners will report about their progress to the Secretariat
- Several dissemination activities are scheduled during 2009. In particular, a workshop about Knowledge Transfer management will be held in the framework of the EuroCities General Assembly to be held in Stockholm on November 2009.