

NEWSLETTER

Link to the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) website



Since last January, there is a link at the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) website, concerning INNOREF program (practices, importance, link to www.innoref.net). The Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), proposes an interdisciplinary research agenda and capacity building aiming to improve the relationship of people with their environment globally. The recent link to INNOREF, not only enhances the credibility of our program, but also contributes to the enhancement of international awareness.

PSCs Press Reviews 2005

You may download the Press Reviews for the year 2005 of each PSC, from INNOREF website (under Homepage/PSCs).

SC Meeting in Vienna

INNOREF Steering Committee was met on January, the 26th 2006, in INTERREG III C East JTS's offices in Vienna. During the meeting there was a presentation on INNOREF state-of-the-art, by L. Alfarè concerning the activities held in the 3rd semester. E. Ruoss stressed the importance of networking activities and he reported the number of people involved in INNOREF networks. Concerning the Financial Overview, P. Di Leno presented the main financial activities done in the last semester, underlining that Regions and the FMs are working well and that the financial monitoring system is a good framework. The Steering Committee, also approved the revised application of ProAgri Tour sub-project, due to the change of one of its participants.

Itinerant exhibition AGRIEST - Udine



From the 27th-30th January the PSC of Friuli Venezia Giulia promoted INNOREF activities and sub-projects at the fair of AGRIEST in Udine. INNOREF was present with a 44 sqm stand, besides the Regional Directorate of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Forest and Mountain. AGRIEST is one of the most important exhibitions of Northern Italy for the agricultural sector, counting 41 editions. In recent years it has increased its visibility (in 2005 there was the presence of 250 exhibitors and 45.000 visitors coming from Centre-North Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Macedonia, Moldavia, Serbia).

Itinerant exhibition Tourism Expo - Olomouc



The PSC of the Hranicho Region presented INNOREF at the Tourism Expo in Olomouc the 3-5th February. At the event 104 exhibitors presented their offers to 3500 visitors, mainly from Olomouc Region.

Partner Board meeting in Udine, Italy

The PSC of Friuli Venezia Giulia hosted at its offices in Udine (on 23rd of February) the first Partner Board meeting for the year 2006. During the discussions, a detailed examination of the state-of-art of all the sub-projects took place.



There was also a special focus on upcoming itinerant exhibitions, the communication strategies of each region and the participatory process.

INNOREF presented at INTERACT-ESPON Seminar "Spatial Visions and Scenarios" - Milano, Italy

The seminar held in Milano on the 27-28th of February was dedicated to Spatial Visions & Scenarios. INNOREF has been presented during the workshop titled "from vision to action", as a concrete example of spatial vision implementation.



Furthermore, the Coordinator and the TPM have participated at working group tables explaining the participation process adopted in INNOREF and providing participants with information on STRASSE, the sub-project dealing with visioning process.

INTERREG III C EAST RFO-WORKSHOP and FORUM 23/24 March 2006 - Bologna, Italy

More than 100 representatives of regions across Europe met in Bologna's Palazzo Ratta on 24 March 2006 to discuss about successful management of European interregional cooperation projects. The international conference was co-organised by the INTERREG III C East Secretariat and the Emilia-Romagna Region. The Forum aimed to highlight good practice in developing and managing RFOs, stimulate know-how exchange and cross-fertilization and host discussions in view of the next Structural Funds programming period 2007-2013. The INNOREF team was attending the event and a presentation on project methodology was illustrated by the TPM. The Forum was preceded by a workshop for RFO Lead Partner and Partners, which allowed participants to discuss on RFO problems and solutions.



"World café" in Bologna

Programs' Cooperation: Meeting between ALPCITY and INNOREF sub-project AEDES



An example of programs' cooperation was the meeting held on the 30th of March in Udine, concerning exchange of opinions on Environmental Certification. P. Suber, introduced the Friuli case-study, explaining the state-of-the-art of the project, the achieved results and the opportunities



of future development. Romanelli described the project AEDES, pointing out that the main aim of this project is to promote the protected territories, to strengthen the associations, and provide support and know-how to the SMEs. L. Alfarè (Alpcity SSC member and INNOREF Coordinator) summarising the synergies between the 2 projects, pointed out the opportunity of cooperation, offered by a third project, approved by Cadeses programme. Mr. Ruoss (UNESCO consultant and manager of the Entlebuch biosphere/ Switzerland) proposed to consider a vision of a Biosphere Reserve for the whole Tagliamento river system.

Hranicko Mikroregion has been presented at "SF team for sustainable future"

The INNOREF process with special reference to the Hranicko Mikroregion has been presented by the TPM at the annual meeting of the network "SF team for sustainable future" organized by the CpKp Central Moravia the 29th of March. The 30 delegates from Hungaria, Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland, and The Netherlands visited as well the Zahoran Mikroregion, which is involved in the AEDES sub-project.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Hranicko Micro-Region as model region at the UNESCO MAB Committee meeting

The methodology of INNOREF applied in Hranicko Micro-Region will be presented at the national UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere" Committee meeting, which will be held in Mikulov (Czech Republic) on the 25th of April. The aim

of the meeting is to present the implementation of INNOREF methodology.

4-7 May Itinerant exhibition Region of Western Greece - TOURISTIC PANORAMA, Athens, Greece

Region Western of Greece will present INNOREF and sub-projects' activities in the biggest national exhibition concerning tourism: "Touristic Panorama", in Athens (4-7 May). INNOREF will have a separate 5 sqm stand.

Next Info-meetings:

(dates & locations will be announced at INNOREF website)

- **Hranicko Region:** June 2006, regarding the improvement of marketing and communication strategy of Hranicko region

- **Friuli Venezia Giulia:** will organise an info-meeting on "Territorial Marketing" at the beginning of May, and a workshop on "Participatory Process" at the end of June.

- **Region of Western Greece:** has programmed on 13th of April an info-meeting in Patras, on the importance of the communication strategy, and another in June, concerning territorial/ regional management.

- **Umbria:** has planned on April 28th an info-meeting with regional Department managers and another on May 25th on INNOREF objectives. By the end of June will be an info-meeting (in cooperation with Umbria Innovazione) on the topic of local energy resources exploitation.

News from the Professional Service Centers (PSCs)



Region of Western Greece

Info-Meetings & Events

- ▶ The PSC attended the 7th workshop, held in its offices on the 9-10 of March, by INNOREF Trainer Process Moderator: Dr Engelbert Ruoss.
- ▶ The PSC was present in all exhibitions and info-meetings of the regional sub-projects' partners. (i.e.: ProAgritour SG meeting in Nafpaktos- 21-23/02/06, RECOVER meeting in Andritsena- 19/03/06).
- ▶ The PSC organised a Pioneer Network in its office, on the 9th of March, where the sub-projects' representatives exchange opinions on financial issues and communication networking.

PSC Flash

- ▶ The PSC has published its Communication Plan for the year 2006, explaining the objectives, tools and targeted audiences of the upcoming exhibitions and the promotional events.
- ▶ The PSC is working on the finalization of a detailed, personalized list of regional/ national contacts to be invited in the upcoming exhibitions and info-meetings.
- ▶ The PSC of RWG composed and printed out bilingual (English and Greek) leaflets with information and contacts of



Hranicko Region

Info-Meetings & Events

- ▶ The 1st Info-meeting was held in Hranice City, on the 9th of February, with the participations of various audience groups: NGOs, mayors, entrepreneurs, farmers etc. The main topic of info-meeting was how to incorporate the Leader+ program into INNOREF project. Moreover it was discussed the ways that the results of the sub-project can be a base for the Leader strategy for the region and follow-up activities in Hranicko region, on order to take an advantage of eventualities for improving skills and knowledge of stakeholders, who adhere the INNOREF objectives.

PSC Flash

- ▶ A very important outcome of the 1st Info-meeting was the creation of the "Foundation of a Local action group of Hranicko region", on a more official way, as it now holds a legal subjectivity.
- ▶ In the very next days, the PSC of Hranicko Region is about to publish its Communication Plan document, with a detailed presentation of the targets for the year 2006. The document will be uploaded at www.innoref.net, under the PSC area.

Info-Meetings & Events

▶ On January 20th, the PSC organized a sub-projects' coordination meeting among the Friuli participants, with the presence of the 7 sub-project PMs. The discussion was on the state-of-the-art of INNOREF, while it was announced next RFO events and initiatives and assessed the sub-projects' implementation degree.

▶ The Pioneer Network met twice in this first trimester of 2006: on March, the 3rd and the 10th, with more than 20 presences each time. The discussion was focused on the issues concerning Friuli mountain area, on the ongoing projects and on how to integrate them in the regional strategy. The Pioneer Network is now preparing an official document with suggestions on sustainable development of the marginal areas, to be submitted to the Regional Authorities.

PSC Flash

▶ The PSC can now benefit from the support of a new member: Miss Daniela Peresson. She has a long experience in EU programmes and funding, mainly in INTERREG CIP (she is also one of FVG referent for INTERREG IIIA Italia-Slovenia Programme) and she is also involved in the administration of her municipality. Welcome on board!

▶ The PSC is now engaged in redrawing its internal organisation chart, regarding new PSC members and better integration of the professional capabilities of each one.

▶ Attention is focused on the communication strategies. The office has published a detailed Communication Plan, presenting its targets for the year 2006. Moreover, FVG Region presented a revised logotype.

Info-Meetings & Events

▶ On January 20th an info-meeting was held with the participation of regional managers of the Environmental Department. Decisions for using INNOREF concepts and results in the information programs in the schools has been taken. Umbria PSC has decided to stress the importance of energy efficient use and of sustainable use of local renewable resources, which can cover in the mid-long term a substantial share of the energy demand.

▶ On February 4th Umbria PM has been invited to present a speech at a conference held at Orvieto, dealing with the economic and social contribution that can be derived from a sustainable management of natural protected areas, organised by Entrepreneurs and Managers Women.

▶ From March 31st - April 2nd Umbria PSC has participated at Agriumbria 2006, held in Bastia Umbra, hosted by ProAgri Tour; it was a good opportunity to present the activities of INNOREF and its sub-projects.

PSC Flash

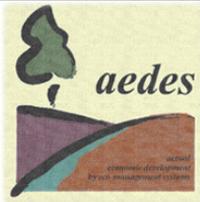
▶ Fabiola De Toffol, expert in participatory process control, is a new member of PSC Umbria.

▶ The PSC has realized three large panels with extended information on INNOREF and its eight sub-projects to be used in public events.

▶ The PSC has started organizing the transnational Mid-term Conference of INNOREF that will be held in Perugia on November 17th 2006.

Sub-projects state-of-the-art

All the sub-projects have adopted a logotype to be used as their identity:

<p>INNOMED-logotype</p> 	<p>STS-logotype</p> 	<p>RECOVER-logotype</p> 
<p>STRASSE-logotype</p>  <p>Stra.S.S.€.</p>	<p>AEDES-logotype</p> 	
<p>EWARU-logotype</p> 	<p>BRIE-logotype</p> 	<p>Pro Agri Tour-logotype</p> 

The following Sub-projects' web sites are online on the web:

www.aedesonline.net, <http://www.innoref-strasse.net>, www.innomed-project.net

Questions to Paolo Di Leno Financial Manager of INNOREF



How the “day to day” financial management can produce an impact in the 4 regions?

All the 4 regions have to face the same RFO procedures for implementation and reporting. There are centralized auditors, monitoring information to be sent in the same way and within the same deadlines, RFO progress report could be submitted only if all the partners have worked together. This means that each administration has to face the challenge to “find the way” to harmonize INTERREG IIC procedures with its own procedures. There are 3 countries working together in INNOREF and often we have to find a common way to solve the problems, according to 3 different accountancy and administrative systems. I personally think that, apart from the good results and outputs that we expect for INNOREF, we are creating a network among different regions. We are cooperating together every day and I hope that this will continue with other projects ideas in the future.

Which are the financial difficulties faced up to now?

There are some critical aspects in the management of an RFO. There are partners of different regions working together, the official language is English. Then, now that we have financed our 8 sub-projects, there are 31 participants of different regions to assist and, for all of them, there are common procedures of reporting and internal monitoring to be respected.

Then there are the well known delays in the audit system that produce delays in the possibility to submit in time our RFO Progress report and, therefore, to receive back the ERDF and national co-financing (with all the problems that this delay in the reimbursement can represent). But this is our project!

And I personally think that each single solution found together is not only another step forward for INNOREF but it really represents our personal contribution to the aims of INTERREG IIC programme.

Which is the structure of financial management for INNOREF?

I have the fortune to be assisted in each of the 4 regions by very professional and precise Financial Managers. Mrs Alba Barbina (Region Friuli Venezia Giulia), Mrs. Manuela Proietti de Santis (Region Umbria), Mrs Miloslava Caletkova (Association of Municipalities “Hranicko Region”), Mr. Nickos Kallitsis (Region of Western Greece) are in constant touch with me and we daily discuss everything together. They represent my “sight” in the 4 regions and I really appreciate our cooperation that is always rewarded with good results. Then, at sub-project’s level, there are the Financial Managers of the Lead Participants, that are my project-contact for all the aspects concerning monitoring and financial progress reports.

Which are the results up to now?

There are many good results to be mentioned, but the most important ones should be these following 4:

- ✓ We have submitted 3 progress reports to the JTS and all of them have been approved and reimbursed.
- ✓ All the expenditures incurred within today, have always been approved by the 3 national centralized auditors without any cut: this is the proof of the good work done in the 4 regions.
- ✓ We have set up a good monitoring system and, therefore, we are always able to understand how the expenditure is increasing and we have the possibility to identify where problems of deviations or underspending are.
- ✓ Last but not least - even if I have often the ungrateful task to remind to Partners the European rule of automatic decommitment (EC Reg. 1260/99, art. 31.2) - with a great effort of everyone we have avoided, for the year 2005, the risk of decommitment! 2006 will represent the most important year for this aspect, since in this year it is allocated the main part of our RFO budget. This is why we have to continue working as we have done within today!

Thanks to everyone!