



Observatory Network to Enhance ICT Structural Funds Absorption

NEWSLETTER No. 1

Towards a network of ICT observatories

The ONE project was launched early this year. It aims at improvement in regional ICT investment planning capacity and at transferring good practices on ICT Observatories among the 11 project partners from 8 European countries (Italy, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom and Czech Republic) and beyond.

ICT Observatory represents a **policy intelligence tool for the management of innovation processes driven by ICT diffusion and usage inside a regional socioeconomic system**. Allowing for an evidence-based management of information society, an efficient ICT Observatory makes impartial, up-to-date and articulated **knowledge base available to public authorities and other interested stakeholders**. It improves public spending effectiveness and leads to cost reductions and better knowledge exploitation thanks to concentrated and coordinated research. It also leads to better understanding of the impact of implemented ICT policies and allows for corrective actions due to periodic monitoring activity.

Existing ICT observatory models can serve as an important inspiration to other even less developed/rural areas. Cooperation of a newly set up observatory with other already working observatories can bring major mutual benefits. In a common cooperation space advanced regions/organisations can analyse, share and set up collaborative mechanisms with the less developed. Such a networking space will be the result of the ONE project.

The ONE project is here to help you figure out how to better tailor ICT interventions towards your specific regional needs, providing you with a proven methodology set of guidelines on how to develop and exploit ICT in your area. Structural funds can be the resource missing to start the process towards innovative utilization of ICT. ONE will show you how to employ this resource, thus enhancing the absorption rate of ICT structural funds and improving development and innovation within your area.

ICT Investments: European Observatories met in Torino

Is it actually possible to exchange experiences on ICT investments among European regions? Can ICT Observatories in Europe play an active role in regional policies strategic planning? What are the new elements of the 2014-2020 European Cohesion Policy? The Consortium brought together relevant experts and practitioners to discuss these questions during a Conference that took place in Turin, Italy in May.

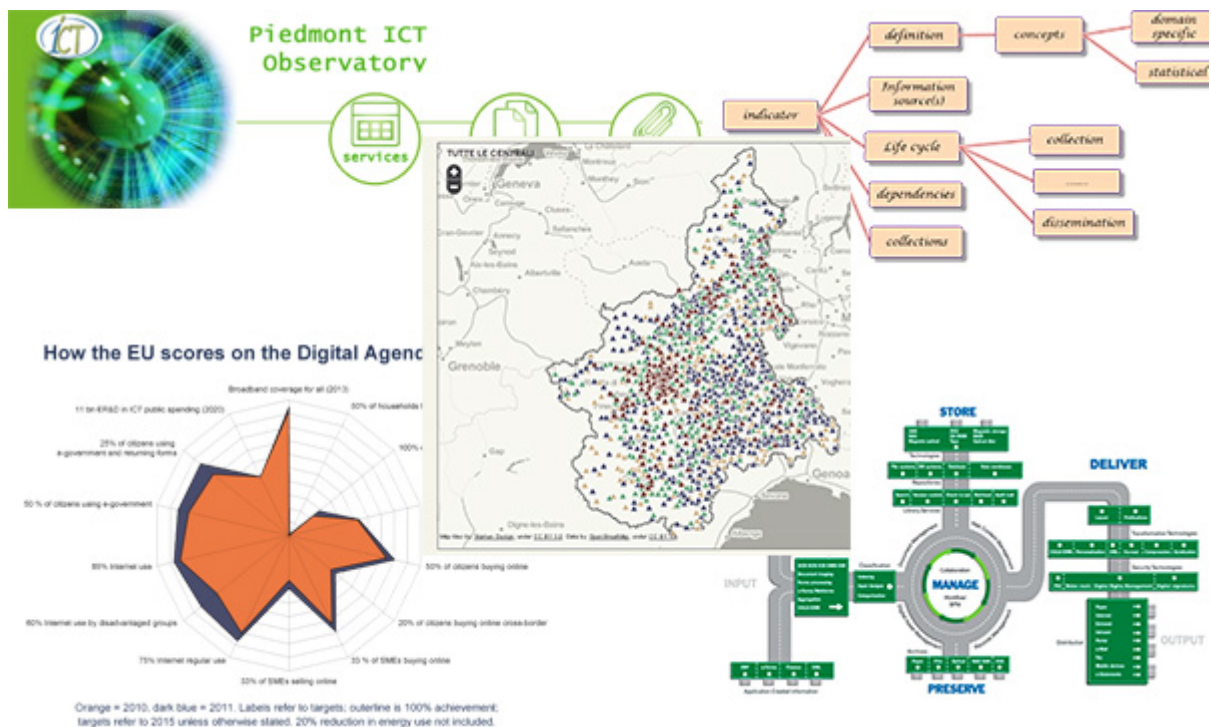


In order to show the benefit of an Observatory to regional decision makers and other stakeholders, the Conference has pointed out the fact that a well-functioning ICT Observatory in a region has a major positive impact on the provision of eServices there, because it is able to provide all necessary background information when there is a need to predict the main local socio-economic challenges. This includes a variety of indicators on issues such as population aging, needs of the young, development of SMEs etc. Having detailed knowledge about such socio-economic factors allows for more accurate policy making, providing citizens with access to better eServices and supporting dialog between citizens and their political representation.

To find the Conference agenda and presentations go [here](#).
The Conference press release is available [here](#).

Knowledge and best practice exchange

In addition, the ONE project partners had an opportunity to widen their knowledge during a study visit to the ICT observatory “**PICTO**” operated by IRES Piemonte and during a workshop organised at the premises of CSI Piemonte. While the workshop agenda was aimed at indicator management and governance of statistical data processing and creation, the study visit focused on data visualisation in order to show the importance of translation of massive datasets into a comprehensive format. All knowledge and experiences learnt and exchanged will be summed up and published throughout the course of the project.



Contact

For more information about the project please visit www.oneproject.eu or join our groups on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and epractice.eu. Or contact the ONE dissemination manager, Iva Walterova – EPMA (walterova@epma.cz).

Project partners



The ONE project has been funded under the **INTERREG IVC** programme. The Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, financed by the **European Union's Regional Development Fund**, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers.