

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE AND PROJECT WORKING MEETING

(11 OCTOBER 2013)

LOCATION: Palazzo Lombardia, Via Melchiorre Gioia, Milano

Participants: 23 (see list of participants)

Attachments to the minutes (see separate PDFs in the intranet):

- PPT from REM • Consult
- PPT C2 from Borne
- PPTs C3 from HCU Hamburg and West Pomerania
- PPTs IP status from Krakow, Tuscany, West Pomerania and Pleven
- PPTs C4 Pilots from Twente and Milano

1) **Welcome and review on study visit**

Mareike Korb (REM • Consult) thanked Monica Peggion and Stefano Maracci for organizing the study visit and hosting the Steering Committee and project working meeting.

She went on to ask every partner what she or he will take back home from the study visit on Thursday and conference on Friday morning for their individual partner projects. Many partners acknowledged the example of the rice fields park as interesting (and now touchable) example for an urban-rural area with multifunctional purposes (e.g. for farmers, citizens). Rice was viewed as symbol of cooperation between urban and rural areas – with water as link between the two. It was also pointed out that there are many different and interesting projects with different attitudes towards urban-rural cooperation. As valuable aspect was considered the bottom-up aspects from many projects like the rice fields park and the “Buon Mercato” example of a regional food chain from Corsico. Furthermore, many different involved actors, departments and hierarchies were regarded to be on board with respect to many different peri-urban issues.

2) Component 3 session

Status of inventory of policy framework

Andreas Obersteg (LP) shortly presented the status of the inventory of policy frameworks. He thanked the partners for their interesting answers to the questions and summarized that the collection of policies with regards to urban-rural cooperation already is very valuable.

He asked the partners who have not yet filled out the inventory to please answer it – or to give more details where needed. Please have a look at it.

After the missing contributions from the remaining partners, the inventory will be sent to all partners for a final round.

Short presentations by partners about project progress and Implementation plans

Andreas introduced the session by reminding that the setting up of implementation plans on regional level is what Component 3 on project level is most important about.

Vladislav Ovanesyan (PP9) presented the progress of the project in **Pleven** and explained important topics what has happened since the Hamburg meeting. Besides others, the Terms of Reference for the conduction of the implementation plan as well as the translation of the URMA website into Bulgarian language stand out. Next important steps include the preparation for the project meeting in January, the identification of good practices and the continuous raising of awareness within the society in Pleven region for the URMA project. He visualized two ideas for good practices: the “Regional Information Centre – Pleven” and the “integrated development of tourism in Kajlyka area”. Challenges the Pleven team is facing have – among others – resulted from the change of governor after elections. These challenges include the change of URMA team personnel and some legislative articles that tackle the planning system / urban-rural cooperation.

The **Tuscany** region presented their project progress since February and explicitly focused on the Parco agricolo della Piana. It became clear that the obstacles in such a process of creating a park result from varying demands of different actors like the interdependence with Florence airport.

Furthermore, Alessandro proposed to create a professional video firstly to explain the project Parco della Piana and secondly to disseminate knowledge about the metropolitan area. The target group would be people and also high schools, while the language should be rather technical.

It was discussed that it should be approx. 10-15 minutes and also shall try to capture emotions.

It was agreed that PP4 writes down the proposal (content, structure, timeline) and provide details on finances and forward this information to the LP & REM • Consult. Then it will be clarified with the JTS.

Karol Janas (PP7) presented the project progress in **Krakow** region. He stated that a scientific article is currently under review at the journal European Urban and Regional Studies. Regarding the URMA implementation plan a research concerning preconditions and potentials for urban-rural cooperation within Krakow Metropolitan Area has started yet. The partner team is involved into the working group aimed at the creation of a new metropolitan strategy for the city of Krakow and therefore considerable participation in workshops and strategy meetings will occur. As idea for a good practice he named the city of Wroclaw and its hinterland which jointly attracted FDI and how the inter-municipal compensation could function.

Ewa Balanicka (PP3) gave impressions about the topics which the partner **West Pomerania** is working on, a typology of rural areas, an impressive model study of a spatial development plan of a village in the metropolitan area and a Vademecum as well as the implementation plan. She explained some steps of the model study and commented on the meetings with local authorities in the village that they were difficult to persuade in the beginning.

Ewa also presented some reflections from the seminar “Improving policy-making through learning” organised by INTERREG IVC in June in Dublin. She emphasized how important it is to make sure how we learn from each other within the project and further on. Besides learning at partner level, also learning in the partner organisation would be important. Afterwards policy learning at the regional/local policy subsystems should take place and further continue to other external organisations and policy subsystems (e.g. EU level). This is a key question for the partners and the European Union.

She then elaborated on some recommendations for policy learning which you can find on slide 16 of the presentation “PP3_URMA_SC_Milano_08-10-2013” in the intranet.

Dorota Nowoświecka (PP3) shortly presented the proposal for next steps towards the implementation plan. She gave some general information about how the implementation plan is meant on project level, the content, a possible lifespan and a possible structure. All partners are advised to start as early as possible with their implantation plans and use the existing help from the documents.

After this she explained the example of West Pomerania and that its implementation plan is already in process.

Andreas added that probably the C3 responsible will provide the project partners with a very basic structure for the implementation plans, despite all individual partners' specifics. It is important to think about and plan the next steps as early as possible, all the more if it is about to be conducted by external service providers.

Andreas then briefly summarized the aims of the toolkit. He presented the good practice guide, some practical instructions and the way to collect them.

He reminded the partners to use the "Description of Good Practice" template available in the intranet so that it is comparable with other INTERREG-IVC projects. Finally he showed the next steps and the timeline within C 3. Please all PP also bear this time schedule in mind when planning your work.

It was discussed which role the URMA approach could play at the partners institutions and regional stakeholders. It became clear that the URMA approach would not be a document to implement on a one-to-one basis (or replace existing paradigms) in the partners region, but that it functions as good communication tool to clarify the idea of working and thinking about urban-rural cooperation, complementary to existing official plans and paradigms.

3) Component 4 session

Rolf Oldejans (PP10) presented the implementation status of the Dutch pilot (see presentation on the intranet). According to him, many aspects are going to become reality what they only had as vision in the beginning of the pilot such as that they have an entrepreneur for the activities. According to him the role of the URMA project in the course of the whole regional approach was that the urban-rural cooperation became clearer in the way that the Dutch partners condensed the European partners' ideas to implement their own pilot in the **Twente** region.

Angela Colucci as external consultant from PP5 presented about the **Lombardy** pilot what has happened since the Hamburg meeting in June (see presentation on the intranet). In addition to the information given during the study visit and the regional conference it became clear that thorough progress has been made.

Petra Pelster (PP2) shortly reported about the **Hamburg** pilot, that the external consultant, who shall carry out a large part of the work, is at the moment being selected. After final confirmation for the contract the work on the pilot will be implemented more thoroughly.

4) Component 2 session

Component Leader Martin Verbeek (PP8) encouraged the project partners regarding communication issues, that they had done a good job because URMA is becoming known better. Nevertheless he reminded to more strongly communicate and distribute the URMA website link and to issue more press releases, as these are two of the indicators, lagging far behind.

Reports from events and future events

Rolf Oldejans (PP10) reported firstly from the Open Days side event “Smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through territorial linkages. The example of food” and about the discussion in which he gave inputs about the project idea, focused on regional food chains. Secondly, he mentioned the joint banner SURF/URMA which was placed at the Committee of Regions during the Open Days, but whose contents were mixed up by the Brussels’ organizers. However, the project was visible and to be seen during the exhibition itself is an important as such.

From 23-25 October the RURBAN conference “Rural-Urban Partnerships: an integrated approach to economic development” will take place at Bologna. Rolf estimated that the outputs and discussions from the conference will guide or at least influence further European policies in the field of urban-rural cooperation to a considerable degree. Several partners will attend it.

→ All Partners:

1. Please place links to the URMA-website at your institutions’ website.
2. Please also issue press releases!
3. Data base of contacts: Please always add updates and **project partners from IT / NL** add missing information in the sheet “Contacts in IT/NL”. Current status can be found on the intranet.
4. Please always send information on upcoming regional events to REM • Consult and Martin (PP8) to be placed on URMA-website!

5) Component 1 session

Lars Schieber (REM • Consult) summarized the results of the mid-term self-evaluation which were sent to all project partners on Monday, 7th October.

Mareike emphasized the considerable risk of budget cuts due to the significant underspending at project level. All partners are advised to spend their budget according to their applied amounts.

She went on to explain the state of affairs for the 3rd progress report. Lessons learnt from the reporting process are again to make use of the pre-check and to always indicate the actual nature of costs especially in Budget line 4 for external expertise/services.

To get an overview of publications from the project which are still outstanding, Mareike showed a list of remaining outputs.

Finally, Marta again thanked all partners and especially Monica and Stefano for hosting the partnership and for their good and fruitful work.

6) Next steps and events

When	What	Who
10-11 Oct 2013	Study visit and workshop in Lombardia Region	All partners
23-25 Oct 2013	3rd European seminar on sustainable urban-rural partnerships in Emilia-Romagna (Italy)	LP, PP3, PP5, PP10
29 Oct 2013	Workshop "U-R Partnerships: Funding possibilities 2014-2020" in Brussels (EU representatives of the German Länder)	LP
30-31 Oct 2013	INTERREG IVC Thematic Capitalisation Workshop in Brussels	???
31 Dec 2013	End of 4th reporting period	All partners
28-29 Jan 2014	Meeting in Pleven (C4 Workshop)	All partners
7 Feb 2014	Deadline Pre-check of Partner reports	All partners
28 Feb 2014	Deadline Partner Control Confirmation	All partners
March/April 2014	Meeting focused on the development of recommendations addressed to EU level in Brussels (tbc)	LP, relevant stakeholders-???
June 2014	Project internal final meeting incl. Study visit in Twente region (tbc)	All partners
Sept/Oct 2014	Final Conference (alongside Open Days?)	All partners, relevant stakeholders