

# Press Release



## ***RELOS3 project starts, seven European regions united in reaching goals***

On 21 and 22 February, 17 participants from 7 countries gathered in Sabadell (Spain) to start the RELOS3 project. This project has been funded by the Interreg Europe programme, and unites seven regions from seven European countries.<sup>1</sup>

The aim of the project is to improve the economic and innovation development policies of the participating regions and to support managing authorities and to make expenditure on European funding more effective. In the current programming period from 2014-2020, all regions in the EU have chosen so-called Smart Specialisation Strategies to promote innovation and economic growth. The project wants to increase their effectiveness by involving local partners, such as innovative companies, research centres, business associations but also local authorities and universities.

The project is going to meet its goals by comparing, evaluating and testing novel approaches that have not been tried before. For example, some regions are thinking about involving citizens in their strategy while others want to explore combining European funds with other types of funding.

The project's manager Gerard Mayol remarked "*We expect that RELOS3 will provide relevant solutions that enable local partners to be more involved in the Smart Specialisation Strategies and more organisations to profit from European funding. The network effect is going to have a great impact.*"

The project will run for five years, until the end of 2021. The combined budget is € 1.4 million, of which the EU funds € 1.2 million.

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<sup>1</sup> The project has the following partners: Tartu City Government (Estonia), Region of Western Macedonia (Greece), Metropolitan City of Bologna (Italy), Malta Enterprise Corporation (Malta), Local authority of Emmen (the Netherlands), Wielkopolska Region (Poland) and the Economic Development Agency of Sabadell (Spain, lead partner)

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