



UNDERSTAND

European regions UNDER way towards STANDard indicators for benchmarking information society

Project summary

Regional investment on information society has increased dramatically over the last years. Such investment calls for adequate monitoring and evaluation tools. While at the national level "benchmarking eEurope" provides significant support to policy-making, at the regional level decision-makers lack basic data to understand the situation of their region and to evaluate the impact of innovative policies. 10 EU regions with experience in benchmarking information society get together to define common regional indicators on Information Society, pursuing consensus from as many other regions as possible. Regions will apply the indicators and collect data, benchmark through an on line database and build on benchmarking data to understand HOW and WHY some regions perform better than others. The projects provides a benchmarking tool-kit to enable interested regions to collect data and compare with EU regions.

Project objectives

UNDERSTAND main objective is to compare and evaluate regional development of the Information Society by defining and applying a set of **common regional e-indicators on Internet usage by citizens and business, e-government and broadband infrastructure**. This will enable policy-makers to better understand the impact of Information Society investment.

Main project outputs

- a **benchmarking tool-kit**, which includes 4 complete methodologies (questionnaires, samples) on the 4 chosen domains;
- an **on line database** to collect and analyse regional data;
- 2 **surveys** in each region per year: $2 \times 9 \times 2 = 36$ surveys;
- 2 **conferences** and an official **website** (<http://www.understand-eu.net>)

Partners

Regione Emilia Romagna (leader)	EMILIA ROMAGNA	IT
CSP s.c.a.r.l.	PIEMONTE	IT
Aquitaine Europe Communication	AQUITAINE	FR
Investitions Bank Hessen AG IBH	HESSEN	DE
IBIT Foundation	ISLAS BALEARES	ES
OVSF Foundation (Valencian Office for the Information Society)	COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA	ES
Association of local authorities in the country of Vasternorrland	MELLERSTA NORRLAND	SE
Yorkshire Forward	YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER	UK
ISEU, European Business Management School, University of Wales, Swansea	WALES	UK
Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Voivodship	WIELKOPOLSKIE	PL

Timing and budget

30 months: February 2004 – July 2006
 TOTAL BUDGET: 1.370.000,00 (ERDF funding: 816.625,00)

For further information:

<http://www.understand-eu.net>
<http://www.interreg3c.net/>

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