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Support action for innovation driven clusters in construction.

Regional approaches, multi-stakeholder engagement and cross regional cooperation

Project duration: 1st February 2008 – 31st January 2010

REG CON is a two-year project co-financed from European Commission in the framework of 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013), Specific Programme: Capacities, Initiative: Regions of knowledge.

Project idea

The driving idea of REG CON is the advancement of the concept of "clustering" across regions of Europe with a thematic focus on construction. This sector is both dynamic in creation of growth and employment (with 11.8 million operatives directly employed in the sector, it is Europe's largest industrial employer accounting for 7% of total employment and 28% of industrial employment in the EU-15¹) but relatively backward in absorbing innovation. The Strategic Research Agenda prepared by European Construction Technology Platform set up ambitious but realistic goals to transform this traditional sector into the knowledge driven and R&D based. REG CON activities strength those goals from regional level.

Project partnership is based on two advanced construction clusters: Finland & Slovenia [mentors] and three regions with "clusters initiatives" which needs to be transform into clusters [Poland, Spain, Greece]. Each region involves main stakeholders: industry, research, local authorities. There are 15 Partners in the project Consortium, members of European Construction Technology Platform and National Technology Platforms, which ensure the link with European objectives for sector R&D development.

Apart from focusing on construction sector, the project has - at the methodological level - a regional focus seeking to engage in a permanent way all the main stakeholder categories, i.e., industry, research, chambers of commerce, local authorities. It also has a cross regional aspect, in the sense that the approaches to be developed, although targeting different sub areas of construction and reflecting the particularities of the participating regions, will be shared among the consortium.

Sharing of good practice and mentoring schemes are cornerstone in the project roll – out.

www.regcon.org

¹http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/construction/index_en.htm



PROJECT CONSORTIUM

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Apintech Ltd. (Greece)

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East Med Technology Transfer Unit - EMTTU (Greece)

www.emttu.org



Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Greece)

www.ebeh.gr



Acciona Infraestructuras (Spain)

www.acciona.es



Fundacion Labein (Spain)

www.labein.es



Basque Government (Spain)

www.euskadi.net



Technical Research Centre of Finland - VTT (Finland)

www.vtt.fi



Väinö Korpinen Ltd. (Finland)

www.korpinen.com



National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES) (Finland)

www.stakes.fi



Construction Cluster of Slovenia (Slovenia)

www.sgg.si



University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

www.uni-lj.si

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www.gzs.si

