



NEWSLETTER ON INTERNALIZATION #01/10



The Inception Report for PURR was delivered in time by 30/06/2010.

The Interception report is a draft for a research design. The Coordinator Unit in Luxemburg give responses to this design. The response represents the synthesis of the comments received following the submission of the Inception Report from the transnational project group. The process of commenting involved members of the ESPON Monitoring Committee, the European Commission, the Managing Authority, the Coordination Unit (CU) and the Group of Stakeholders that is following your project. The comments of the Group of Stakeholders were checked by the CU and integrated into this response.

When the Inception report is approved the TPG (Transnational Project Group) will have a meeting in London, probably in September. There will be three regional workshops during the autumn UK, Norway and Latvia.



The project called OP-ACT have been approved for a Phase two. Demographic change, advanced de-industrialization and the current financial crisis

together with the linked danger of job losses pose specific challenges for small and medium size cities and are still our focus points. We have organized the work in four Work Packages:

- WP 1: Governance and New Narratives (Cross Cutting)
- WP 2: Social and Economic Conclusion
- WP 3: Living Conditions
- WP 4: Site Advantages

We will continue working with a partnership of eleven:

- Leoben, Austria LP
- Notodden, Norway
- Medias, Romania
- Legazpi, Spain
- Eberswalde, Germany
- Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland
- Ancona, Italy
- Rezekne, Latvia
- Heerlen, The Netherlands
- Altena, Germany
- Nagykallo, Hungary

The project will continue till 2012. The first new project meeting will be in Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland. You can read more on the [OP-ACT](#) webpage. Being the first municipality in Norway participating in this programme we get a lot of attention.

The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) office in Brussels have recently done a readable summing up of our engagement in OP-ACT in their newsletter "EU på Norsk". You can read the text (in Norwegian only) [here](#).



By May 31. 2010 we reached our first milestone and have delivered reasonably according to project data form. This first period has first of all been a period for tool development for partners.

We have brought together decision makers both political and administrative together with



international experts and delivered a toolbox for scenario planning and guidelines for new narratives and storytelling.

We also had a very interesting workshop in Suwalki, Poland focusing urban design and interactive public spaces.

We have also started the work with benchmarking attractiveness. Analyses are at hand for Germany, Poland, Sweden and Norway and we are on the way to do it for Latvia and Lithuania. When ready they will be found on our webpage. See link on our logo.

The webpage has so far been difficult to access when looking for details, however we are working on a new structure that will make it easier.

The coming milestone will consist of local actions with international participation to put into action strategic planning with the help of the tools we have developed together with international experts.

The architecture competition for our "House of Books and Blues" had 73 proposals from all over the world. In the nearest future Suwalki City Municipality will launch an international competition for their Maria Konopnicka park as a part of their work with WP 5.



The 2010 edition of Suwalki Blues Festival was a success, more than 17 000 people came to Suwalki in beautiful weather and music on every corner and restaurant. Our Mayor Lise Wiik

represented Notodden municipality together with our Executive Director, Magnus Mathisen, and Bjørn Frode Moen. We are looking forward to the third edition in 2011! We were also happy to have a delegation of four on our Notodden Blues Festival 2010. Ms. Beata Czekajlo, Mr. Stanisław Kulikowski, Ms. Agnieszka Sokołowska and Mr. Mirosław Jankowski. We have still a lot to learn from each other!

Suwalki is of course partner in Trans in Form.



In early May this year Jelgava Novads, that is Jelgava Local municipality invited us to their workshop on Tourism through Town Twinning.

In the conference they focused on promotion of cross border tourisms, addressing advantages earned through closer cooperation of town twinning partners. More than 20 delegations from more than 10 European countries facilitated exchange of experience. We made new friends and learned a lot!

Jelgava Novads is of course partner in Trans in Form.



The International engagement in Notodden municipality and our participation in the [Innovation Circle Network](#) is an important part of our development strategy.

We are continuously working to develop new projects, and the Annual Conference will be in Vilnius 29-30 November! The themes will be: "Treasures in the Baltic Sea Region." The conference this time will consist of two parts: The first day will be dedicated for the general overview of the past year and some inspiring motivation speeches. The second day will be all about discussing and elaborating new project ideas that is a great chance for you to get into a new project!

[Do you want to know more, be in touch!](#)



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