

InterLoc is a project based on municipal partnerships within the EU. The aim of the project has been to gather knowledge and making it accessible in order to facilitate cross border cooperation between local authorities.

"We use international cooperation as an everyday tool for developing our municipalities"

THEME: Dissemination

Report from 8 dissemination workshops

InterLoc project has the objectives to gather and develop experiences and tools for international cooperation and establish international networks among municipalities. Just as important is the objective of disseminating these experiences, the tools and the network activities.

The concept of the whole project is to inform and communicate the good story of international cooperation.

For this purpose the InterLoc project has developed the homepage www.interloc.eu and conducted dissemination workshops in the three project partner countries, and in Lithuania.

The dissemination workshops were aiming at (1) informing on experiences and results from the InterLoc project, (2) inspire discussions among workshop participants and (3) open up interest among local authorities and other public institutions to participate in the coming EU programmes supporting international cooperation.

A general power-point presentation was based on the concept of the Interloc-homepage and jointly developed among project partners with Karlshamn and Guldborgsund Municipalities in the leading role.

The headings for the presentation were:

- Introduction to the InterLoc project;
- Main lessons learned
 - Why go international?
 - Key factors for success
 - Good advice
 - Tools for developing cooperation
 - Obstacles for success
- Introduction to the interloc.eu homepage.

Main messages

On concepts for international cooperation:

- A way for local authorities to integrate an international dimension into their work.
- Ambition: involve the thematic units and technical staffs in the international cooperation - not only the international coordinators.
- Mainstream international cooperation instead of only focusing on light house projects

On key factors for success:

- Get the management on board: Department Leaders, Board of Directors, Political Committees
- Be strategic: make strategies and action plans
- Be visual towards: Citizens, Politicians and Municipal Administration

On obstacles for success:

- International cooperation takes time and includes different partners from different countries, this means:
- Different project agendas among different partners
 - Different legislation and cultures in different countries
 - Project environment and partner agendas change over time.

Agendas for the dissemination workshops

Based on the general concept, each dissemination workshop was fitted to the local needs and had its own agenda. Often the workshop was combined with another activity, e.g. an information meeting on the coming EU programmes.

Two examples for programmes of the dissemination workshops:

In Malbork in Poland:

- Introduction to InterLoc-project / by Tczew Municipality
- Project activities and lessons learned
- Presentation of tools of international cooperation.
- Presentation of www.interloc.eu.
- Discussions, questions and answers
- Final wrap and closing of workshop.

In Region Zealand in Denmark:

- Welcome and introduction / by Region Zealand
- Case: Interloc project – What are the lessons learned? / by Slagelse and Guldborgsund Municipalities
- 3 parallel workshops on 3 themes (health, climate and education) and 3 Interreg A-programmes (Sweden-Denmark, German-Denmark and South Baltic) / by programme contact points
- Joint presentation from the 3 themes.

Experiences from the dissemination workshops

In total 274 persons participated in the 8 dissemination workshops. Participants included experienced international coordinators as well as civil servants from municipalities and other public institutions with limited international experiences, but

with the plan to start international cooperation.

The workshops displayed a lot of interest among the participants for more knowledge and experiences on tools for international cooperation and opportunities to get involved in the coming EU programmes. The dissemination workshops also provided valuable opportunities for experience sharing among EU / International coordinators that might be working sometimes rather alone in each of their institutions.



Overview of the 8 InterLoc dissemination workshops

Dates 2014	Venue	No. of participants	Types of participants	Combined with
Sweden				
20 February	Sundsvall	72	Civil servants, politicians and others working with the Europa 2020 strategy.	National conference Europa 2020
13 May	Karlshamn	15	EU coordinators in municipalities of Blekinge County	Sölvesborg and Karlshamn Municipalities
27 May	Hässleholm	16	TADD project contact persons, EU Office Skåne Nord East and other international interested civil servants	Project TADD Final conference
27 May	Karlshamn	30	Municipal management officers in Karlshamn Municipality	
Poland				
28 April	Malbork	29	Municipal management officers in Malbork Municipality	Tczew and Malbork Municipalities
6 June	Kwidzyn	24	Representatives from municipals, institutions and associations	
Denmark				
16 June	Sorø	70	International coordinators for municipalities and educational institutions in Region Zealand	Region Zealand and Europe Direct EU information meeting
Lithuania				
9 June	Klaipeda	18	EU / International Coordinators from municipalities all over Lithuania	Sölvesborg and Klaipeda Municipalities