

Baltic Rural Broadband Project

Broadband technologies and its services as instruments for regional development

The Baltic Rural Broadband Project is based on two types of activities: general project activities and pilot activities. All general project activities follow a commonly developed approach and produce outputs related to the BSR region as a whole. The planned Baltic Rural Broadband Study as well as the Baltic Rural Broadband WEB Forum are examples for these activities which have equivalent inputs from all partner regions. Awareness raising on Broadband Technologies as the new infrastructure for the information age, the set up of local broadband development strategies, all activities aiming on boosting the use of internet, tackling e-literacy and developing local e-communities are part of the general project activities.

Nevertheless, pilot project activities are an important part of the project, combining local actions with trans-national co-operation. Their results will be introduced to the content of the other work packages. Cooperating on six pilot projects in the fields of wireless broadband technology and the further development of broadband based services and applications the partners create a trans-national laboratory all over the BSR.

PP1: Regional capacity building by joint implementation of local wireless solutions (Technical Solutions)

Technological innovations like voice over IP telephony and new technologies helping to link wireless and conservative technologies are creating new options for a sustainable use of local and regional data networks, especially in rural areas, but they still are considered a technological niche. Therefore single actions in the partner regions focus on testing and gathering practical experiences with WIFI technologies

- further qualifying in practical implementation
- estimating realistically the potential and limits of the medium
- recognising wireless solution as an alternative in comparison to expensive cable solutions and to integrate these in the future plans for the improvement of broadband access.

PP2: Strengthening inter-communal cooperation and reduction of cost by application sharing (ICAS)

Local administrations are increasingly forced to reduce their resources and costs. At the same time they are confronted with the necessity to develop a stronger orientation towards services and to guaranty citizens, particularly in rural areas, a contemporary comfort regarding the use of their offers. Of particular importance is the use of information and communication technologies. The downside of the problem is the fact that especially the smaller local authorities in rural areas do not have the financial possibilities and the critical mass to finance expensive experts' systems. Therefore this pilot project is expected to show the experiences of single partners contributing to the planning and implementation of application sharing.



PP3: Service oriented portal solutions supporting eGovernment (SOPS)

Concerning the improvement of the service quality of public authorities, the increase of transparency of political decision processes and the integration of citizens and economy in public co-operation processes the use of WEB-supported portals is of increasing importance. Particularly in rural areas of low service concentration service portals have a considerable potential for the improvement of public service offers for citizens and the

local economy. Above all in sparsely populated areas WEB-supported service portals are the only possibility to maintain not only existing offers but also to create additional offers. One main focus of this pilot

project is the installation of regional economic portals including services for enterprises in the corresponding regions.

PP4: Options of Broadband Access in Schools (OBAS)

The project is to investigate exemplarily the possibilities of the use of broadband connection at schools and to support the application of technology in the educational system by means of practical and transferable concepts. The use of e-learning at schools can increase the sensitivity for this topic and strengthen media competences. However, the project does not deal with questions of pedagogy or consent as there are relevant funding programmes of the EU. Subjects are rather aspects of planning, organisation and economy of e-learning.

PP5: Broadband Based Business (3B)

The availability and use of fast broadband connection makes the implementation of a variety of new business ideas possible, especially in developed rural areas. Potential business fields are remote observation and alarm, the development of internet supported mobile visitor guiding system (via PDA-technology), the development of multimedia services or specific offers for further education, and the implementation of wireless broadband connection offers a considerable potential for new jobs or the set-up of new enterprises as in this field only few qualified workers are available in relation to the requirement.

PP6: Broadband in the Health System (eHealth solutions)

The quality of life in rural areas depends to a high degree on the quality of the regional health care. For the improvement of medical services and the safeguarding of adequate offers and structures the internet and electronic services are of particular importance. Therefore the EU and the member states give the field of e-health top priority. In this project the possibilities of the use of regional e-health concepts are analysed and the development and test installation of e-health services are carried out exemplarily: radiographs of local hospitals are to be prepared for the electronic exchange between hospitals and family doctors as well as between regional hospitals and supra-regional hospitals.

Project partners:

DENMARK

- Grenaa Tekniske Skole
- Nørre Djurs Computer-Bøvl-miljø

GERMANY

- FH Stralsund
- Landkreis Osterholz
- NETZ-Zentrum
- ProArbeit kAöR
- Stadt Osterholz-Scharmbeck

ESTONIA

- Võru Linnavalitsus
- Võru Maavalitsus
- Võrumaa Kutsehariduskeskus
- Võrumaa Omavalitsuste Liit

F I N L A N D

- Region Aboland

LATVIA

- University of Latvia – Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science

LITHUANIA

- INPP Regional Development Agency
- Visaginas Municipality

NORWAY

- Dalneradet
- University of Stavanger
- Ryfylke IKS

POLAND

- Powiat Kwidzynski

SWEDEN

- Handelskammaren Värmland
- Länsstyrelsen Värmland
- Torsby Kommun

Lead partner

ProArbeIt kAÖR

Tim Brauckmüller

Fon +49 4795 957 1140

info@balticbroadband.net



This project is partly financed by the European and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) during the period of 2005 to 2007.