

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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Energy Strategy

Grids, Markets, Infrastructure, Renewables

International Insight

Syria, US Politics, Development

Regional Focus

Views from Around the EU

Elections and Governance

Management, Integrity, Observation, Technology

Centralab – Living Labs: Generation of Collaboration across Europe

Not long ago, the term 'Living Lab' wasn't even in our vocabulary, because there was very little cohesion between public institutions, SME's and end-users. Not anymore. With Web 2.0 solutions and the Living Lab concept, we will assess if active participation of end users can create innovative processes and solution in the field of Ecotouristic services, Climate change, eHealth, Energy efficiency, environment & education, media & creativity, mobility, Rural development, Waste management and SME-networks.

CentraLab is based on an approach that has emerged in the arena of ICT under the name "Living Lab". In this model, technology R&D brings infrastructures into real-life contexts to enable a "co-design" process with end users. This method ensures greater relevance and faster time to market for R&D results, as demonstrated by the 345 Living Labs in the ENoLL network (www.openlivinglabs.eu). The specific objective of CentraLab is to apply the Living Lab approach transversally across a broad range of policy fields relevant to Central European regional development, constructing a multi-level governance network for a trans-national Central European Living Lab. It thus contributes to "enhance the framework conditions for innovation" (Area P 1.1), particularly in the organisational and policy dimensions of a new methodological research infrastructure.

- 8 collaborating countries
- 10 transnational partners working together
- Transforming Central Europe into a broad-reaching laboratory for innovation and competitiveness
- "Co-design" process with end users
- New policy framework for Knowledge Economy



GoGorenjska portal for Ecotourism,
University of Maribor, Slovenia

10 pilot initiatives are:

Slovenia: Ecotouristic services - With Web 2.0 solutions and the Living Lab concept, we will assess if collaboration of tourists and tourist service providers can result in a co-creation of new innovative touristic services.

Italy: Climate change – We will become a point of reference for Municipalities for the implementation of energy saving projects.

Poland: Micro-SME-networks – We are focused on creating a network of entrepreneurs (mainly SMEs and micro-companies) whose offer or needs are related to the widely understood issue of design.

Italy: eHealth – We will introduce eHealth services that facilitate access to healthcare, whatever the geographical location, thanks to innovative telemedicine and personal health systems.

Slovenia: Energy efficiency –We will enable users to now be able to see the direct impact on their overall economic value when they choose to make their buildings/homes more energy efficient.

Czech Republic: Environment & Education – We are focused on providing educational material to the environmental sector. We will develop a catalogue of existing educational products oriented to environment and its protection.

Germany: Media & creativity – With the project „mobile usability lab" we will create a usability platform for testing user-oriented functionality of new websites, web applications and mobile Apps.

Austria: Mobility – We will create a sustainable ecosystem for innovation in the e-mobility sector in the Vorarlberg region in cooperation with the electric car trial VLOTTE in Vorarlberg, Austria.

Slovakia: Rural development - Knowledge networking has become an essential management task. Our purpose is to share knowledge and experience of individual experts as a basis for generating viable innovations and enabling organizations to achieve constant advancement.

Hungary: Waste management – We aim to find, ground and establish a system where ecological, economical and public administration requirements can be harmonized. Collection and processing of waste is not only an environmental question but should also be beneficial from a business point of view.

Group meeting at Technology Park, Kielce, Poland



Project: CentraLab – Central European Living Lab for Territorial Innovation

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