

Javier Val – Summary of Speech

My name is Javier Val and I work for the Aragon Institute of Technology. The main aim of our company is to promote the competitiveness of the regional industry and support the creation of new sectors through the generation, capitation, adaptation, transfer and diffusion of innovative technologies in a collaborative environment with other agents.

Our company aims to be the technological reference of industrial and service companies and an strategic instrument of the technological policy of the regional Government

In line with the mission of our company we participated in the DBE Project as a Regional Catalyst. Our mission in the project was to deploy the DE in our region involving all the needed agents, such us, regional Government, User SMEs, SW Developer SMEs and other Influencers.

It was designed an strategy with a set of objectives, actions and activities in the project which were successfully executed.

We have involved more than 30 SW developers, 100 User SMEs directly and more than 6000 User SMEs indirectly. We have had a great experience of knowledge exchange and networking.

And we want to share our experience with other regions in Europe. Indeed, that has been our motivation for creating the REDEN Network, the REgions for Digital Ecosystems Network .

From a wide perspective, the REDEN Mission is:

To promote the achievement of the Lisbon objectives through the digital ecosystems approach to sustainable regional development in order to achieve greater competitiveness of European regions in the global economy.

More concretely, the aim of the REDEN Network is that every region deploys a DE in their regions and integrate it in the global European DE. And in order to do so, we have looked for and still looking for Institutions or Companies or an Association of them with a combination of specific skills which allow them to guarantee the correct deployment of the DE, such us:

- To have a political profile or relationships with them in order to be able to integrate the DE into the regional strategy.
- To be a reference for the SMEs in the region.
- And to have technical skills.

At this moment, there are 33 members in the Network from 15 different countries.

More precisely, some of the REDEN objectives I' like to highlight are :

- To apply and improve the results on research, development and mainly deployment carried out by the digital ecosystems community in the recent years.

- To disseminate the knowledge of the Digital Ecosystems at the European level, giving interested stakeholders the necessary knowledge and tools to plan a future deployment of the DE at the regional and local levels in the support of SMEs.
- Share good practices and experiences on how to conceive a regional innovation strategy between regional authorities and regional catalysts, identifying the opportunities and obstacles encountered in implementing the DE voicing them politically and finding consequent actions.
- Promote the exchange of applications, the knowledge platform and new business models developed by the regions implementing the DE.
- Promote the deployment of Broadband as a prerequisite for DE deployment. If there is no broadband, then there is no DE.
- Promote the creation of regional partnerships between the partners/regional catalysts and key stakeholders.
- Encouraging the participation and involvement of the Living Labs from different European regions as a test and experimentations toolkits.
- Connect progressively in a network cluster all the regional actors connected within the regional digital ecosystems in order to create in the future a veritable “European Intelligent Digital Market”.

The main results and activities we have done up to now are:

- To raise the interest of a set of EU Regions and to build the Network with 33 regions.
- After that, we have created the REDEN Mission Statement, which is a document already available.
- Then, a subset of regions together with other experienced partners in DEs, have applied to the CIP Call Tender of the VII FP to obtain funding to start our activities, which are mainly to show how to deploy DE in every participating region following a interactive methodology.
- We are working on the Web site.
- We will work on new project applications.

And to sum up, I'd like to invite all the regions to take part in the REDEN Network.