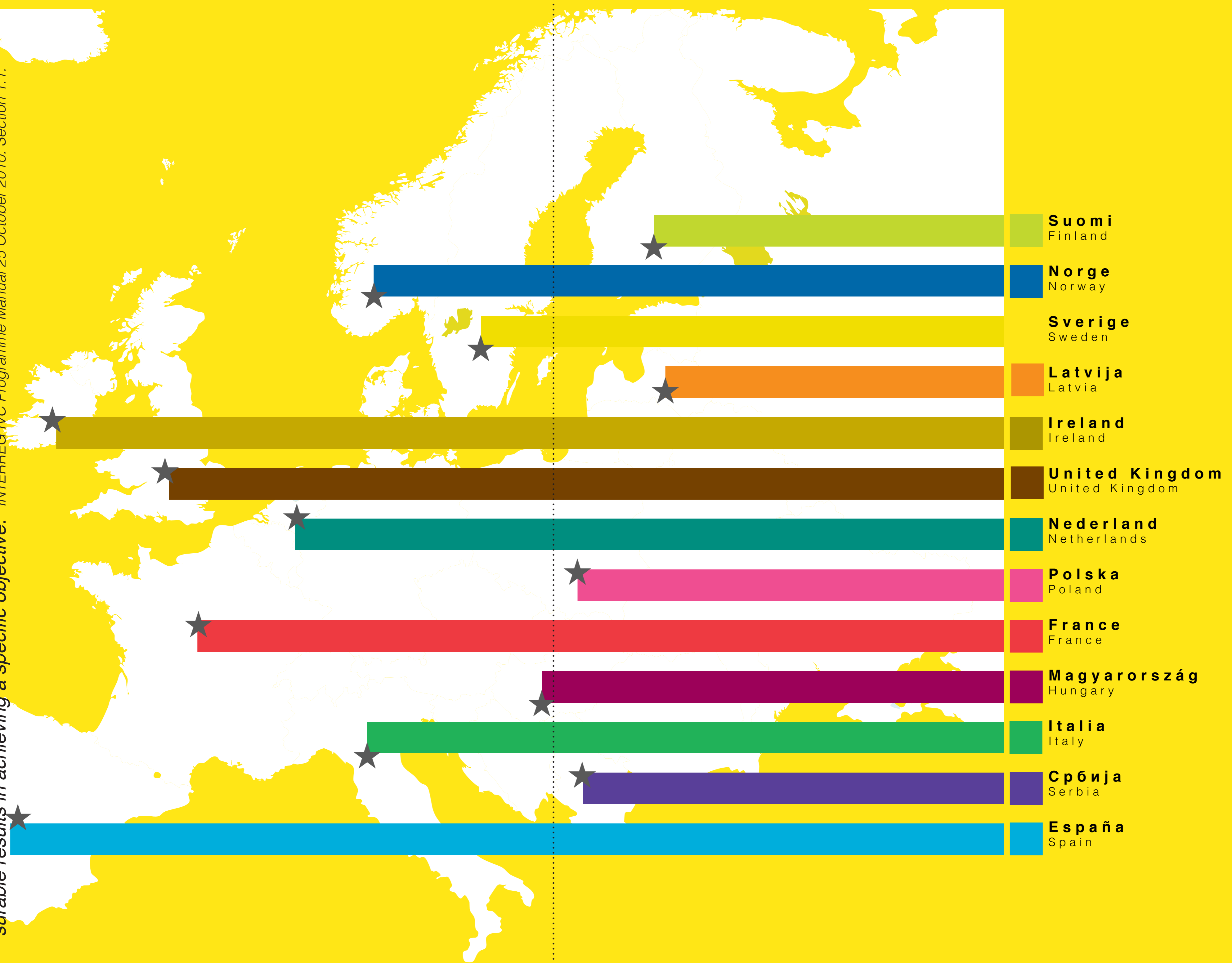


"In the context of the INTERREG IVC programme, a good practice is defined as an initiative (e.g. methodologies, projects, processes and techniques) undertaken in one of the programme's thematic priorities which has already proved successful and which has the potential to be transferred to a different geographic area. Proved successful is where the good practice has already provided tangible and measurable results in achieving a specific objective." INTERREG IVC Programme Manual 25 October 2010. Section 1.1.1.



WATER// WAYS FORWARD



Good Practice Series

001

A story of Partners and Good Practice:

Waterways Forward aims to improve the management of regional inland waterways and the territory adjacent to them by promoting an integrated, sustainable and participatory approach.

The project will develop recommendations for modern governance models to create a basis for integrated regional policies to boost the socio/economic development of inland waterways whilst respecting nature and the environment.

Recreational boating is a growing tourist asset in Europe. Also recreation and living along the shores

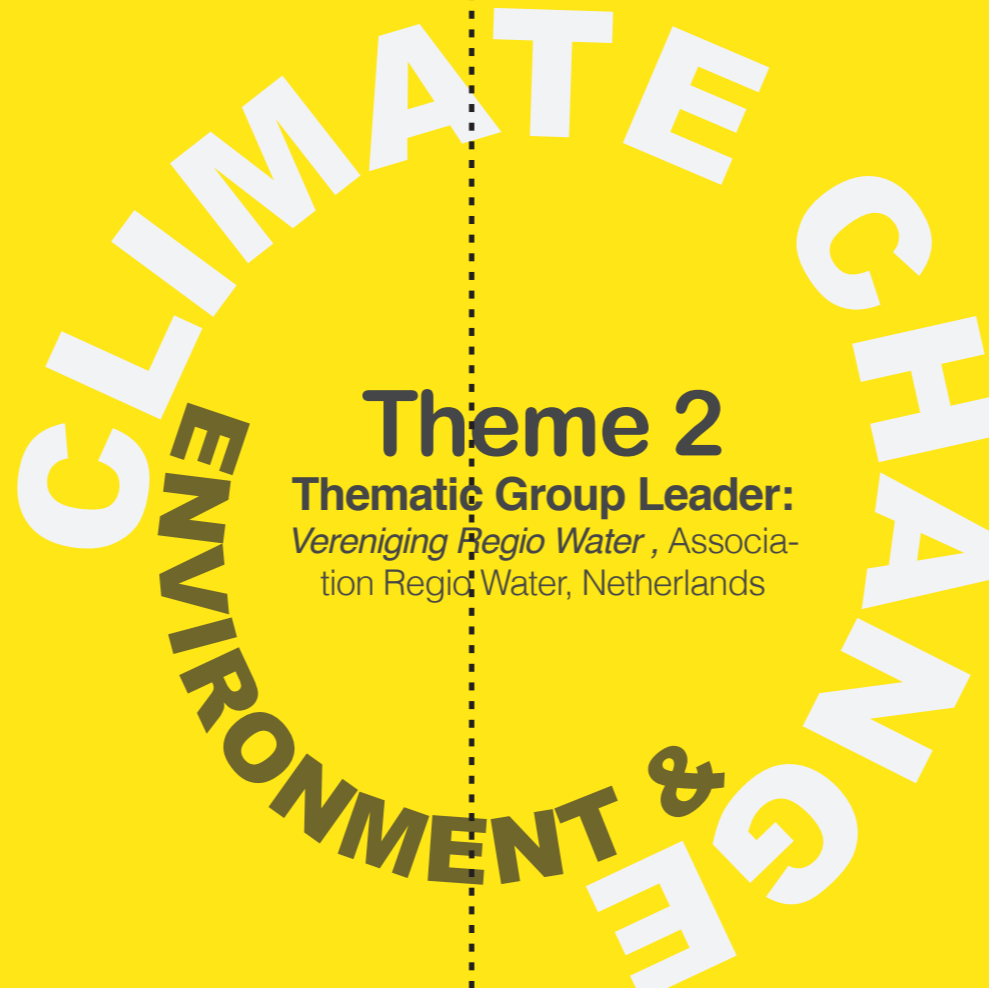
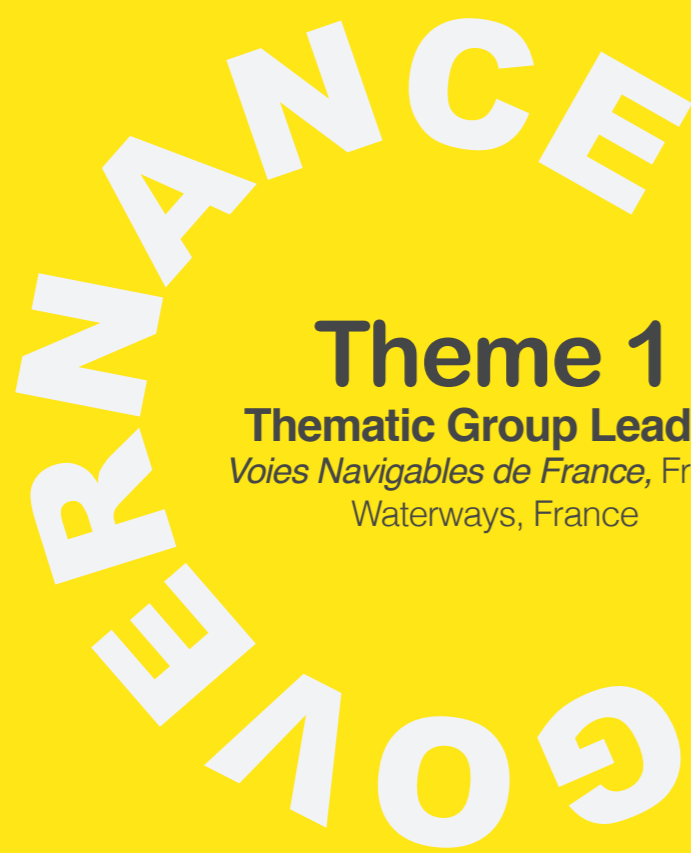
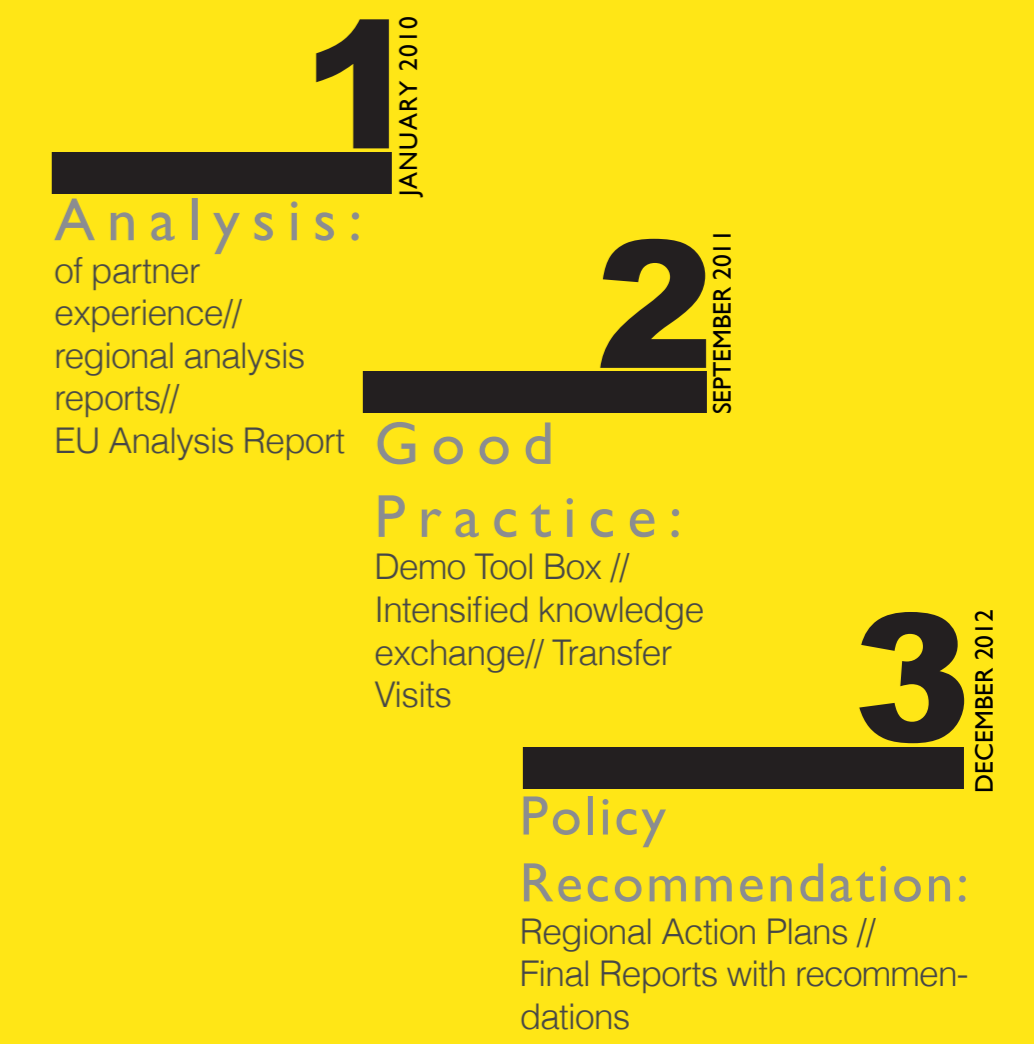
of canals, rivers and lakes represents a growing opportunity to boost the economic performance of regions bordering inland waterways. Inland waterways in Europe are often part of protected natural areas. The intensified future use of regional waterways has environmental implications which require sound management embedded in a governance structure which is balanced, efficient and that acknowledges the Water Framework Directive. Water transport is sustainable, but increased use of waterways can have adverse consequences on the environment.

Climate change impacts on the management of regional waterways because of periodic surplus and shortage of water.

Balanced and integrated management is required to ensure improvement of the socio/economic benefits for smaller inland waterways. This requires integrated and tailor-made governance structures instead of a patchwork of responsibilities. Regional strategies for sustainable development of regions adjacent to waterways which complement River Basin Management Planning are vital.

Partners have identified mechanism to manage their waterways which are often implemented without coordination. To streamline this debate partners developed regional analyses of their situation whilst involving regional stakeholders. Integrated policies will add value to sustainable development of the regions adjacent to waterways.

PROJECT PHASE



Lead Partner
Stichting Recreatietoervaart Nederland (SRN)
Dutch Recreational Waterways Foundation
+ a project management group

Communication Manager
British Waterways
+ Landscape Interface Studio, Kingston University

Regional Strategic Platforms

These are set up by each partner and involve regular meetings and joint implementation of demonstration actions in the project. They act to ensure support and commitment for implementation of policies after project completion. It acts as a bottom-up model. The platforms include national and regional stakeholders, public authorities, water boards, land users, tourist and nature organizations.

- There are 13 knowledge transfer visits
- The aim is for a region to receive knowledge from the other partners
- The master classes will support debates on regional values of the Demo Toolbox results.
- The transfer visits are structured around the host's wishes; including a study visit, staff exchange, benchmarking, training sessions etc.

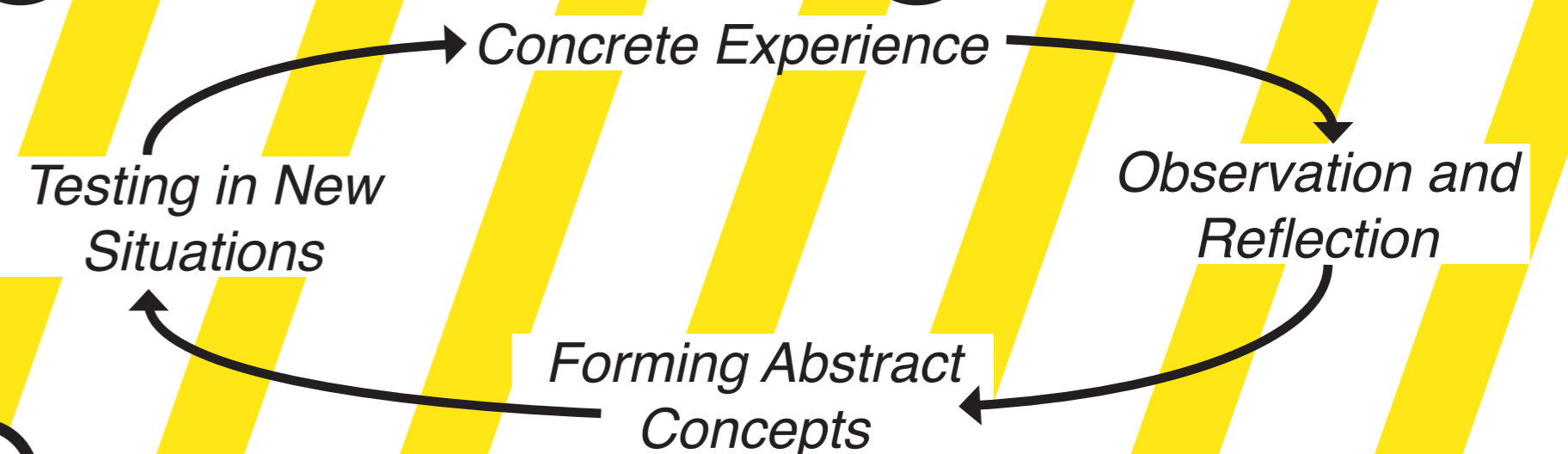
Masterclass (MC)

- The master classes are held within the theme of either Governance/ Environment or Climate Change
- They link Phase 1 and Phase 2: from good practice to regional policy development
- Their aim is to catalyse & accelerate the development of new & innovative tools for inclusion in regional policies
- Another aim is to provide new links to funding schemes.
- The MCs are supported by external experts.
- The MCs are prepared by the Theme leaders and supported by co-team leaders from less experienced countries.

Demo-toolbox

- The demo-toolbox is a synthesis report, produced by the Lead Partner with a definition of good practices
- The good practices used in the demo toolbox have been analysed by each region. Focus of the analysis is on: the management of inland waterways; an identification of weaknesses and strengths in the areas of Governance; public management approaches towards economic development; multifunctional use and legal & financial constraints; and issues surrounding Environment & Climate Change.

The Learning Cycle



Investigating how the economic and social benefits of waterways can be delivered. While protecting, or enhancing, the quality of the natural and built environment. Increased use of waterways for transport and tourism has potentially adverse consequences for the environment. This can be overcome through the adoption of sound management practices. Investigating how waterways can best contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Waterways can contribute to our response to a changing climate through creating opportunities for keeping our cities and towns cool, providing alternative energy and supporting sustainable transport. At the same time, managers of waterways will need to respond to challenges imposed by climate change, in terms of periodic shortages and surpluses of water.

Investigating how our inland waterways can be better managed, developed and funded to deliver the wide range of benefits – economic, social and environmental – that are supported by the multifunctional use of water. New governance structures and models need to be developed to bring the various stakeholders together at national, regional and local levels. Good practices need to be developed to maximise the multifunctional benefits delivered by our waterways.

Governance

Environment & Climate Change