

FIDIBE International Newsletter N°5

Dear Reader,

I would like to welcome you on behalf of the Partnership of the FIDIBE project!



FIDIBE is the acronym of the „Development of Innovative Business Parks to Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the SEE Area”, a project funded by the [SEE Transnational Programme](#) and co-funded by the relevant national or regional governments and the Partners themselves.

This is the 5th issue of our international e-newsletter, which is to provide you information on the status of our project, the main results and outputs. We would be more than pleased to receive your feedback.

If you wish to know more, please visit our website: <http://www.fidibe.eu>, which is regularly updated and it will contain all the studies, manual, databases etc. prepared during the implementation of the project. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send your request to unsubscribe@fidibe.com.

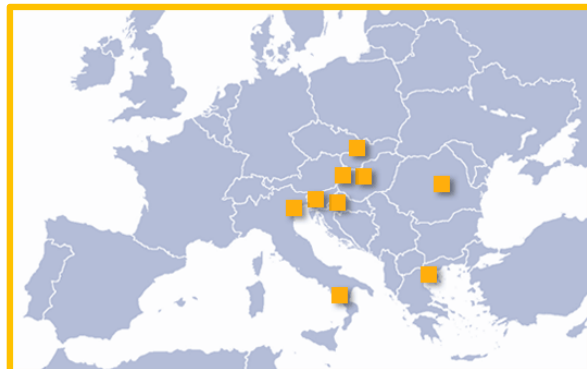
Best regards,



Csaba Sebestyén
Managing Director
Mid-Pannon, Lead Partner

■ FIDIBE objectives and Partners

The main objective of our project is to increase the innovative potential and competitiveness of the SEE area via the development and support of competitive and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises through developing and improving support networks and services for innovative SMEs in the area. The project size is Euro 2.220.000 including ERDF contribution of Euro 1.887.000. 9 Partners from 7 different countries joined the project. Each partner plays a leading role in the field of innovation and business park development in its region and in some cases even at international level.



■ Final – project closure – conference

More than a 150 people participated on the project closure conference of the FIDIBE project. The Final Conference took place in Székesfehérvár – Hungary (the seat of the Lead Partner, the Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company) in the newly renovated conference centre of the town municipality. The Mayor of the town welcomed the participants, emphasising the results of the project and the role of Mid-Pannon in the regional economy. The representatives of the SEE JTS, the Ministry of National Economy and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology presented their future plans in the plenary session. Meanwhile the afternoon was devoted to 3 parallel sessions discussing the FIDIBE project results, local economic development and innovation and also clusterisation and innovation.

Presentations of the final conference are available here: <http://fidibe.eu/finalconference/presentations>

■ Establishment of the SEE INNOVATIVE BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

Project partners of FIDIBE signed the deed of foundation of the Association on the final conference in order to continue cooperation and maintain project results beyond the project closure.

The Association is aiming to:

- Develop a concept of events to exchange best practice models and share experience among regional networks with the aim to explore how public policy can influence the work of association.
- Organize a framework for discussions on how SMEs needs shall be addressed by the development and provision of services and how the SME could land in the partner region if they need.
- Promote at EU level the objectives and the interests of the Association, cooperation with relevant associations and networks.
- Promote the present collaboration to other organizations in the partner regions.
- Take into consideration the recommendations and Manual of Innovative Business Parks in the SEE Region of the FIDIBE project in order to ensure the sustainability and capitalization of joint programs of trans-regional innovation supporting programs.
- Develop future project proposals in order to ensure the funding for common future programs.

The Association is an open one, other organisations are welcomed to join.

■ Partners of FIDIBE are finalising the Feasibility Studies of the Innovative Business Parks

Studies will be completed in early 2012 and uploaded on the website.

The Feasibility Studies are prepared with the lead of the Italian VEGAPARK. The common methodology prepared by VEGAPARK ensures that the Studies will achieve a high quality and also helps the implementation in the framework of the mainstream national or regional programmes. A good example is the 10% Project Partner, the Croatian BICRO – the extension of an existing park (subject of the study) will most probably financed by EU funds.

■ Project partners have completed the SME research activity

Each project partner interviewed a large number of SMEs in the region and identified several as potential clients of the Innovative Business Park.

SMEs will be interviewed with a dual purpose:

- to investigate and research the needs of SMEs: which services of a Park are the most popular and demanded for;
- to identify innovative SMEs as clients of a Business Park.

■ News from Sviluppo Basilicata

New Regional Venture Capital Fund

Sviluppo Basilicata SpA is managing a new venture capital scheme established recently by Basilicata Region. The Regional Venture Capital Fund aims to encourage the birth and development of SMEs located or intending to locate within Basilicata region, through the Fund's direct investment or the co-investment with partner investors (other funds, whether generalists or specialized, business angels, private investors, members of the same company) through financial transactions, aimed to finance the early stages of the entrepreneurial development (Early Stage) and the organizational, technology, production and trade development programs, including internationalization initiatives (expansion).

The intervention is carried out in partnership with private investors through the participation in venture and risk capital (temporary and minority holdings) and equity loans.

The beneficiaries are the SMEs located or intending to locate their headquarters in Basilicata and already established, at the date of the application submission, in the form of limited companies, characterized by economically and financially solidity, with innovative business ideas, growth plans, and a strong development potential.

The initial budget of the Fund is equal to € 8,000,000.00 Euros.

Each intervention will be funded according to the following classification:

- Seed and Start-Up Capital operations (Early Stage): maximum € 250,000.00;
- Expansion operations: minimum € 300,000.00 and maximum € 1,500,000.00.

All operations require the involvement of private investors.

■ News from Technology Park Ljubljana

Project MED-KED – Mediterranean knowledge-based entrepreneurship development that is co-financed by the Mediterranean Programme.

Technology Park Ljubljana is work package leader for Research, Analysis and Good Practice Exchange Common Transnational Methodology of the project. Consortium of five project partners: ASTER, Barcelona Activa, Fondation Sophia Antipolis, Province Milan in Technology Park Ljubljana, is going to examine the potential for the enhancement of the knowledge based entrepreneurship environment in the region and provide recommendations and pilot actions for the promotion of the knowledge based entrepreneurship.

Website: www.med-ked.eu

■ News from Business Innovation Centre of Croatia

BICRO invests over 7 million HRK in the establishment of the Competence Centre for Eco-technologies

Centre for Eco-technologies Competence is a research – oriented development centre oriented on the implementation of advanced technologies for waste and biomass treatment by anaerobic digestion (AD) in order to solve the problem of organic waste disposal and generation of biogas. This is the first Centre of this kind in Croatia and the region. Potential users of the Centre are: county and regional waste management centres, companies that manage contaminated water treatment, livestock and poultry farms and food processing industries. The project will, through BICRO technology infrastructure development program – TEHCRO, receive financial support in amount over 7 million HRK (more than 43% of total project costs). The founder, Brodarski Institute will co-finance 30% of the project costs and the rest of funding will be financed from the revenues of the Centre.

Croatia participates in the FINNO project

The aim of the FINNO project is to contribute to better productivity and achieve more comparable level of innovativeness between countries in SEE region. The project will create a communication platform of decision-makers supported by sustainable mechanism for fostering innovation in SEE area, the FINNO Committee, a legal body providing governance level with constant and relevant policy recommendations.

Project Lead Partner is Public Agency for Technological Development of the Republic of Slovenia. BICRO is responsible for the operational implementation of the project in Croatia. The project started in March, 2011 and its implementation will last until Feb, 2014. Total project budget amount is € 1,527,500.00.

■ News from Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company

Mid-Pannon organized a series of regional event for SMEs to promote the new grant schemes of the Operational Programmes and the SME financial programmes of different state organizations.

The second phase of a cluster project was launched recently with the support of the Central-Transdanubian RDA, funded by the Regional OP. The automotive cluster of Ajka town and its surrounding is aiming to strengthen the cooperation of the cluster members via a wide range of services.

The subsidiary company of Mid-Pannon the fully owned CTNC has completed the first regional SEPA training. SEPA is the abverb of the “Sustainable and Equipped Productive Areas” – also financed by the SEE Programme. The training aimed to explain the aims of the SEPA project and how SMEs can participate in the development of SEPA areas in the region.

More information is available on the project website: www.sepaproject.eu



■ News from Harghita County Council

The County Council is participating in two approved fourth call INTERREG 4C projects:

The objective of the **CCIC** project is to improve regional policies by enhancing innovation in the public sector and increasing collaboration between local and regional authorities, public entities and other stakeholders. Thus, CCIC aims to increase the levels of innovation in the participating 13 partner-regions.

The overall objective of the **ENGAGE** project is to help rural regions across Europe to better understand and address the issue of “How to build a HSB network at efficient cost in rural areas” in order to make sure that the requisite are fulfilled for the maintenance or even strengthening of local populations and economic activities. ENGAGE will help the participating regions to fasten the setting up and the implementation of HSB policies, due to the significance and strategic importance of the next generation access networks.

■ News from VEGA – VEnice GAteway for Science and Technology

The Italian VEGAPARK (Venice-Marghera) will host 20 new SMEs in a new incubator

“VEGA inCube” – on 1000 sqm – was launched at VEGA recently. It’s an incubator for young enterprises with new ideas, supported by a good business model that can be viable in the area of ICT, sustainable energy and nanotechnologies. This initiative is promoted by VEGA in cooperation with the local Chamber of Commerce and it’s Society Venezia@Opportunità. A competition will be organized for the futures tenants to select the 20 new enterprises that will be supported during a three-year period. A training is compulsory to get into the incubator.

Pandora, the non-building

It’s the prototype of the new-generation of living organism that will inhabit the Chat City, the smart city. It will be the showroom of innovation; the hub for nomadic workers, the Media building that has the entire infrastructure made of optical fibre, wi-fi and cloud computing platforms. The Green Building Machine with emission zero, hanging gardens and a wood on the roof in order to cool the summer heat; capable of release oxygen and reduce particulate matter, totally autonomous in the production of electric and heat energy and in the re-use of rain water. In Marghera will rise “Pandora”, the first building non-building, flexible, light, sustainable; provided with the newest technologies.

■ News from West-Pannon Regional Development Company

The new incubator is full in Zalaegerszeg

The incubator operated in the northern industrial park of Zalaegerszeg is full, and there would be even more newcomers, so the local governments plans further expansion.

In 2008 the local government won support for proposals to establish the incubator. The goal was to start mostly micro and small businesses to provide space for less than the market rent. The standard workshops are popular because of their low-rent while the offices are new and modern conveniences.

It is planned that a new wing and a new building block would be a total of nearly 3800 square meters which means a double large buiding than now.

■ News from CERTH

Creativity techniques to enhance coordinated actions for regional development

The 7th Regional Network Meeting organized in Central Macedonia in 10/11/2011 under FIDIBE project was of special interest. As FIDIBE reaches its end and in order to reveal specific synergies for coordinated actions, CERTH team coordinated the implementation of a “*creativity safari*” in which all regional experts actively participated. A second creativity technique – the “*six thinking huts*” – was also conducted aiming at the assessment of the effectiveness of the RNMs themselves and the improvement of their effect upon the regional development. Policy makers taking into consideration the variable benefits, expressed their interest for holding this networking mechanism on a regular basis and after the end of the project.

20M€ public financing for Greece – Israel and Greece – China S&T bilateral collaboration of business and research communities.

The General Secretariat for Research and Technology of the Hellenic Ministry of Education will soon launch 2 Science and Technology bilateral cooperation calls, Greece – Israel and Greece – China for the period 2012 – 2014. The total public financing reaches 20 M€. Aim of these calls is the stimulation of Greek SMEs to establish collaborations with SMEs from Israel and China through the joint implementation of large scale research and technological development projects with the participation if possible, of research and technology organizations operating in these countries. Endmost objective of these initiatives is to develop innovative products and high added value services as well as to achieve international technology transfer to the common benefit for the collaborating countries. For more information contact www.gsrt.gr

New Venture Capital Fund

A new venture capital fund has been planned and will currently be open to consultation with all interested parties. The private sector contribution reaches 30% and aim of the new fund is to support (through share-capital increase) new or existing innovative SMEs especially high tech, that due to the current economic crisis do not have access to other means of financing. Public funding is planned to reach 35M€ and the concept is to be returnable allowing thus the financial sustainability of the fund. For more information contact www.gsrt.gr

■ News from INOVA NOVA

Spring 2012 will be significant moment in the life of the Trnava municipality and the Trnava Self-Governing Region as the new industrial and technology park (ITP) will be launched here.

The total costs of the project should reach 10,4 mil. EUR. Trnava municipality received grant amounting to 9,5 mil. EUR for the reconstruction of industrial zones from the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO). The park is expected with great interest. ITP industrial zone will be built in Trnava, on already abandoned sites with an area of about 1 hectare. Its advantage is the proximity of Bratislava, transport infrastructure and educational and vocational skills of the workforce in Trnava and its surroundings. Companies from light manufacturing and IT sectors are interested in residing in the park. The contract for a future lease agreement with eight companies has already been signed. These include companies dealing with construction, development and provision of boilers and heating and companies active in IT services.

The city is negotiating with foreign R&D companies that would become the key clients of ITP and should create hundreds of new jobs. They are looking for companies that offer jobs for highly skilled labour force. Attractiveness of the park is supported by presence of the automotive cluster active in the region and the largest faculty of the Slovak Technical University – Faculty of Materials and Technologies. ITP will, unlike the industrial park in Trnava (with car assembly firms), be focused on higher added value production.

The construction of ITP included building of modern utilities and reconstruction and construction of new administrative, production and warehouse space. The project is implemented within the Program of Economic and Social Development of the City of Trnava and the Regional Innovation Strategy of Trnava Self-Governing Region aiming to create and strengthen the development potential and business environment of the region.

