



E-Zine N° 1 June 2003

Editorial

This is the first newsletter of the I³ project – “The Innovation and Incubation Initiative”, a pilot project co-financed under the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

The project was launched in response to a study by the Commission's Innovation Scoreboard which came to the conclusion that incubators and business innovation centres (BICs), which are seen as powerful nests for innovation and technological research, were not numerous enough in Europe and that the existing ones were not maximizing their resources, especially human capital. The I³ project aims to address these needs by providing information and training to business incubator personnel. The project focuses specifically on the different types of support needed by **High growth SMEs** or **High Potential Start-Ups (HPSU)**. It relies on the assumption that enhanced professionalism and expertise of incubator personnel is an important asset for the future development of high-growth incubatee companies.

The project involves 8 partners from 5 different countries;

National partners:

- IRELAND : WESTBIC
- SPAIN: Instituto de Empresa
- GREECE: Atlantis Consulting
- LITHUANIA: Kaunas University of Technology – Regional Business Incubator
- NORTHERN IRELAND (UK): Initiative Economic Development
- NORTHERN IRELAND (UK): Omagh Enterprise Company Ltd.

European partners:

- European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN)
- European Business Angels Network (EBAN)

EBAN and EBN are European organisations with their head offices located in Brussels.

The project extends over 24 months and comprises several work packages including dissemination. This E-Zine is part of the dissemination strategy of this project.

Description of the project

The project was set up in order to boost the performance of business incubators by increasing the level of information and training available to their personnel.

To reach this objective the project will:

- ✳ Undertake a thorough analysis of the training needs of target groups including incubated companies;
- ✳ Devise a multimedia training tool developed according to the results of the research conducted on training needs, comprising an online training tool, a directory for best practices, case studies, and a platform for the exchange of information;
- ✳ Carry out an in-depth evaluation on the processes adopted throughout the project.

Where are we now?

Kaunas University of Technology and Regional Business Incubator (KTC) have commenced a review of existing resources in training and support provision for the management and personnel of incubators and BICs in cooperation with the project partners. It has also drafted a survey form to identify the training requirements of these individuals.

In fact two different forms were developed to identify such needs: one to seek the opinion of the managers and personnel employed by incubators, and one to seek the opinion of incubated enterprises/incubatee companies. A number of national/regional organisations will also be involved in this survey. Results are expected to be available during the course of the summer.

Following analysis of the results and recommendations, the second phase of the project aiming at developing materials will start.

What are the next steps?

03-04 July 2003: Second Partner Meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania which will review the progress of the TNA and look at the development of training materials.

Where can you find more information on incubators and related issues?

National level:

Ireland: www.startingabusinessinireland.com

This easy to follow website provides information on approximately 200 innovation centres, incubators, enterprise centres and workspace on the island of Ireland. It also provides information on various agencies with responsibility for the development and support of enterprise including Enterprise Ireland, the City and County Enterprise Boards, Údarás na Gaeltachta, etc. Enter the website and search under ASSISTANCE for information on incubators and workspace which include details on approximately 200 entities.

Spain:

- <http://www.apte.org/> Association of Technological and Scientific Parks in Spain.
- <http://www.otri.upco.es/cdt/> Centre of Technology for SMEs.
- <http://www.pcm.uam.es/> Science Park, Madrid.
- <http://www.csic.es/> Scientific Research (CSIC).
- <http://194.224.229.54/ptainforma/> Technology Park, Andalusia.
- <http://www.foeg.es/foeg/portada3/foeg.html> Enterprise Federation, Girona.
- <http://www.ifrasturias.com/> Institute of Economic Development, Asturias.
- <http://193.113.58.39/cjg/ebn/countries/ES.xml> Network of Spanish BICs.
- <http://www.ances.com> National Association of Spanish BICs.
- http://www.afemjoclm.nauta.es/empresas_incubadoras.asp. Incubator companies in Spain.
- http://www.pdt.gub.uy/pdt/docs/centro/empresas_8.htm Incubator companies (technological).
- <http://www.centro-emprende.com/magazine-hazlo/w11a-incubadorasdeempresas.htm> Business incubators.
- <http://www.cfired.org.ar/esp2/eventos/incuba/incuba.htm> 2nd International Seminar of Technology Parks and Business Incubators.
- <http://www.cfired.org.ar/esp2/eventos/incuba/Pdf/pon%20Romera.pdf> Building Tecnoceldas: A model for technological development in regions with low economic development.
- <http://www.campus-oei.org/salactsi/cotec01.htm> COTEC, Foundation on Scientific and Technological Parks.
- <http://www.5dias.com/especiales/suplementos/pymes/20020417/01futuro.htm> SME. "Business Incubators with a future."
- http://www.5dias.com/articulo.html?xref=20011207cdscdiemp_17&type=Tes&anchor=cdsemp&d_date=20011207 Article from Cinco Días: "Funding of up to 300,000 euros to create technological enterprises."
- <http://www.otri.upco.es/> University Pontificia Comillas of Madrid.

Greece:

- http://www.techpath.gr/gr/technology_watch/financing_innovation_moreinfo_main_e_l.html
- <http://www.patra.chambernet.gr/574g.html>
- <http://www.istoselides.gr/news/article.php?sid=1750&mode=thread&order=0>
- http://www.urenio.org/excellence/pilot_action7.html
- http://www.eommex.gr/greek/eommex2000/anaptyxiakes_ypod.htm
- http://www.gsrt.gr/erevnontas/html/gr_cyp.htm
- <http://www.adlink.gr/article.asp?ID=2647>
- <http://www.neovima.gr/show.cfm?id=1006&obcatid=14>
- <http://www.khatzidakis.gr/htmls/ep/antagonistikotita/antagonistikotita-4.htm>
- <http://binfo.greekmarkets-emat.com/antagonistic/axes.htm>
- <http://www.psp.org.gr>
- <http://www.minenv.gr/1/12/123/12305/g1230518.html>
- http://www.mnec.gr/ypourgeio/christ_Speech_29-01-2002.asp
- <http://www.stepc.gr/>
- http://www2.thestep.gr/gr/incubator.asp?LID=Incubated_Companies_List
- <http://www.step-epirus.gr/>
- <http://193.113.58.39/cjg/ebn/countries/GR.xml>

Lithuania:

- www.ktc.lt – Kaunas University of Technology Regional Business Incubator.
- www.ic.ktc.lt – Kaunas Regional Innovation Centre.
- www.svi.lt – Siauliai Business Incubator.
- www.krvi.lt – Kazlu Ruda Business Incubator.
- www.tavi.lt – Telsiai County Business Incubator.
- www.alytusvi.lt – Alytus Business Incubator.
- www.vvi.lt – Vilnius Business Incubator.
- www.lic.lt – Lithuanian Innovation Centre.
- www.ekm.lt – Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania.
- www.smeda.lt – Lithuanian Development Agency for Small and Medium Sized enterprises.
- www.ntp.lt – North Town Science and Technology Park.
- www.stp.lt – Vilnius Science and Technology Park.
- www.vitp.lt – Visoriai IT Park.

Northern Ireland (UK) :

- www.ukbi.co.uk
- www.investni.com Invest Northern Ireland Action Energy Best Practice Advice.
- www.nitc.qub.ac.uk Northern Ireland Technology Centre Automation Division.
- www.investni.com Invest Northern Ireland Business Improvement Services.
- www.mtpltd.com Manufacturing Technology Partnership Design Services of the University of Ulster.
- www.gtta.co.uk The University of Ulster GTTA (Garment & Textile Technology Association).
- www.nisp.co.uk Northern Ireland Science Park Northern Ireland Science Park.
- www.i-b-i.sagenet.co.uk International Business Initiatives Ltd Product and Technology Transfer Programme.
- www.ulst.ac.uk/tcs University of Ulster TCS.
- www.qub.ac.uk Queen's University Belfast Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation Support.
- www.loughrycollege.ac.uk Loughry College Technology Transfer and Innovation Programme.
- www.cforg.org Interpoint Centre for Competitiveness.
- www.cam-benchmarking.com CAM Benchmarking Ltd Competitive Analysis Model Benchmarking Report.
- www.tmi.ulst.ac.uk The Management Institute Developing Managers Programme.
- www.intertradeireland.com Intertrade Ireland FUSION.
- http://niceb.ulst.ac.uk Northern Ireland Centre for Electronic Business (NICeB) Virtual University for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (VUSME).
- www.dcalni.gov.uk Creativity Unit (CSF) Creativity Seed Fund.
- www.qub.ac.uk/escience School of Computer Science Queen's University Belfast The Centre for Supercomputing in Ireland.
- www.cec.org.uk/ni European Commission.
- www.science.ie Innovation Awards 2002.

European level:

EBN is the representative association for the 160 EC Business Innovation Centres (EC BIC) in Europe. The EC BIC is the only model for business incubation recognised and accredited by the European Commission. For more information on the BIC model or for details of the BIC nearest to you, please visit the EBN web-site www.ebn.be

The EC BICs are one of three EC networks supporting business incubation, technology transfer and innovation and international co-operation.

The other two networks are the Euro-Info Centre network which provides Community information to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and provides assistance and advice on a range of issues. For more information, please visit

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/networks/eic/eic.html>

The Innovation Relay Centre (IRC network) assists SMEs in the area of technology development and transfer. For further information please visit: <http://irc.cordis.lu/>

DG Enterprise has also made available the report "Benchmarking of Business Incubators in Europe" available on their site:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/incubators/

Do you want to be actively involved in this project?

If you are interested in the training and resource tools being developed in this project, we welcome your involvement in a number of ways:

- Provide information on your requirements (both incubator personnel and start-up companies)
- Test the prototypes of training and resource tools and provide feedback
- Participate in training, information and dissemination events

Please contact the I³ partner in your country or contact EBN or EBAN for other European countries:

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