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Launching the Innovation Express Call.

Launching the 2nd version of INNET Innovation Express Pilot Call

The 2nd version of INNET trans-european pilot call has been launched on April 30th.

As a pilot project, INNET is entering its third year of life. A second INNET Innovation Express pilot call was launched the 30th of April 2009 and is open until the end of 2009.

Results from the 1st version of INNET Innovation Express Pilot Call

A continuous and open submission of proposals is available via the online submission page: <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/innet>

Focus on Poland

The goals of this 2nd version of INNET pilot call are the same as the first one, so it is welcoming proposals for projects that would:

- enable trans-national co-operation between technology clusters and their SMEs members,
- prepare for future trans-national technical co-operations such as joint research development and innovation projects which could be subsequently funded through existing European programmes.

ECA and INNET enlargement

13 funding organisations are participating to the call (representing 8 countries)

News and events

Belgium IWT-Flanders & MRW-Wallonie	France OSEO Innovation & CRIF-Ile de France Region
Italy VennIn-Veneto & SVIT-Toscana	Germany Berlin-Brandenburg-ZAB
Israel MATIMOP	Spain DGPYME & SIE-Catalonia
Poland PAED & Mazovia	Greece EOMMEX

As with the 1st version of INNET pilot call, cluster governances and SMEs belonging to technology clusters can participate if they are in the same geographical region as the INNET funding partner. Eligibility to participate will depend on the specific rules of each national/regional funding scheme.

Proposals must be submitted by the representative of the cluster (applicant cluster) and the identification of at least one other technology cluster (participant cluster) for trans-national co-operation is compulsory, all sectors of activity are eligible.

INNET Project Co-ordination:

Two main changes have been implemented since the 1st version of INNET pilot call:

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The **first one** concerns **the implementation of indicators.**

Assessment of the first pilot call shows an obvious lack of practical outputs, so, in the 2nd version of INNET pilot call, only proposals which outline clear outputs will be accepted

By doing so, the INNET team wants to have a set of concrete indicators in order to help the applicants to better define their international strategy before starting the project activities, to ensure a proper follow up of the Innovation Express proposals and to ensure an overall evaluation of the Pilot call.

Indicators of expected outputs are the following:
(complete list on the Pro-Inno website-annexe of the Application form)

- Enhancing inter-cluster cooperation strategy,
- Preparation of common technology roadmaps/strategies,
- Organisation of matchmaking activities,
- Building partnerships,
- Initiation of RDI projects,
- Dissemination and promotion of the inter-cluster cooperation.

For further information concerning the Newsletter, please contact:

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The **second change** is related to the applicant.

In the 2009 Pilot call, at least one other technology cluster must be identified in the proposal. By adding this new eligibility criterion, the INNET team wants to support clusters which have already initiated common strategies before starting collaborations activities.

Applicants are strongly advised to register their profile in the INNET cluster database:
<http://www.vdivde-it.de/innet/cluster-profile-db>





News and events:

UE - Presidency:

Sweden will hold the Presidency of the UE from 1 July to 31 December 2009

www.se2009.eu/en

INNET new associated partner:

The Wallon Region just joined INNET as associated partner and will participate to the Innovation Express call

Contact:

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ECA and INNO-Net event:

9-10 September 2009 – Linz, Austria

INNO-Net conference:

“Strengthening the European way. Regional cluster cooperation for a wider perspective on innovation policy”

This final conference of the CEE-CN will give an overview of the milestones of the project, the benefits for the participating regions as well as all activities within the European Cluster Alliance.

www.tmg.at

Clusters related events:

6-17 July 2009-Barcelona, Spain

III Barcelona Clusters Summer School

www.iese.edu/en/ad/ResearchEvents/

6-9 September 2009 - Goteborg, Sweden

CIP FORUM – The future of innovation

www.cipforum.org

12-16 October 2009 - Jyväskylä, Finland

12th TCI Annual Global Conference “Learning Clusters – adapting to the new competitiveness scenario”

www.learningclusters.com

Results from the 1st Innovation Express Call.

Results of the version 1 of the INNET pilot call are now available.

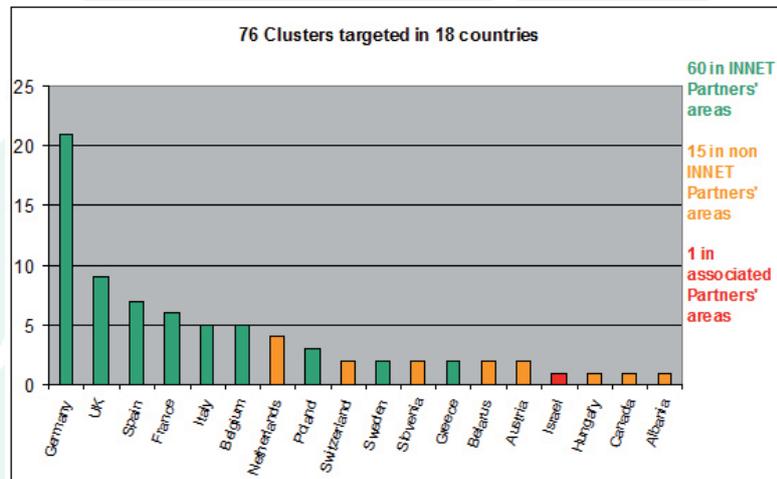
If we compare the results achieved to the objectives beforehand, we can deem that the first version of the INNET joint pilot call is a success.

From the perspective of number of INNET partners participating in the call, the aim of the version 1 was to involve at least 6 out of the 9 countries from the INNET geography.

As a matter of fact, 6 countries have participated in the 1st Pilot call: Belgium, Poland, Italy, Germany, France and Spain.

From the SMEs participation perspective, an average of 350 SMEs was potentially foreseen to be involved in or impacted by the call.

As a result of the Innovation Express call for proposals, more than 600 SMEs are to be directly involved.



FOCUS on POLAND

Implementation of the 1st version of INNET pilot call in Poland

The 2008 Innovation Express call, part of the INNET project, was officially launched in Poland on the 24th of September 2008, after a quite long development route. In preparing this call the first idea of combining this call with another scheme funded under structural funds turned out to be not feasible. Instead, a totally new support programme was created by the INNET team: a national cluster support programme with a focus on SMEs and their participation in clusters.

The Innovation Express pilot call raised a great interest among the Polish clusters and, before the end of 2008, 9 applications were submitted by 8 clusters for a total funding request of nearly €1.2 million. Actually, the interest was even greater, if we take into account that some clusters were late to apply mainly due to difficulties in finding the right foreign counterpart for the project.

The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PAED) decided to act on the fact that so many clusters were interested in obtaining support for international cooperation on innovation activities.

As an INNET partner and being responsible for the management of several national funding schemes co-funded by the EU structural funds in Poland, PAED took the decision to enlarge the scope of one of the supporting schemes. Measure 5.1 under the Innovative Economy Operational Programme was expanded to cover this **in order to continue the support to innovation activities based on clusters and SMEs after the end of the INNET call and project.**

The new version of the Measure 5.1 provides potential beneficiaries with opportunities to apply for projects aimed at market expansion of clusters resulting from technology transfer and trans-national RDI cooperation. Thanks to the successful synergy with the INNET project, Measure 5.1 will now also contribute to better usage of structural funds in Poland.

(For information: Poland is implementing structural funds and cohesion fund for 2007-2013 through 16 regional operational programmes and 5 national operational programmes, the Innovative Economy Operational programme being one of them. The total budget amounts to €85.6 bln of which €67.3 bln comes from structural funds and cohesion fund, €11.9 bln comes from the state budget and €6.4 bln from private sources.)





ECA and INNET enlargement

INNET is pleased to welcome two new associated partners: the Israel Industry Center for R&D (MATIMOP) and The Secretariat for Industry and Enterprise (Generalitat de Catalunya)

MATIMOP - Israeli Industry Center for R&D MATIMOP

Israeli Industry Center for R&D is a national agency acting on behalf of the Office of the Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Industry Trade and Labor, MATIMOP's main objective is to promote technological and R&D cooperation and technology transfer activities between Israeli and international industries.

MATIMOP monitors the R&D activities of Israeli Industrial Organizations, including the vast majority of SMEs and start-ups in the Israeli hi-tech industries as well as acting as national coordinator in international cooperative frameworks such as CIP, EUREKA, EEN, GALILEO & ESInet. MATIMOP also has excellent contacts with the Israeli research community and organizations such as the Israeli Venture Association, the Israel Export Institute and the National Space Agency.

MATIMOP was granted the status of associated partner to the INNET Project on January 16th, 2009. By joining the INNET project, MATIMOP wants to promote international cooperation between Israeli and European SMEs. Thanks to its experience gained in European and international projects, MATIMOP is pleased to share its own experience with INNET members and to ensure bridging between and the INNET calls and support actions and the other Israeli collaborative projects.

For further information:

<http://www2.matimop.org.il/1/index.html>

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CATALAN GOVERNMENT - SECRETARIAT FOR INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE

The **Secretaria d'Indústria i Empresa (SIE)** is part of the Department of innovation, Universities and Enterprise of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia). Its main task consists in the strategic planning and drafting of the industrial policy in Catalonia.

In particular the SIE is in charge of preparing directive proposals on policies related to research, business/industrial innovation and development, general industrial and technological development, competitiveness and industrial security. Additionally, it is responsible for direction and the coordination of cluster policies, for which it counts on a task force unit, the Observatory for Industrial Foresight.

This task force specializes in competitiveness and strategic analysis of industrial sectors and, clusters that are the ideal target for the implementation of competitiveness reinforcement initiatives. In fact, more than 20 cluster-centred initiatives have been carried out within the last 4 years since the creation of the Observatory for Industrial Foresight.

SIE chose to get involved in the INNET project to foster trans-national cooperation within Catalan clusters and to strengthen the links with European clusters, taking into account the latest EC recommendations on establishing clusters as one of the nine priorities for innovation promotion and particularly moving towards world-class clusters.

For further information:

http://www.gencat.cat/diue/ambits/empresa/index_en.html

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