

## Innovation Strategy in the North-East Region

The "Development of an Innovative Strategy Continuously Oriented to Valorisation of the Economic Resources in North-East Romania project (**DISCOVER NE ROMANIA**) coordinated by the North-East RDA is to be implemented during 32 months and has as main objective the creation of a regional innovation strategy. This strategy will support our regional enterprises' competitiveness and the cooperation between the production and research fields. Through this project the European Union intends to support the effort of modernising the regional economies and ensure a better adjustment of the enterprises to the exigencies of both globalized economy and European unique market which will enlarge more after 2007, date when Romania will access the European Union. The official launch of this project took place in October 2005, in Iasi.

An extremely important preliminary stage for achieving the project's objectives is the establishing of the two structures: the Steering Committee and the Reference Panel.

The Steering Committee will be in charge with approving the strategy's basic proposals, of different reports and finally the priorities concerning the allocation of the projects which will be defined by the strategy.

The Reference Panel is set up as a technical body which will contribute to the identification of the objectives, measures and recommendations to be included in the Regional Innovation Strategy. This organisational structure supervises the implementation and development of project's activities, aiming at improving its impact on the regional socio-economic development. The Reference Panel's members will meet four times a year during 32 months, this period being needed to elaborate the Regional Innovation Strategy.

The Steering Committee Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North-East RDA</li> <li>• "Gh.Zane" Institute for Economic and Social Research Iasi</li> <li>• National Institute for Technical Physics Research-Development Iasi</li> <li>• Biological Research Institute Iasi</li> <li>• CEFIDEC Vatra Dornei</li> <li>• Plantavorel SA Piatra Neam</li> <li>• Electrocontact SA Botoani</li> <li>• Businessmen Association 2003 Iasi</li> <li>• Regional Statistics Department</li> <li>• Neamt County Council</li> <li>• „Polytech” Research and Technological Transfer Centre of „Gh.Asachi” Technical University Iasi</li> <li>• Ministry of Economy and Commerce</li> </ul>
The Reference Panel Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discover NE Romania project manager from North -East RDA</li> <li>• Iasi County Council</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture of Bacau</li> <li>• Iasi Textile Research Centre</li> <li>• „Al.I.Cuza” University of Iasi</li> <li>• National Council of Private Small and Medium Enterprises – Iasi Regional Office</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• „Stefan cel Mare” University of Suceava</li> <li>• HIT Hemeius Industrial Park, Bacau County</li> <li>• Romanian Commercial Bank (BCR), Piatra Neamt Branch</li> <li>• „Ion Ionescu de la Brad” Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine University of Iasi</li> <li>• METRON SRL Italy</li> <li>• COMITE D'EXPANSION DE BASSE NORMANDIE (CEBANOR) Fran a</li> </ul>
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In the first months of 2006 will take place the first meetings of these two structures created for the involving and animation of all this regional stakeholders and for finding the regional consensus. An analysis of the Regional Economic and Trends Structure will be also carried out in order to establish the present general context and the future perspectives.

Another important work package forecast to last for 12 months is the Regional Innovation System analysis which will be realised through:

- the analysis of the regional SMEs' needs
- the analysis of the regional supply
- the analysis and the establishment of technological and know-how transfer

The last reference point of the project (starting with the 21<sup>st</sup> until the 32<sup>nd</sup> month) will have as objective the definition of a Strategic Framework, an Action Plan with priority activities and pilot projects as well as an Evaluation Monitoring System.

