

New steps in the elaboration of a Regional Innovation Strategy

The "Development of an Innovation Strategy Continuously Oriented to the Valorisation of the Economic Resources in North-East Romania" project (Discover North-East Romania), coordinated by the North-East RDA has as main objective the development of a Regional Innovation Strategy which will support our regional enterprises' competitiveness and the cooperation between the production and research fields.

On the 19th of June 2006 took place at the "G.T.Kirileanu" Public Library in Piatra Neamt, the second meeting of the structures created in the "DISCOVER NORTH - EAST ROMANIA" RIS project. The Reference Panel and the Steering Committee were set up to animate the regional stakeholders in the elaboration of the first Regional Innovative Strategy.

At the Reference Panel meeting took part 11 representatives of organizations nominee as members of these structures and at the Steering Committee meeting took part 8 representatives of the member organizations. The issues that were discussed were :

- discussions around the project of Socio-economic Analysis of the North-East Region related to the RIS project,
- discussions around the SWOT Analysis,
- the analysis and evaluation of main areas of intervention in the project
- presentation of FUNDECYT, a new partner in the project
- presentation of action plan for the next stage of implementing the project.

The following aspects were considered very important, during the discussions:

- The Socio-economic analysis of the North-East Region is a very well structured document containing relevant information.
- The SWOT Analysis can be adjusted by introducing some strong points (the existence of some investments in technological transfer structures and well trained labor force, which should be correlated with the available resources from the region, in order to valorize the regional potential), risks (a deficient management of the human resources policies at governmental level) and weak points (low productivity of work at the entire regional level).

At both meetings took part foreign experts representing the partner organizations of the project, respectively Mr. Jaime del Castillo, International Consultant from Infyde, Spain and Mss. Maria Martin Egido, expert from Fundecyt Spain (Extremadura Region), who made a short presentation of the organization she belongs to.

Taking into consideration the Spanish experience in establishing the interest areas for the elaboration of an innovation strategy and the specific conditions from our region, Mr. Jaime del Castillo suggested the following interest areas for the elaboration of the Regional Innovation Strategy:

- the superior wood processing
- the textile and garment industry
- the machines-tools and equipments industry
- the food industry
- the Information Technology

During the next period, the team project will evolve different activities aiming at the identification of our regional SMEs' needs concerning the research, development and innovation sector (RDI), by questioning a number of 1000 regional companies and realizing some interviews and specific technological audits (40 interviews with companies, 41 interviews with universities and research centers and 9 interviews with organizations that support the technological and know-how transfer in the region).

