

## **RIS Project DISCOVER NE ROMÂNIA at the end of the second year of implementation**

The analysis of the needs for innovation of SMEs from North -East Region realised within the RIS project – DISCOVER NE ROMANIA and presented in the previous edition of the newsletter INFO Nord-Est is one of the stages of elaboration the Strategy for innovation in our region. The following stage is referring to analysis of the offer on innovation, from Universities, Research-Development Institutes (R&D) and structures of technological transfer (TT).

The analysis was realised by direct interviews with 41 representatives of universities and research centres and with 9 industrial and technological transfer parks which are functioning in our Region. The methodology of interviewing was agreed by the management team of the project from NE RDA and one of the partners of this project – Metron Srl Italy. The interviewed persons were professors and experts highly appreciated, both at national and international level, reason for which it was decided to be used, as an interviewing methodology, instead of a traditional questionnaire, of a flexible guide which lead to an open discussion.

The synthesis of the results of this analysis is including the following aspects:

### **Strong points:**

- High interest of universities for research-development activities focused especially on fundamental research
- Increased number of students interested on technical faculties
- Special interest for developing international relationships (contacts, projects, exchange of personal and students)
- Existence of a specific based infrastructure on research, development and technological transfer

### **Weak points:**

- Lack of a historian and a culture as regarding the cooperation between universities/R&D units and technological transfer units (TT), on one hand and SMEs on the other hand
- Lack of a marketing culture as regarding the promotion of the results from R&D sector
- Low interest on encouraging the cooperation with productive sector ( increased orientation on the theoretical part in stead of an applicative research)
- Non economic use of licences / patents and high taxes for registration permits

### **Opportunities**

- Integration of Romania in European Union
- Financing opportunities from national and international sources
- Good moment for attracting RDI within the region
- Possibility to plan future development orientation of the region
- Dynamic economic environment
- High level of RDI sector awareness regarding decisional role in economic development

### **Risks**

- Work force migration, particularly that qualified from the RDI sector
- Lack of coordination between different sectorial policies
- Lack of a structure that is able to integrate the innovation system at regional level
- Unfavourable legislative framework (inclusive for partnerships)

As a general comment, we can conclude that North-East Region of Romania has a high scientific potential, a network of universities and research centres well developed, with a special attention accorded to the adaptation of the condition towards a market economy. The general vision of the actors from research-development is still divided and focused too much towards the interior of the country and academic environment. On one hand, the research is conceived like an academic sector and on the other hand, the SMEs are not enough aware

on their role on industrial sector and its potential is still unknown, under known and unexpressed.

There were organised three meetings – sectorial focus groups – (on 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 for SMEs, 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 for structures of technological transfer (TT) and 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2007 for academic and research environment) where there were participated the representatives of the involved organisations in realising interviews on three sectors and representatives of NE RDA, members on implementing team of the project.

The objectives of the discussions within the three meetings were to propose the Mission, Vision and objectives of the Strategy for Innovation, based on the SWOT analysis on each sector.

It was realised a first proposal for the Matrix of North-East Regional Strategy for Innovation, which include the following elements:

- Mission: Innovation – basis for economic competitiveness in North -East Region
- Vision: The Regional Innovation Strategy encourages the creation of an economic competitive environment by establishing and developing innovative companies, developing modern technologies in RDI institutes, valorisation of this infrastructure and stimulating partnership creation between universities, research institutes and companies.
- Strategic objectives:
  - Develop the capacity of enterprises to introduce and use innovation
  - Improve the capacity of research-development-innovation of RDI institutions from NE Region Create and improve the infrastructure necessary for innovative companies
  - Develop an innovative entrepreneurial culture in North -East region.
  - Develop the transregional and transnational cooperation on research -development-innovation

There were organised 6 meetings of county working groups (25<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 in Iasi and Neamt, 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 Botosani and Suceava, 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 Bacau and 31<sup>st</sup> of May in Vaslui) on which it was presented and analysed this first draft of Regional Strategy. In this way, it was realised the consensus on main elements of the strategy and recognition of it at local and regional level. It was also presented a proposal of a project fiche which will be used by future applicants and it was launched the invitation to prepare different projects for which there will be identified financing sources at national and European level.