Dear Reader,

AsviLoc plus Management Unit is pleased to share with you the fourth edition of the newsletter

Through this fourth edition of the AsviLoc plus Project Newsletter, the AsviLoc plus Partnership would like to share with you the progress of the Pilot Actions in the involved South East Europe Regions and give you some interesting update on incoming conference and news on innovation themes!

Enjoy your reading!!

Best Wishes from

ASVILOC PLUS MANAGEMENT UNIT
The AsviLoc plus project steering group met in Komotini in Greece last September, hosted by the greek partner ANRO – Regional Development Agency of Rodopi.

The AsviLoc plus Partners shared during the Steering Committee and Permanent table meeting the pilot action results in the SEE regions involved in the Project and started the organization of the transnational pilot action, the Conference South East Europe as a place of Innovation.

The Conference details, Programme and the contact for the registration will be soon available on AsviLoc plus website:

www.asvilocplus.eu

The Partners also shared the first proposals to develop the Strategy for a Transnational Innovation system though the drafting of the “Memorandum of Understanding” to present RDAs position on their role on fostering innovation policies and RDAs Innovation Action Plan 2020 including a set of activities that should be implemented jointly in the period 2013-2020 in the framework of European innovation policy.
ANATOLIKI – Development Agency of Eastern Thessaloniki

Energy saving technologies for SMEs

“Energy saving for SMEs” was the topic of the seminar organized on July 20th 2011 by ANATOLIKI s.a. in collaboration with the Chamber of Small and Medium-sized Industries of Thessaloniki. The seminar, addressing to the members of the Chamber of Small and Medium-sized Industries, showcased three different "energy saving" technologies aiming to support SMEs in energy saving: compressed air system, photovoltaics and natural gas co-production units.

It was the first of the three scheduled seminars focusing on “cost-saving”, in the framework of the AsviLocPlus pilot action for the Region of Central Macedonia. The scope of the pilot action is the familiarization of SMEs with research results which are already on the market. The Regional Laboratory for Central Macedonia prepared a technology portfolio to support the above group of SMEs in getting acquainted to “horizontal” process innovation and decided to showcase those technologies during three thematic seminars for SMEs. The pilot action is tested via questionnaires addressed to the participants of the seminars.
2.2 - AsviLoc plus pilot action in Austria: The Mechatronic Cluster in Lower Austria

AWS - Austria Wirtschaftsdienst

A new instrument for innovation support and further development of clusters is being tested as a pilot project in the Lower Austrian mechatronic cluster within the framework of the SEEProject AsviLoc plus.

By developing a competencies map the following goals are pursued:

- Intensifying the information exchange regarding important fields of competencies and technologies between top management of Lower Austrian mechatronic companies;
- Identifying important lead topics that shape the Lower Austrian mechatronics cluster in the long-term and contribute to value creation;
- Initiation of R&D co-operations by bringing together competency and technology partners in a systematic way (if/when the need arises, simplified contacting, increased transparency).

The systematic analysis of company-specific competencies should further provide companies with additional input for their own strategies and raise awareness regarding positioning as competency partner vis-à-vis other companies.

The guidelines to mapping of competencies describe the procedure regarding the capturing of competencies in Lower Austrian mechatronic companies within the framework of intensive workshops and subsequent development of a competencies map of Lower Austrian mechatronic companies step-by-step.

The guidelines to mapping of competencies as well as the results of the further development of the competencies map will be made available to the partner regions and can be used as template for the development of new regional technology focal points.

2.3 - AsviLoc plus pilot action in Hungary

STRIA – South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency

Lack of financial knowledge can not be an obstacle to innovation!

Based on former surveys it was essential to have a financial management training in order to complete the financial knowledge of regional SMEs. The presentations of the two-day event followed a thematic structure. We tried to cover every topic from the basics to the financial knowledge related to innovation. Feedbacks were very good, the more than 40 participants were quite satisfied and they also suggested the program to continue.

The specialty of the program was that the two-day long training was followed by a personal consultancy. An important problem besides problems deriving from regional financial resources and liquidity, is that the enterprises are distrustful, ignorant and they do not ask for help from external experts to solve their problems or to answer their questions. We intended
Regional innovation policy measures are defined by real needs and conditions

In order to develop the regional innovation environment, the Regional Laboratory - set up within the frames of WP3- after several seats and personal consultancies created the 4 thematic workshop topic which will be held in the next period. During the next workshop stakeholders of the determining topics and participants who are concerned or interested in topics can represent their own interests. The aim of the workshop is to generate a regional strategy and action plan, on the basis of suggestions, considering the external environment as well, which are built on real needs and conditions.
On 21st of March 2011 a meeting of the regional textile cluster took place in Savinesti Neamt, with the purpose to set the objectives and specific activities of the association for 2011. In August the National Association of Clusters in Romania was formed and Astrico NE became affiliated to it. As a member of this structure RDA NE participated in the elaboration of the Guidelines for Competitiveness Poles - ERDF Funding Programme that will be launched in October 2011 in Romania, by the Ministry of Economy. Partners involved from Romania together with RDA North-East are Ministry of Economy, National Authority for Scientific Research and National Institute for Prognosis.

During 8-9th of June 2011, North-East Regional Development Agency Romania organized in partnership with National Institute for Inventors, the 15th edition of the National Exhibition of Inventors INVENTIKA 2011. The event was hosted by the 2 of most recognized universities in RDI activities at national level - Technical University Ghe. Asachi and University Al. I Cuza, both from Iasi. The event welcomed in “the Room of the Lost Steps”, exhibitors from 5 countries in South-East Area and an international conference dedicated to sustainable development "The future will be sustainable or will not be at all" - where partners from 10 EU member states(Netherland, UK, France, Belgium, Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Finland and Italy) presented Cradle to Cradle Network and good practice solutions for industry, build, governance and aria spatial development (www.c2cn.eu).

In order to increase managerial and performance capacities of SMEs in North-East Region Romania, RDA established a Regional Resource Centre that was certified by Romanian Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Education, with training competencies for the following occupational standards: public procurement expert, project manager and human resource manager. RRS started the activity in June 2011, so far almost 48 persons received their certificates of competencies.

On 26th of July 2011 a first meeting of the Regional Development Board North-East took place in Suceava with one of the topics to be discussed: the future development strategy for North-
East Region 2014-2020. The meeting will be followed by others in order to set the targets for public and private sectors development in the next programming period.

On the 14th of September, a regional exchange of experience and good practices event was organized in Iasi with Technology Information Centres in North-East Region. The meeting demonstrated to be good because there are some common points to share (like the lack of stable financial resources or limited staff) as well as admitting the need to formulate a solid opinion regarding possible support activities in this area, potentially to be included in the future Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020.

On the 14th of September 2011 took place a meeting of the Regional Innovation Laboratory to assess progress of pilot actions implemented so far and to set the calendar of actions for 2012.

On the 29th of September 2011 a training platform, developed in partnership with University of Extremadura (Spain), XLab (Slovenia), Eurocrea (Italy) and Innovate (Ireland) dedicated to executive coaching was launched (interface available in EN; IT; RO) at www.u-coah.es.

The access is free of charge!
29 February – 01 March 2012
Brussels
Promoting cluster excellence & collaboration in Europe: How to further develop the European Cluster Excellence Initiative

On 29 February - 01 March 2012, the Unit for Support for Industrial Innovation of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry is organising a workshop “Promoting cluster excellence & collaboration in Europe: How to further develop the European Cluster Excellence Initiative” in cooperation with ACC1Ó – Competitiveness for Catalonia, Brussels Delegation.

The objective of the workshop is to present the latest achievements from the European Cluster Excellence Initiative and the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, to get feedback from different cluster stakeholders, and to discuss the way forward.

The workshop will take place at
ACC1Ó - Competitiveness for Catalonia – EU Delegation
R. de la Loi/Wetstraat 227
1040 Brussels

Registration for the workshop will be on a first come, first serve basis and subject to confirmation. For registration please contact: UE@acc10.com.

It is possible to download the Programme odf the Workshop on the following link: http://www.proinno-europe.eu/promotion-pro-inno-europe-results/newsroom/expert-workshop

18 – 20 April 2012
Vienna
The European Cluster Conference 2012

The European Cluster Conference 2012 will be held in Vienna on 18 – 20 of April.
The four-in-one event for European Cluster Managers and Policy Makers:
Trends and learnings in Cluster Policies and Cluster Initiatives
All about quality indicators and training for cluster management
Strengthen your network in Central Europe
Meet your cluster manager peers

Registration are now open on the following website and further information available:

www.clusterconference2012.eu

4 – 5 June 2012
Helsinki

EPISIS conference – Positive Impacts of Service Innovation - From Intangible Investments to emerging industries and ecosystems

The third and final EPISIS conference will take place in Helsinki on 4th – 5th of June 2012. The conference will be held at Finland Hall, a unique venue by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto.

The overall purpose of the conference is to show-case the wide spectrum of forerunner policies and activities in place in various EU Member States and the Commission to make the most use of the service innovation potential and speed up the uptake of service innovations in the market. The key question will be how to get tangible results from intangible service innovation?

The main target audience of the conference includes high-level policy-makers from the regional or national level of the Member States, programme owners from regional or national ministries and agencies and EU organisations as well as other interested actors and parties in the service innovation field.

The final EPISIS conference will be part of the official programme of both the Danish EU Presidency and the World Design Capital year designated to Helsinki in 2012. The World Design Capital is an initiative of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design - an international non-governmental organisation that aims to promote innovative design.

More information on the registration and programme will be available in the near future on the PRO-INNO Europe Website:

http://www.proinno-europe.eu

Intelligent Energy Europe 2012

call for proposal now open!

The call 2012 of Intelligent Energy Europe was published on 20 December 2011 with a deadline for the submission of proposals of 8 May 2012, 17:00 CET. Exception: different deadlines apply to the BUILD UP SKILLS initiative.

The Intelligent Energy – Europe programme (IEE) funds three different types of activities: projects pioneering sustainable energy ideas in practice; products and services procured to meet the needs
of the European Commission and/or the EACI; and the ELENA financing facility to mobilise funds for investments in sustainable energy at local level. Money is available through each of these different financing streams, although the majority of the budget is given over to funding projects. €730 million is available from 2007-2013.

Most parts of the IEE programme are run by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) on behalf of the European Commission.

The ELENA financing facilities are run by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the KfW Group.

The programme is a pillar of the EU’s Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

For further information you can contact eaci-ieee-enquiries@ec.europa.eu

On the following link all the necessary documents of the call and guidance to help potential applicants are available


ICT Policy Support Programme

Call 6 is now open!

Open from 3 February - 15 May 2012

The ICT Policy Support Programme (or ICT PSP) aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. The ICT Policy Support Programme aims at a wider uptake and best use of ICT and digital content by citizens, governments and businesses, in particular SMEs. It helps overcome hurdles that hinder the advancement of an information society for all. ICT PSP aims to develop pan-European, ICT-based solutions and services, most notably in areas of public interest. Greater uptake of such ICT services will open a wide range of new business opportunities, in particular for innovative SMEs. ICT PSP supports pilot actions and networking activities in areas such as:

- ICT for health, ageing and inclusion
- ICT for smart cities
- Digital content, open data
- ICT for improved public services
- ICT for trusted eService

All the details of the call are available at the following link:

Newsletter edited by:

SVIM - Sviluppo Marche SpA (IT)
Development Agency of Marche Region
www.svimspa.it
Working Group
Lucia Catalani
*Head of Territory Development, Environment and Energy Area*
Mara Morici
*Project Manager*
mmorici@svimspa.it
Fabiola Bedini
*Project Manager*
fbedini@svimspa.it
Cristina Frittelloni
*Communication Manager*
cfrittelloni@svimspa.it

with the contribution of the Project Partners:

Consvipo – Consortium for the Development of Polesine (IT)
www.consvipo.it

Informest - Service and Documentation Centre for International Economic Cooperation (IT)
www.informest.it

AWS - Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AT)
www.awsg.at

VEDA - Varna Economic Development Agency (BG)
www.veda-bg.eu

ANATOLIKI - Development Agency of Eastern Thessaloniki (GR)
www.anatoliki.gr

ANRO - Regional Development Agency of Rodopi (GR)
www.anro.gr

STRIA - South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency (HU)
www.ddriu.hu

ADRNORDEST - North-East Regional Development Agency (RO)
www.adrnordest.ro

NW RDA - North West Regional Development Agency (RO)
www.nord-vest.ro

IDA - Istrian Development Agency (HR)
www.ida.hr

HRAST Development Agency Vukovar-Srijem County “HRAST” Ltd (HR)
www.ar-hrast.hr