

## **Asviloc Plus – Partnership for developing local and regional economies**

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North-East Regional Development Agency participates, as partner, together with other 12 organizations from Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, within the project “Agencies Supporting Value of Innovations systems in regional and LOCAL economies”, financed under South-East European Program. The launching conference was organised on 14<sup>th</sup> of September in Ancona (Italy), when it was signed the Partnership Agreement, it was made a project presentation, the implementation strategy and a presentation of activities on which the project is focused. The aim of the project is to define the methodology for the establishment of transnational and regional networks, including coordination mechanism for innovation friendly framework contribution. The global objective is to contribute to the setting up of a “transnational innovation system”, starting with the valorisation of the results of the previous Asviloc project and until the good practices of Regional Innovation Strategies, acting on framework and human resources. In this way, the project will contribute to the increasing of the role of development agencies to develop the regional innovation system as a promotion interface, involving the relevant actors from this field and make them work in a wide and homogenous framework based on a regional innovation strategy for a long term.

The competitiveness factors are depending on the capacity to create a favourable environment for the stimulation of regional economy growth and, therefore, Asviloc Plus project propose to make from the involved regions much more perceptive on innovation, creating a good circle on which the new ideas – on one hand- and the request of new solutions, on other hand, constitute the engine to promote innovation to other identified directions.

The target zone concerned is mainly dominated by SMEs with an innovation capacity much more reduced than large enterprises. The project wishes to put the basis of a qualified and functional environment which to motivate and stimulate SMEs on innovation and bring them much closer to actual results of research development activities.

Actually, the project intends to increase the level of competences, skills and training of personnel from the development agencies on aspects related to innovation, to improve the management of innovation through transnational planning and specific evaluation of innovation services specifically addressed and tested on SMEs, as well as increasing the institutional capacity on local and regional level regarding implementation of policies and programs which support innovation. In order to reach the objective proposed, the project will carry on a period of 36 months and will have a budget of 2.352.941,19 Euro. The lead partner of the project is Regional Development Agency of Marche Region - Sviluppo Marche SpA, Italy.

The partners are divided in two categories as it follows:

Partners beneficiaries of ERDF (from EU Members States)

CONSVIPO – Consortium for Development of Polesina – Italy

INFORMEST – Center for Services and Documentation for International Economic Cooperation, Italy

AWS - Austria Wirtschaftsservice – Austria

VEDA – Economic Development Agency Varna, Bulgaria

ANATOLIKI – Development Agency of East Thessalonik - Anatoliki SA, Greece

ANRO – Regional Development Agency Rodopi SA (ANRO), Greece

STRIA – South-Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency, Hungary

ADR Nord-Vest – North-West Regional Development Agency, Romania

ADR Celje – Regional Development Agency Celje Ltd, Slovenia

Partners from IPA countries (candidates countries beneficiaries of funds from Pre-Accession Instrument):

IDA - Agency Istarska Razvojna, Croatia

HRAST – Development Agency Vukovar, Croatia