

First meeting of North-East Regional Innovation Laboratory

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On 18th of February 2010, took place in Iasi (Hall „Creanga”, Conference Centre in Grand Hotel Traian), the first working meeting of the members within the *North-East Regional Innovation Laboratory (LR NE)*. This working reunion was organised within the project **ASVILOC PLUS „Agencies Supporting Values of Innovation Systems in Regional and Local Economies”**, financed under South-East Europe Program and on which North-East Regional Development Agency is participating, as a partner.

The agenda of the meeting included several subjects:

1. Introduction and presentation of AsviLoc Plus project
2. Presentation of working methodology of the Regional Laboratory
3. Presentation of the template of the “Declaration of intention” and establish the modality to be signed
4. Presentation of the regional stage on innovation in North-East Region
5. Collecting the proposals of the regional partners: strong points, weak points, needs on innovation and working instruments to promote innovation within SMEs sector
6. Presentation of the structure for the analysis questionnaire and agree proposals on regional distribution
7. Conclusions and establish calendar regarding organising future focus-groups and meetings of the Regional Laboratory

The participants to this meeting were representatives of the organisations which will participate to the activities within NE Laboratory: **ASTRICO NE** (first cluster from the region), **Businessmen Association Iasi**, **SC Ilvas SA Vaslui**, **SC Tehnopolis SRL Iasi**, **SC Rulmenti SA Barlad**, **University „Gh.Asachi” Iasi (Faculty of Machinery Building and Industrial Management, Vaslui County Council, Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry „Petru Poni”, Iasi, Center of European Studies (University „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Iasi), University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine „Ion Ionescu de la Brad” Iasi (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Iasi), SC INFAST SRL Piatra Neamt, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Suceava, SC Software si Sisteme Informatiche Bucovina SA Suceava.**

As per the agenda of the event, there were realised presentations regarding the objectives of the project and future activities which will be developed, in order to realise the offer and request analysis in the field of innovation. It was presented the working methodology within the Regional Laboratory (RL) and it was proposed a template of a working agreement to be concluded between members of RL, in order to formalise the cooperation between the organisations involved. Mrs. Macoveiu Gabriela presented a brief document, with information regarding actual stage of innovation in North-East Region:

- Analysis of existing statistical data regarding sectorial situation (SMEs, RDI infrastructure)
- Analysis of the situation of existing institutional links in the field of regional innovation
- Analysis of RIS implementation stage in North-East Region and other programs dedicated to innovation

The participants to the meeting made observations/comments regarding the materials presented, whereby has to be mentioned the proposal to include and ROP Development of Human Resources, as a program which supports innovation. Besides, it was underlined the

opinion to make lobby alongside local responsible people, to orient research/development/innovation to valorisation of traditions and local specific and create instruments dedicated to promotion of results within SMEs (example, web page of Romanian Inventors Society).

This first meeting ended with the proposal and agreeing of a calendar dedicated to future activities which will include:

- Fill in of an analysis questionnaire of needs/offer on innovation by the members of NE Regional Laboratory and collaborators, especially SMEs, in such manner that, at the end, to result a number of 50-60 questionnaires.
- NE RDA will organize, during 12th-17th of April 2010, 4 Focus Groups dedicated to analysis of the needs of SMEs sector in the field of innovation in the counties Neamt (includes and Bacau county, too), Iasi, Vaslui and Suceava. The exact date and location will be agreed with partners from the above mentioned counties.
- There will be collected updated information regarding financed projects in North-East Region by using existing financing sources in the field of innovation / research and there will be collected proposals with pilot actions dedicated to innovation in North-East Region.