

Bilateral exchange of experience between regions North-East Romania and Lower Austria

Between 16th – 18th of August 2012, three experts from North-East Regional Development Agency have participated to a study visit in Austria, the host organisation being AWS - Austria Wirtschaftsservice with the headquarter in Vienna (national agency for innovation). This activity was included among the activities of 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, together with other 12 partner organizations from 7 European countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia).

The agenda of the 3 working days included visits at headquarter of organisations with relevant activity in the field of innovation and technologic transfer, an occasion for meetings and discussions during interactive workshops on the following topics:

- organisation structure of innovation agency AWS and services offered, including monitoring system and evaluation of regional innovation strategies and innovation promoting programs;
- promotion of technological and innovation and technological transfer activities;
- promotion of programs / activities dedicated to young entrepreneurs and encouraging of them / visit to business incubator in Krems;
- visit to the University in Krems and meetings regarding set-up and promotion of clusters;
- presentation of financing programs and other initiatives which encourages the promotion of entrepreneurial spirit on women and start-up companies.

Between 14th–17th of September 2010, two representatives from AWS - Austria Wirtschaftsservice have made a study visit in North-East Region. During the 4 days spent in our region, there have been organised working meetings in Piatra Neamt (headquarter of NE RDA) and Iasi municipality, occasion to present the services offered by NE RDA as Intermediate Body within Regional Operational Program 2007-2013 and other initiatives and project examples developed to support economic development and innovation in North-East Region.

The host organisations for these interactive seminars were:

- *University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine “Ion Ionescu de la Brad”* – presentation of innovative projects, activities, proposals of future cooperation
- *Scientific and Technological Park “Technopolis”* – presentation of financing sources and cooperation opportunities
- *Territorial Office for SMEs* – presentation of financing sources dedicated to support small and medium enterprises
- *University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Gr.T.Popa”* - presentation of innovative proposals, future cooperation proposals
- *National Agency for Scientific Research (ANCS)* – financing opportunities on research&development

The two meetings represented a success example concerning the institutional cooperation and can represent the starting point to a fruitful future cooperation for both regions.