

Iasi meeting of North-East Regional Laboratory of Innovation

(article translated from INFO Nord-Est no. 28/2011)

On September 14, 2011, members of the Regional Laboratory of Innovation established in the North-Eastern Region, attended a new meeting initiated by North-East RDA, which was intended to presenting the situation of implementation of pilot actions identified in 2010, exchange of best practices / analysis problems encountered in the current work of the Technology Information Centres of North-East Region and setting actions for the next period (fourth quarter 2011 and year 2012). The event was held in Iasi (Traian Conference Center).

Were presented and analyzed the main pilot actions carried out in 2011 and were highlighted relevant issues by Technology Information Centres of the region.

Pilot actions implemented in 2011:

- a. Modernisation of www.adrnordest.ro website that provides information from the field of innovation to over 1500 monthly unique visitors: RDI support services available at regional level, funding opportunities, news, publications edited by North-East RDA, regional projects dedicated to ongoing innovation.
- b. Editing and distribution of two numbers (in 2000 color copies each) of a regional publication dedicated to promoting innovation results - INNOVA NE). It was presented and distributed on this occasion, dedicated regional innovation booklet, published by North-East RDA in 2011.
- c. Stimulate, through support actions and exchange of experience, of managerial performance in the Technology Information Centres, industrial parks and business incubators. A first meeting is the one in September 14, 2011.
- d. Through the North-East Regional Centre of Studies are available to businesses in the region, CNFPA certified courses in the field of project manager, human resources manager and public procurement expert.
- e. In March 2011, was organized the first official meeting of the textile cluster. It also held a meeting dedicated to the best practices in sustainable development related to textile industry (initiative Cradle to Cradle). North-East ASTRICO and North-East RDA took part in meetings organized by MECMA for developing guide for competitiveness poles. North-East RDA in partnership with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment, National Authority for Scientific Research and the Institute for Economic Forecasting, developed a strategic project proposal in the framework of South-East Europe Programme (SEE) (Leader: Region Marche Italy)
- f. On March 2, 2011, was organized the seminar "Innovation at the power of example" at the headquarters of Tehnopolis Iasi, and on 8-9 June 2011, was held in Iasi, in partnership with the National Institute of Inventics of Iasi, "Inventica 2011" international event.
- g. On July 26, 2011 has been a Regional Development Board meeting dedicated to analysis of how to deal with regional development priorities for 2014-2020.

Relevant issues from Technology Information Centres' activity were pointed out. Thus, the Technological Information Centre of Bacau highlighted the following:

a. Good practice examples

- Centre specialization for machining, timber industry and environmental protection;

- Making and sending an e-mail newsletter to approx. 800 recipients, with information on business opportunities for collaboration, patents and licenses available in the Regional PATLIB Centre, invitation to Chamber's actions, funding opportunities;

- Working together with other chambers of commerce in the country in training actions (consulting chamber) and exchange of experience.

b. Critical issues - the lack of a reliable source of funding and limited human resources.

From the presentation of Tehnopolis Science and Technology Park of Iasi were identified the following issues:

a. Good practice examples

- Affiliation to Enterprise Europe Network and ERBSN Network offers possibility to interact at European and national level with similar organizations to enrich the range of activities and offers for business environment: search for business partners, Search / promoting innovative technologies, search partners for research projects, information on European legislation, match-making events.

b. Critical issues

- the lack of a reliable source of funding
- status of company involved high rates of co-financing;

From the presentation of Technology Information Centre of Suceava were identified the following issues:

a. Good practice examples

- Chamber of Suceava emphasizes its role of trainer for innovative entrepreneurship, particularly in HORECA sector (Suceava County has a strong tourism profile);

b. Critical issues

- The activity can be improved following the examples of good practice identified during the exchange of experiences carried with other chambers of commerce in Romania and Hungary.

Joint activities proposed for the next period are:

- stimulate interest of North-East RLI members to participate in working meetings (county partnership group and regional focus groups) dedicated to regional development plan 2014-2020;

- stimulate interest of North-East RLI members to submit projects to call four SEE Competitiveness Pol Call for proposals (calls opened in October 2011);

- inviting Technological Information Centre of Bacau to deliver a presentation (and stand) at the Regional Investment Forum in Bacau (3 to 4 November 2011), dedicated to intellectual property rights;

- collaboration with the Technological Information Centre of Bacau and Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Suceava to have participation in the Regional Investment Forum of a successful chamber of commerce or TIC (proposals: Arad and Oradea);

- cooperation of North-East RDA with NASR and Tehnopolis for organizing, between 15-30 November 2011, in Iasi, a regional conference dedicated to innovation.