UPSIDE Partner BIA Presents Smart City Lab at TCI Conference

Réne Tõnnisson (BIA – Baltic Innovation Agency) was one of speakers at the 17th TCI Global Conference which took place from 10-13th November 2014 in Monterrey, Mexico.

Under the theme of "*Creating shared value through clusters for a sustainable future*", the 17th TCI Global Conference addressed the question of how clusters contribute to creating shared value among organizations and in regions/communities. Réne Tõnnisson´s presentation focused exactly on this topic; it explained how small countries can use clusters to compete on a global level using the example of the Estonian Smart City Lab cluster initiative. This initiative helps those Estonian companies which have developed different ground breaking ICT solutions and inventions in Estonia to become global winners using for example such novel cluster tools as Living Labs and Start Up Accelerators. The presentation ended with some reflections what Estonia has learned from those new cluster based approaches and what other countries might possibly learn from Estonian cluster experiences. CyberForum's best in class approach to 'How does Innovation work?' was presented at TCI through a session entitled 'Cluster as a tool to create global innovation winners and increase competitiveness' where work developed by Tamara Högler was presented by Camilla Christensen from Lund University Open Innovation Centre. "Isolated projects, initiatives and clusters lose a huge part of their innovation potential. CyberForum lives and practices its mission statement 'Connect. Combine. Cooperate.' every single day, bringing together different actors, sharing knowledge, experience and information and thus enabling a real innovation boost. Sharing ideas means also getting new ones!" said Högler.

The target of the conference was to illustrate in a practical way how innovative clusters can play a key role in the creation of shared value for economies and societies. The future economic, social and environmental development depends on the capacity of organizations to operate under a model of "across-the-board value" creation. The role of clusters supporting this effort and thus the importance of cross-cluster cooperation will be critical in order to have a satisfactory long-term outcome. The exchange of views on this issue was one of the main aspects of the conference.

The presentations but also the opportunities for interaction with cluster representatives from many other countries and regions were highly inspiring, the conference provided a unique opportunity for cluster practitioners, policy-makers, business executives and academics to advance the understanding of shared value creation and to work towards practical solutions. An excellent opportunity for the UPSIDE consortium for further sustainable joint cluster activities.

www.upside-project.eu

About UPSIDE

The project UPSIDE – User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally Centred Eco-Systems aims at delivering economic and societal benefits by fostering the emergence and development of User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally-centred Ecosystems. The project aims at promoting the development of cooperation frameworks and synergy linkages between research, innovation activities within companies, urban development policies and open user-driven innovation ecosystems "which are close to the interests and needs of cities and their stakeholders, including citizens and businesses, and which may bridge the gap between short-term city development priorities and longer term technological research and experimentation."[1]

Project Facts

Project Acronym: UPSIDE
Project Title: User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally Centred Eco-Systems
Project Reference: FP7-REGIONS-2012-2013-1, Grant agreement no: 319962
Project Type: Coordination and supporting actions
Project Duration: 36 months from 01.07.2013 – 30.06.2016
Budget: €2,791,323 (total, EC Funding: €2,601,967)
Web: http://www.upside-project.eu/

Project Partners

- CyberForum e.V. (LEAD partner / coordinator)(Germany)
- Wirtschaftsförderung Karlsruhe - Economic Development Department Karlsruhe (Germany)
- inno AG (Germany)
- Stiftelsen Elektronikcentrum i Kista (Sweden)
- Baltic Innovation Agency OÜ (Estonia)
- Tartu City (Estonia)
- E-Zavod (Slovenia)
- Mestna Obcina Maribor / City of Maribor (Slovenia)
- Samenwerkingsverband Regio Eindhoven (The Netherlands)
- Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (The Netherlands)
- Living Labs Global (Denmark)
- Bevel (Sweden)
- Interactive Institute (Sweden)
- Stockholm University – eGovLab (Sweden)

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[1]   Hans Schaffers et al.: Smart Cities and the Future Internet: Towards Cooperation Frameworks for Open Innovation. SpringerLink.com