

UPSIDE Consortium Members Discussed Importance of Clusters at ClusteriX Final Conference

The final Conference of the ClusteriX project took place on October 22nd, 2014 at the Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna. It finalized three years of collaborative work dedicated to cross-linking clusters for innovation in Europe within a committed partnership sharing experience and knowledge and attracted also several of the UPSIDE partners as appropriate platform for “cross-project collaboration”.

Approximately 100 cluster-related stakeholders (representatives of business networks, policy makers, regional development agencies) discussed various European approaches of cluster policy using clusters as a supporting tool for cross-sectorial cooperation. One of our UPSIDE partners, the Economic Development Department (EDD) of the City of Karlsruhe, reported during a panel discussion about the learnings from the ClusteriX project. The EDD was involved as active partner in the ClusteriX consortium and enabled CyberForum e.V. to take part in several activities of the project, e.g. cluster workshops and staff exchange programmes.

The conference was before all the host for the presentation of the project's results and achievements: In an innovative format partners described the good practices that they learned from the other partners and to a large extent, also implemented in their own regions; to name just one example the Business Roaming Agreement (BRA) was transferred from Lund University/Sweden to Karlsruhe/Germany. CyberForum is from now on responsible for the coordination of the BRA, being supported by the EDD. Prominent speakers like Gerd Meier zu Köcker, Managing Director at ClusterAgentur Baden-Wuerttemberg as well as Dr. Petra Bohuslav, Minister for Economy, Tourism and Technology of the Regional Government of Lower Austria, topped the conference off and emphasized the importance of cross-cluster cooperation as driver of innovation, not only at regional but also at international level.

The facts and figures confirm what the ClusteriX partners demonstrated live on stage: the will to engage in a dialogue with other European regions, with a mind-set open for sharing and experimenting, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and support also leads to tangible successes. The established contacts can be used for further activities related to the Joint Action Plan of the UPSIDE consortium. “The Business Roaming approach developed by ClusteriX partners will be integrated into UPSIDE Joint Action Plan and Internationalisation Strategy building thus on the momentum and infrastructure already created by ClusteriX”, said Réne Tönnesson, CEO of BIA (Baltic Innovation Agency) and being responsible for the UPSIDE Internationalisation Strategy.

“Tempus fugit”. Back in 2011 when the ClusteriX project was conceived, the themes of cross-cluster, cross-sectorial collaboration were approached by pioneers, they were not at the core of many cluster strategies. Now, in 2014, the situation has changed and the importance of these topics is visible at



the top European cluster agenda. For the ClusteriX partnership another reason to be proud for being part of the journey and also a motivation to look forward to the next pioneer topics that should be developed for a sustainable, innovative and dedicated cluster policy. ClusteriX is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and made possible by the Interreg IVc programme.

For more information about ClusteriX please visit: <http://www.clusterix.info/>. Contact: Simone Hagenauer (clusterix.secretariat@ecoplus.at)

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

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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)

¹

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



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Press Release

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