

Successful Presentation of UPSIDE at Regions of Knowledge Capitalisation Workshop in Brussels

Karlsruhe, 13.12.2013

CyberForum e.V. as LEAD partner of the UPSIDE project was invited by the European Commission to join the Regions of Knowledge (RoK) Capitalisation Workshop which took place on Wednesday, 11th December 2013. This thematic workshop addressed issues of sustainability and policy support of the RoK projects as well as future funding opportunities for research-intensive clusters focusing on ICT. The first aim of the workshop was to facilitate community building across projects from the ICT call 2012-2013 through the exchange of best practices for innovation among the participating research-intensive clusters, as well as the identification of issues of common interest.

Nine RoK projects from the last ICT call are being funded for a period of three years. The coordinators of those projects were invited by the European Commission to give a project presentation as a case study on the approach that their respective project will adopt for the preparation of their Joint Action Plan in the area of ICT. Based on the broad geographical coverage of the participating projects across the European Research Area, the workshop featured a facilitated discussion which sought to identify cross-cutting issues and emerging themes.

CyberForum attended the workshop together with the UPSIDE partner Baltic Innovation Agency (BIA) from Tartu, Estonia, which was represented by Rene Tonnisson, a member of the executive board at BIA. A brief thematic presentation of UPSIDE with focus on the planned pathways of implementing Smart Specialisation Strategies in the TechnologyRegion Karlsruhe and the associated regional clusters was given by the project coordinator Tamara Högler, Head of International Affairs at CyberForum. The presentation also included the main focus areas of the future Joint Action Plan (JAP) of the UPSIDE consortium. A vivid discussion on potential cooperation with other present projects followed the presentation and will hopefully result in new cooperation and partnerships with other European clusters.

The Capitalisation Workshop was also an excellent opportunity to liaise with the Project Officers of the Regions of Knowledge projects and to learn more about the future policies and funding opportunities for research-intensive clusters in the ICT sector as well as about the synergies between Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds. Also the role of clusters in Smart Specialisation Strategies was highlighted by the European Commission.

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



This project is funded
by the Seventh
Framework
Programme

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)

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



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