

## Enhancing User-driven Participatory Innovation in European Regions – Successful UPSIDE Kick-off Meeting in Karlsruhe

Karlsruhe, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013

*“UPSIDE: User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally-centred Ecosystems”* aims at delivering economic and societal benefits by fostering the emergence and development in the field of participatory innovation. The approach of UPSIDE is to strengthen Europe’s position in user-driven participatory solutions and address the challenges set out in the Digital Agenda for Europe. The project intends to improve links between regional authorities, research entities, and the local business communities for the development of specific regional research policies and also partnerships on national or European level.

While the technical focus is on the development of innovative digital services making use of the contemporary (and future) cutting edge technologies and technological infrastructures, the organisational challenge of the project is on the effective involvement of triple helix clusters in regional innovation processes. A triple helix is a cluster that represents businesses, universities and governments and aims at fostering (co-)innovation and solving economic, social and technological challenges. Four triple helices and several research institutions from six European countries form the consortium, covering following nations: Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Sweden and The Netherlands. The clusters involved in UPSIDE have varying levels of development and ability to stimulate and manage innovation processes and recognise the potential to benefit from each other while working collaboratively on research challenges. In this way, regions with a less developed research profile receive support for their capacity in setting up and developing regional research-driven clusters, which will boost their competitiveness.

The project consortium came together at the kick-off meeting in Karlsruhe on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in order to officially start the work on UPSIDE and to discuss how to achieve the defined goals.

UPSIDE will foster the convergence of the digital and innovation agendas of leading ICT clusters in the partner regions and their home city administrations, which have strong policy dedication to digital services. The project aims at promoting the development of cooperation frameworks and synergy linkages between research, innovation activities within companies as well as open innovation, urban development policies and open user-driven innovation eco-systems. Fields of action within the project are e-health (including ambient assisted living), intelligent mobility/ transportation systems, e- and m-Government as well as energy-autarkic cities. Societal benefits will be generated by fostering the uptake of ICT-based technologies in those areas but also by implementing in the partner regions platforms for the development of user-driven participatory solutions that take into account the multiple stakeholder perspective within the framework of larger regional digital agendas.



This project is  
funded by the  
Seventh Framework  
Programme

## **About UPSIDE**

UPSIDE (User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally-centred Ecosystems) is a 36 month project funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Commission. It involves eleven partners from six European countries and aims to strengthen the research, innovation potential and global competitiveness of European regions by bringing together research actors, enterprises, institutions and policy makers into a collaboration network. Lead partner is CyberForum e. V.

## **Project Facts**

Project Acronym: UPSIDE

Project Title: User-driven Participatory Solutions for Innovation in Digitally-centred Ecosystems

Project Reference: FP7-REGIONS-2012-2013-1, Grant agreement no: 319962

Project Type: Coordination and support actions

Project Duration: 36 months from 01.07.2013 – 30.06.2016

Budget: €3.019.235 / EC Funding: €2.597.983

Web: <http://www.upside-project.eu/>

## **Project Partners**

- CyberForum e.V. (LEAD partner / coordinator)(Germany)
- City of Karlsruhe Economic Development Department (Germany)
- inno AG (Germany)
- Stiftelsen Elektronikcentrum i Kista (Sweden)
- Baltic Innovation Agency OÜ (Estonia)
- Tartu City Government (Estonia)
- E-Zavod, Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions (Slovenia)
- Municipality of Maribor (Slovenia)
- City Region Eindhoven (The Netherlands)
- Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (The Netherlands)
- Living Labs Global (Denmark)

## **Contact (Coordinator)**

Tamara Högler | CyberForum e. V. | Germany

Phone: +49 721 602 897-29 | Email: [hoegler@cyberforum.de](mailto:hoegler@cyberforum.de)



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