

MINUTES

MENTORING WORKSHOP

»SMART CLUSTER - SETTING UP A TRIPLE HELIX RESEARCH DRIVEN CLUSTER IN YOUR REGION«

**Bled, Slovenia, 3rd June 2014
(14.00 – 17.00)**

1. Purpose of a workshop

Workshop was organized in the framework work package 7 – mentoring (actions 7.2. and 7.4. – mentoring in CE and MED area) with a purpose to assist emerging triple-helix cluster initiatives at their developments.

The objectives of a Bled workshop were:

- to identify some cities/regions which are planning to develop IT- / High-tech research driven clusters, typically but not necessary related to “Smart City” initiatives, and need assistance at setting them up or developing them (identification of appropriate »candidates«);
- to present good practices of successful initiatives, such as Brainport Eindhoven, Cyberforum Karlsruhe and Kista Science City Stockholm;
- to design mentoring activities for »candidate« cities/regions/clusters.

2. Participants

Upside partners: E-zavod (WS leaders)
Cyberforum
Cityregion Eindhoven
BIA

Mentoring candidates

Cities/regions	Grad Rijeka + Ericsson Nikola Tesla (City of Rijeka initiative) - Croatia Kielce Technology Park – Kielce, Poland Trentino Lab – Trento, Italy FH Vorarlberg – Smart City Rheintal, Austria
Industries, R&D	Comtrade ltd – Slovenia VTT – Technical research of Finland

Attendance list attached.

3. Content

3.1. *Presentation of cluster initiatives*

Rijeka, Croatia

Urban population cca 130.000

Rijeka is at early stage of a triple-helix smart city cluster set-up process, but with strong dedication from the City of Rijeka, and support from a national government. They want to build a competence centre for smart city clusters development for Croatia. There are no global industries in Rijeka, but there is a big shipyard. There are number of innovative SME's and an university. Initiative is led by partnership between City of Rijeka and Ericsson. They expressed high interest for further participation in Upside mentoring activities.

Contacts: Tina Štok (City of Rijeka) tina.stok@rijeka.hr
Damir Medved (Ericsson Nikola Tesla) damir.medved@ericsson.com

Kielce, Poland

Urban population cca 200.000

Kielce Technology Park is leading the process of triple-helix cluster set-up in Kielce. Kielce technology Park is a strong innovation hub, with fast growing number of innovative SMEs, especially in the field of ICT. They operate a number of business incubators and a technology park. An ICT cluster initiative »FutureHub« was launched recently in order to build an ecosystem as a cooperation platform. The downside of the initiative at the moment is absence of global leaders and research institutions.

They expressed a strong interest in cooperation with Upside partners.

Contact: Joanna Rudawska joanna.rudawska@technopark.kielce.pl

Vorarlberg, Austria

Population cca 180.000

There is running triple-helix cluster Smart City Rheintal in Vorarlberg, which was initiated by IllwerkeVKKW. All key stakeholders in region are partners in a cluster. They are active in three main fields – Future of Mobility, Future of Living and Future of Energy Providing. Region is advanced in the field of e-mobility and smart-grids.

They are interested in cooperation with Upside partnership at common project development and their key topics.

Contact: Martin Dobler doma@fhv.at

Trento, Italy

Urban population cca 120.000

Trento established its research driven triple-helix cluster already in 2006 (Trentino Lab – Taslab) and is well-established by now. Their main fields of operations are development of innovative solutions for public sector, fostering triple-helix innovation projects and fostering the development of ICT infrastructure in the region. They are also developing test-beds. As for now, they are more oriented into the challenges in region and are mainly involved with regional partners. Their ambition is to internationalize more in the following period.

Thus, they see good possibilities for cooperation with Upside partners as an international network of clusters.

Contacts: Marco Combetto (Trentino Lab) marco.combetto@infotn.it

3.2. Presentations of well established clusters

Brainport Eindhoven and Cyberforum were presented as successful cases of triple-helix research driven clusters, candidates were able to ask questions.

3.3. Designing mentoring process

Identifying mentoring needs

Each participating candidate defined topics and mentoring needs, which were later integrated into a list of mentoring topics and methods, as follows:

a. Cluster set-up

- How to establish a cluster (guidance through a process)
- Good/bad practice exchange
- Assistance at policy/strategy development
- Motivation of cluster members, attracting new members
- Cluster funding schemes
- Communication (internal/external) approaches

b. Internationalization and cooperation among clusters

- Access to best clusters/regions

c. R&D cooperation

- Joint projects
- Sharing research infrastructure and test-beds

Identification of Upside mentoring options

Possibilities of the integration of mentoring candidates into Upside actions were identified, such as:

- Cooperation at the development and implementation of an Joint action plan (WP4), with following options:
 - Collaboration in the staff exchange program
 - Sharing research infrastructure/test-beds
- Cooperation within internationalization activities (WP6).
- Guidance at cluster set-up processes (WP7)

Identification of methods

Three methods of mentoring were defined:

- Study visits to well-established clusters
- Subject specific workshops (cluster set-up process, internationalization etc.)
- Documentation exchange

4. Conclusions

Candidates were informed on the financial framework of an Upside project, where only Upside partners can cover labor and travel costs from a project budget, while candidates will have to provide for their expenses.

On the basis of information gathered through a workshop, E-institute will prepare an **mentoring action plan**, taking into account needs of mentoring candidates and possibilities of an Upside partners to meet the needs.

Action plan will be distributed to Upside partners and mentoring candidates until the end of June 2014. After consultation, final action plan will be provided.

Prepared by:

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