

## Improving of Key Supporting Services for Young Innovators across Central Europe

### Regional Innovation Lab (RIL) Concept Brings The First Results

As we have informed in the 1st newsletter of InoPlaCe project, efforts to improve services provided to young innovators in the regions are based on a new concept called Regional Innovation Lab. RIL (“an open innovation associations” in which innovation is the co-creation process for new services, products and societal infrastructures) have been established during the second phase of the InoPlaCe project as a key tool for direct integration of young innovators in the project implementation. Basically, this new concept is based on the active role of young innovators who can control themselves which services will be developed and improved through the project. RIL is the body where young innovators shall be given space for identification of key supporting services and for shaping other project outputs. The participation of young innovators in RILs will assure that the bottom-up approach is applied when looking for the key supporting services and when defining their required duality. RILs consist of different categories of participants. They can especially include pre-graduated master students, Ph.D. students and young

scientists from universities, young start-up entrepreneurs, innovative employees and technology developers from medium sized enterprises and research and development institutions.

From November 2011 to March 2012 there were held discussions in all partner regions with young innovators who were able to describe the problem areas and weaknesses of services provided to them. Along with members of the implementation team (each partner has its two RIL’s

representatives) new and modified services are proposed so that they meet the needs of young innovators. Of the total set of new or modified services is then selected 20 key services to be through the project further developed to match the extent of their demand for young innovators. Regarding the response of young innovators, the RIL concept is considered as one of the ways to improve services they lack for their activities.



Meeting with young innovators at West Bohemian University in Plzeň (The Southwest Bohemian region, Czech Republic)

## The Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok in InoPlaCe project

### WHO WE ARE....

**The Regional Development Agency** (further only "RDA") Senec – Pezinok is a non profit public training, consultation and developing organisation, which belongs to the Slovak integrated network of regional development agencies and fulfils duties of Regional Info Point. Agency was awarded several times The Best Regional Development Agency of the Year. Last time in 2011.

**Territory of operation:** territory of Bratislava Region, districts Senec and Pezinok.

**What we do:** RDA provides complex advice, tailor-made consultancy services and expertise in the implementation of regional development plans, strategies, programs and individual projects as well as to support project implementation.



The RDA Senec – Pezinok has already designed and successfully participated in several strategic international projects. It was involved in several strategic international projects aiming at innovation and lifelong learning and into the Urbact projects (socio-urban regeneration), strengthening the SMEs competitiveness through transfer and development of innovation in the context of knowledge-based society (LdV projects), Twinning

projects in the West Balkans countries aiming at support to the state administration and business sector for meeting the requirements for the EU accession.

**What is our motto:** Think globally – act locally !



[www.rrasenec-pezinok.sk](http://www.rrasenec-pezinok.sk)

### Recent activities in the InoPlaCe project

After Regional Info Day at the end of October where we did introduce the project idea, presented project benefits and aims, RDA concluded in November and December 2011 set of one-to-one meetings with key stakeholders, which become members of RAG. Among of those are two main technology incubators,

Centres of technology transfer of main universities and Slovak Academy of Science as main research body, Bratislava regional municipality, Chambers of commerce and crafts and organisations for support of research, science and innovations and small and medium

enterprises. During these sessions we did identify accessible services and a lack of them for young innovators. We did promote the project at Start-up Camp event in Bratislava with 50 potential RIL members. Our partners do appreciate our project visibility materials printed in unified version

## Regional Development Agency "ARLEG" S.A. in InoPlaCe project

Regional Development Agency "ARLEG" S.A. is a consulting organization with well-established market position which for 20 years has participated in the transformation of the local economy by supporting the activities of small and medium enterprises and local governments, as well as leading efforts to actively fight against unemployment and promote entrepreneurship among the region's inhabitants. Since the beginning of the Company designated areas of its development and its actions and initiatives were determined on the basis of reported needs and expectations of market participants: the regional start-ups, businesses, local authorities and labor market institutions and other stakeholders, while taking account of national trends socio-economic

development. The mission of ARLEG is strengthening competitiveness in the region by activities for: economic development of our region, development of SME's, development of territorial government, activities towards increasing employment, dissemination of European Union standards, especially in action towards balanced regional development.

ARLEG activities are directed particularly to the sectors of public life, which may bring support to create new and support existing business ventures, creating sustainable economic and social values and inspiring relationships between domestic and foreign economic entities. An important element of the activity is taking

actions to solve social and economic problems, which will strengthen the competitiveness of Lower Silesia in relation to other Polish regions and Europe and therefore we cooperate closely with companies, local authorities and institutions, non-profit organizations and universities.

RDA ARLEG is also experienced in conducting transnational projects such as INTERREG III B as well as Central Europe projects, in which we have participated as a project partner supporting cluster development, strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs by boosting their innovation performance, facilitating economic and infrastructure development in the PanEuropean Transport Corridor III and support meaning of renewable resources.

### ARLEG carries out activities supporting regional development in the area of:

- o Innovation and New Technology through active participation in projects aiming at spreading the concept of innovation in business and capital investments in newly created companies implementing innovative solutions (Seed Capital Fund).
  - o Human Resources Development through the implementation of programs co-funded by the EU, aimed at promotion of entrepreneurship, active fight against unemployment among vocational guidance and improving skills which contribute to the creation of new jobs.
  - o Enterprises Support by comprehensive advising and training services, especially for small and medium enterprises, preparing business plans, feasibility studies and applications for EU funding and by providing adequate tools and services facilitating their development and helping to improve their performance, increasing their knowledge of innovation and supporting the processes of technology transfer by creating effective connections between R&TD institutions and economic entities and putting guided projects into practice.
  - o Cooperation with Local Authorities and institutions in the field of improving efficient functioning and development of cities and communes, by providing comprehensive services when applying for EU funds.
- (www.arleg.eu)

## Toward an EU network of “excellent” services for young innovators and entrepreneurs – infoday in Milan

With the organization of the first Info Day of the project InoPlaCe, hosted in Milan on the 5th of December, Milano Metropoli Development Agency started the path to involve both the operators, promoters and managers of services to support young innovators and enterprise

creation in Lombardy, and a first group of creative young people and would-be entrepreneurs which will take part in the definition of a “virtual lab” to define an EU wide kit of optimal services to sustain entrepreneurship.



## Regional infoday in Győr, Hungary

Pannon Novum Nonprofit Ltd, the Hungarian projectpartner of InoPlaCe project organized the InoPlaCe regional infoday on 16th February in Győr at the local Széchenyi István University.



During the event we presented the project and its goals and expected results, moreover the 2 essential team, the Regional Advisory Group including mentors (RAG) and the Regional Innovation Lab including young innovators were also founded. After the event, we organized a press conference which resulted in press articles.

## Regional Information Day in Erfurt

The Regional InfoDay in Erfurt was held on 1.11.2011 in the conference hall of the Chamber of Commerce Erfurt. At this meeting Regional Innovation Lab (RIL) and Regional Advisory Group (RAG) were founded in Thuringia.



## Project Contact

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