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Taking up the challenge

Good practices and achievements

www.innohubs.eu



Innohubs

INNOHUBS is a cross-Europe project under the INTERREG IVC Programme framework, aimed at encouraging and supporting local entrepreneurship based on innovation and innovative SMEs, that brings together cities on the edge of the major capitals of Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Bulgaria. The Spanish partner is the Local Development Agency of the Municipality of Getafe, Getafe Iniciativas (GISA).

INNOHUBS identifies good practice, exchange experiences, test new methods and tools and make international contacts to better promote and support entrepreneurship, from idea to the creation of innovative businesses.

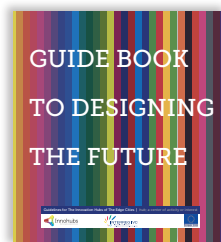
The long term goal is to launch an entrepreneurial support system by creating a network of innovation centres and linkages between them. Thus, we can strengthen the growth of local businesses and the surrounding cities and regions by contributing, through the improvement of local skills, meeting the Lisbon objectives.

The Project has a budget of 1.469.085,77 € funding by the European Union with 1.131.356,75 € from the INTERREG IVC Program (ERDF- European Regional Development Fund).

Guide book to designing the future

For several months the INNOHUBS partners have developed a collective effort to identify, describe and analyse good practices, which contribute to supporting innovation in their local business and industrial environment.

In the next two years, the knowledge embedded in these experiences will be shared by and transferred among the Innohubs partner cities, together with the process to define an Innovation Hub model that may be applicable to different local environments.



A good practice can be a method, project, programme, technique or any other initiative. To give an overview, the good practices are mapped to six different categories: promoting mindset, training, start-up, operation, growth and collaboration.

The knowledge and lessons learnt from these experiences have been incorporated into the INNOHUBS Guide Book of Good Practices to be shared and disseminated among the INNOHUBS member cities with the aim of improving the innovation support system in the project partners' Edge Cities.

International Conference

On December 1st, 2010 GISA organized the International Conference "Challenges for Local Innovation in the European context" in the INNOHUBS project framework, attended by more than a hundred people between enterprises, entrepreneurs, self-employed, interested in identifying new mechanisms of incorporation of innovation in enterprises, as well as public institutions and private research and innovation stakeholders whose activities are related to the promotion of innovation and development of tools for generating innovative culture.

The conference focused on mechanisms to support the process of consolidation of an innovative idea into a product or service, as well as the role of local government in the implementation of innovation policies and the importance of cooperation with regional stakeholders, to exploit synergies and resources. Success in meeting this challenge lies in cooperation with other local stakeholders and stimulating innovative initiative in the city.

Model

The INNOHUBS model gives municipalities a generic framework to think about how they can stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship in a city. The model understands the innovation support ecosystem of a city in a very broad sense, involving a wide variety of actors in different activities that all aim at improving the innovation and entrepreneurship capacity of a city and its citizens. Innovation shall be at the heart of a city, helping different stakeholders from public and private sectors and citizens as individuals create better conditions for living and working through collaboration.

In order to create a very innovative and entrepreneurial community, all key stakeholder groups in the municipality shall be involved from actors in the public sector (like the municipality officials and policy makers, public schools and public institutions working in the area of supporting innovative entrepreneurship), to private sector (involving companies in different stages of development, private educational institutions and industry associations) and the citizens as important individuals who have different roles that a municipality has to consider (taxpayers, parents, consumers, people with political interests and citizen power through different non-governmental initiatives).

In this context, the Innovation Support Ecosystem for an innovative city will have an interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach that will facilitate the promotion of innovation and will consist of five areas of action that will serve as a framework for defining the various initiatives that will connect different actors together to generate new solutions.

