

EmplInno

S3-Empowering for Innovation and Growth in Medium-Sized Cities and Regions

To turn the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) into Europe's most dynamic, innovative and competitive economy of the continent, the regions need to apply and constantly improve their Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3).

Since 2016 the Interreg BSR project EmplInno supported partner organisations from twelve regions in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden to foster the implementation and improvement of RIS3.

The project provided strategy owners, strategy implementers and other innovation actors with resources to better work with the RIS3 approach and boosted cooperation and knowledge exchange between stakeholders within and beyond the partner regions.

The partners developed and implemented numerous R&D transfer workshops, matchmaking and networking events as well as training formats. By doing so they provided companies, universities and other actors with knowledge and resources to implement innovative and competitive ideas.

Furthermore, EmplInno helped to improve and update regional smart specialisation strategies by transferring experiences and recommendations to regional authorities as well as strategy implementers to adapt and use the RIS3 for the benefit and growth of the region.



GOOD PRACTICE FOR R&D TRANSFER

Research and Implementation Fund (RIF)

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The RIF is a grant programme carried out in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship in Poland.

- The aim is to further develop an innovation and funding system that stimulates the cooperation between enterprises, science and science transfer units.
- The programme offers diverse services and investment opportunities in order to strengthen the competitiveness of enterprises in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship.
- Among others, the support encompasses services and funding opportunities for: R&D activities including industrial research and experimental development works; patent vouchers for costs related to patent applications, patent analysis, utility model and industrial design protection; research vouchers for the implementation of research and development activities for e.g. SMEs operating in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship.
- Beneficiaries of the fund are enterprises, research institutes and universities.

Kujawsko-Pomorskie Innovation Agency
Poland



Contact details: www.kpai.pl/fundusz-badan-i-wdrozen

GOOD PRACTICE FOR NETWORKING

SPARK Demo

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

SPARK Demo is the business support structure for entrepreneurship in South-Estonia, managed by the Tartu Science Park and supported by the City of Tartu.

- The demo centre located downtown brings together the most successful manufacturing companies, exporters, image-makers, employers, start-ups and business support organisations in South-Estonia.
- SPARK Demo's desire is to bring different parties together to spark collaboration, new ideas and create new opportunities and solutions.
- SPARK Demo offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to meet the most inspiring companies from Southern Estonia, to experience the entrepreneurial spirit of Estonia up close, to be part of a large information network, to become part of SPARK Demo and partner events and to arrange their meeting/event in the centre.
- In addition to delegations, SPARK Demo hosts events arranged by Tartu Science Park and partners. Different seminars, workshops, training courses or information days are managed by experts of various fields.

Tartu Science Park
Estonia

SPARK DEMO
BUSINESS CARD OF SOUTH-ESTONIA

Contact details: www.sparkdemo.ee/en

GOOD PRACTICE FOR NETWORKING AND MATCHMAKING

Mobile Monday

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

Mobile Monday is a monthly event sponsored by the Tartu City Government, Estonia.

- The aim of this event is to boost the ICT community in Tartu's economic landscape by promoting cooperation, sharing information and thereby demonstrating the strengths and uniqueness of the region.
- To foster business opportunities for the mobile industry, Mobile Mondays facilitate live networking events between small and large companies, research and development entities and/or business support organisations and between local and foreign talents.
- The attendees have the chance to present innovative visions, trends, studies and forecasts from the mobile marketplace and discuss their ideas and results with the SMEs, universities, R&D transfer entities and business development organisations.
- Moreover, Mobile Mondays give the ICT community an opportunity to contribute to the education of the broader public through its publications, online presence and media partnership.

Tartu City Government
Estonia



Contact details: www.momoestonia.com

GOOD PRACTICE FOR SME-TRAINING AND SERVICES

Design Driven Innovation

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

Design and design-thinking offers a different approach, a range of methods, a mindset and way to act and visualize issues, tasks, challenges and possible solutions.

- In a world where multiple solutions and directions have become our every-day-life a 'one size fits all'-way of thinking does not apply in a competitive business. Here design-driven innovation (DDI) can be the answer to figure out innovative solutions to complex problems.
- The methodology enables a company, an organization or a public entity to produce the right services, products or solutions for their end-users by structurally following multiple paths, thus creating more growth and innovation.
- DDI touches upon the whole innovation process and the entire value chain and takes all perspectives and potential problems into consideration.
- Therefore, when working design-driven, a multidisciplinary approach – including manufacturers, companies, workers, researchers, programmers and consumers – is key. This is why the Region of Southern Denmark considers design as a 'growth motor' and thus an important enabler for realizing the region's smart specialization strategy.

GOOD PRACTICE FOR SME-TRAINING

Scale-Up Denmark

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

Scale-up Denmark is an ambitious cross-regional training and mentoring concept for entrepreneurs and small enterprises, and a fast track to investors.

- The aim is to establish an elite of high growth companies in Denmark.
- The foundations of this initiative are Denmark's five regional business development strategies (S3) and some of Europe's most competitive innovation ecosystems.
- In line with the regional S3 in Denmark, a total of 12 Scale-up hubs have been established of which five are anchored in the Region of Southern Denmark, namely "Energy Efficient Technologies", "Health and Welfare Technology", "Offshore Industry", "Robotics" and "Experience Economy & Tourism".
- The cross-regional scope ensures that a critical mass of businesses and skills is involved, while regional specialisations are supported and utilised.
- Scale-up Denmark is governed by the founding partners and supported by an advisory board with key private and public sector stakeholders.

Various cluster organisations, BDOs and RTIs
Denmark

SCALE-UP
DENMARK

THE EUROPEAN UNION
The European Regional
Development Fund

Investing in your future

Contact details: www.scale-updenmark.com

GOOD PRACTICE FOR SME-TRAINING

SME Development Clinics

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The development clinics function as a horizontal SME empowerment tool to improve specific capacities of SMEs active in various priority areas of regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3).

- The clinics aim at enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs by training them for example on internationalisation or commercialisation strategies and related tools, and by offering them consulting services of regional experts for specific challenges and obstacles.
- The clinics can help SMEs to develop their own internationalisation or commercialisation strategies, to get familiar with related tools and methods and to learn about regional, national or European funding opportunities.
- In addition, participants of the clinics have the chance to network with SMEs, university or R&D transfer entities working in the region and field of interest. By doing so, strong and sustainable clusters of stakeholders working in the same priority area can be built to support regions in improving their smart specialisation strategies.

Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia | Finland
Foundation for Lubelskie Development | Poland



Contact details: www.epliiitto.fi/frontpage; www.fundacja.lublin.pl

GOOD PRACTICE FOR R&D TRANSFER AND MATCHMAKING

Innovation Breakfast

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

Innovation Breakfast functions as a platform for innovative knowledge exchange.

- Originated from MatchINDUSTRY LAB implemented by Prizztech Ltd. in Satakunta (FI), Kaunas Science and Technology Park (Kaunas STP) adapted the approach as a regular event in Lithuania. It aims at connecting all relevant stakeholders in specific economic sectors and RIS3 areas to foster R+D transfer.
- The concept provides companies, start-ups or research entities the chance to present specific development and research fields, challenges and ideas to an audience of developers, researchers, corporations and investors.
- Beside the knowledge exchange, the concept supports follow-up cooperation between innovation actors and implementers to develop new technological and digital solutions for presented ideas and challenges.
- In order to develop Innovation Breakfast to a comprehensive empowerment tool for companies, Kaunas STP is currently expanding the concept from a merely networking/matchmaking event to a three-stage concept including also mentoring and training services.

Kaunas Science and Technology Park
Lithuania



Contact details: www.kaunomtp.lt/en

GOOD PRACTICE FOR SME-TRAINING

WoManager

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

WoManager is a training concept at the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences / Small Business Center, aiming to support women in developing their leadership, entrepreneurial, managerial and digital skills.

- It addresses women either studying or already working as a manager or entrepreneur and provides them a tailored training program focusing on individual and everyday challenges and subjects.
- Beside this problem-solving approach and its course units conducted in small working groups, the training program opens up opportunities to network with other women and female leaders at the university and beyond.
- The comprehensive approach of WoManager thus gives women the chance not only to improve their managerial skills but to build relations and extend their economic network to leading women.

South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences
Finland



Contact details: : www.xamk.fi/en/rdi/small-business-center/

GOOD PRACTICE FOR RIS3-RELATED TRAINING AND ANALYSIS

Online-Tool for regional development

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

This tool developed by Riga Planning Region is an interactive RIS3 analytical online platform.

- The aim is to better coordinate regional development processes embedded in Regional Innovation Strategies on Smart Specialisation (RIS3).
- The tool provides municipalities working with the RIS3-approach to acquire practice-related knowledge about RIS3 and its implementation on the local and/or regional level.
- The platform helps authorities to analyse, identify and map potential growth areas for further support.
- The platform tool enables regions not only to better understand their existing ecosystem but to join forces and resources to improve regional development processes, policies and to discover economic potentials.

Riga Planning Region
Latvia



Contact details: : www.rpr.gov.lv | www.rprdev.kartes.lv

GOOD PRACTICE FOR R&D TRANSFER AND NETWORKING

Innovative Materials Arena

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

Innovative Materials Arena (IMA) functions as a cluster and networking platform to support growth and collaboration between research and economic actors active in the field of developing and implementing innovative materials in industrial production.

- The aim is to identify and build collaborations with stakeholders of key European regions active in material research and production, besides providing networking, matchmaking and R&D transfer events in East Central Sweden.
- By facilitating and promoting transnational exchange of information, international research applications and projects, cluster collaborations or concrete investments, IMA works on sharing competences, resources and innovation on a pan-European level.

Region Östergötland
Sweden



Contact details: : www.innovativematerials.se

GOOD PRACTICE FOR R&D TRANSFER AND MATCHMAKING

TechnoLunch

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

SMEs, start-ups and research entities have the chance to present current and future research and development projects and challenges in a casual setting.

- The aim of this regular event is to initiate and support strategic alliances between business and industry-related science active in the maritime sector.
- Besides discussing innovative solutions and exchanging most up-to-date knowledge, TechnoLunch provides tailor-made matchmaking opportunities for companies with innovators and developers from various fields.
- The thereby initiated knowledge exchange and R&D co-operations enable companies to create useful synergy effects and achieve decisive market advantages.
- By embedding TechnoLunch into the Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) in the maritime sector, it contributes to strengthen regional development policies and to get access to related funding opportunities.

Rostock Business
Germany



Contact details: : www.rostock-business.com

GOOD PRACTICE FOR R&D TRANSFER

MatchINDUSTRY LAB

www.empinno.eu/good-practices

MatchINDUSTRY LAB (MI LAB) provides an innovative and solution-oriented approach of R&D transfer and matchmaking to support industrial renewal and modernisation processes in the Finnish province of Satatunka.

- Companies get the chance to present their problems and challenges to an audience of developers (start-ups, technology providers, university teams), who will work out various solutions.
- Subsequently, the companies can pick up the most innovative cutting-edge solution and proceed to cooperate with the developer to improve their processes.
- MI LAB also aims at including latest ICT solutions and digital applications into the industrial sector.

Prizztech Ltd.
Finland



Contact details: www.matchindustry.fi

GOOD PRACTICE FOR R&D TRANSFER

Reference group-approach

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The reference group-approach is a standard tool of project management but is seldom used to its full potential within innovation governance processes.

- The Region Gävleborg improved the approach while governing stakeholders from the public sector, business sector and academy to build the world´s first Electric Road System (ERS) on a public highway for heavy transportation 2016 (E16 Sandviken).
- The reference groups in the ERS innovation process are divided into areas of expertise e.g. risk analysis, emergency rescue, business models. The core work group with the central stakeholders is called “the family”.
- The motivation for each handpicked participant is analysed to create win-win for everyone. An open way of informing and discussing the project builds trust.
- Since creative input and critical questions from everyone is valued the stakeholders feel included and part of a world class innovation with a potential for structural transformation and for more profitable business for everyone.

GOOD PRACTICE FOR R&D TRANSFER AND NETWORKING

European Innovation Week

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The European Innovation Week is one of the unique economic events in Eastern Europe based on a practical combination of mature business and innovative projects.

- Participants are representatives of EU administrations, ministers and members of parliament, city and regional authorities, investors, business, science, culture and non-governmental organisations.
- Experts from around the world have the opportunity to talk about innovations related to Regional Smart Specialisations, also in the context of the new financial perspective.
- Space for building business relations based on innovation, knowledge and dialogue of young companies with experienced business is provided.
- The idea of the European Innovation Week is built on a platform of cooperation between science and business, in the field of innovation and smart specialisation, which, in accordance with EU policy, are the drivers of the development for EU regions and Member States.
- The first edition attracted more than 80 speakers, 400 companies from the innovations sector and more than 1300 delegates. The online stream was followed by several thousand people.

Lubelskie Voivodeship
Poland



Contact details: www.etilubelskie.pl