

Development and testing of the European Innovation Audit tool for Social Innovation

February 2020 / Newsletter



Social Innovation workshop held in Karlsruhe

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On 11th and 12th February 2020, SIG took part in a workshop on Social Innovation hosted by the EU-funded project [ASIS](#) (Alpine Social Innovation Strategy). ASIS project objective is to initiate, develop and promote a new vision of innovation in the Alpine space area that is Social Innovation, in order to increase the innovation capacity of Alpine space regions by answering to the new challenges. SIG has taken on the role of an observer in this highly innovative project.



Baden-Württemberg Region presents new Innovation Strategy

For years, the region of Baden-Württemberg has been among the leading innovative regions in Europe. To further foster the region's innovation potential, a new Innovation Strategy has been presented to the public in February 2020. The areas identified as especially relevant for the region include digitalization and AI, sustainable mobility, health, resource efficiency and energy transition as well as sustainable bioeconomy.

As a first step, Baden-Württemberg will establish an innovation lab which will foster innovation in the prioritized areas. The strategy aims at strengthening the innovation potential of SMEs which are considered the economic backbone of the region. Moreover, Baden-Württemberg aspires to invest more in the research infrastructure of higher education institutions and technology transfer to regional SMEs and plans on increasing the public expenditure on Research and Development.

The Innovation strategy is the basis for the new ERDF operational program that the region of Baden-Württemberg will submit to the European Commission this summer.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824226



New edition of DONOSTIAEKIN, entrepreneurial day event organized by FOMENTO SAN SEBASTIAN

The DonostiaEKIN is a key event of the year addressed to entrepreneurs in order to raise awareness of the innovative projects the business ecosystem is creating, as well as to spread the entrepreneurial attitude across sectors and target groups.

Fomento San Sebastian has organized a new edition of DonostiaEkin, a day full of activities around entrepreneurship, especially organized to recognize the value and proactiveness of the local entrepreneurs and organizations who boost the entrepreneurial attitude in the city of San Sebastián. In addition, it allows to transfer to the socio-economic fabric the initiatives and projects that arise in the city around business creation.

In the event that took place in Kursaal Congress Venue FSS delivered an award to the best Entrepreneurial Project EKIN+2019 to DEVELOPAIR TECHNOLOGIES SLU, a start-up that uses Artificial Intelligence for safe data management. These systems are embedded in machine engines and can be applied in numerous industries, such as energy, smart mobility, aerospace, health or industry. The Award had an economic prize of 2000 euro.

Over 300 people attended the Conference, and the event included a number of workshops around Innovation, social innovation, talent promotion or how to present a project to investors. A round table around how to attract entrepreneurs to the city and experts talking about international experiences completed the event.

Since 2012, through DONOSTIUP Economic Stimulus Plan, Fomento San Sebastián has actively encouraged the support of creation of new innovative businesses, launching every year a set of grants and services for this target group, as well as new very innovative programs that have allowed to connect ideas and accelerate projects, reinforcing the innovation oriented projects and future industries.

In the last 15 years, 14000 entrepreneurs have been supported by FSS and FSS has contributed to the creation of more than 4000 companies, 250 per year. The number of innovative projects has doubled in the last years and 54% have been set up by women.

A new call for proposals to boost the development of finance markets for social enterprises

A new call for proposals was launched under the Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI), with the aim of contributing to the development of finance markets for social enterprises across Europe.

The deadline for the submission of applications is set on **31 March 2020**.

More info about the call, please find [here](#).

More info about the DonostiaEKIN event and photos, please find [here](#).

Eurada Brokerage Event 2020

On January 30th, the Brokerage Event for Innovation Agencies took place. The 2020 edition, organised by EURADA, was held in Brussels. It brought a whole day full of opportunities for Innovation Agencies to showcase their expertise, services and find potential partners for future collaborations. This edition counted more than 60 participants from over 10 countries.

The one-day event was split into two sessions: the morning session and the afternoon session. The first session aimed at projecting the results of already implemented or ongoing projects, so that participants could get information on how others worked, what was useful, what was not, and to be inspired for future projects.



Friuli Innovazione in the spotlight at the Eurada Brokerage Event 2020 presenting DepoSIt

Friuli Innovazione has been one of the key players at the yearly Brokerage Event organized by EURADA, with the participation of over 50 European innovation agencies, research centers and business support organizations.

This international event, held every year on January 30th in Brussels, is one of the most important networking opportunities for innovation agencies in the EU at which selected organizations pitch their past and present projects funded under Horizon 2020 Innosup calls.

Saverio D'Eredità, Friuli Innovazione Senior Project Manager, introduced DepoSIt and its partners, explaining to the audience its main goal about enhancing the number of innovation projects from SMEs manufacturers addressing societal challenges. Social Innovation is, indeed, one of the five priorities for Friuli Innovazione in 2020, together with Additive Manufacturing, Servitization and new business models, Virtual reality and Artificial intelligence for smart manufacturing.

"With 7 H2020 Innosup projects won, Friuli Innovazione is one of the most active and successful partners in the Innovation Support collaboration scheme managed by EASME, coordinating 5 of the 57 funded projects so far" explained D'Eredità.

Great consent and interest about DepoSIt was demonstrated by conference participants who asked many questions about the Randomized Control Trial methodology application and its potential in Innovation and Economic Growth (IEG) policies.

EIT Awareness Day - Powering Croatia's innovation talent Zagreb

EIT Awareness Day - Powering Croatia's innovation talent Zagreb, on 24 February 2020 - How can innovation effectively tackle global challenges from climate change and sustainable energy to healthy living and urban mobility? The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) presents proven ways to increase Croatia's innovation potential and bring tangible solutions to pressing challenges facing Europe.

The event, co-organised with the Croatian Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts under the auspice of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union was an opportunity to benefit from and join Europe's largest innovation network of more than 1,500 leading business, research and education organisations - the EIT Community.

Innovators and firm investments are the strongest innovation dimensions in Croatia as presented in the European Commission's Innovation Scoreboard. Croatia scores well on Non-R&D innovation expenditures, SMEs with marketing or organisational innovations, and enterprises providing ICT training. Yet untapped opportunities for Croatia to expand its innovation capacity remain and that is exactly where the EIT comes in.

The EIT is Europe's most proven innovation engine powering European talents to turn their best ideas into products, services and jobs. The EIT Awareness Day in Zagreb showcased the EIT's unique innovation approach and presented how organisations, entrepreneurs, innovators and students in Croatia can join and benefit from the EIT Community network, investment and activities.

More info about the event and photos, please find [here](#).

A boost for social enterprises in Europe - new report available

To boost social enterprises, 16 EU countries have adopted new legislation during the past decade and 11 countries have created explicit policies to support its development, according to a new synthesis report 'Social enterprises and their ecosystems in Europe'.

The report highlights that public support measures need to reflect the diversity of social enterprises and their needs. For example, social enterprises focusing on work integration need long lasting partnerships with public authorities, while those using new technologies to boost sustainable consumption might lack patient risk capital, whereas non-profit organisations engaging in commercial activities need support to develop their business plans and skills.

European Social Innovation Competition

The 2020 competition, Reimagine Fashion, is calling for ideas and ventures that aim to improve the environmental and social impact of the European fashion market through the development of new products, services and processes, and innovative business models.

The competition is open to individuals, groups and organisations across the European Union and in all other countries participating in the European Horizon 2020 programme (see [list](#)). The **application period ends** on 4 March 2020, noon (CET).

For more info about the competition, please find [here](#).

More info about the report, please find [here](#).

Upcoming Events

In order to help SMEs to fully realise their potentials and overcome market failures specific to them, public support to innovation in SMEs is available with a wide range of instruments and support services.

Upcoming Activities / Events

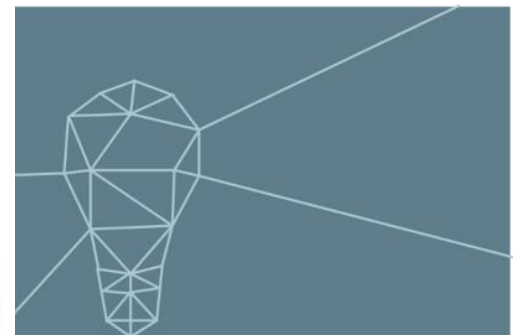
- **Open Innovation Congress in Stuttgart, 02.03.2020**
Meeting point of the Open Innovation Community
- **Unleashing Innovation 2020 in Amsterdam, 24.03.2020**
Discussions about key trends and innovative approaches
- **7th Annual R&D Process Excellence & Product Innovation Summit in Barcelona, 19.05.2020**
Exploration of the practical technical and business solutions
- **Cross-fertilization workshop on Social Innovation, 02.07.2020**
Synergies and exchange between the three EU projects DepoSIt, ASIS and Finance4SocialChange



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