

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

August 2020 / Newsletter



Launch of DepoSIt call for companies

CONTENT:

Launch of DepoSIt call for companies – Page 1

EU Capital of Innovation 2020 – Page 1

innocheck-bw Pathing the way through EU funding instruments for SMEs – Page 2

Corona financial aid programs in Baden-Württemberg – Page 2

€5 million to blockchain solutions for social innovations – Page 2

EUR 5 million for urban mobility innovations – Page 2

Social Innovation: tools and methods for would-be entrepreneurs - Page 3

Dissemination of DepoSIt project activities in South Muntenia region – Page 3

Virtual R2B meetings within 13th international technology transfer conference – Page 3

Upcoming Activities / Events Page 4

Wanted:

Innovative SMEs in the fields of Smart Health, Smart Mobility and Smart Living ready to test their innovation potential!

This week, the DepoSIt project has launched the Pilot Action which gives innovative SMEs active in these three fields the opportunity to participate in the testing of a the new Innovation audit tool developed in the frame of the project.



The Innovation audit tool serves to identify SMEs' innovation opportunities and further push their innovation potential. Interested to be a part of this Europe-wide innovation initiative?

Do not hesitate to contact our German, Croatian, Romanian, Spanish, Dutch and Italian partners!

Application is possible from now on until **30th September 2020**. We are looking forward to discovering your innovation potential with you!

More info: <https://www.depositproject.eu/join-the-pilot-action>

EU Capital of Innovation 2020

The 12 finalists for this year's European Capital of Innovation award (iCapital) have been announced! The annual European Capital of Innovation award (iCapital) celebrates and rewards European cities with outstanding innovation ecosystems which have taken up public challenges and achieved improvements for their respective citizens and businesses. While the winning city takes away the title of „European Innovation Capital of the year“ and receives a prize money of € 1 million, the five runner-up cities don't go away empty-handed with each €100,000 prize money. This year's contest has reached the final stage with twelve cities from nine countries. With four of these countries being represented in the DepoSIt consortium (NL, ESP, IT, RO), we will be closely following the announcement of winners at the European Research and Innovation Days in September 2020. Good Luck to our Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Romanian partners!



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innocheck-bw

Pathing the way through EU funding instruments for SMEs

The recently introduced **innocheck-bw** operated by Steinbeis 2i/Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum and financed by the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing Baden-Württemberg supports SMEs in finding their way through the jungle of EU funding instruments.

By filling in a short questionnaire, SMEs can get a first, cost-free consulting on suitable EU and national funding instruments for their innovation projects from experts at Steinbeis. As a second step, Steinbeis contacts the innocheck participants for an individual consulting, likewise free of costs. This kind of company-specific, tailored support is complemented with free webseminars on EU funding instruments under Horizon2020 targeting not only SMEs but also Start-ups, Mid-caps, large companies, research institutes and universities.

Corona financial aid programs in Baden-Württemberg

In the course of the Corona pandemic, the State of Baden-Württemberg has quickly launched an „Corona emergency aid” to support companies, self-employed, farmers and foresters from the existential economic threat posed by the crisis.

This first financial and non-repayable aid represented the biggest economic funding program in the history of the federal state and was an important sign of action towards the local economy.

From its launch in March 2020 to its expiring by the end of May 2020, the program has supported more than 250,000 companies with over €2 billion of financial aid to secure the economic existences under threat and to bridge liquidity shortages.

In recognition of the ongoing economic consequences of the Corona pandemic, the German government has introduced a second interim financial aid with a volume of €25 billion which companies can apply for, from July until August 2020.

€5 million to blockchain solutions for social innovations

The EIC Prize on Blockchains for Social Good has awarded €5 million to six winners selected in a call to identify scalable, deployable and high-impact blockchain solutions for societal challenges. The winning solutions propose blockchain applications for fair trade and circular economy, increasing transparency in production processes and quality information, improving accountability and contributing to financial inclusion and renewable energy.

More info: [here](#)

EUR 5 million for urban mobility innovations

10 projects were selected as part of the exceptional COVID-19 Crisis Response call to address urban mobility challenges posed by the pandemic. As part of the [EIT's Crisis Response Initiative](#), these projects directly contribute to the European Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More info: [here](#)



Dissemination of DepoSIt project activities in South Muntenia region

On June 25th, 2020, SMRDA had the opportunity to disseminate the DepoSIt project activities within the Stakeholder Group meeting of SinCE AFC Interreg project. This meeting represented a good chance to disseminate the future project activities that will be implemented and to attract potential SMEs who could benefit from the testing of a newly designed Innovation Audit tool. More info: [here](#)

Virtual R2B meetings within 13th international technology transfer conference

On 8 October 2020 Center for Technology Transfer and Innovation at the Jožef Stefan Institute organizes the 13th International Technology Transfer Conference in collaboration with the International multiconference Information Society (IS2020). The conference will tackle the following issues:

- Research and innovation for Europe
- Responsible research and innovation (concepts, good practices, experiences)
- How to include society into research and innovation planning?

More info and registration:
<https://een.ec.europa.eu>



Social Innovation: tools and methods for would-be entrepreneurs

According to the EU definition Social Innovation means developing new ideas, services and models to better address social issues. It invites input from public and private actors, including civil society, to improve social services and answer societal challenges. In order to address national and regional specific needs, policy makers are testing new measures to **support social entrepreneurship**. In this direction several EU co-funded initiatives take place every year across Europe.

Social Impact for the Alps Adriatic region ([SIAA](#)) is a cross border Interreg project; BEST instead is promoted by the AMIF programme. Both initiatives are participated by Friuli Innovazione - which is building strong expertise on this trend topic - and cover the region between Italy and Austria, reaching also Slovenia and Croatia (the so called Alpe Adria region). Both share the main goal to **create tailor made upskilling opportunities and training methods to transform social innovation ideas into proper businesses**, by teaching and coaching people about entrepreneurship mind-set and key competencies.

To test own entrepreneurial attitude and discover the potential of your social innovation idea there are **free resources** on the [SIAA website](#): a section dedicated to self-assessment tools and to deep dive the repository of training materials and SIAA Lab tools to fill in the gaps.

In case you are ready to upgrade your social entrepreneurial preparation on September 10 the **online training course** will start. It's 50 hours for free – [ask more info](#)

Social innovation is strategic not less than technology innovation!

Upcoming Events

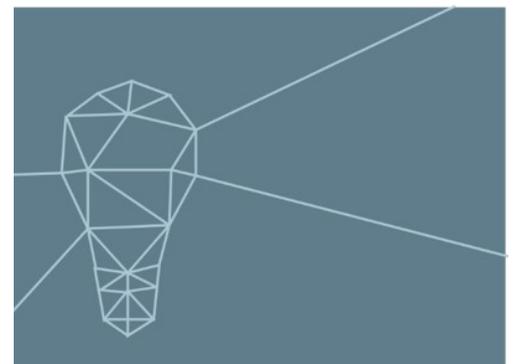
In order to help SMEs to fully realise their potentials and overcome market failures specific to them, public support to innovation in SMEs is available with a wide range of instruments and support services.

Upcoming Activities / Events of the project

- Cross-fertilization workshop on Social Innovation - October 2020
- Synergies and exchange between the three EU-funded projects DepoSIt, ASIS and Finance4SocialChange

Upcoming external events

- [FLIGHT Tech Talks](#) or how we introduce innovation in Romanian companies and the community! 2-3.09.2020
- [European Research and Innovation Days](#), 22-24.09.2020
- [Innovation Week Czech Republic](#), 29.09-4.10.2020
- [The third edition of the European Energy for Smart Mobility forum](#), 13-14.10.2020
- [CONNECT BUSINESS FORUM 2020](#), November 18, 2020



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