

RAPIDE NEWS

Issue 5

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RAPIDE



RAPIDE: A PROJECT FOR EUROPE'S GOOD

During the European Week of Regions and Cities 5 – 8 October in Brussels, the RAPIDE network made its way to the elite of Europe's projects. The hard work of RAPIDE and its partners was very well received by the European Commission and the wider European innovation society.

RAPIDE exhibition



RAPIDE was showcased on 8 October in the OPEN DAYS tent. It was one out of only two capitalisation projects which were invited to present their concrete actions on the esplanade, in front of the European Commission's headquarter, showing the importance of RAPIDE..

Radek Novotny, from the South Bohemian RAPIDE partner, used this opportunity to showcase two concrete activities which will be implemented via the RAPIDE project.

The online pitching software and the start-up evaluation tool BLUES were of high interest for the visitors. The BLUES software will probably be included in the Innovation Incubator Guideline of DG REGIO.



RAPIDE dissemination

RAPIDE was also invited to be presented at the DG ENTR & DG RTD seminar on regional innovation strategies. Lorelei Hunt and Norbert Grasselli demonstrated how a Fast Track Capitalisation project as RAPIDE can be used to influence and improve not only the regional, but the national, innovation strategy.



It is due to RAPIDE that the Hungarian National Development Agency will include the new idea of Pre-Commercial Procurement in their future strategy.

RAPIDE co-operation



Last but not least, the Steering Group members worked together effectively, showing once again how the partnership of RAPIDE has strengthened over the last year. The network itself, successfully showcases that trust is the key for any successful co-operation.

Pre-Commercial Procurement Fostering innovation in Europe.

The public sector in the EU is faced with important societal challenges: the impacts of an ageing population on our social and health care system, the fight against climate change, etc. Addressing such challenges can require new and better solutions.

How can Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) help to square this circle ?

PCP is an approach for procuring R&D services which enables public procurers to:

- share the risks and benefits of designing, prototyping and testing new products and services with the suppliers; in a way that is inline with relevant international and EU legislation on public procurement without involving State aid
- create optimum conditions for wide commercialization and take-up of R&D results
- pool the efforts of several procurers

By acting as demanding first buyers of new R&D, public procurers can drive innovation from the demand side. This enables European public authorities to innovate the provision of public services faster and creates opportunities for companies in Europe to take international leadership in new markets. Reducing time to market by developing a strong European home market for innovative products and services is key for Europe to create growth and jobs.

More info on PCP can be found on the PCP website.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/pcp/home_en.html



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RAPIDE IS ACTIVE

Between 6th and 8th October 2009 the RAPIDE network showed once more what an effective partnership can achieve within a short time. Within those three days the RAPIDE network managed to organise 8 different workshops, seminars and presentations on the RAPIDE sub-themes.

Each RAPIDE Action Group met at least once to discuss its questions and findings with experts from the European Commission and the private sector.

- Innovation Voucher

The Innovation Voucher Group met with 4 different experts gaining knowledge about numerous different voucher designs throughout Europe.

Follow up:

Now it is up to the individual partners to design their own regional voucher schemes.

The whole group got invited to a practical voucher workshop organised by Greenovate-Europe and DG REGIO.

- Pre-Commercial Procurement

The Innovative Procurement group led by Eszak-Alfold met with 2 experts from Flanders and the DG INFSO to discuss the possibilities of implementing a PCP project within the respective regions.

Follow up:

The Hungarian Development Agency already agreed to open a call for such a project in 2010. The RAPIDE partners also plan to set up a follow up project under the lead marker initiative to train the regional procurers.

- Business – Academia co-operation

This group highlighted the importance of innovation labs as potential intermediates between business and academia.

Follow up:

It is envisaged to organise a fact finding mission for the core team to good practice examples in the UK or elsewhere in Europe.

- Effective Funding

This group concentrated on Business Angel Networks and was supported by two experts from the UK and DG ENTR.

Follow up:

The South Bohemian Partner is designing an online pitching software enabling a standardised selection of innovators within our regions. The prototype will be available on the RAPIDE website.

RAPIDE is a step ahead

The RAPIDE network agreed at the steering group meeting on 6 October 2009 to start with the capitalisation of the RAPIDE Actions already within the lifecycle of the project.

This means taking the Fast Track seriously and finalising the RAPIDE Action Plans already by May 2010.

In that respect, the RAPIDE Team already agreed with DG REGIO on a high profile working **conference exclusively for RAPIDE in the week of 22 – 26 March 2010.**

In addition to this, there will be a **RAPIDE signing ceremony together with the Commissioner** for regional development at the Regions for Economic Change conference on **20 May 2010.**

The final conference on 15 – 16 June 2010 will be used to discuss the first implementation steps of the actions.

Beyond RAPIDE

Additional events with RAPIDE participation: Capitalisation Conference, Gothenburg, 9/10 December 2009



“European Week of Innovative Regions 15th – 18th March 2010 in Granada - Spain.



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RAPIDE Actions

