



SPEED UP

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Foundation for Research and Innovation: the Best Practice and its projects

Chiara Guiggiani

Junior Project Manager at Foundation for Research and Innovation

chiara.guiggiani@unifi.it

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Foundation for Research and Innovation insights

Who are we?

<http://eng.fondazionericercaunifi.it/>

Who are our founders/participants?

FRI is promoted by the [University of Florence](#), [Metropolitan City of Florence](#) and [Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze](#) and aims at **technology transfer** and **higher education**

What do we do?

FRI is involved in:

- organization of events
- participation into territorial initiatives
- highlight the results of research
- contributing to the diffusion of a culture of innovation



Foundation for Research and Innovation as a stakeholder

Participation Foundation as a player for a territorial social and economic development, an entity representing a **triple helix**

Main purposes:

Strengthen synergies among University, Enterprises and Institutions

Deepen the collaboration among local stakeholder

Spotlight on entrepreneurship and innovative thinking

Technology transfer and higher education

Diffusion of a culture of innovation

Funding opportunities for innovation

Focus on social and productive challenges

Highlight the results of research



Foundation's main activities





The Best Practice contents

A specific multilevel pathway

- TCM(tutoring, coaching, mentoring)
- Matchmaking
- Networking
- Fundraising
- Training
- And much more

Functional to:

- Startup growth
- Incubation
- Acceleration
- Productive fabric


New things to come in


New things to come out



Impresa Campus Unifi (ICU)



Partners

FRI, CsaVRI, Federmanager, bank Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze (FCRF)



Target

Near-graduates, graduates, near-PHDs, PHDs



About ICU

Pilot project in 2013, (6th edition planned)
5 months long training program



Objectives

Create and spread entrepreneurial culture through:

- collecting ideas and skills coming from different academic fields
- creating interesting cross-fertilization opportunities
- networking and team building activities



Resources

30.000€/edition (FCRF)
HR: FRI, CsaVRI



Project to support innovative startups belonging to Florence metropolitan area



Partners

FRI, Metropolitan City of Florence, FCRF



Target

Innovative startups of Metropolitan City of Florence



About the project

June 2016 – January 2017

TCM services

Project as part of Strategic Metropolitan Plan



Objectives

Support and acceleration for startups through:

- understanding of local needs
- development of customized services (TCM, fundraising, networking, matchmaking)



Resources

60.000€/edition, FCRF

HR: FRI



Hubble acceleration program



Partners

FRI, Nana Bianca startup studio, FCRF



Target

European entrepreneurs and innovative startups



About Hubble acceleration program

1st edition April 2017- April 2018

1st batch April 2017 (4 startups), two more batches to come

Starting-up and pure acceleration program of 16 weeks, 3-5 startups each



Objective

Scouting, tutoring, mentoring, starting-up/business acceleration of the best European entrepreneurial ideas focused on digital market

Attraction of new investments



Resources

Max. 50.000€/startups, 1st edition with 500.000€ (FCRF)

HR: Nana Bianca, FRI, FCRF



Faber project



Partners

FRI, FCRF, Confindustria Firenze (Trade Association)



Target

Local companies, Researchers coming from academic world



About Faber project

1st edition November 2016, 6 winners

1 year project replicable for two more

Optimize the academic educational activities to link them with enterprises' needs



Objective

Implement R&D activities with high innovative impact within companies



Resources

Grant of 21.000€/researcher, total funds allocated 320.000€, of which 300.000€ FCRF, 20.000€ Confindustria Firenze

HR: FRI, FCRF, Confindustria Firenze



Pillars

Impresa Campus Unifi

- Graduate and Ph. Ds students
- Support of Universities
- Training programs developed by Universities

Hubble acceleration program

- Entrepreneurs & startups
- Acceleration and co-working spaces
- Funding and training programs

Project to support innovative startups belonging to Metropolitan Florence area

- Startups
- Customized services through training programs
- Governative entities with interest in new entrepreneurship

Faber project

- Local companies, researchers
- Funding entity aiming at promoting development, innovation, employability
- Innovative projects



Challenges

Impresa Campus Unifi

- Knowledge transfer
- Workability of entrepreneurial ideas

Project to support innovative startups belonging to Florence area

- Communication channels to involve startups
- Startup segmentation
- Startup networking, to enhance the ecosystem
- Collecting local needs and implementing specific policies, through PAs

Hubble acceleration program

- Suitable grants
- Define shared selection criteria
- Startups studio/co-working space active on the territory
- Digital & business mentors/experts
- Scouted and customized training program

Faber project

- Spread of the call (21 attendees)
- Match between University and companies (ICT experts)
- Co-financing researchers' salary



The impacts

- **Enhanced expertise** of people involved in the projects
- **Strengthen of companies**, especially startups (e.g. upgrade of products/services range supplied and consequently market expansion)
 - Increase in entrepreneurial awareness and expertise
 - Increased employment rate on the area of Florence
 - Increased competitiveness and profitability
 - Expansion in contacts and networking
- **Easier access** to private/public funds
- Increased **knowledge of local needs** from stakeholders (e.g. implementation of specific policies)



Conclusions

A specific multilevel pathway

Essential to the Best Practice is to:

Be a subject with a language in common with all the other stakeholders

Connect different stakeholders

Provide access to information and to local activities/events

Implement impacting initiatives with benefits for territory

Questions?



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Project's media
