



SIE Project Internationalisation Case Study – Molise “Go and come back”

Background:

Like many of the SIE project partner regions, Molise has relatively low levels of internationalisation among its SME community as well as challenges with young people leaving the region to find employment. In order to address these issues and encourage the development of new international companies, the Molise region developed the innovative “Go & Come Back” project which aims to boost SME internationalisation in the region by providing overseas work placements for young people.

Project Objectives:

- To promote entrepreneurship and business development in Molise and create international businesses
- To creation international partnerships and business relations to help with SME internationalisation
- To involve young people from Molise and promote the Molise Region across the world and make use of the "Made in Italy" brand
- To boost high quality employment opportunities for young people from Molise through providing training opportunities in international markets

Project Overview:

The project offers international work placements to 40 graduates from the Molise region so that they can gain valuable work experience abroad in order to bring back international skills, connections and experience which can be used in the region to create a range of new international companies.

Young people from the region were invited to apply to participate in the programme which offered 40 work placements in another country.

Opportunities and placements were identified through a network of individuals or organisations from Molise who are living and working in companies all over the world. These networks include associations of Italian people abroad, international Chambers of Commerce

The placements, which are funded by the project (up to €13,500), enable young people to experience working in another country in a dynamic company environment, building up connections and knowledge which they can bring back to the region. Placements are with companies or other organisations such as embassies in other countries, both within and beyond the EU and the host organisations take care of the logistical and practical arrangements for the young person.

On completion of the placement, the young people return, they are offered a financial incentive of up to €20,000 to establish a new international business in the Molise region. They also have the option to partner with up to 4 other young people involved in the scheme to pool resources in order to have a bigger investment of up to €100,000 combined for an international start-up.



Project Structure:

The project is divided into 4 phases:

1. Preparation and orientation
2. Foreign training placements (6 months duration)
3. Return & create a new company
4. Financial incentives (tax credits) for companies in Molise or abroad recruiting young people having completed the programme

Resources:

The programme has a total budget of over €1.1m funded by the regional ESF and ERDF programme. The programme budget can cover the costs of international work placements for 40 young people as well as grants (up to €20,000) to the individuals on their return to establish a new international company in the region. Participants also have the possibility of partnering with other fellow participants to pool their grants and set up a single, larger company.

Links to Policies:

The “Go & Come Back” project was part-financed by the regional Operational Programme in Molise through the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund.

Results & Impacts:

The project is currently underway (February 2017) so results and impacts have not yet been assessed.

Transferability:

The scheme could operate successfully in other European regions with good international connections and access to funding resources to deliver a similar programme.

Sustainability:

The long term impacts of the project should be the creation of new companies in the Molise region. If these are successful, the companies could grow and create high value employment opportunities for the local population as well as boosting international trade activities in the region.