Good Practice template

* All Good Practices identified by an Interreg Europe project and reported in the progress reports have to be submitted to the Programme.
* In order to submit a practice, you will have to register in the Interreg Europe website. Online submission will be available the first semester of 2017.
* NB: in orange: 2 optional fields. All other fields are compulsory.

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| 1. **General information** | |
| **Title of the practice** | **Innovation Centre of Usti Region** |
| **Does this practice come from an Interreg Europe Project** | *NO* |

In case ‘yes’ is selected, the following sections appear:

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| ***Please select the project acronym*** | *ICUK* |

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| **Specific objective** | 1.2 Improving innovation Delivery policies  Rural SMEs to consolidate and overcome barriers to their growth and competitiveness | |
| **Main institution involved** | Usti Region  University of Jan Evangelista Purkyne  Regional Chamber of Commerce of Usti Region | |
| **Location of the practice** | Country | Czech Republic |
| NUTS 1 | *CZ 0* |
| NUTS 2 | CZ 04 Severozapad (Northwest) |
| NUTS 3 | Usti nad Labem |

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| 1. **Detailed description** | |
| **Detailed information on the practice** | Establishment of the Innovation Centre of Usti Region (hereinafter “ICUK”) is based on the Regional Innovation Strategy approved by the council of the Usti Region on 26. 2. 2014 Resolution no. 79 / 13Z / 2014 and the Memorandum on partnership and cooperation in research, development, innovation and technology transfer among the Usti Region, University of Jan Evangelista Purkyne in Usti nad Labem and the Regional Chamber of Commerce of Usti Region.  Purpose and principal activity of the organisation The purpose of ICUK is to build effective cooperation in the framework of its members by systematic institutional support of research and development activities in the Usti region, apply it to practice and to ensure continued support for innovative activities in the sphere of application, technology transfer, as well as promote cross-border cooperation between research institutions and enterprises. The aim is to support the intensity, quality and speed of innovation and technology transfer into the economic practice of the region.  The principal activities of ICUK are in particular: a) ensure the implementation of the Regional Innovation Strategy of the Usti Region,  coordination of activities implemented under the strategy and ensuring its update; b) identification of supply and demand in science, research, innovation and knowledge transfer; c) promotion of involvement of institutions, academic staff and students of the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyne in Usti nad Labem (hereinafter "UJEP"), other universities and research organizations and centers to contract research with industry; d) supporting the commercialization of research and creative activity; e) promoting the transfer of knowledge, science and creative activity in the application area (within the private and public sector); f) provision of information on opportunities and sources of funding of science, research, innovation and technology transfer, in particular information on obtaining grants and subsidies; g) provision of information about funding opportunities and support cooperation between academic institutions (science, innovation, design) and the private sector; h) promotion of cooperation between higher education and research institutions, businesses and public administrations in the border region (Saxony, Poland); i) support of the development of small and medium enterprises in the region focused on advanced products, technologies and services with high added value, including mental emerging businesses and budding entrepreneurs; creating conditions for the emergence and development of small innovative companies; j) support for students and young academics UJEP and other universities and research institutions in setting up companies (start-ups); k) promoting the development of human resources for science, creativity and innovation in the region; l) provision and the provision of educational services; m) advice on obtaining grants and subsidies, in particular for SMEs, innovation support and research and development projects, n) seeking partners for the implementation of projects financed from grant sources. |
| **Resources needed** | Financial resources required for implementation of the practice are submitted as membership contributions of the founders (Usti Region, University of Jan Evangelista Purkyne and Regional Chamber of Commerce of Usti Region). The annual budget covered by the founders is about EUR 120 000, additional resources are provided by projects and by providing paid services.  The Innovation Centre started with 2 part-time employees when founded and has grown to the current 13 employees, both full-time and part-time.  In terms of human resources this practice requires top skilled experts. |
| **Timescale (start/end date)** | Founded November 2015 – ongoing operation. |
| **Evidence of success (results achieved)** | Success is illustrated by the number of supported projects and provided services. As for the year 2016, 21 events were organized with more than 850 participants, the first run of the incubation programme was launched with the result of 3 new enterprises founded, and 15 partnerships between companies and universities were supported. |
| **Difficulties encountered/ lessons learned** | It is hard to find skilled experts for the positions in this type of organization. |
| **Potential for learning or transfer** | *[1000 characters] Please explain why you consider this practice (or some aspects of this practice) as being potentially interesting for other regions to learn from. This can be done e.g. through information on key success factors for a transfer or on, factors that can hamper a transfer. Information on transfer(s) that already took place can also be provided (if possible, specify the country, the region – NUTS 2 – and organisation to which the practice was transferred)*  *[Technical: A good practice be edited throughout a project life time (e.g. to add information on the transfers that have occurred)]* |
| **Further information** | www.icuk.cz |
| **Contact details** *[Technical: the contact details will be visible only to “Policy Learning Platforms registered members”* | |
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| **Expert opinion** | *[500 characters] [****Technical: to be filled in by the Policy Learning Platforms experts****]* |