



INNOVA FOSTER

FOSTERING STARTUP & INNOVATION
ECOSYSTEMS IN EUROPE

Good Practices Study

Good Practices Study

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1 INNOVA FOSTER: Who are we?

INNOVA FOSTER aims at leveraging Startups growth through their engagement into the innovation processes at local or regional level and improving their role as regional and industry innovation providers.

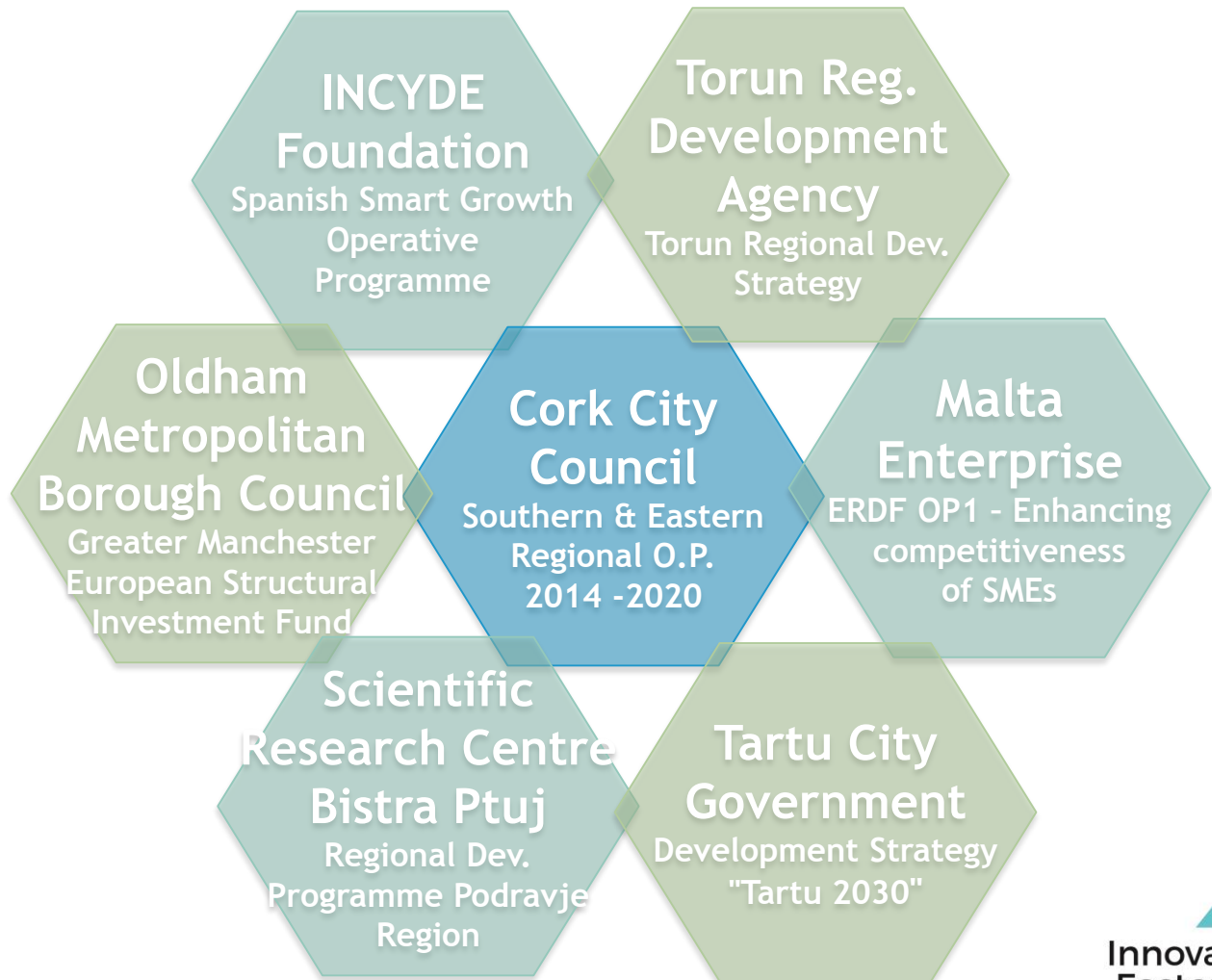
7 partners in European regions = 7 policies addressed



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INNOVA FOSTER: Who are we?

7 partners in European regions = 7 policies addressed



2 Methodology for the Study

Innova Foster Study Methodology

Compilation & analysis of info produced by the Project

- Local ecosystem diagnostics
- 14 good practices
- Thematic workshops

External information contribution

- SWOT ecosystem diagnostics
- 2 extra good practices
- Partners' interviews
- Stakeholders' feedback

Final Conclusions

- Needs
- Solutions
- Improvements
- Good Practices



Innova Foster partners aggregate SWOT analysis:

- Common strengths and weaknesses among some regions.
- Matching weaknesses to the strengths of other partners.

STRENGTHS

- Healthy start-up ecosystem in most of the partnering regions.
- Strong business support offer
- Highly educated human capital

WEAKNESSES

- Poor dialogue and understanding of business needs
- Limited access to finance
- Risk-averse culture
- Poor academia-Industry linkages

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increased awareness of business opportunities for SMEs
- Multiple public & private support initiatives and education for new entrepreneurs


THREATS

- Brain drain
- Legal and economic policies uncertainty (Brexit...)
- Demographics: ageing society, youth migrations
- Peripheral location /small domestic markets depending on the region


After careful analysis of all the learnings and exchange of experiences generated through Innova Foster's activities, the partner organizations, with input from their respective stakeholders, proceeded to collect the **14 Good Practices (2 per partner)** considered most relevant:

PARTNER	GOOD PRACTICES
INCYDE Foundation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aerospace Incubator of Technological Transfer 2. Inclusive Entrepreneurship Model (Barcelona Activa)
Torun Regional Development Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Support for Academic Entrepreneurship in the Kuyavian and Pomeranian region 4. Startup Weekend Torun
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. GC Mentoring Programme 6. VentureFest North West
Cork City Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Innovation Voucher Programme 8. Innovation Partnership Programme
Malta Enterprise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Business START 10. Life Sciences Centre Setting up
Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. PODIM Conference 12. TKALKA / WEAWER
Tartu City Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. sTARTUp Day Business Festival 14. Kaleidoskoop/Idealab



	PRACTICE 1: AEROSPACE INCUBATOR OF TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER
Organisation in charge of the good practice	INCYDE FOUNDATION
Location	Sevilla, Andalusia (Spain)
Summary	<p>This initiative's main objective is to foster regional productivity specifically supporting the development of one of the main sectors in the region of Andalusia, which is the Aerospace sector. Andalusia is the second most important region in Spain in the aerospace sector.</p> <p>Further information</p>



 Barcelona Activa Barcelona Emprendoria <small>La web de Barcelona para las personas emprendedoras</small>	PRACTICE 2: INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP MODEL
Organisation in charge of the good practice	Barcelona Activa
Location	Barcelona, Catalonia (Spain)
Summary	<p>This initiative's main objective is to coach entrepreneurs from their business idea to the setting up of their company.</p> <p>The Inclusive Entrepreneurship Model is a genuine solution that mainly combines the economic and social dimension using physical and on-line channels to provide the services, offering both individual and group coaching and in cooperation with the city's ecosystem.</p> <p>Further information</p>



	PRACTICE 3: SUPPORT FOR ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE KUYAVIAN AND POMERANIAN REGION
Organisation in charge of the good practice	Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship
Location	Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship (Poland)
Summary	<p>The practice is established under a sub-measure of the Regional Operational Programme of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, planned for the support of academic entrepreneurship in the region. It consists of competitions conducted to support research and development processes in academic enterprises and provide support for spin-off enterprises.</p> <p>Further information</p>



	PRACTICE 4: STARTUP WEEKEND TORUN
Organisation in charge of the good practice	Exea Smart Space
Location	Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship (Poland)
Summary	<p>Startup Weekend is a 54-hour event supported by Google and Techstars. The event is for individuals (regardless of their professions or competencies) who have ideas for innovative solutions or new businesses and who want to put them into practice. It is an event that helps to build a startup community, startup culture and creating impact in local city or region.</p> <p>Further information</p>



 Business Growth Hub	PRACTICE 5: GC MENTORING PROGRAMME
Organisation in charge of the good practice	Business Growth Hub
Location	Oldham, Greater Manchester (United Kingdom)
Summary	<p>The GC Mentoring Programme provides an opportunity for businesses to access direct experience free of charge via experienced mentors that are suited to the mentees needs and preferences.</p> <p>Further information</p>



	PRACTICE 6: VENTUREFEST NORTH WEST
Organisation in charge of the good practice	Business Growth Hub
Location	Oldham, Greater Manchester (United Kingdom)
Summary	<p>VentureFest North West is an event that helps businesses find funding and support to suit their needs. It brings together the NW region's innovators, entrepreneurs and investors to facilitate business connections, growth opportunities and new ideas.</p> <p>Further information</p>



PRACTICE 7: INNOVATION VOUCHERS PROGRAMME

Organisation in charge of the good practice

Enterprise Ireland

Location

Cork Regional Office (Ireland)

Summary

The Programme's objective is to **promote and encourage a transfer of knowledge between Ireland's public knowledge providers and the small business community**, creating greater synergies between the two. Vouchers worth €5,000 are allocated on a semi-competitive basis to small businesses whose proposals, to work with public knowledge providers on specific innovation questions, meet basic criteria.

[Further information](#)




INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME
 collaborating for future success
an Enterprise Ireland programme

PRACTICE 8: INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Organisation in charge of the good practice

Enterprise Ireland

Location

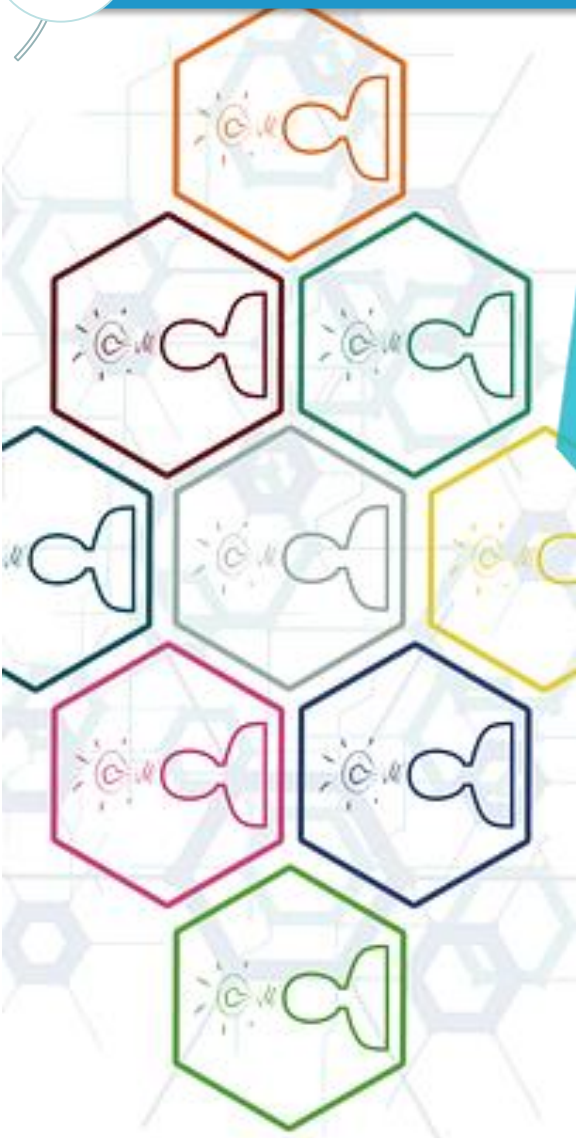
Cork Regional Office / Dublin HQ (Ireland)

Summary

The Innovation Partnership Programme **encourages Irish-based companies to work with Irish research institutes** resulting in mutually beneficial co-operation and interaction.

Companies can access expertise and resources to develop new and improved products, processes, services, and generate new knowledge and know-how.

[Further information](#)



PRACTICE 9: BUSINESS START

Organisation in charge of the good practice

Malta Enterprise

Location


Malta

Summary

Malta Enterprise, via Business START is offering a **seed funding for start-ups**. The measure is intended to support Small Start-up Undertakings that have a viable business concept and are in the early stage of its development. Initiatives that are deemed to be economically viable shall be supported through a **grant of up to €25,000**.

[Further information](#)



	PRACTICE 10: SETTING UP A LIFE SCIENCES CENTRE
Organisation in charge of the good practice	Malta Enterprise
Location	Malta
Summary	<p>The Malta Life Sciences Centre is part of the Malta Life Sciences Park (MLSP), which was designed to promote R&D and to spur the growth of the life sciences sector in Malta, building on the base that the country developed in the pharmaceutical industry during the last decade. The Centre is helping to increase skills in the sector and drive new FDI and RTD activity and incubate new enterprises.</p> <p>Further information</p>



PODIM

PRACTICE 11: PODIM CONFERENCE

Organisation in charge of the good practice

Several (Start:up Alpe Adria, Initiative Start:up Slovenia, University of Maribor among others)

Location

Podravie, Maribor (Slovenia)

Summary

PODIM is the **largest and leading conference on entrepreneurship, startups and innovation in the Alps-Adriatic region**. This Good Practice gives the Startups of the region the opportunity to meet with potential investors, corporate representatives, and other potential strategic partners from the ranks of PODIM speakers, experts and investors.

[Further information](#)



PRACTICE 12: TKALKA / WEAVER	
	
Organisation in charge of the good practice	Cooperative Tkalka
Location	Podravie, Maribor (Slovenia)
Summary	<p>Tkalka/Weaver is a co-working and a social process space, promoting new ways of collaboration in society and development of new social practices.</p> <p>Further information</p>



PRACTICE 13: STARTUP DAY

Organisation in charge of the good practice

University of Tartu and City of Tartu

Location

Tartu, South-Estonia (Estonia)

Summary

sSTARTUp Day is the **biggest business festival in the Baltic States..**

This good practice tries to encourage people to become more entrepreneurial and innovative, give ideas on how to avoid common mistakes and create collaborations between entrepreneurs, startups, corporations and ecosystem organizations.

[Further information](#)



KALEIDOSKOOP

PRACTICE 14: KALEIDOSKOOP/IDEALAB

Organisation in charge of the good practice

University of Tartu, Tartu City

Location

Tartu, South-Estonia (Estonia)

Summary

Idea Lab is a pre-incubation program, consisting of a series of events with the goal of providing mentorship to students. Within these events, a pitching competition called **Kaleidoskoop** is organized. It is the biggest students' business and project ideas competition in South Estonia. The competition is intended to support the students in Tartu and help teams shape their ideas into tested business models.

[Further information](#)

5 Conclusions

**TRANSFER OF GOOD PRACTICES
AMONG PARTNERS THROUGH
THE ACTION PLANS DEVELOPED
IN INNOVA FOSTER**

**IDENTIFICATION OF
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
FUTURE COOPERATION**

**IDENTIFICATION OF 2 EXTERNAL
GOOD PRACTICES:**

- Enel Innovation Hubs
- Venture Capital in Singapore

Twitter: [@innova_foster](https://twitter.com/innova_foster)

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Access to full **Good Practices Study**