

# FAST FORWARD EUROPE

## 01/2019 – 06/2019

### STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETINGS

- **PP1 – France**

The fifth stakeholder meeting took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June at AD Normandie’s facilities in Colombelles. Four stakeholders attended, from Caen Développement Agency, the Metropolitan city of “Caen La Mer”, FFWD Normandie and the Xport Accelerator. The agenda listed several topics, such as the state of the project, reports on the staff exchanges of the semester, feedback on the Interreg Europe “Europe, Let’s Cooperate !” event, communication activities, the elaboration of the Action Plan and the next steps of the project.

The most important point of the meeting was the Action Plan and the Whitebook. AD Normandie introduced the idea of the Whitebook to the stakeholders, who responded with enthusiasm to this project. They suggested ideas to include in this document, such as testimonies from beneficiaries of the project activities. Then, the plans for the Regional Action Plan were introduced to the stakeholders. The actions are still being defined, but one of them should be to try to modify the ERDF program to benefit acceleration structures in the region. AD Normandie gathered the stakeholder’s support and took their advices in how to approach this action. They manifested interest in helping us to achieve this goal.

The meeting was wrapped up by mentioning the next events of the project: the Interregional Learning Event in Hannover and the final meeting in Kaunas. Stakeholders stated their will to come to these events in order to learn from other partner’s practices

and to introduce their own programs. Discussions started with AD Normandie to bring them to these events.



- **PP2 – Germany**

N/A

- **PP4 - Spain**

The fifth meeting of the stakeholder group took place at CEEIM's facilities on May, 30<sup>th</sup> with the attendance of six members of the stakeholder group. The agenda of the meeting was divided in four topics, (i) Staff Exchange in Torino and last activities, (ii) presentation of 2 good practices: International Mentoring Program & Fundamenta Acceleration Program, (iii) Methodology, working structure and timeframe to develop the action plan, (iv) next milestones.

The core of the meeting was the presentation of 2 good practices identified in our staff exchange last march in Torino, Italy. Firstly, we explained the main features of the International Mentoring Program organized by the Chambers of Commerce of Torino. We took a while to analyze the fifth edition from the framework, timeframe, structure to big numbers. Right after this, we presented the other good practice which raised our interest in our visit to Italy – Fundamenta Acceleration Program. We emphasized the good structure of the program and the great professionals we met in our visit to their offices. We presented to the stakeholders the features of the program, activities carried out, investment ticket, criteria for projects evaluation, impact areas and steps of the program.

We concluded this part of the presentation pointing out what inputs we found interesting to implement in our Action Plan. Stakeholders showed interest in the International Mentoring Program. They confirmed that similar projects have been forecasted in the last years but they were not effectively executed. They emphasized that they saw the program a new and good option for local SMEs to go international. They also found interested to connect this program with the actual financials aids for international growth existing in the Region of Murcia.



- **PP5 - Hungary**

The fifth meeting of the stakeholder group took place at IFKA Public Benefit Non-profit Limited Company for the Development of the Industry on the 31st of May with the attendance local and regional stakeholders. The agenda of the meeting had three main sections: (1) Staff Exchange in Torino (2) Presentation of Good practices: International Mentoring Program and MIP – Mettersi in Proprio (3) Discussing the possibilities of how to support Hungarian SMEs more efficiently.

The main focus of the meeting was the discussion based on the good practices learnt during the Staff Exchange in Torino. First, we presented the methods of the Mentoring Programs. After that we started a discussion about the methodology and the process of mentoring taking into consideration that in Hungary there is an ongoing National Mentoring Program for SMEs.

In the second part of the stakeholder meeting the local situation was analyzed. Advantages and disadvantages of the regulations, accessibility of support (financial and/or professional) and the situation of entrepreneurs and enterprises. The main conclusion was that it is crucial to see good practices of other enterprises and even of other countries and implement some elements in the Hungarian practice as well. At the end of the meeting along with the participants we could assign some paths that could be the basis when finalizing the actions for the Action Plan.



- **PP6 – Italy**

Regarding the stakeholders meetings report, partner informed that they have not organized any in this semester, as their stakeholders have been fully involved in staff exchange activities (both in Turin and in Caen). They forecast to have one meeting in September.

- **PP7 - Lithuania**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February Lithuanian partner, Kaunas STP, organized its 5<sup>th</sup> regional stakeholders' meeting at Kaunas STP facilities, Kaunas. Event has been attended by 10 people: representatives of SMEs, business support sector. First of all, Kaunas STP made an overview of the concept of FFWD Europe and laid out the main achievements reached by the project consortium so far.

As it is one year left until the end of the phase one, the aim of this meeting was make first steps in the development of the Action plan and to get stakeholders' group involved in the process.

Members of Kaunas STP team took part in the „Webinar on designing Action plans“ organised by the Interreg Europe office in January 24. Therefore, Irma Bagdonienė (Kaunas STP) made an overview of the information she got and presented not only the theoretical part, but also the good/bad practices of the development of Action plans in another regions Europe wide. After this, Kaunas STP's initial intentions in improvement of policy instrument (Lithuanian Innovation Development Programme 2014-2020) stated in the application form were presented. The presentation was followed by a short discussion about the results achieved by the Programme so far. Participants expressed their concern that the team of the policy owner, the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania, has been replaced for several times during the period of the FFWD Europe project.

All stakeholders agreed that at the moment the focus should be put on staff exchange activities. As Kaunas STP is directly interested in business acceleration processes, especially in accelerators supported by the governance/EU and how to switch such accelerators to self-sustained entities in the future, institution has chosen two good practices to visit: FFWD Normandie (France) and High Growth Innovative Enterprises (Hungary).

At the end of the meeting all attendees were informed about the next steps in the project and promised to keep stakeholders' group updated regarding project activities.



*Kaunas STP facilities, Kaunas, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019*



- **PP8 – Poland**

N/A