



ERMIS

“Fostering Innovation in SMEs”

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- **Central role of SMEs in European Economies**
 - ✓ Weight in economies
 - ✓ Role to convey knowledge spillovers*

- **Innovation: a critical issue for SMEs**
 - ✓ Hypercompetition: non-linear, 360° innovation
 - ✓ Innovation determinants: SMEs differ from large firms

- **Key role of public policies to foster innovation**
 - ✓ Heterogeneous level of innovativeness in SMEs*
 - ✓ Public financing stimulate intensity and novelty of innovation**

* Observatory of European SMEs, UE, 2007, ** Aerts and Czarnitski, 2008

- **Low level of innovation practice in EU SMEs***
 - ✓ Low % of income from innovations (12%)
 - ✓ Low degree of novelty of innovations

- **Constraints of innovation in SMEs***
 - ✓ Access to finance
 - ✓ Access to competences
 - ✓ Access to markets

- **Efficient Local Innovation Systems****
 - ✓ Better understand determinants of capability clusters
 - ✓ Better understand local innovation management performance
 - ✓ Increase intermediaries competency of innovation management

* Observatory of European SMEs, UE, 2007 - **IMP³rove, Europe INNOVA, 2008

□ Questions addressed

- ✓ What makes a Local Innovation System effective ?
- ✓ ... likely to foster growth in SMEs thanks to effective management of non-linear innovation: Technological, Marketing and Organizational Innovation ?

□ Objectives and expected contributions

- ✓ Identify good practices, tools and transferable methods to make LIS effective in leveraging innovation in SMEs
- ✓ Design a governance framework and methodological tools to effectively manage LIS and maximize return on public and private investments

- **Avoiding biases of purely inductive studies**
 - ✓ Existing practices are contingency-dependent
 - ✓ Environment turbulences require permanent adaptation
 - ✓ Sole benchmarking is not innovative: “structural myopia”

- **A transferrable methodology of LIS management**
 - ✓ Work on LIS **determinants** instead of LIS **characteristics**
=> review of research works and field outputs focused on SMEs
 - ✓ Model of determinant-dependent guidelines of LIS management
 - ✓ SWOT analyses / LIS determinants at each partner’s level
=> best practices / LIS determinants
 - ✓ Field test of best practices to measure transferability
=> Fine-tuned model of transferable LIS governance model

9 countries, 15 partners (public bodies, incubators, innovation centres, Chambers of Commerce) **dedicated to Innovation Management for SMEs**

French Riviera Chamber of Commerce (FR)
Sophia Antipolis Communauté Agglomération (FR)
Cesena Municipality (IT)
CISE (IT)
Eindhoven Municipality (NL)
Penela Municipality (PT)
IPN Incubator - Ideas and Business Incubator (PT)
Miskolc Municipality (HU)
Miskolc Holding Plc. (HU)
ADEuropa Foundation (ES)
Region of North Aegean (GR)
Samos Chamber of Commerce (GR)
The Municipality of Hørsholm (DK)
Copenhagen Regional Agency (Erhvervnet) (DK)
Iasi Municipality (RO)

- 02/2010: start-up meeting - Sophia Antipolis
- 04/2010: launching conference - Sophia Antipolis
- 04-09/2010: review of academic research on LIS
- 09/2010: academic research outputs – Brussels
- 09-11/2010: methodology model for regional SWOT analyses
- 03/2011: 1st Interregional Innovation Workshop – Miskolc
Results of SWOT analyses + draft catalogue of best practices of LIS
- 03-09/2011: 1st intensified transfer of best practices
- 06/2011: Mid-term conference - Coimbra
- 09/2011: 2nd Interregional Innovation Workshop – Valladolid
- 09-02/2012: 2nd intensified transfer of best practices
- 02/2012: 3rd Interregional Innovation Workshop - Eindhoven
- 03-08/2012: LIS policy recommendations paper incl. charter of good practices, set of governance guidelines, regional action plans

- **Models of development of SMEs on the French Riviera**
=> disseminate our core expertise in ICT
 - ✓ Support ICT-receptive new industries
=> ICT-Energy, ICT-Construction, ICT-Healthcare, ICT-Mechanics
 - ✓ Leverage expertise of mature clusters via ICT dissemination
=> ICT-Tourism, ICT-support services

- **Sustainable energy: a central issue for French Riviera**
 - ✓ Fragile energy network (high risk of black out)
 - ✓ Large construction programs
 - ✓ A benchmark territory for sustainable development
 - ✓ The necessity of developing local markets for local SMEs
=> ICT and Sustainable Energy applications

**Thank you
for your attention !**