



TII Newsletter

24 JUNE 2008

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TRAINING IN TUSCANY

- This year we are delighted to invite you to join us in Tuscany at the Scuola Internazionale de Alta Formazione in Volterra for TII's 2008 summer school. Since it was inaugurated 8 years ago, the TII summer school has been offering **high quality, practical training to technology transfer and innovation support practitioners**, in a relaxed, multi-cultural learning environment. The topics covered in this year's programme include:
 - creative problem-solving techniques
 - managing the innovation process from idea to business creation
 - making the business case for technology opportunities
 - early-stage financing and investor readiness
 - international project management techniques

The training sessions are brought to you by seasoned practitioners from five countries - the Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy and Belgium - and consist of a balanced mix of methodological presentations and case study/practical work in groups. The course is suitable for staff carrying out an innovation-support or technology transfer function who may be new to the profession, and for experienced professionals who wish to acquire a new technique or methodology. In either case, the tuition and materials are intended to have an immediate impact on the quality of delivery of participants' everyday work assignments. Participants may register for all or part of the five-day course (see Practical Details page of the programme) and half-board executive accommodation may be booked on the SIAF campus. Places on the course are limited to 25 so we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. A full programme and an on-line registration facility may be found at the following link:

[Link]http://www.tii.org/2008_SummerSchool

TRY OUT THE TII KNOWLEDGE VINE GROUP (REPLACES THE TII KNOWLEDGE POOL)

This month the TII Knowledge Pool became the TII Knowledge Vine Group and moved to a dedicated website at <http://www.theknowledgevine.net>. In the past year, 85 members have signed up to use this **email-based self-help group** which can assist you to

- a) identify industrial and research partners at international level for projects in the making

- b) track down new technologies and technical expertise across frontiers
- c) pinpoint technical or market research information for technology commercialisation and innovation projects.
- Since the system is password-protected, the TII secretariat will unfortunately not be able to register for you! However, it is easy to do and involves 3 simple steps:
 - 1) You register on the site.
 - 2) You activate your account from the activation email you receive.
 - 3) You select the group(s) you wish to join (you will find other useful groups in addition to the TII one which you may have an interest in joining). The TII Knowledge Vine group can be found by clicking in the list of Knowledge Vine User Themes on "For SME support professionals" and "For the IP commercialisation community".

- **SEARCH FOR PARTNERS FOR DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE PROJECT**

The challenges of demographic change are multiple: new forms of care are needed for the elderly, companies require new strategies to cope with an ageing workforce, voluntary work has to be strengthened. In most cases single actors are not able to solve the problems alone. Promising approaches include interaction and cooperation between different actors. Examples exist of good practice, but their transfer to other regions or the implementation of activities on a broader level are still missing. **Partners (both public and private actors) are therefore being sought from different European regions**

- to exchange and share their experience in "managing" demographic change,
- to develop and conduct a programme for the active organisation of demographic change on a regional level and
- to develop a benchmarking system for the regions as an incentive to join forces in demographic change (label: "European Regions for Demographic Change". The programme to be developed will inform about the (regional) consequences of demographic change, raise awareness among firms and public authorities about the need to become active and develop concrete solutions for both companies and public actors. Interested parties should contact Michael Krause at innowise GmbH in Germany - mk@innowise.eu

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Five new members joined the association since the publication of the last newsletter. They are

CYPRUS: Costas Y. Konis, creativity and innovation consultant
(www.innovageconsulting.com) - think@cy.net

FRANCE: FLA Consultants, technology transfer and database search consultancy, represented by François Libmann - flibmann@fla-consultants.com

GREECE: Dimitrios Bourntenas of Nova Mechanica S.A., technology transfer, science evaluation, innovation marketing, venture capital expertise - dbourntenas@gmail.com

PORTUGAL: Instituto Politecnico do Porto, knowledge transfer office, represented by Telmo Vilela - tvilela@fipp.ipp.pt

ROMANIA: Tehimpuls Association, regional research-industry transfer organisation, represented by Raduca Cibu-Buzac - office@tehimpuls.ro

BUDAPEST APPOINTED AS SEAT OF THE EIT

The 27 European research ministers meeting on 18 June gave their unanimous approval to locate the **headquarters of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology in the Hungarian capital**. A few days previously the European Commission presented the list of candidates it plans to nominate to the EIT Governing Board. The official nomination should take place in early July. According to the Regulation establishing the EIT, once the Governing Board is established, it needs to select and designate two or three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) within a period of 18 months, presumably before the end of 2009.

THE 2008 MILLENNIUM TECHNOLOGY PRIZE WAS AWARDED TO PROF. ROBERT LANGER

on 12 June in Helsinki **for developing innovative biomaterials for controlled drug release**. The world's largest technology prize (€800 000) is awarded every two years by Technology Academy Finland for a technological innovation that significantly improves quality of life and promotes sustainable development. Prof. Langer's innovations have had a significant impact on fighting cancer and heart disease, and his work has brought about advances in tissue engineering, including synthetic replacement for biological tissues such as artificial skin. Over 100 million people a year are already using advanced drug delivery systems and tissue engineering holds the promise of creating virtually any new tissue or organ.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKSHOP IN MILAN ON 16 JULY 2008

Italian member Sviluppo Chimica, together with Federchimica, is organising a one-day workshop on 16 July in Milan on **the state of the art of technology transfer in Italy**, with a special focus on the experience of some of the key players in the chemical sector. The morning session will focus on home-grown experience while guest speakers from around Europe will showcase international examples of good practice in the afternoon.

Contact Paolo Manes at p.manes@sviluppochimica.it for a programme and registration.

BALTIC DYNAMICS 2008

is the annual international conference organised in rotation by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania focusing on innovation and competitiveness topics. **This year the conference will be held in Tartu, Estonia from 3 to 5 September under the title of "Innovation - Key from Slowdown to Growth"**. It will address the challenge which Baltic States and many other European countries face - how to address economic slowdown and find new strategies for growth. The main topics will include Innovation and Competitiveness on a global scale, challenges and constraints in the environment and energy sectors and their contribution to innovation, novel and innovative approaches to the changing role of science and technology parks, security, the internet and innovation and cases of inter-regional cooperation to stimulate innovation. More information can be found on <http://www.balticdynamics.com> or from the organising team at info@balticdynamics.com

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND EDUCATION POLICIES

for Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Caucasus and the Baltic States will take place from 18 to 21 September in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. **Conference themes include strengthening research in higher education, strengthening the international impact of national research and education programmes, developing a knowledge-based economy and stemming/reversing the brain drain.** The event will bring together key decision makers in national science and education policies from 30 countries and provide an opportunity to develop and enhance collaboration with counterparts from across the region. More information may be obtained from the Moldovan Research and Development Agency at mrda@mrda.md

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"The Global Gateway to Innovation - the network that takes you further"
