



Press Release

FIDIBE

(Development of Innovative Business Parks to Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the SEE Area)

Kick-Off Meeting

Székesfehérvár, 6-7 July 2009

Substantial grant assistance has been awarded for the project proposal of the consortium, led by the Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company within the framework of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme of the European Union. It is the first time that an institution from the region is the leader of a consortium responding to a call for proposals of such high importance. The application, selected in an extremely strong competition with 821 other proposals, became one of 42 grant aided project proposals. This achievement is further emphasized by a success rate of less than 5%.

FIDIBE, the project of the consortium led by Mid-Pannon, is primarily focused on the development of innovation. Nine organizations (innovation and development agencies, municipalities, universities, innovation and technology centers) from seven countries (Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) take part in the three-year-long implementation of the project.

The project has been granted approximately HUF 530 million, provided by the Joint Technical Secretariat of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme in VÁTI, Hungarian Public Nonprofit Company in Budapest, to realize the objectives focusing on the increase of the competitiveness of the South East European region.

The project implementation will include the following activities:

- Analysis of the innovation potential of the regions participating in the project,
- Selection of best practices of Innovative Business Parks operating in the region,
- Development of an Innovative Business Park Manual which is unique and fills a gap in South East Europe,
- Exchange of experience and training of specialists,
- Selection of companies moving into the Business Parks,
- Presentation of the results of the project at international events as well as for the officials of the EU,
- Preparation of the setting up of Business Parks in the participating regions, where the implementation is likely to be supported by the Operational Programmes (ROP and ECOP in the Central Transdanubian Region).

The project also covers:

- Implementation of common projects and cooperation among innovation, technology and industrial parks; exchange of information and experience,
- Improvement of services of innovation parks and elaboration of guidelines and operational procedures to increase their efficiency,
- Collection and distribution of unified standards, methods and experience for existing industrial parks as well as ones just being formed in the regions of South East Europe and in the EU member states.

The objective is to collect experience and information that is useful for the regions, enterprises, industrial and innovation parks of South East Europe and member states of the European Union.

The way partner organisations will realize the above listed objectives as is defined in a communication plan together with the communication tools to be used, such as:

- internet, project website (www.fidibe.eu)
- studies and analyses published in a newsletter and the media,
- publication of the procedures, methods elaborated and experience collected in the partner countries, the South East European region and the EU,
- professional training programmes, international conferences.

The work to be done over the following three years as well as the schedule of the project will be finalized at the international kick-off meeting on 6-7 July 2009 that is organized by the project leader Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company, all the participating partners will be represented at the meeting.

The region will also host an international closing conference in spring 2011, some 150 participants are expected to attend from seven South European countries.

There has been no precedent for the leadership of an international cooperation project of this magnitude in the Central Transdanubian Region. Mid-Pannon is the first organization that has succeeded to launch such an enterprise.