



Jointly for our common future



Programme co-funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

I3E focuses on:

- Embedded Systems
- Industrial Informatics

I3E main outputs will be:

- A Strategic Research Agenda
- A Methodology Guide on Innovation

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Promoting Innovation in the Industrial Informatics and Embedded Systems—I3E

Newsletter

June 2011

Issue 1

Helping maintain EU competitive advantage



Patras, Greece I3E project kick-off June 2009

Periods of economic turmoil highlight the need for change, so that economies become more competitive and enterprises increase their flexibility to withstand global competition. Innovation plays a key role in safeguarding the competitive advantages of Europe. I3E project promotes innovation in the area of South East Europe (SEE) focusing on the sectors of embedded systems and industrial informatics, two sectors of strategic importance for Europe. Almost half of the top European industries perform embedded systems research, while European manufacturing sector contributes around 22% of European GDP.

SEE is a dynamically growing area that is currently mostly characterised by developing inexpensive labour economies. With a GDP growth twice the EU average

and a GDP per capita less than half the EU average, the area experiences the challenge to narrow the gap towards developed European economies. Investing in the new-market economy and promoting innovation is expected to facilitate the fulfilment of this challenge.

SEE has a significant R&D critical mass in the sectors of embedded systems and industrial informatics, characterised by good human potential as a result of efficient education. Yet, research teams often do not align their activities at a transnational level, appearing thus distributed and less effective. Furthermore, there is a missing link towards entrepreneurship and innovation both at national and transnational level.

The I3E project addresses the above challenges through two major outputs: a **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** in the aforementioned sectors and a **Methodology Guide on Innovation (MGI)**.

The SRA is built taking into account similar European experiences and bringing them down to the individual needs of the SEE. Local consensus in the SEE countries among research teams both in industry and academia contributes the local research vision to the SRA. Promoting the SRA towards policy makers in the SEE area is expected to influence state research funding and help the different countries in the area align their research potential towards common goals, thus increasing the overall visibility of the SEE area on the European research map.

The MGI builds on top of Best Practices relevant to the transformation of research into innovation and will provide guidelines on how mature research results may lead to innovative products and services. Innovation may be viewed as the research pay-back to the society through increasing competitiveness, quality of life, employment and environmental friendliness.

The I3E project has a partnership of 14 partners from 8 SEE countries and is expected to run until May 2012.





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I3E Partnership:

- Industrial Systems Institute, Greece
- Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria
- ECOPLUS, Austria
- ICT Cluster, Bulgaria
- University of Maribor, Slovenia
- Jozef Stefan Institute, Slovenia
- Regional Development Fund of the Region of Western Greece, Greece
- Italian Executive Alliance, Italy
- Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Foundation For New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria
- University of Kragujevac, Serbia
- Odessa National Polytechnic University, Ukraine

Consensus Building in South East Europe



Building a Strategic Research Agenda in an area like South East Europe presents a big challenge due to the heterogeneity and diversity of nations and their historical and economic development. In order to be efficient, I3E partners were engaged in a wide Consensus Building campaign trying to bring the majority of important stakeholders of the area around the same table and discuss their vision with reference to the sectors of Embedded Systems and Industrial Informatics.

Seventeen Consensus Building meetings have been held in the period October 2009—December 2010 in the different partner countries attracting the attention of about 500 persons coming from academia / research organisations as well as enterprises / SMEs and the public sector.



Feedback from these meetings has been used for the elaboration of a draft Strategic Research Agenda that may be downloaded from the project portal.

Database of 120 Good Practices

The I3E partnership has collected 120 Good Practices relevant to the transformation of research to innovation. The Good Practices collected are relevant to research results that are efficiently transformed to innovative products or services or leading to an innovative methodology or to an innovative production process. Several of them focus on the financing mechanisms that are used for the transformation of research to innovation. Other detail support mechanisms that made this transformation effective.

A wiki database has been elaborated comprising all 120 successful experiences collected by I3E. This database may be accessed from the project portal.

Assessment of these Good Practices will provide a short list of Best Practices that will be analyzed and will provide content for the I3E Methodology Guide on Innovation.





Newsletter

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Scheduled Events

- Project meeting, Matera, Italy, June 23-24, 2011
- Innovation Management Workshop, Matera, Italy, June 25, 2011

Upcoming Events

- 6th Project Workshop, Patras, Greece, September 2011
- Project meeting, Belgrade, Serbia, Autumn, 2011
- 7th Project Workshop, Belgrade Serbia, Autumn, 2011
- Project meeting, Odessa, Ukraine, Winter 2011-2012
- International Conference, Greece, Spring 2012

Check our web portal regularly for our project news, events and deliverables