

Internationalisation: DIFASS brings the world within reach

The Chamber of Commerce in Seville invited guests from all over Europe to discuss internationalisation of enterprises and to take part in the second DIFASS Workshop and Transfer Seminar from 21-23 November. For the first time in the project these two events were combined. The workshop consisted of good practice presentations on how to stimulate local enterprises to access foreign markets. The Transfer Seminar focused on the PIPE program from Spain.

The DIFASS project facilitates access to finance for enterprises by exchanging innovative business support measures across Europe. The focus will be on the development and implementation of non-grant based financial support instruments, such as revolving funds, transregional funds and venture capital funds.

Highlights of the Seville workshop the included the www.fryslanhouse.com shared office concept developed by Business Development Friesland (NL), the www.openlivinglabs.eu cross-border approach by the Valle d'Aosta region (IT), the methodology to attract companies from top technology sectors by Beja (PT), the BISNet Transylvania Project by RDA Centru (RO) and the PIPE program presented by the host, the Chamber of Commerce of Seville.

The PIPE Good Practice from Andalusia was also the main topic of the DIFASS Transfer Seminar. Through the DIFASS project, the successful PIPE initiative will be implemented as a pilot in regions in Denmark, Italy, Romania and Sweden. In Spain, www.portalpipe.com already supported over 8000 companies to internationalise. These companies achieved an average extra turnover of 50% in international markets as a result.

DIFASS has an interactive www.difass.eu website with the latest news on financing support schemes for small enterprises, it includes Twitter news feeds @DIFASS and Youtube videos.

The project is supported by the INTERREG IVC Programme. The overall objective of the programme is to improve the effectiveness of regional policies and instruments. INTERREG IVC provides funding for interregional cooperation across Europe. It is implemented under the European Community's territorial co-operation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Not for publication:

For more information on the DIFASS project you may contact:

- the DIFASS contact person for the Chamber of Commerce of Seville, Mr. Pablo Morales (ES) through tel. 0034 955 110 922 or by e-mail pablo.morales@camaradesevilla.com
- the DIFASS project manager Mr. Robert Nemeth of the Pannon Business Network (HU) through tel. 0036 94 505 003 or by e-mail nemeth@pbn.hu
- the DIFASS project communication component leader Mr. Frank Hiddink of Business Development Friesland (NL) through tel. 0031 58 845 8045 or by e-mail f.hiddink@bdfriesland.nl

or visit www.difass.eu .