



NEWSLETTER #4

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

DIFASS facilitates access to finance for SMEs by exchanging innovative business support measures. 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.

NEWS

PIPE TRANSFER GUIDE AVAILABLE

DIFASS has its first Transfer Guide ready. It is aimed at organisations interested to transfer the PIPE Internationalisation Programme to their own region. The guide shows the process how to implement it. It also features a brief description of the PIPE Programme and the impact during its implementation in Spain.

The general objective of the PIPE programme is to create an export culture and increase the number export SMEs. PIPE aims to help the SMEs to give the first steps toward the internationalization, offering expert counselling and financial support.

[Download the Transfer Guide here.](#)

NEXT DIFASS MEETING

Cagliari and Oristano, Italy are the venues of the next DIFASS meeting on June 19-20. Topic of the meeting is mixed grant & non grant instruments, issues include state-aid, notification and de-minimis rule.

The invitation to the meeting including the preliminary program is available on the [DIFASS website](#) in the downloads section.

FINANCE AND LOANS: KRAKOW MEETING REPORT

The Mineral & Energy Economy Research Institute (MEERI) of the Polish Academy of Sciences invited the DIFASS projects partners to Krakow to discuss finance and loan guarantee schemes.

WORKSHOP

Highlights of the Krakow workshop included the ERDF Guarantee Fund from Italy, the Regional Seed Financing Forum from Sweden, BMV Express from Germany, the National Fund for Entrepreneurship & Development from Greece, the Loan Guarantee Scheme from the UK and the National Credit Guarantee Fund for SMEs from Romania.

Participants discussed with the speakers about the pros and cons of their proposals. The objective of the DIFASS project is to share information and to implement good practices in other regions. The meeting proved worthwhile because several agreements were made to implement best practices in other regions. BDF is preparing a regional seed financing forum in Friesland based on the Swedish model.

STUDY VISIT

Day 2 of the meeting featured a visit to the Jagiellonian Center of Innovation in Krakow. This new centre bridges the gap between development of innovation and financing. The center houses numerous start-ups in life science. The market of new medicine is extremely competitive and only few innovations make it to the world market. Some well-known Polish and European pharmaceutical companies work in the Jagiellonian Center and offer opportunities for investment for start-up companies next to coaching and role modelling for young Krakow initiatives.

[Visit the website of the Jagiellonian Center.](#)

DIFASS VIDEO CHANNEL

The project has its own video channel on YouTube. All Seville presentations on internationalisation including a short summary of the day are available through the [DIFASSworkshops YouTube channel](#). It allows the viewer to watch both the presenter and the supporting slides at the same time.

SPOTLIGHT

Every newsletter we will introduce a DIFASS project partner to you. Fourth in line: The Polish Academy of Sciences from Krakow.

The Polish Academy of Sciences is a state scientific institution founded in 1952. From the very beginning, it has functioned as a learned society acting through an elected corporation of top scholars and research organizations, via its numerous scientific establishments. It has also become a major scientific advisory body through its scientific committees. The Academy is composed of national and foreign members. Membership in the



Academy is held for life.

The Polish Academy of Sciences is chairing the Scientific Work Group of the DIFASS project. The Scientific Work Group consists of three Universities and provides the project with a proper structure and methodology.

[Read more](#)

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