

## Mix it up: DIFASS combines grant & non-grant support schemes

Hosted by the Regione Autonoma della Sardegna (RAS) and Patto Territoriale Oristano (PTO), the DIFASS consortium presented 8 successful regional initiatives to an international audience. The two-day workshop took place in Cagliari and Oristano on the Italian island of Sardinia on June 19-20. It featured 8 so-called Good Practices from all of over Europe, these are innovative business support measures implemented or funded by (semi-) public bodies. Special attention of the Sardinia meeting went to the mix of grant and non-grant support schemes.

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 first day in Cagliari included the Centrope TT Voucher System presented by the Pannon Business Network (HU), the Prototron prototype development support programme by Tallinn Science Park (EE), the Local Development Fund by ANKO (EL), and the Regional Aid Scheme for Competitiveness from Aosta Valley (IT).

The second day took place in Oristano and saw 4 more Good Practices, including: the ICO credit line framework from Spain, the LEADER+ Initiative as implemented in Greece, the BejaGlobal combined access to loans and grants from Portugal and the Operational Multiregional Plan (POM) by our host Territorial Pact of Oristano.

Participants voted the Prototron initiative ([www.prototron.ee](http://www.prototron.ee)) presented by Martin Gorosko from Estonia as the best Good Practice of the event.

DIFASS has an interactive [www.difass.eu](http://www.difass.eu) website with Youtube videos of all Good Practice presentations from all workshops and Twitter news feeds @DIFASS.

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).

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Not for publication:

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