



NEWSLETTER #6

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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

SIXTH DIFASS MEETING: BACK TO THE START

This week DIFASS will turn its attention to start-ups and spin-offs: how to optimally support early stage enterprises. Five fresh Good Practice examples will be presented in Asturias, Spain. Topics range from incubation to start-up loans to mentorship.

The workshop and study visit will be hosted by Spanish partners IDEPA and CEEI Asturias from 27-29 November. The invitation to the meeting including the final program is available on

the [DIFASS website](#) in the downloads section.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Gijón and Llanera, Spain for the sixth DIFASS Good Practice workshop.

SPOTLIGHT

Every newsletter we will introduce a DIFASS project partner to you. This time it is a double-header: IDEPA and CEEI Asturias from Spain, both host of the next DIFASS meeting.

IDEPA

IDEPA's goal is to enhance the sustainable economic development of the Principality of Asturias throughout the creation of a diversified, modern and competitive Asturian business network.

IDEPA is a public body related to the Regional Ministry of Industry and Employment.

All their measures are oriented on the businessperson and the entrepreneur, especially those seeking to innovate.

Moreover, IDEPA aims to increasing the presence of Asturian companies in external markets.

[IDEPA website in English](#)



CEEI Asturias

CEEI Asturias responds to the region's needs for a forward-thinking organisation that would promote innovative companies. BIC Asturias has taken on this mission and provides support to entrepreneurs with a range of high-quality services covering information, training, assessment and financing to help entrepreneurs throughout the set up process of successful business initiatives.

It has been a part of the European Business and



Innovation Centres Network since its foundation and is one of the 200+ BICs all over Europe that belong to this network.

[CEEI Asturias website in English](#)

HORIZON 2020: INVOLVE YOUR SMES!

In the DIFASS project we share and implement successful means to support access to finance for SMEs. The new Horizon 2020 of the EU intends to do the same. Rather than only being about SMEs, the new program is intended to actively and directly involve them. A recent conference on the new program called 'From Lab to Market: Horizon 2020 - how the EU can advance innovation' resulted in some interesting conclusions.

The special attention of the research program on SMEs, the simplification of rules and administration, the fast-track to innovation program, the reduced time to grant and the bottom-up approach are significant improvements compared to its predecessor FP7.

More information via the website of the [European Commission on Horizon 2020](#)

PORTSMOUTH SUMMARY: IP AND HUMAN CAPITAL

Hosted by WSX Enterprise, the DIFASS consortium presented 5 successful regional initiatives to an international audience. The two-day workshop took place in Portsmouth in the UK. It featured 5 so-called Good Practices from several European partner regions, these are innovative business support measures implemented or funded by (semi-) public bodies. Central topics of the meeting were attention for Intellectual Property and the stimulation of Human Capital.

WORKSHOP DAY 1

The first day in Portsmouth offered a selection of good practises. The CTIC foundation of Asturias, the Investment Contract from Sardinia, the Knowledge Transfer Partnership from Portsmouth, the Protect your Knowledge programme

WORKSHOP DAY 2

On the second day the group visited the Portsmouth University and were presented the KTP project in depth. It was smashing to see the great connections made between the academic and the industrial world. Dr.

from Rzeszow, Poland and the Training Support Scheme from Bratislava were presented.

The audience voted the British KTP programme (www.ktponline.org.uk), presented by Sarah Duckering of the University of Portsmouth as best transferrable practise.

Idea now is to transfer the methodology of Portsmouth to selective regions, connected to the DIFASS project.

Shena Mitchell informed the international guests on Innovation Warehouse, a challenging incubation concept which deals about investments by private directors and business angels in promising start-ups.

All fact sheets from the Portsmouth meeting are available in the [download section](#) of the website.

All videos of the Good Practice presentations are available on the [DIFASS YouTube channel](#).

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