



Last but not least, DIFASS capitalises in Sweden!

June 2014

Over the past three years, the DIFASS project has toured across Europe and organised 8 Good Practice workshops. Final workshop stop: Borlänge, Sweden. Hosted by Teknikdalen from June 2-4, five new successful regional initiatives were shared by project partners.

The DIFASS project facilitates access to finance for enterprises by exchanging innovative business support measures. The focus is on the development and implementation of non-grant based financial support instruments. The project partners share so-called Good Practices, they originate from several European partner regions. These are innovative business support measures implemented or funded by (semi-) public bodies.

Sture Ericsson, the Teknikdalen CEO and the mayor of Borlänge mr. Jan Bohman welcomed the international group to their city. On behalf of the DIFASS scientific group, Maciek Woźniak reviewed the two crowdfunding Good Practices of the last meeting in Bratislava, Crowdfunder.com from the Netherlands and Crowdcube.com from the UK. Simeon Karafolas provided a good understanding of venture capital, mezzanine, equity and buy out financing and gave an introduction to the EU's JEREMIE programme, the central topics of the Sweden workshop.

Federica Rosi of Finlombarda gave an example of the implementation of the JEREMIE programme in Italy and Antonella Pisano shared the FIN-EN.eu initiative, which has goals in line with DIFASS. Olle Stenberg of the Swedish Incubators and Science Parks Association explained how they facilitate knowledge sharing between investment funds in Sweden. Francesco Fionda shows how their regional Mezzanine Financing Instrument strengthened the equity position of SMEs in the Aosta Valley in Italy.

After lunch, Audrius Zobotka of INVEGA showed how Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia combine forces in the Baltic Innovation Fund, creating a lot of co-investment opportunities. Viktor Toth concluded the session by illustrating how the Venture Capital Program in Hungary relays resources to venture capital funds, acting as a Fund of Funds.

The audience voted the Swedish Good Practice presented by Olle Stenberg as their favourite one. The voters liked their initiative to bring Swedish seed funds together and the practical handbook they developed on how to set up an investment fund.

On the second day the DIFASS project group had their management meeting at BoomTown Music & Business Park. Afterwards Kaj Podgórski showed this unique place for musicians and bands. Here they can practice, record and get educated by top professionals on all aspects of the music business.

DIFASS has an interactive www.difass.eu website with videos of all Good Practice presentations from all workshops and Twitter news feeds.

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