



## NEWSLETTER #9

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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

### BORLÄNGE MEETING SUMMARY: CAPITALISATION

Over the past three years, the DIFASS project has toured across Europe and organised 8 Good Practice workshops. Final workshop stop was Borlänge, Sweden. Hosted by Teknikdalen from June 2-4, five new successful regional initiatives were shared by project partners. Topics of the workshop were venture capital, mezzanine, equity and buy out financing and the EU's JEREMIE programme.

## GOOD PRACTICES, DAY 1

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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 Zabolka 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.

## RESULTS AND DAY 2

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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.

[Watch the Good Practice video presentations](#)

## DIFASS FINAL CONFERENCE

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The final conference of DIFASS is planned for 23-24 September 2014 in Budapest, Hungary and will feature the presentation of all results of 3 years of DIFASS cooperation. Eight topics related to business support have been addressed in the DIFASS workshops by now, featuring a total of 43 Good Practices.

This final DIFASS event will be different from the exchange of experience workshops conducted so far. It is open to all stakeholders in Europe involved in the development and implementation of international, national, regional or local business support measures. We strongly encourage you to invite regional stakeholders to our conference to get informed on the latest policy measures to stimulate business and to meet and exchange thoughts with counterparts from various European countries and regions.

Details about the exact programme will become available soon so keep following our website and news items.

## DIFASS IN THE REGION

As results of the DIFASS cooperation keep coming in, the project partners turn to their regions to spread the word. A fine selection of 43 Good Practices is available to policy makers and other potential receivers as inspiration to stimulate their regional economy.

CEEI Asturias from Spain captured their regional DIFASS event on crowdfunding on video. They brought together multiple funding platforms from Spain to show the variety of options available to SMEs and how they complement each other. [Watch the video.](#)

In Poland, during the Open Days of European Funds in May, students, graduates and researchers were addressed by Maciej Wozniak of the Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute (MEERI). He presented to them the benefits DIFASS has for both the institutions participating in it as well as science and economy.

A few weeks later MEERI and Rzeszow RDA teamed up during the conference in Krakow, which aim was to exchange experiences and good practices between implementing institutions, businesses, and research institutions in the use of EU funds for the development of innovation and entrepreneurship in the Malopolska region.

## SPOTLIGHT

Every newsletter we will introduce a DIFASS project partner to you. This time it is our project leader, the Pannon Business Network or PBN. They will have the upcoming DIFASS final conference in their home country of Hungary in September. in Börlange in June. Robert Nemeth of PBN already presented a Good Practice at the DIFASS workshop in Sardinia. It is called the Centrope TT Voucher System, [watch the video here.](#)

PBN, as regional business development organization, aims at strengthening the economic performance of small and medium sized businesses in the western Hungarian region. It intends to be the dedicated partner for foreign direct investors, furthermore, operates in partnership with the regional economic and labour organizations.



An additional task of PBN is to map the opportunities of our founders – with priority to clusters and industrial parks – and to contribute to the reinforcement of their operation. It also supports the local adaptation of best practices, based on his international network.

PBN is further assisting the economy development of Western Hungary by strengthening international relations and analysis of international practices. In order to realize their objectives PBN is actively participating in European Union funded projects with research and business development organizations.

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