



September 2013

Addressing Intellectual Property 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 on September 19-20. 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.

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.

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 from Rzeszow, Poland and the Training Support Scheme from Bratislava were presented. The audience voted the British KTP programme, presented by Sarah Duckering of the University of Portsmouth as best transferrable practise. Excellent co-operation between SMEs, Universities and students were key elements. Idea now is to transfer the methodology of Portsmouth to selective regions, connected to the DIFASS project.

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. 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.

DIFASS has an interactive 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).

