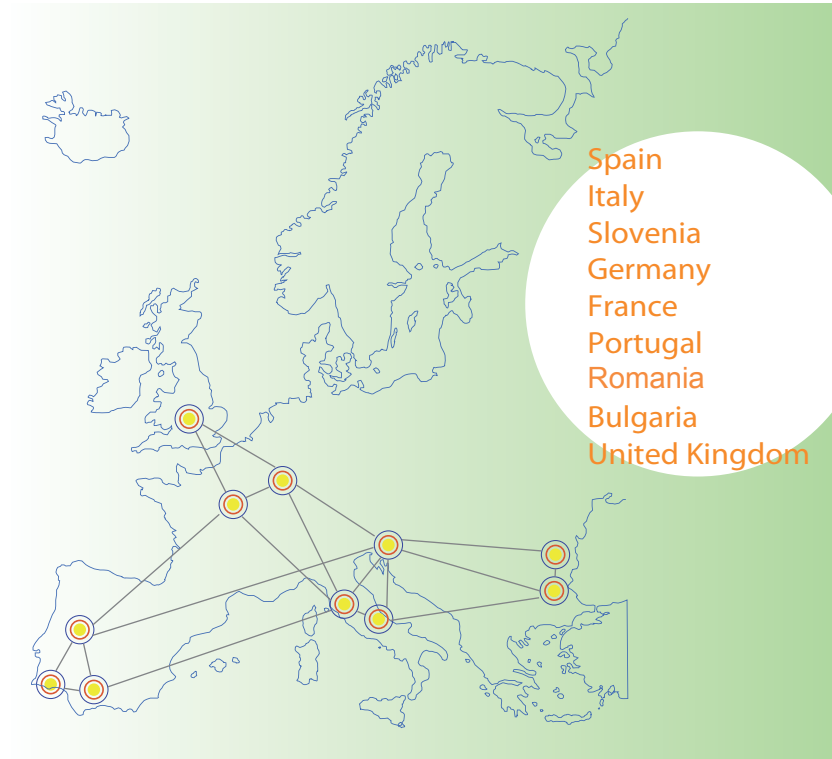


Connecting the territory
through innovation **network**



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CRIA promotes the development and protection of the intellectual property in business and universities via the UIPP PROJECT

➤ The Algarve Regional Innovation Centre (CRIA) in Portugal has been developing over a number of years an interesting initiative aimed at promoting and encouraging the development and protection of intellectual property, both for businesses and for universities, under the framework of the Intellectual Property Promotion Units (UIPP) project. More specifically, the UIPP Network, an initiative that is co-financed by the FEDER (2001-2007)



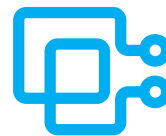
Funds, aims to bring the National Patent Office closer to businesses in general, to researchers and even to students. It works by

providing a pre-diagnostic of the requirements in terms of intellectual property rights.

The positive results achieved over the years by the

UIPP Network have meant that this initiative has been identified as good practice at international level. CRIA management presented this to the partners of the 'Inolink' project during their visit to the Algarve area of Portugal.

As well as finding out about the objectives of the UIPP Network, the partners of 'Inolink' also witnessed first hand the results generated by the framework of this initiative and the network that has been created both at national and international level.



They could also see that it had contributed decisively to improvement in the context of intellectual property in Portugal. According to details explained by CRIA management, the UIPP Network has provoked a significant change in the deficit of the intellectual property culture in Portugal; a culture traditionally characterised by poor innovation intentions and use of intellectual property, weak investment in R&D and a reduced number of patent applications. This strategic partnership project, which has been driven since its initiation by the INPI (Portuguese Institute for Intellectual Property), as well as having the assessment of the intellectual property system between business, universities and other innovation agents among its objectives, also has the development of strategic



partnerships with institutions that encourage innovation.

Initially, the UIPP initiative considered the following activities as eligible for subsidies: training, sensitivity seminars and activities, advertising and intellectual property, diffusion, technical assistance and specialist assessment.

The UIPP project has promoted the creation of a network that is made up of two business associations, 10 universities, 7 technology centres and three sci-

ence and technology parks. Among the most notable results achieved by the UIPP initiative, it must be highlighted that between 2001 and 2007 the number of applications to the Portugal Patent Office for high technology patents per million inhabitants increased from 0.4 to 7.5. The UIPP project initially began with EU financial instruments, however the positive results generated are currently being incorporated by some of the organisations and they are now becoming self-financed.

Málaga to host the next study visit of the INOLINK Project, organized by RETA



Red de Espacios Tecnológicos de Andalucía



➤ On the 14th and 15th of March Malaga will host the next study visit of the Inolink Project, that on this occasion will be organised by the Andalusia Technological Network (RETA). In particular, the setting chosen for the celebration of

this new study visit is Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía (PTA), where during the two days, the participants in the Inolink Project will be able to get to know firsthand the different innovation initiatives carried out in Andalusia, and that are examples of good practice.

The agenda for this visit is structured in three blocks: One is dedicated to the Innovation networks that are operated by or are based in Andalusia; another for the best innovation practices in

this region and a third in which the members will get to know the work of the different Agents of the Andalusian Knowledge System

Among the presentations planned are of the International Association of Scientific and Technology Parks (IASP); and the National Association of European Business and Innovation Centres (ANCES). In addition, participants will have the opportunity to get to know other initiatives such as reimbursable public funds to support the companies in Andalusia; Technology Corporation of Andalusia (CTA) and the International Mobility program of the Andalusian human capital: Talented Scholarship Program. For more information:

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A delegation of Mersin Technology Park in Turkey is interested in the european project INOLINK



➤ A delegation of experts and technicians from the Mersin Teknopark, a science and technology park in Turkey, visited Malaga in December. During this trip they visited the Andalusia Technological Network (RETA) facilities, and were able to obtain first hand information about the European 'Inolink' project, led by RETA.

During the visit, the members of the Turkish delegation, who took part in the Leonardo da Vinci mobility project alongside the International Association of Science Parks (IASP), were informed about the objectives of the 'Inolink' project.

After the meeting, the members of the Turkish delegation were informed about

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technology park delegation also visited the offices of two members of RETA: BIC Euronova - European Business and Innovation Centre of Malaga and also the Andalusian Centre for Innovation and Information Technologies (CITIC).

They were informed about both companies' work models; along with the most important projects that each of them has developed during the course of their activities.

The Mersin Teknopark delegation that visited Malaga was made up of Hasan Basri Güzeloğlu, Head of the Management Board (Governor of Mersin); Özgür Durmaz, General Ma-

nager, Mersin Teknopark; Şerafettin Aşut, Member, MTSO EKAV (Mersin Chamber of Commerce); Halil Yılmaz, Director, Mersin Tarsus Organised Industrial Zone; Ali Çelik, Director, KOSGEB Mersin (SME Development Agency); Mehmet Yaşar, Associate Professor, Mersin University; H.Veli Doğan, General Manager Veldo Mechanic LLC; Can Kırık, General Manager, Epati Bilişim LLC.

Within the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci mobility project, the Turkish delegation also has the objective of finding out about innovation good practices that are being developed across different areas of Europe.

The Tech-Innov Initiative, meeting point for promoting cooperation between french companies

➤ Every year The Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Essonne (CCEI), Enterprise Europe Network Paris- Ile-de-France- Centre, France hold the Tech-Innov initiative at Orly Airport France: innovation and development meetings in Paris-South which become a meeting point for companies committed to innovation and internationalization.

This initiative, which has been identified as good practice in innovation by the

members of project 'Inolink' consists of holding a series of meetings between the participants, whose fundamental objective is to promote collaboration between business and promoting its internationalization and specialization.

The meetings between participants are pre-programmed through software that links the projects with business. To do this, companies and organizations attending the meeting must complete a detailed form with data, features, activities and areas of interest, in order to marry supply with demand, and the interests of companies and laboratories and research centres.

Among the main factors to the success of this

initiative is highlighted by the fact of a great event of one days duration and an important meeting point, as at Orly Airport.

In addition to specific meetings held by each company, the days program also includes other activities such as speak-dating on finance, technology partners, potential customers; business meetings: pre-programmed meetings between the companies, a Financial meeting; in which companies present the project to a panel of experts to choose the best. Once chosen it is presented to different investors. The day is completed with an R & D meeting, which is a pre-programmed meeting with companies and laboratories in France, a European R & D meeting, which has a similar purpose as the R & D meeting, but attended by laboratories and companies from the rest of Europe and holding workshops, which run parallel to other activities.

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Inolink launches its website and publishes brochures in the various languages of the project partners



➤ Inolink already has its own website: www.inolink.es on which information related to this Project is available, that is part of the community initiative Interreg IV C, funded by the European Union through FEDER funds.

www.inolink.eu that will be an important tool of information and external communication. The web site will be the main source of information about the project, its objectives, progress and its results. Among the aspects that can be found on the web, general information of the Project to be noted, a media room, a calendar of events, different links, etc Also the web has a private

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access area, designed for the Project members, and on which the members of this initiative will have available working papers, information relevant to



project development, etc. Also with the aim of disseminating and promoting awareness of the objectives of Inolink, an informa-

tive brochure, with general information of the project and the partners involved in it, has been published. The brochure, which is available both in print and digital, has

been edited in the different languages of the members of Inolink, this will help to disseminate the project in their respective countries.

Saarland University: a reference in technology transfer promotion

➤ Ma The Saarland University in Germany provides a clear example of the commitment to technology transfer between universities and companies. This academic institution has promoted its own system that favours cooperation between researchers, students and private businesses.

In order to achieve this, Saarland University develops a number of different initiatives aimed at promoting technology transfer from an integral point of view, including different as-



pects or phases that favour technology transfer. These range from the students participating in specialist courses in entrepreneurship or business spirit as part of their studies, to the encouragement of creation and development of new patents and the application of specific project finance programmes.

To carry out these initiatives, Saarland University uses three fundamental initiatives that have been in development successfully for a number of years now. More specifically, one of the most noteworthy activities is the Starterzentrum incubation centre, founded in 1995. It was the first business incubation centre created at a German university, making it far more visible to students and workers. With more than 200 new businesses, made up of over 1,400 professionals, it is one of the most successful business incubators at a German university. One of the main reasons for its success is in the way in which it brings business spirit to the students during their studies, giving them the chance to participate in specific entrepreneurship courses. In this way, when the students or professionals develop

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a new business idea, the Starterzentrum provides these young entrepreneurs with support in all aspects. It offers them low cost laboratories and offices and also provides workshops and courses to help develop their business skills.

Another of the aspects that has favoured technology transfer at Saarland Univer-



sity has been the creation, in 2002, of the PatentVerwertungsAgentur patents agency (PVA). This agency is responsible for the evaluation and commercialisation of all matters relating to the intellectual property generated at Saarland University. In 2008, this university was one of the most successful in Germany with regards to the number of public inven-

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tions, the number of patents applied and also for income generated by scientific licences.

Finally, another of the keys to the success of Saarland University's commitment to technology transfer is that, during the last 15 years, knowledge and technology transfer have been an integral part of its activities.



One of the university's main work areas is the promotion of possible cooperation between the university and businesses in the region in R&D projects, also offering a number of different cooperation models in this area.

In addition, in 2008 the university successfully applied a financing programme

entitled KoWi, aimed at regional businesses interested in cooperating with Saarland University. The programme, intended especially for small and medium enterprises, allowed them to receive up to 75% financing for cooperation projects with the university. Large businesses were also able to receive up to 50% financing.

Basing itself on all of these activities, Saarland University offers a complete service to all scientists and businesses that are willing to commit to technology transfer or to the creation of new businesses.

This is one of the keys to the success of this university in its commitment to technology transfer.

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