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**INNO-Learning Platform**  
**“A targeted action to support trans-national policy  
learning and policy cooperation”**

**4<sup>th</sup> INNO-Learning Steering Group Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, 24 April 2008**

**Hilton Hotel  
Warsaw, Poland**

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1. Participants

- David Robson, Scottish Enterprise
- Markus Koskenlinna, TEKES – Finish funding agency for technology and innovation.
- Mauro Mallone, IPI – Institute for Industrial Promotion.
- Jef Pleumeekers, SenterNovem
- Knut Senneseth, Innovation Norway
- Martin Lyes, Enterprise Ireland
- Klaus Schulze, ZukunftsAgentur Brandenburg GmbH
- Irma Peçiak, Polish Development Agency
- Mette Quinn, European Commission
- Nikos Pantalos, European Commission
- Igor Jelinski, European Commission
- Reinhard Büscher, European Commission
- Christophe Guichard, European Commission
- Nils Gabrielsson, INNO Group
- Marc Pattinson, INNO Group
- Aleardo Furlani, INNOVA Europe
- Eurico Neves, INNOVA Europe
- Paula Galvão, INNOVA Europe
- Marianne da Silva, INNOVA Europe
- Babis Ipektsidis, Intrasoft

2. Minutes

The INNO Learning Steering Group (ILSG) chairman, Mr David Robson opened the 4<sup>th</sup> ILSG meeting welcoming the participants and introducing the agenda of the day. The first issue to deal with was the renewal of the ILSG. Mr Reinhard Büscher from the EC

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put forward some questions related to the composition of the steering group and its renewal:

- Who should be in the ILSG?
- What to do with the members that do not show up?
- Should we insist that they participate?
- How to increase the partnering and the relationships among agencies?

Mr Büscher also highlighted the usefulness of the ILSG and the importance of the open and friendly discussions that have taken place so far among this group of peers. The chairman, Mr Robson, opened the floor for discussion proposing some questions:

- What has worked well and what has not?
- What is the role of the ILSG?
- Does it need to be revised?
- What kind of support is expected to be provided? What has been surprising?

Mr Ganoote from Oseo felt that the first phase of the ILSG (until last autumn) was very active and stimulating, but since then he has not seen significant improvements. He also wondered whether it would be useful to organise meetings jointly with other organisations such as SMEs platforms, or coordinate activities with, for example, Taftie, as it would be beneficial to exchange ideas.

Mr Knut Senneseth, from Innovation Norway, thought it was very important to take part in these discussions. He said it is important to remember that there are the people who want to cooperate. He also mentioned that in Nordic countries it is very easy to cooperate, to help and exchange ideas at a very practical level.

Mr Markus Koskenlinna from Tekes felt the ILSG was very interesting and important to be in. He praised the useful discussions and the possibility to always learn something. However, he sees that the actual work is a bit confusing due to too many issues coming up together. As an active member of a number of working groups, it is not always clear what are the relationships between all the activities.

Mr Mauro Mallone from IPI considered the ILSG as a very useful exercise regarding the learning process for innovation policy. He sees room for improvement, in particular one aspect that should be improved is coordination among members and a clarification of what the expectations vis-à-vis the innovation agencies are.

Mr Jeff Pleumeekers from SenterNovem, sees the need to continue with the steering group and according to him, there is the time to create a platform for agencies plus DG Enterprise to meet and discuss further.

Mr Martin Lyes from Enterprise Ireland felt that the discussions and the debates on innovation policy themes have been very interesting, even though there is a real time constraint (4 meetings of half-a-day are somehow limited). He reckoned it would be very useful to meet and discuss ideas with DG Enterprise.

Ms Irma Peciak from PAED found the ILSG and the networking with peers a very useful experience.

Mr Reinhard Büscher from the EC mentioned the somehow unpredictable conditions under which the EC has to work and the difficulties in predicting where the ideas will go. As for the next call for proposals, although there is no budget yet, it is important to have clear ideas and a clear direction on where to go and how to add value. If the EC activities are complementary to those of member states and regions, then the EC is going in the right direction. But if it really wants to have an impact, it needs to be reassured and to receive feedback (also to perform better in the future). Thus, the ILSG is the right place to get ideas and feedback from. The purpose of the ILSG is to have a group of innovation policy experts to whom the EC can talk and discuss in an openly and friendly manner. Mr Büscher suggested that the ILSG could assume a similar role to that of TAFTIE and strengthen cooperation among innovation agencies.

Furthermore, Mr Büscher explained that the ILP has arrived at the middle of its contract length, and to allow a fair rotation of different innovation support agencies, it has been decided to renew the composition of the INNO-Learning Steering Group. It is envisaged to replace about a third to half of the members in view to ensure some continuity and to allow also new representatives from other organisations and/or countries to participate in our discussions. This renewed Steering Group shall be established by the summer break."

The meeting continued with a presentation and a discussion on the next PRO INNO Europe calls on: innovation in services; eco-innovation; clusters; partnering between innovation agencies; and awareness actions.

Innovation info-days for SMEs: organisation of 20 innovation info days for SMEs led by EEN. Objective: to provide SMEs with information on innovation support services, instruments, tools and how to access them. Budget: €20 million in 2 years financed at 50%.

The EC will circulate the fiches and the presentations for each theme of the next Pro Inno Europe call among the ILSG members, who have been asked to provide comments and suggestions (e.g. proposal of more work-packages or activities).

Finally, regarding the next ILSG meeting Michel Ganoote from Oseo offered to host the event in France either in Paris on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 (French Presidency) or in Lyon in October 22-24, 2008 (Europe INNOVA Conference).

**Enclosures:**

- Agenda of the meeting
- Presentations delivered
- List of participants