

# Fostering entrepreneurship and business creation

## **CENTROPE Innovation Voucher**

Policy Learning Platform thematic workshop

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# Content

- GP Description
- Resources Needed
- Evidence of Success
- Difficulties Encountered
- Potential for transfer / Transfer example

# CENTROPE innovation voucher I

- Transnational innovation voucher system and testing, implemented in the context of the Interreg Central Europe CENTROPE project.
- The GP aims at succeeding the transition from a national voucher system to a transnational voucher system. The system supports the SMEs to get service from universities and R&D institutes abroad, thus providing financial support for 50 transnational science-to-business cooperations. Priority was given to technology oriented projects.

# CENTROPE innovation voucher II

## Supported activities:

- Development of new products/prototypes. Business Plan.
- New concepts and services, feasibility studies.
- New technologies tailored training.
- Product/service testing.
- Technology transfer potential.
- Economic impact assessment of new technologies.
- Purchase of raw materials.

# CENTROPE innovation voucher III

- Main stakeholders: Pannon Business Network Association and other six business support organizations
- Beneficiaries: SMEs and R&D service providers.

# Resources needed

- Supported with funds from the Central European 2007-2013 Transnational Cooperation Programme.
- The Centrope budget was €250K, enabling 50 SMEs to benefit from €5,000 investment capital (without administrative costs)

# Evidence of success

- Facilitation of the interregional cooperation between SMEs and R&D institutions in Central Europe.
- Performance indicators:
  - Applications Received: 66
  - Applications Approved: 52
  - SMEs Starting/Contracts Raised For Voucher Scheme: 40
  - SME Beneficiaries completing R&D Centrope TT Projects: 34
- 170.000 EUR public fund financed the transnational pilot actions.

# Difficulties encountered

- Low motivation of SMEs & R&D service providers at the beginning of the programme implementation phase.
- Value of vouchers: Not always big enough to cover all the research and implementation costs.
- Regulations of CENTRAL EUROPE program: Strict time & financial framework.
- Administrative requirements higher than expected.



# Potential for learning or transfer

- The system itself is transferable.
- Feasibility: 1) qualified business support intermediaries should be there (institutional side) and 2) financial resources with transnational eligibility for the implementation.
- The key element of the transfer process is the cooperative, dynamic nature of the programme.
- Stimulating connection between (small) SMEs and (big) R&D institutes, requires a change of mindset.

# Contacts

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**THANK YOU**