

INKREASE PROJECT
PGI00277

4th Interregional Meeting in Central Denmark Region

28.-29. November 2017 – Aarhus – Central Denmark Region

Minutes

Project Partner: PP6 – Central Denmark Region

Participants: Tine Lai Andersen, Finn Pedersen & Malou Munkholm

Date: 2017-12-13

MINUTES OF Interregional Meeting in Central Denmark Region:

28th of November – Aarhus

Participants from all partners including Local Stakeholders from Region of Emilia-Romagna, Navarra, Austria and Central Denmark Region took part in the 4th Interregional Meeting in Aarhus in Central Denmark Region.

The meeting was opened by a welcome by Henrik Lodberg, Head of Department Innovation and Growth.

Angelica Laterza, INKREASE Project Lead Partner, gave an overview of the INKREASE project to ensure that all the participants, including new staff of project partners as well as the Local Stakeholder members were aware of the purpose of the project and the current status of the INKREASE project.

INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP “Knowledge collaboration in Denmark”

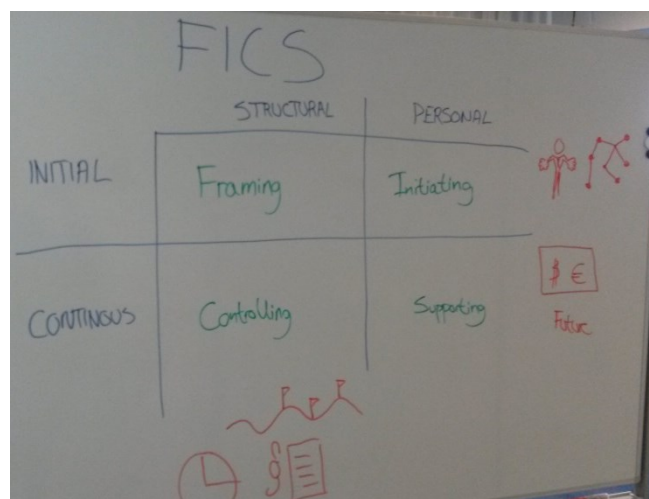
The Knowledge Bridges for Growth analysis was presented by Kresten Olesen og Morten Solgaard Thomsen from REG LAB. The Guide translated into English, was distributed to the participants and will be available online from the INKREASE homepage after the Aarhus Meeting. It was developed as part of the analysis and includes 14 steps towards successful knowledge cooperation. The analysis builds on 50 successful case-studies of knowledge cooperation, also many cases from Central Denmark Region. Based on the findings from the cases the analysis identified the common denominators that characterised the successful knowledge cooperation but also the challenges that has to be tackled when working with innovation between SME's and different knowledge institutions. The Guide is aimed at the professionals that work with business development and are involved in screening or function as facilitators for business who wish to enter into knowledge cooperation.

Malou Munkholm gave an overview of the various ERDF funded initiatives focusing on the Innovation priority in Central Denmark Region. The programs were shortly introduced and linked to when during the Interregional Meeting and following Staff Exchange the partners would have the opportunity to meet the responsible organisations. The formal requirements are that the individual innovation projects has to be carried out with at

least 3 SMEs and 1 knowledge institution, and that the SMEs can not receive more than 50% ERDF/public funding.

The Future Food Innovation (FFI) programme was presented by Lars Horsholt Jensen from Agro Business Park. The overall aim of the program is food innovation in Central Denmark Region as well as description of the activities carried out in this specific program was presented. Lars introduced the FICS model (see picture) that has been developed by researchers following the FFI program. The model describes how the focus of the SMEs and program aim must be coordinated in order to ensure focus on innovation and the development of the company.

The FFI program has as an addition to the innovation priority also funding available for supporting growth within the individual SME. It was stressed by Lars Horsholt Jensen that it is of importance when working with SMEs to focus on what the business model is. Very simply put the SME must be able to see the developmental and financial benefit when joining these projects.



PEER REVIEW – "Shortcut to New Knowledge" (Central Denmark Region)

The peer-review of the "Shortcut to New Knowledge" was carried out by Bettina Dencker Hansen, Aarhus University and Finn Pedersen, Central Denmark Region. We had received 32 question beforehand from the INRKEASE partnership, these were answered during the peer-review. Following the presentation a number of issues were further discussed. One discussion evolved around the role of the region and the organization responsible for carrying out the activities of the program. The region lays the path for the initiatives with the regional strategy and action plan. It is then up to regional actors to apply for funding to run the programmes and they are then responsible for carrying out activities in relation to the companies.

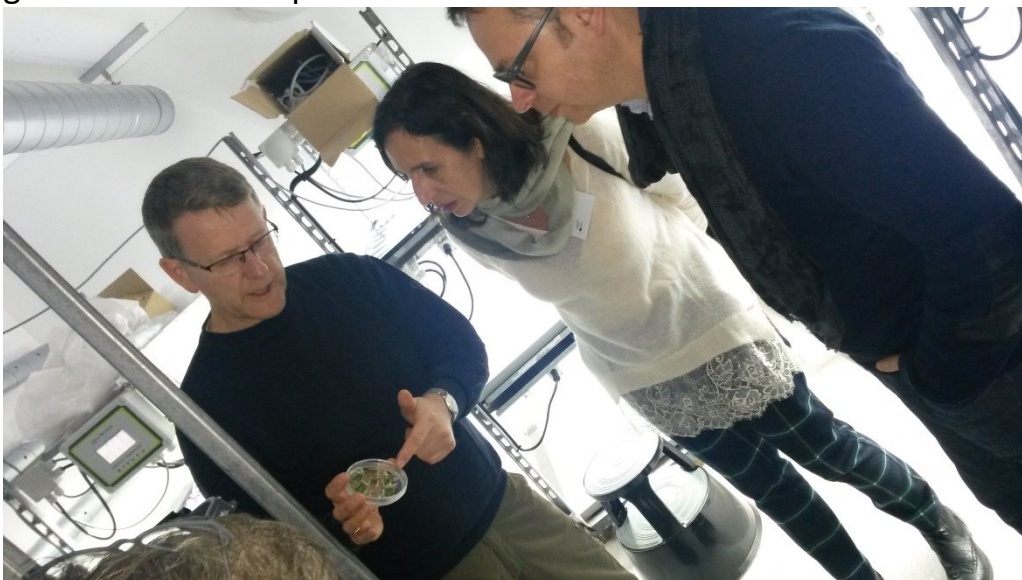
The challenge of working with innovation across 3 SMEs and 1 knowledge institution was also discussed and it turned out that it is tackled differently in the ERDF programs of the different partners.

A key finding in the "Shortcut to New Knowledge" program was the importance of facilitation of the cooperation projects. It turned out to be key in most of the projects that the project partners both SMEs and researcher had an external facilitator to help them during the different phases of the knowledge cooperation. It was beneficial for more reasons, for example in order to keep the process on track and function as an "interpreter" between the business side and the academia side of the projects. At the moment Central Denmark Region is working on making a pilot on competence building for actors working within the business development system to enhance their facilitation skills.

STUDY VISITS

During the afternoon two study visits were arranged.

The first tour went to the nursery Knud Jespsen A/S, a major producer and developer of Kalanchoe potted plants. They are involved in more projects related to knowledge cooperation and innovation. They have taken part in a FFI project to explore the possibilities of extracting valuable substances from the plant waste. The guest were also given a tour of the production facilities.





The second study tour went to visit the newly stated business Gamescorekeeper, that develops software to follow eSports events. In addition to the company's story and experiences of how they benefitted from involving research in their development there was a presentation of the Innobooster programme, which is an national funding scheme for innovation of SMEs run by the Innovation Fund Denmark.

The Dinner in the evening was served at the Njord Gin Distillery who also participated in an FFI project. The guest got an introduction to how the distillery started, their concept and development goals.

29th of November: Aarhus

The session started with a short summing up of the study-tours the day before, to share experiences across the two different visits and to invite participants to share views and additional questions based on the findings from the visits.

PEER REVIEW – “Plug in Labs Ouest” (Bretagne)

The peer-review of "PLUG in Labs" from Brittany was carried out during the morning session. This was carried out partly by a presentation by Perrine Franca, Université Bretagne Loire on a videolink from Rennes and by Bertrand Piechaczyk, Bretagne Développement Innovation.

29 questions were sent beforehand from the INRKEASE partnership, which were answered during the peer-review.

At 12.00 the Interregional Meeting was closed and we are looking forward to meet again in Hungary in the Spring.

Find link to Article on the Interregional Meeting [here](#).