

EDIF SUPPORT SERVICES PILLAR – ACTION FACTSHEET

Action / Programme Name:

Innovation Policy Support to Implementation - Triple Helix projects

IFIs in charge:

Contact details:

OECD

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Start date:

Expected end date:

01.01.2014

01.06.2016

Scope / Objectives of the initiative:

The overall objective of the action is to develop sustainable policy frameworks for Triple Helix cooperation in three beneficiary countries (Albania, Croatia and Kosovo). In Croatia, the focus of the project is on developing policies to support social innovation and to assist in the development of financial instruments which will be implemented under structural funds.

The policy framework will be developed through analyzing the existing policies in the country and identifying best practices from OECD and EU member countries which can be transferred to the beneficiary economies.

Finally, pilot projects will be implemented through a Triple Helix competition during which consortia of business, academia and local government will submit project proposals and the best projects will receive support for developing their innovative ideas.

Rationale within EDIF:

This action addresses one of the four EDIF reform priorities which is to dedicate sufficient funds to the implementation of innovation related policies and programmes and/ or implement policies to increase the capacity and readiness for innovation in companies.

Services provided by the programme:

The action will develop country specific policy recommendations to three beneficiary countries and will provide technical assistance to local Triple Helix teams to develop their ideas and implement joint projects.

Target Beneficiary(ies):

The project's main beneficiaries are ministries and government agencies in charge of economy, research and innovation but also business associations, SMEs, research institutes, universities and innovation support organisations.

Countries coverage:

Albania, Croatia and Kosovo

Milestones achieved to date:

The Triple Helix project was launched in April 2014 during events in all three beneficiary countries when local project teams were assembled composed of all key stakeholders. Since then a scoping of existing policies in all three countries was conducted, including focus groups which were held over the summer with researchers, businesses, government representatives and others.

A best practice review has been conducted on policy instruments used in OECD and EU member countries to support Triple Helix partnerships. Based on this review, and the results of the focus groups, a best practice sharing seminar was held in all three economies where experts presented details of implementing different policy instruments such as financial instruments to support private sector R&D or joint business academia collaboration, or instruments such as science and technology parks. In addition, a best practice review on social innovation was conducted and a seminar hosted in Zagreb to present different instruments to support social innovation. Finally, a study trip was organised to the UK for representatives of the Croatia project team to get more in depth information about social innovation and social investment in the UK. Representatives of the Albania and Kosovo project team also visited Slovenia and Trieste where they were able to hear about different measures the Slovenian government is implementing to foster Triple Helix partnerships and they were also able to visit the AREA Science and Technology Park in Trieste.

Main milestones before project completion:

The next steps in the project implementation include the development of country specific and sustainable policy frameworks for each beneficiary. These will be developed based on the work done so far and in close collaboration with the local project teams. These frameworks will be presented in the spring of 2015 following which a Triple Helix competition will be launched in each country. The competition will invite teams consisting of representatives of business, academia and government to propose projects together. The best projects will be selected by international experts and these projects will receive OECD technical assistance in the fall of 2015 to further develop their ideas.