

2017 Event of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Research and Innovation

**Conference „FROM INNOVATIVE IDEAS TO SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES: promoting the national systems of early stage financing of innovative companies in EaP countries”**

**21 September 2017**

**Crown Plaza Hotel, 13, Kyrova str., Minsk, Belarus**

**Draft Agenda**

09:00 - 09:30	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>
09:30 - 09:50	<b>Conference Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus</li> <li>– EU Delegation to Belarus</li> <li>– DG Research and Innovation</li> </ul>
<b>Session I: Disclosing challenges – discussing the needs</b>	
09:50 - 10:15	<b>Keynote Speech</b> <b>SMEs and innovation in transition economies</b> <b>Prof. Dominique FORAY</b> , Chair of Economics and Management of Innovation, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
10:15 - 11:15	<b>Panel discussion „Challenges in early stage financing of innovative firms: national context“</b> Participants: representatives of the EaP countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– public bodies (national, regional) responsible for support of business and innovation and</li> <li>– funding agencies and organizations providing financial support to start-ups, spin-offs and wider innovative businesses</li> </ul> <i>(to be identified by EaP Plus partners; one expert per EaP country with 5-7 min interventions)</i> Moderator: TBC
11:15 - 11:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>Session II: EU instruments for supporting the innovative business available for EaP SMEs</b>	
11:45 - 13:15	<b>Supporting EaP youth entrepreneurship and innovation</b> EC Delegation to Belarus (TBC)
	<b>HORIZON 2020: support for innovative SMEs</b> <b>Iker AYERBE</b> , SME Unit, DG R&I, EC

	<p><b>InnovFin</b>  <b>Marc D'HOOGHE</b>, InnovFin Programme Manager  European Investment Bank</p>
	<p><b>Subgrant scheme and innovation hubs within FI-ADOPT and DIATOMIC EC-funded projects</b> (tentative)  <b>Babis IPEKTSIDIS</b>, INTRASOFT Intl. S.A., Luxemburg</p>
	<p><b>The EaP PLUS Project instruments in support for innovation</b>  <b>George BONAS</b>, Coordinator of EaP PLUS, Managing Director, CeRISS</p>
13:15 - 14:15	<i>Networking lunch (standing)</i>
<b>Session III: Best national practices of the EU member states (and in EaP)</b>	
14:15 - 15:45	<p><b>Country X experience in funding start-ups, spin-offs and innovative SMEs</b>  <i>Speakers for this session will be proposed by the EU and possibly also by EaP partners of EaP PLUS, Panel for R&amp;I members and may be also by the Commission.</i>  <i>Speakers will be requested not only to present a successful scheme but also to analyze specific conditions which, in their view, are needed for its effective implementation in case of a transfer to another country.</i></p>
	<p><b>Experience from Poland:</b>  <b>Mr. Daniel SZCZECZOWSKI</b>, Department of Programmes Supporting Innovation and Development, Ministry of Economic Development of Poland</p>
	<p><b>Experience from Lithuania:</b>  <b>Mr. Kęstutis ŠETKUS</b>, Director, Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA) (TBC)</p>
	<p><b>Experience from Germany:</b>  <b>Ms. Maiia DEUTSCHMANN</b>, Research Center Jülich GmbH, Department of "Start-up, Transfer and Innovation Support" (EXIST Programme)</p>
	<p><b>Experience from France:</b>  <b>Mrs. Sylvie COGNEAU</b>, Bpifrance</p>
	<p><b>Experience from Austria:</b> TBC</p>
15:45 - 16.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>Session IV: How to better use the EU and national best practices in the EaP countries?</b>	
16:15 - 17:15	<p><b>Mixed panel with participation of the audience</b>  <b>Discussion along the pre-defined questions</b>  Moderator: TBC  <i>The goal of the discussion is to exchange views on a possibility of transferring the effective financial instruments of funding the innovative business to the EaP countries, as well as on whether the existing EC mechanisms for supporting the EaP countries could be used for that transfer.</i></p> <p><i>Participants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Mixed panel</b> of experts from the EaP/EU countries (authorities, intermediary organizations, beneficiaries) and Commission; short interventions in line with the proposed questions;</li> <li>– <i>participants interested to contribute to discussion</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Tentative questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Which are the most pressing needs in terms of early stage financing of innovative companies in the EaP countries?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Which of the existing EC mechanisms of support for EaP countries could be used for adapting to the best EU/EU MS practices and how?</li><li>- How to boost participation of EaP SMEs in H2020?</li><li>- Are there any recommendations that could be addressed at regional level?</li><li>- Could the EaP Plus instruments be of help?</li></ul>
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up and closure