Paper ID: 79053
oral

IAF BUSINESSES AND INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Interactive Presentations - IAF BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (IPB)

Author: Ms. Giorgia D'Agostinis
Fondazione E. Amaldi, Italy

Dr. Lorenzo Scatena
Fondazione E. Amaldi, Italy
Mrs. Eleonora Lombardi
Fondazione E. Amaldi, Italy

CHALLENGES, DISPARITIES AND RISKS OF THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM: THE SPREAD2INNO PROJECT TO BRIDGE THE GAP.

Abstract

The European innovation ecosystem is experiencing global competition, while the support mechanisms for startups and SMEs are lacking capacity and cooperation. This situation results in financial challenges, regional disparities, and scaling-up risks. The SPREAD2INNO - SPREADing the global potential of developing innovation ecosystems to strengthen INNOvation in regional and local businesses - project aims to address these issues by implementing a comprehensive two-year program that provides high-quality business services and promotes collaboration between different entities in both well-connected and less-connected regional innovation ecosystems. The project brings together various innovation actors from crucial European innovation regions, including Germany, Belgium, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, and Italy. The consortium of the project is composed of seven high-level business acceleration service providers from six different countries, with three from low/moderate innovation regions and three from strong/high innovation regions. The project's methodology is unique and interdisciplinary, aimed at improving entrepreneurial activities in less developed innovative regions, strengthening their acceleration capacity, and enabling entrepreneurs to scale their concept to a concrete solution with strong market potential. As a result, this will improve the development and competitiveness of these regions. The goal is to improve the capacity and competitiveness of both business accelerator institutions and SMEs and startups from more and less developed innovation ecosystems. Through the implementation of a range of activities that focus on developing a highly replicable, scalable, and holistic program for the provision of high-quality business services and collaboration between different entities of well-connected and less-connected regional innovation ecosystems. By doing so, the project hopes to create a sustainable and replicable model that can be easily adopted by the rest of the EU, thereby improving the development and competitiveness of European innovation ecosystems.