Newsletter 3

Best practices of entrepreneurship in UNIPI stand out in national competitions	UNIPI

Some ideas generated within the PhD*plus* Programme and research activities of the University of Pisa have turned into business projects that have achieved success in some national events.
On September 25, the **Start Cup Tuscany** took place in Siena. This competition is promoted by the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in collaboration with the regional network of technology transfer offices of universities in Tuscany.
The winner of the competition was **JOS,** an innovative platform for the charging of electric and electronic devices. Third place was **IVTech,** innovative in-vitro technologies for alternatives to animal tests. These projects, together with three other finalists, came from PhD*plus* , which proved to be an excellent training to the development of entrepreneurial skills.
Another PhD*plus* startup **"Awhy"** gained the "CrealImpresa-CAN" prize at the ICT business competition ITCUP13 organized by Registro.it, the Italian registry of internet domains. **Awhy** supports businesses and customers in the e-commerce experience. At the same competition, **#SOME** won the "iDNA" communication and marketing prize. #SOME is a startup funded by University of Pisa graduates and researchers that developed an innovative IOT platform for the creation and configuration of customized smart objects.
Finally, University of Pisa students and graduates had great successes at the **Rome Maker Faire** 2013. **BESOS** is a project by Luigi Francesco Cerfeda, a student in Biomedical Engineering, with the technological support of FabLab Pisa and the University of Pisa. This entrepreneurial project reached the final round of the business competition "TechGarage" organized by Maker Faire and the Italian VC DPixel. The idea is to make analog front-end devices for bioelectrical signals acquisition as plug-in and user-friendly shields for Arduino platforms.

State of the Art of Implementation the 10 Key Principles Included in the Small Business Act in the Czech Republic	AMSP

If we want to make an overall assessment of the implementation of measures given in the Small Business Act in the Czech Republic for the period of 2012 and the first trimester of 2013, unfortunately, we have to say that the practical support to entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises is not what it should be. On the part of the public administration it often consists only in measures with a proclamation character without significant positive impacts. Support to SMEs is mainly focused only onto education, innovation, investment and development, but on the other hand the support for exports is low, support for entrepreneurs (tradesmen) is almost none (they can't practically draw subsidies, bear the greatest impact of administrative burdens, fundamental and frequent changes in legislation, especially taxes). The reason for the overall poor level of implementation is the fact that SBA is not a legislation act, so that various public bodies don't pay appropriate attention to the implementation of the content. To be more precise bellow we tried to briefly evaluate each of ten points included in the SBA separately.

Entrepreneurship: Progress in this SBA areas is quite LIMITED. Despite the fact of a widely proclaimed support to and an accent on the entrepreneurship, there are still many significant barriers in Czech reality (stricter labor-market conditions, restrictions on the employment of foreigners from third countries, the inflexible Labor Code - changes in taxation of agreements to complete a job, the ban on chaining of temporary contracts /exerting a negative impact on seasonal work/, the introduction of an unreliable payer /liability for VAT payments of business partners/, payments for medical examinations of employees transferred onto the employer, etc. A positive aspect to be mentioned is that the concept of support for small and medium-sized enterprises for the period 2014-2020 has been approved.

Second chance: The progress can be considered a MODERATE one. In 2012 a fundamental amendment to Act No. 182/2006 Coll., The law on bankruptcy and its solution (the Insolvency Act), was approved, which brought a lot of positive aspects into the entrepreneurial environment.

Think Small First: SUBSTANTIAL progress has been made or is expected. For example, unified dates of effectiveness of the new legislation with an impact on the business environment have been introduced; new laws come into force always from January 1st respectively July 1st of each year (valid from 1. 1. 2013), the National Reform Programme - a strong proclamation of an introduction of measures for the more attractive business environment, consolidation of public finances and effective public administration, functioning labor market, growth based on innovation and research.

Responsive administration: Progress in this SBA area can be considered LIMITED. The administrative burden for SMEs is the biggest issue in this area. The Ministry of Industry and Trade as the body responsible for the implementation of SBA implements a long-term program to reduce the administrative burden indeed, but that seems to be generally ineffective; the Ministry of Industry and Trade isn't allowed to manage other ministries and make arrangements for reduction of business administration burden - although there is an officially indicated downtrend of the business administration burden in comparison with 2005 data, but the new legislation and the new load is completely ignored here. The new legislation is not consistently checked by the RIA (Regulatory Impact Assessment, i.e. an impact of new legislation on business).

Public procurement and state aid: Progress is MODERATE. The amendment to the Act on Public Procurement has been implemented - however the successful implementation suffers from four major problems: the extensiveness of corruption in public procurement; the registry of contracts; the procedure of implementation of amendments to the Public Procurement Act, and the transparency of legal entities

Access to finance: Progress in this sphere is considered MODERATE. Implemented are measures such as the "Seed Fund", "INOSTART", "PROGRES" with an intensive support through the ČMZRB, ČEB and EGAP, efforts of the Ministry of Finance to MINIMIZE tax evasions - see the introduction of the directive on an unreliable payer and liability for payment of VAT. The introduction of the European Directive to protect particular small and medium-sized businesses against enormous elongation of maturity of invoices has been recently discussed by the Czech government.

Single Market: Progress has been only MODERATE as not many significant measures have been introduced in this sphere so far.

Skills and Innovation: SUBSTANTIAL progress has been made in the given period with implementation of a lot of significant measures as already mentioned in the detailed list of SBA measures.

Environment: Progress has been LIMITED in the last period. This area is not at the center of enforcement.

Internationalisation: Progress has been MODERATE in this area. Several measures are used: the Marketing Program, the New Export Strategy to Support SMEs - especially on distant markets, a new online web portal for international co-operation with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "www.zijemevzahranici.cz" using contacts of Czech businessmen, expatriates abroad and foreign students who studied in the Czech Republic, support for SME participation in business missions accompanying governmental and state leaders on their official visits abroad and last but not least the emphasis on the work of economic diplomacy.

Second Meeting of EEC project: Sevilla.	US

Seville was the place in which the second meeting of the EEC "Transfer, configuration and development of multidisciplinary model for promoting entrepreneurship in VET and higher education" took place from May 27th to May 30th, 2013. The main purpose of the meeting was to communicate the methodology and findings of the Work Package 2 (WP2) performed by the researchers of the University of Seville. Besides, the Danish team presented an in-depth explanation of IDEA instruments during a visit to the Sevilla Council entrepreneurship promotion agency (CREA), were the General Director of Economy and Employment of the city council, Luis Miguel Rufino, gave the group a speech on their entrepreneurship culture fostering activities. Later on, in the Facultad de Turismo y Finanzas of Universidad de Sevilla, the Spanish group reported on the main conclusions and findings of the WP2, devoted to crossing and blending results analysis. Finally, Marina Otero presented the indicators state of the art.

Programmes for entrepreneurial spirit in Poland	BD Centre

The ingeniousness and the ability of adapting ideas to the market reality are being promoted amongst young people. In the current financial perspectives enterprises' support is provided for in the regional operational programmes and in the Operational Programme Innovative Economy. **The European Regional Development Fund** (ERDF) and **European Social Fund** (ESF) are the largest of the Community financial instruments for SMES through various thematic programmes and community initiatives implemented at the regions level. Another way to promote entrepreneurship in Poland are University **Centers for Technology Transfer** (CTT) and **The Academic Incubators of Entrepreneurship** (AIE).

Students exploiting the information and training activities offered by CTT use database, technological consultancy and mediation in dealing with the developers of the technique to search for new solutions in the field of entrepreneurship. In the case of academic incubators of Entrepreneurship, most of them work in the **framework of The Academic Incubators of Entrepreneurship** (AIE) Business Centre Club, which offers consultancy support. Infrastructure for business in Poland is developing dynamically because of dynamic development of **technology parks** and **technology incubators**. Young people increasingly use projects co-financed by the European Union to start their own business. They derive from attractive loans offered by Labor Offices, colleges or associations and the Foundation. Source of knowledge are also videos available on the Internet such as: "s-PIN key to entrepreneurship".

Academic entrepreneurship carries with it many benefits, both social and economic. Not only enables learning in economic processes, but allows for the dissemination of innovation, create new work places and increase of the competitiveness.