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**INTRODUCTION**

During the hot summer the Transferee Countries (so Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus) were working over the Regional Scans which aimed at gathering information concerning the macro and micro level of entrepreneurship in the mentioned countries. All the findings formed into the Regional Scan Reports were forwarded to our Italian Partners, META Group and ISTUD Foundation which will prepare the Final Report. This Report will be not only comprehensive source of information about the reasearched regions but also will be base for ISTUD Entrepreneurial Programme customization.

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**NEWS**

**The results of the preliminary analysis of the regional profiles**

In this article we present a table including the most interesting findings of the regional sheets, which have been prepared using the quantitative data provided by the partner organizations, with the aim to summing up the most relevant regional information, and some general reccomendations for the FASTER regional programmes.

From the analysis conducted some preliminary indications on the environmental factors affecting the development of knowledge intensive entrepreneurship came up and are summarized in this table. Also, some preliminary general recommendations for the objectives of the FASTER training programme can be given, even if the final recommendations will be made once all the information (qualitative analysis results) will be available:

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**The Economic Impact on Firm Starts and Exits**

During the Global Entrepreneurship Week (November 16–22), the OECD unveiled the first indications of how the economic crisis has impacted entrepreneurship. A worldwide economic recovery is needed: new and young firms, a primary source of new jobs, will have a crucial role and, for this reason, awareness must be raised among policy makers to support business start-ups.

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**FASTER Partners**

The FASTER project is based on transferring knowledge from the well-developed innovation and entrepreneurship support institutions in Italy to the business support institutions in the countries which joined the EU in 2004. Therefore all the partners organizations are key players at regional/national level for entrepreneurship promotion and start up creation, having strong linkages with policymakers and innovation intermediaries.

The partners of the project are:



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