



Training for Science and Technology park managers

D4: Results of face to Face interviews with policy makers and Policy advisors

At a local Level Funditec has carried out the following face to face interviews:

- I) Interview with Mr. J.Marti (head of the cluster unit of the regional innovation agency ACC10)
- II) Interview with Mr. J.Bellavista (Head of the Science and Technology Park Association of Catalonia and ex president of the International Association of Science and Technology Parks)
- III) Interview with Prof. J. Pique (Mayorhood of Barcelona; Head of the 22@ district)

During all the interviews the situation of Science and Technology parks at regional level was reviewed specifically regarding the elements of¹:

- a) Long Term sustainability of the created Structures and Teams
- b) The importance and Impact of STPs in the Territory
- c) The need for a coordinated territorial approach (policy and common strategy)
- d) The new models of STPs from the traditional park to the Science City
- e) 3GSTPs' training modules and recommendations on delivery and content.

All interviews considered that the training being developed is fundamental. Although a significant part of the “growth” of parks has already been developed in what applies to infrastructural development a lot of knowledge is still required to manage such infrastructures in times of economic difficulties. Thus the interviewed representatives consider that any type of training developed in this field will be well received not only at a local or EU level but also internationally specially Latin America and Africa as they are developing now such infrastructures.

Regarding the importance and impact of STPs none of the interviews actors have doubts regarding the positive effects on the territory. There are however some significant concerns regarding the pressure place on STPs in the way they have been financed (mainly loans). Furthermore Acc10 has coordinated the writing of a guide for parks during 2011 and 2012 in which the input of practitioners and STP managers has been included, the same document includes a basic chapter for policy makers and case studies and interviews of tenants across the different Catalanian parks. As part of the “guide” Mr. Martí emphasized the importance of not only the good practices but also the collection of mistakes done and explained by STP managers.

¹ The mentioned topics are part of the training elements planned as part of the 3gSTP modules.

Regarding the delivery of the modules presented the experts agreed in the need to have real practitioners delivering as specific material as possible in short but repeated sections and that the delivery by an experienced manager or practitioner was a must as it would add both credibility and real experience to the theoretical content.