

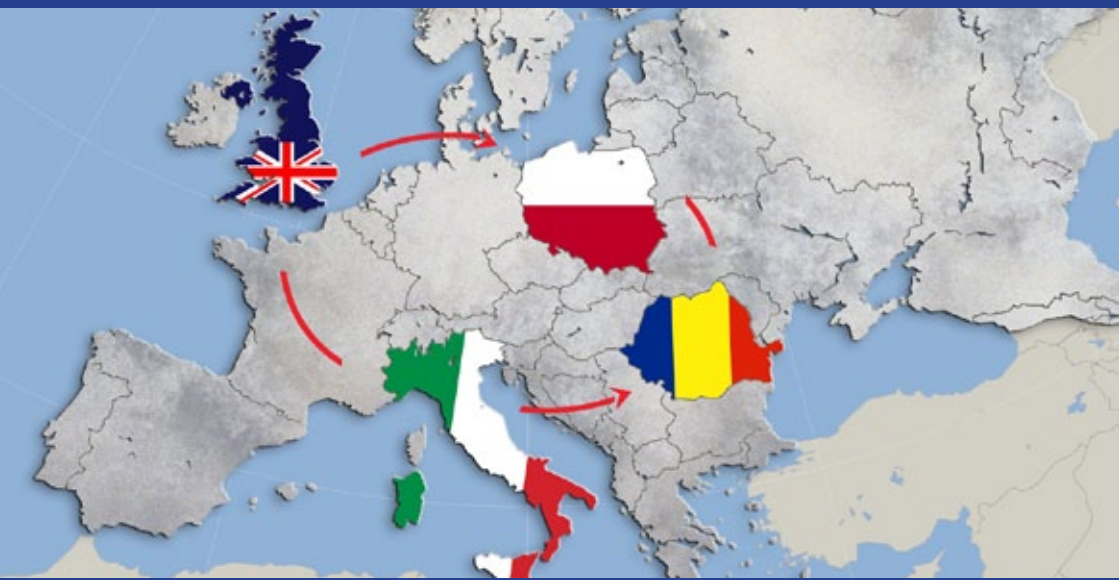


**European Union**  
European Regional Development Fund

## **Project 0787R2 DISTRICT +**

**Disseminating Innovative STRategies for Capitalization of Targeted Good Practice**

**Subproject “EAST\_INNO\_TRANSFER  
Supporting Innovation and Fostering Knowledge Transfer in  
the New EU Member States”**



## **II. EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD OF INNOVATION IN TUSCANY REGION, ITALY**

# 1. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The partners of the subproject EAST\_INNO\_TRANSFER (Brasov Teritorial Office for SMEs and Cooperation - Lead Partner, Brasov Agency for Sustainable Development – ADDJB, Brasov Metropolitan Agency – AMB, Staffordshire University, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa, Academic Entrepreneurship Incubator of Wroclaw University of Technology) have participated from the 9th to the 13th of January 2012 in the first training session and study visits in Pisa, Italy. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa has organized the event.

During the training session issues related to regional innovation policies, cooperation between universities, local authorities and the private sector in terms of technology incubators and R&D (Research & Development) centers were discussed.



# 1. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Study visits were made to three entities in Tuscany Region (Italy) developing innovation and technological transfer activities:

Pont-Tech (Pontedera) -  
<http://www.pont-tech.it/>



Technology Pole (Navacchio) -  
<http://www.polotecnologico.it/>



Polo San Cataldo, Pisa (TeCip Institute - Istituto di Tecnologie della Comunicazione, dell'Informazione e della Percezione, Institute of Information, Communication and Perception Technologies) –  
<http://tecip.sssup.it>



## 2. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE



### 2.1 SANT'ANNA SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES PISA – SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA PISA



Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (SSSA) is part of the Pisa University System together with University of Pisa and Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. At present, 800 students selected from the best ones study at SSSA.

The Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna activities are impressive in terms of number of projects implemented and research activities. 625 research collaborations of which 498 (79%) with foreign institutions were performed during 2010.

SSSA's research institutes are as follows:

- Biorobotics Institute;
- Institute of Information, Communication and Perception Engineering (TeCip Institute);
- Institute of Economics;
- Institute of Law, Politics and Environment;
- Institute of Management;
- Life Sciences Institute.



## 2. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE



### 2.2 PONT-TECH (PONTEDERA)

Pont Tech is a consortium for Industrial Research and Technology Transfer resulting from a joint initiative of public and private entities. It was established in 1996. Pont-Tech is located in Pontedera, 25 km away from Pisa and 65 km from Florence. Pontedera is one of the most important areas from the economic and industrial development viewpoint in Tuscany Region. In Pontedera are located the headquarters and the Production Plants of Piaggio Co, as are the main plants of Companies belonging to its supply chain.

The mission of Pont-Tech is to foster industrial research and technology transfer through technological and management services to firms and co-operation with Universities and Research Centers, as well supporting the SMEs belonging to Piaggio's supply chain in successfully dealing with their needs for innovation.

The partners of Pont-Tech are 12, as follows:

- Provincia Pisa (founder)
- Comune di Pontedera (founder)
- Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa (founder)
- Piaggio & C Spa (founder)
- University of Pisa
- Unione Industriale Pisa
- CNA Pisa
- Fidi Toscana
- Banca Popolare di Lajatico
- Banca di Credito Cooperativo di Fornacette
- Comune di Bientina
- Comune di Calcinaia.



## 2. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

The strategic action lines of Pont-Tech are:

**1. Promoting innovation in existing companies:** To find out the most suitable among the technologies developed in the partner research laboratories that can be a new opportunity for the present industry and for the local community. A significant result has been the establishment of the company PontLab, a centre of excellence aiming to provide a wide range of technical services (tests, analysis, qualification, certification) to industry.



*Researcher at PontLab*

**2. Promoting the start-up of firms in new emerging sectors,** based on new technologies where the integration between research and industry could generate new business opportunities for the economic development of the region. This objective is mostly attained through the Centre for Education and Research on Innovation and Technology Transfer (CERFITT), its Incubator and Laboratories, results of a 12 millions euro investment of the Municipality of Pontedera (7 M€), the Regional Government of Tuscany (2,5 M€) and the Italian Government (2,5 M€). CERFITT is managed by Pont-Tech and the fields of activity are:

## 2. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

mechatronics, micromechanic, biomedical, ICT, food, energy and environment. One success indicator is that 25 companies have been hosted so far at CERFITT; the 15 presently settled generated around 100 new jobs.

The key success factors of Pont-Tech are as follows:

- it is a LEAN organization: the management is composed of two persons (the president and the director); there are 3 employees (1 project manager, 1 responsible for the administration and projects accounting, 1 manager assistant) and a variable number of collaborators on projects;
- it has a stable financial organization and a significant economic base provided by the CERFITT services;
- the strategic model is based on a close cooperation with local governments and stakeholders, as well as with local universities.

The main fields regarding the technology transfer are: electronics, micro engineering applications in medical device and automotive, industrial automation, renewable energy.

The town of Pontedera hosts as well Pole Sant'Anna Valdera, the research laboratories of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, active in: micro engineering, sensors, biorobotics, ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) etc.



*Pole Sant'Anna Valdera*



## 2. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

### 2.4 POLO SAN CATALDO (PISA)



Institute of Communication, Information and Perception Technologies (TeCip Institute - Istituto di Tecnologie della Comunicazione, dell'Informazione e della Percezione) is part of Polo San Cataldo, being a research institute of SSSA. TeCIP Institute was established in 2001 as a Center of Excellence of the Ministry of Education.

TeCIP Institute integrates research on information technology, communication and networking based on photonic technologies and perceptual robotics, both public and private. By its nature, the research conducted by TeCIP is characterized by a strong link between academic culture and industrial and applicative reality. The Centre benefits from the contribution of different scientific (Physics, Materials Science, Mathematics) and techno-economic disciplines. The Institute also provides high-level educational opportunities to students from all over the world through advanced Double Degrees in information and communication technology.

## 2. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE



The main objectives of Institute are as follows:

- promotes research, including interdisciplinary, scientific and technological research of the highest quality, by attracting new resources and by increasingly asserting their role and identity both within Italy and international;
- offers innovative educational programs for postgraduates, PhD and Master students, and those attending first and second level standard courses in fields related to the activity of the institute.

The institute is an Integrated Centre for Research in the Photonic Networks and Technologies. This is the result of a decade-long collaboration between the School, Ericsson and the Italian Interuniversity Consortium for Telecommunications (CNIT). The institute's laboratories include:

- IRCPNet (Integrated Research Centre on Photonic Networks and Technologies)
- Percro (Perceptual Robotics Laboratory)
- ReTiS lab (Real-Time Systems Laboratory).

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