

# Strengthening the Innovation Ecosystem in Slovenia

## Activity 5 – study visits for capacity building

**DAY1: Venue:** Virtual meeting  
**Date:** October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**DAY2: Venue:** Brussels  
**Date:** October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 1. Goal of the study visits

The aim of the study visits is to support Slovenian authorities to expand their professional network and to acquire knowledge on innovation system management. The Activity 5 aims at:

- Operationalizing the measures and actions identified in the previous activities (Benchmarking exercise, subsequent workshops, and roundtables)
- Transferring a fine and granular understanding of the practices, key strategic but also operational aspects to be emulated in Slovenia
- Supporting the process by inviting the right representatives (see below) for these capacity building exercises.

The study visits follow a preparation phase to identify the good practices and will be followed by a capitalisation phase.

### 2. Audience of the study visit

Please note the meeting is for two audiences:

- Representatives from policy level designing and funding the instruments;
- Representatives from agencies and other key intermediaries in charge of implementing these instruments.

### 3. Introduction to the project

This workshop is part of the one-year EU-funded project 'strengthening the innovation ecosystem in Slovenia'. The aims of this project are:

- To perform research and analysis on the barriers and drivers in the Slovenian innovation ecosystem.
- To benchmark the Slovenian state of play against relevant international best practices.
- To draft recommendations and implementation activities.
- To carry out capacity building activities.

The project is organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the Business Development Agency (SPIRIT) and funded by the European Commission's DG REFORM. The project Steering Committee also features representation from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy.

For more information, please see [here](#).

#### **The team carrying out the project is from**

- [Valdani Vicari & Associati \(VVA\)](#), based in Belgium.
- [Oikos](#), based in Slovenia.
- [N-Able](#), based in France.
- [KPMG Slovenia](#), based in Slovenia.

### 4. AGENDA and key speakers

Participants would be expected to come prepared with ideas and opinions on the good practices presented. To do so, participants will receive concept notes and materials in advance for each of the three topics.

The event is invite-only and there is no audience or public present. The small attendance should allow lively conversation during the workshop and a strong transfer of experience. During two days, both the Flemish and the French ecosystems will be the occasion to learn about **three topical areas**:

- Setting innovation collaboration (public/private and private/private) and the role of intermediaries in technology transfer;
- Building a risk capital ecosystem;
- Support systems for piloting, demonstration, and research commercialisation.



**DAY 1 – French innovation ecosystem  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Venue: Virtual**

Time	Title	Speaker
08:45 -09:00	<b>Welcome coffee</b> <i>Real (virtual) coffee room</i>	
09:00 - 09:30	<b>Introduction</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome <input type="checkbox"/> Tour de table <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SPIRIT/MEDT representative</li> <li>➤ Hauts-de-France representative</li> <li>➤ VVA &amp; N-ABLE</li> </ul>
09:30 - 10:30	<b>Hauts-de-France Innovation Policy</b> <i>30 min presentation of the Innovation Policy of the Hauts-de-France - example of Factory 4.0 and technology transfer</i> <i>30 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	Mr Jean Denis Collé <i>Business support department Hauts-de-France region</i>
10:30- 10:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10:45-11:30	<b>Risk Capital for Industrial Transition</b> <i>20 min presentation by CAP3RI management on the fund, its genesis and operations</i> <i>20 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	Mr Guillaume Thomé <i>Investment director Nord Capital Partenaires CAP3RI Fund</i>
11:30- 12:30	<b>Capitalisation session</b> <i>Lessons learnt and replication</i>	N-ABLE
12:30- 14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:00-15:00	<b>Public Investment Banking at Scale</b> <i>30 min presentation by bpifrance on the institution, its genesis, and operations – particular emphasis on risk capital</i> <i>30 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	Mr Christian Dubarry <i>Head of European affairs, Bpifrance</i>
15:00- 15:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:15-16:30	<b>Taking stock of Champions' lessons on risk capital</b> <i>Intermediary lessons &amp; presentation of next day</i>	N-ABLE



**DAY 2 – Flemish innovation ecosystem**  
**October 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 - Venue: VLAIO, Bd Roi Albert II 35, 1030 Bruxelles**

Time	Title	Speaker
08:45 -09:00	<b>Welcome coffee</b> <i>Real (virtual) coffee room</i>	
09:00 - 09:30	<b>Introduction</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome <input type="checkbox"/> Tour de table <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SPIRIT/MEDT representative</li> <li>➤ EWI representative</li> <li>➤ VVA &amp; N-ABLE</li> </ul>
09:30-10:30	<b>Flemish innovation policy</b> <i>30 min presentation of EWI and the Flemish innovation policy – from design to evaluation, including governance and key instruments</i> <i>30 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	<b>Mr Johan Hanssens</b> <i>Secretary General of EWI (Department of Economy, Science &amp; Innovation structure)</i>
10:30- 10:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10:45- 11:45	<b>Clustering in Flanders</b> <i>30 min presentation : the creation of the policy instrument (5 years ago), the focus in the current policy, and the current clusters supported in Flanders</i> <i>30 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	<b>Ms Annie Renders</b> <i>Head of Unit Clusterpolicy at VLAIO (Flanders Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship agency)</i>
11:45- 12:05	<b>Stimulation of Entrepreneurship</b> <i>10 min presentation of VLAIO</i> <i>10 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	<b>Mr Patrick Jordens</b> <i>Coordinator Ambitious Entrepreneurship at VLAIO (Flanders Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship agency)</i>
12:05- 12:30	<b>Capitalisation and transferability</b> <i>Panel + Workshop format</i>	All participants
12:30- 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00 - 14:45	<b>VLAIO Agency and international activities</b> <i>25 min presentation of VLAIO, its structure, organisation, operations, and processes</i> <i>20 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	<b>Mr Maarten Sileghem</b> <i>Head International Collaboration and Strategy at VLAIO (Flanders Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship agency)</i>
14:45 - 15:30	<b>Pilot &amp; Demonstration Funding: the case of Flanders</b> <i>25 min presentation of VLAIO</i> <i>20 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i>	<b>Mr Eric Sleenckx, Head of Department Funding to Enterprises at VLAIO (Flanders Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship agency)</b>
15:30- 15:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:45-16:30	<b>New intermediaries: eye on SOCs</b>	<b>Dr. Ir. Marc Engels</b> <i>COO of Flanders Make</i>



	<p><i>25 min presentation of Flanders Make and the lessons drawn from this innovative structure since inception</i></p> <p><i>20 min Q&amp;A / discussion</i></p>	
16:30-17:00	<p><b>Wrap-up</b></p> <p><i>Key takeaways and way forward</i></p>	N-ABLE

