



Start up of the ICHNOS Plus Project: Innovation and Change: Network of One Stop Shops Plus

After the successful experience under INTERREG IIIC, the three partners of the [ICHNOS](#) project come together with a broader partnership to share the results and transfer the good practices achieved to the new partners of the [ICHNOS Plus](#) project.

ICHNOS Plus (Innovation and Change: Network of One Stop Shops Plus) is one of the six **capitalisation projects** approved on April 2008 under the 1st call of the [INTERREG IVC](#) programme. The project started on July 2008 and will finish on June 2010.

It stems from the experience of the former ICHNOS project. The **main goal** of the project is to **transfer the main results** of the previous project **into the EU Structural Funds mainstream programmes of partner regions**, in particular the model of **Regional Centre of Competence (RCC) for the coordination and support of One-Stop-Shops for businesses**.

The RCC model was conceived for the purpose of stimulating the establishment of the single points of contact for entrepreneurs throughout the Regions in order to reduce administrative burdens and ease business start-ups.

The project consists of three main components: 1) Management and coordination, 2) Communication and dissemination; 3) Exchange of experience.

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The core activities of the project are:

- ❖ **Studies and surveys.** Extension to the new partner regions of an analysis carried out under ICHNOS, aimed to highlight and compare the main features that influence starting or running a business in the regions involved; a toolkit of the upgraded RCC model and a feasibility study for a tailor-made transfer of this model.
- ❖ **Regional meetings** aimed at involving Managing Authorities and local stakeholders in the project activities by concertating the actions to be undertaken and collecting the feedbacks on the steps taken.
- ❖ **On-site visits and staff exchanges** designed to build capacity, raise awareness and improve know-how in the participating regions.

- ❖ **Interregional seminars** on the main issues of relevance for the project to make available all the information and material on the concerned practices; to raise awareness on the ICT solutions for easing start-ups, and a joint training session to deepen specific issues of partners' interest.
- ❖ **Dissemination activities:** three interregional conferences (opening, mid-term and final conference); newsletters, specialised articles and a project website (www.ichnos-project.org).

The **main output** of the project will be an **Action Plan** (1 per partner) describing how the RCC model and the other good practices will be implemented under the EU Structural Funds mainstream programmes of the partner regions.

Partners held their kick-off meeting on 18-19 September 2008. Primarily aimed at allowing partners to get to know each other better and to plan the work and the tasks that have to be undertaken during the first semester.



Kick-Off Meeting – 18th September 2008, Cagliari (Italy)

Opening conference and 1st Interregional seminar

On **11 December**, in **Cagliari** (Sardinia, Italy) there will be the Opening Conference and 1st Interregional Seminar of the ICHNOS Plus project.

The **morning conference** aims at presenting the project to the regional stakeholders and raise the regional policy and decision-makers' awareness on cutting red tape for businesses.

This meeting provides a valuable opportunity to listen to the views and opinions of the main institutional actors involved at the European, national and regional level in the process for reducing administrative burdens.

Key speakers include a representative of the European Commission DG Enterprise who will focus on the *2006 Spring Council conclusions and the Small Business Act calling for One-Stop-Shops (OSS)*; an expert of the Technical Unit for Simplification within the Italian Council Presidency of Ministers who will point out the *latest Italian laws for better simplification* as far as the One-Stop is concerned; the Department for Industry of the Sardinian Region Minister will explain the *coordination system of One-Stop-Shops and the measures undertaken to reduce time for starting-up a new business within the Region*.

The *point of view of the European SMEs* will be presented by the UEAPME Director Enterprise Policy and External Relations.

The six ICHNOS Plus partners will bring their **deep delegation members** (managing authorities of the

EU Structural Funds, political and administrative representatives and stakeholders) at the conference to share and discuss challenges and find out common solutions.

The afternoon seminar sets out to introduce partners and showcase the state of the art of One-Stop-Shops in their respective regions.

The primary focus of this session is to answer to the question: **how to implement the RCC model in the partner regions?** Starting from partners differences and needs as regards to their socio-economic context, the key point is to find the way for an effective transfer of the model.

For this purpose, the seminar will try to explore what is missing or needs to be upgraded with regard to this model.

Further details and information on www.ichnos-project.org or send an e-mail to: info@ichnos-project.org.



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