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Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Research Institute at the Academy of Management in Łódź is an independent research unit established in 2004 in order to:

- train and improve the professional skills of academic staff
- intensify research and development cooperation within the framework of national and international scientific networks
- conduct extensive national and international interdisciplinary scientific research and development work

The Institute's core research and development activities cover the following areas:

- Regions of knowledge (regional innovation strategies, regional clusters, sectoral innovation systems and innovation support policy, innovative instruments of region management).
- Innovative instruments for region and company management (regional and technological foresight, benchmarking, technological and innovation audit, governance, monitoring and evaluation).
- Entrepreneurship and support policy for small and medium enterprises (environment friendly to SME development, including the elimination of administrative barriers, national and international initiatives for SME support, best practices).
- European integration (theory of integration, economic consequences of integration).
- Internationalisation of SMEs (theory of internationalisation, internationalisation and globalisation of SME, cross-border and international cooperation).

Research results are available at the Institute's website: www.eedri.pl) as well as in the form of reports, analyses and scientific journals published by the Publishing House of the Academy of Management, etc.

Research results are also spread through papers and scientific announcements presented at conferences, workshops and scientific seminars including the ones that are organised by the Institute, which include two yearly conferences of primary importance:

- Regional Innovation Forum, since 2005 and
- "Technologies of the Future" Conference, since 2006.

Research results are the point of departure for the development of the Institute's **business services**, closely corresponding to market expectations. As regards its contents, the following issues deserve particular attention:

- Education and training of young academic staff,
- Consulting services for companies in respect of the advancement of innovation management skills to strengthen their potential,
- Staff training for businesses, including:
 - fashion designers – new curriculum
 - transformation managers – interactive workshops on the management of technological and organisational transformation in the textile industry
 - innovation management leaders –on-line workshops and coaching

The Institute's staff are recruited from highly-qualified research personnel with extensive international contacts as well as close contacts with the economy and its environment. Owing to them, the Institute is in a position to undertake new research challenges and guarantee the originality and high quality of the work conducted.

The Institute's international cooperation includes three dimensions:

- European institutions of higher education,
- international networks,
- individual scientists and experts invited to projects carried out by the Institute.

In June 2005, EEDRI became the first Polish scientific institution involved in economic research, and in particular in issues related to entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises, which was admitted to the European Network for Social and Economic Research (ENSR). The Institute was selected through in-depth verification conducted by the Network's management team. Scientific units which are ENSR members participate in research projects and expert reports carried out by the Commission's order. ENSR membership is a prestigious distinction as well as an opportunity for the development of broad international scientific cooperation. Over six hundred top-class international specialists currently cooperate within the network's framework. All the ENSR members have substantial international experience as regards research conducted in cooperation with both European institutions and developing countries. The Network's strength lies in its individual members' wide specialization: from macroeconomics to small business management.

In July 2006, the Institute was admitted to the European Textile Collectivities Association ACTE and became the first Polish scientific and research institution to be

a member of this organisation. ACTE focuses on the areas where the textile and apparel industry prevails. It aims to improve the situation of European textile manufacturers and protect trade against the inflow of Asian commodities. The Association develops systemic, standardisation and customs protection for European textile regions. ACTE embraces territorial self-government units, employee organizations, chambers of commerce, centres for education and scientific and research units.

The Institute's core activity covers the following:

- research and educational projects
- research services and expert reports
- publishing

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Between 2004 and 2009, the Institute launched and conducted, or participated as a partner, in the following large-scale research projects:

- 2004 – 2008, Partnership for fostering entrepreneurship and SME development - EEDRIPART
- 2005 – 2007, Transformation of the textile and clothing industry from labour intensive into knowledge based - LORIS TEX
- 2005 – 2008, Regional Innovation Strategy for Lodz Region - LORIS PLUS
- 2005 – 2008, Impact Assessment Systems and Methodologies for Innovation Excellence - IASMINE
- 2006 – 2008, Regional technological foresight - LORIS WIZJA
- 2006 – 2008, Challenges and Prospects of Cross Border Co-operation in the Context of EU Enlargement - CBCED
- 2006 – 2008, CSR and competitiveness – European SMEs good practices
- 2008, Evaluation of public intervention aimed at increasing the efficiency of Regional Innovation Systems. A practical guide for organisations ordering evaluation studies
- 2008 – 2009, Gearing Adult Education Towards Occupational Mobility - GATOM
- 2009 – 2011 Food and nutrition in the 21st century – a vision for the development of the Polish food industry
- 2009-2011, Advanced industrial and ecological technologies for sustainable development of Poland
- 2009 – 2009, Governance as a means to increase the involvement of non-public entities in the realization of regional policy objectives
- 2010 – 2012, Modern technologies for the textiles. Opportunities for Poland.

Partnership for fostering entrepreneurship and SME development - EEDRIPART

6th Framework Programme of the European Union, Akcje Marie Curie, TOK DEV.

Partners Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi (Poland), Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym (coordinator), Kingston University, Small Business Research Centre, (Great Britain, London)

Objectives

- improvement of the Institute's capabilities in respect of the development of regional partnership for fostering entrepreneurship and SME development,
- dissemination of "best practices" in respect of cooperation between the economy, administration and science as well as the development of interdisciplinary research in the field of economic and social sciences,
- continuous adjusting of the scope and character of socio-economic research on entrepreneurship and the SME sector to correspond to practical requirements and increase in the extent of research results exploitation to develop strategies supporting SME development.
- support for EEDRI to join the European Research Area (ERA).

www.eedripart.eedri.pl

Transformation of textile and clothing industry from labour intensive into knowledge based - LORIS TEX

Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP), Measure 2.6.

Partners

Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym** (coordinator), Politechnika Łódzka, Centrum Zaawansowanych Technologii Tekstyliów Przyjaznych dla Człowieka PRO HUMANO TEX

Objectives

To thoroughly prepare the ground for the rapid transformation of the regional textile and clothing industry into a modern, science-intensive sector as a driving force for the future economic development of the Łódź Province, including:

- assessment and diagnosis of the innovation requirements of textile and clothing companies, with a dynamic approach and keeping in mind promising trends in the development of this industry in Poland and in the world,
- identification and development of the concept of a communication system and cooperation between the R&D sector, industry and administration aimed at the stimulation of the development of the textile and clothing industry and increase in the competitiveness of this industry as well as that of all the region,

- improvement of business support organisations which aim to enhance the innovativeness and competitiveness of textile and clothing companies, in particular the smaller ones,
- improvement of the system of radical innovations implementation and achievement of a technological breakthrough in the textile and clothing industry.

Regional Innovation Strategy for Lodz Region - LORIS PLUS

6 Frame Programme, Specific Support Actions.

Partners

University of Łódź, Faculty of Management, Centre of Excellence in the Knowledge-Based Economy (coordinator), Łódź Regional Development Agency, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym**, Wirtschaftsforderung des Amts der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung (Austria), Consorzio Interuniversitario Regionale Pugliese CIRP (Italy)

Objectives

- increase in the efficiency of the regional innovation policy of the Province of Łódź through exploration of the background of and conditions for transforming it into a knowledge-based region,
- identification of local clusters, their innovation potential as well as their needs in respect of support mechanisms (cluster analysis),
- identification of the balance between supply and demand for information, educational, advisory and consulting services; comparison of the quality of services rendered by variety of institutions (regional benchmarking),
- diagnosis of guidelines for the technological development of the region's companies and their capabilities in respect of effective innovation process management (innovation and technological audit),
- determination of the primary guidelines for the Province's development and identification of transformation areas in the regional economy,
- development of the second generation Regional Innovation Strategy.

Publication

Rogut A., Piasecki B., *Regional Innovation Strategy for the Łódź Region*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź 2008.

www.lorisplus.eedri.pl

Impact assessment systems and methodologies for innovation excellence - IASMINE

6 Frame Programme, Specific Support Actions

Partners

Puglia Regional Government (Italy)-(coordinator), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym (Poland)**, Directorate of Innovation and Technology from the Regional Ministry of Industry, Technology, Commerce and Labour of the Regional Government of Navarra (Spain), Landkreis Aurich, appointed as legal representative for all of 17 participating Landkreis (NUTS III) of the Regierungsbezirk Weser Ems (Germany), Center of Employment and Education Tyrol region (Austria)

Objectives

- development and implementation of the impact assessment model and methodology for benchmarking regional innovation policies,
- identification and dissemination of best practices in respect of regional policy evaluation in selected EU regions.

www.iasmine.eedri.pl

Regional technological foresight – LORIS WIZJA

Sectoral Operational Programme “Increase in Competitiveness of Enterprises”, Measure 1.4.5.

Partners

Uniwersytet Łódzki, Wydział Zarządzania, Centrum Doskonałości w Zakresie Gospodarki Opartej na Wiedzy KNOWBASE (coordinator), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym**, Centrum Badań i Analiz Rynku ASM w Kutnie, Instytut Medycyny Pracy w Łodzi, Instytut Sadownictwa i Kwaciarnictwa w Skierniewicach, Łódzka Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego, Międzynarodowe Centrum Ekologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk w Łodzi

Objectives

- preparation of a technology development forecast for the period until 2020 for the Łódź Province,
- identification of the leading areas of regional competence (in the perspective to 2020), that is, groups of sectors characterised by a high synergy of economic and institutional factors, leading to the effective development of conditions for the

- diffusion of knowledge and technology,
- diagnosis of their technological requirements,
 - determination of guidelines for public assistance, in particular that funded by the Regional Operational Programme.

www.loriswizja.eedri.pl

Challenges and prospects of cross border co-operation in the context of EU enlargement - CBCED

6 Frame Programme, Specific Support Actions

Partners

Small Business Research Centre Kingston University (Great Britain)-(coordinator), University of Siegen (Germany), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym (Poland)**, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration (Finland), Institute for Entrepreneurship Development (Bulgaria), Tallinn University of Technology, Department of Business Administration (Estonia), University of Macedonia, Regional Development and Policy Research Unit (Greece)

Objectives

- examination of the current situation as well as opportunities and prospects for international cooperation of enterprises in the border regions; in particular exploration of the impact of EU enlargement on changes in the scale, directions and intensity of this cooperation,
- comprehensive identification of the sources of opportunities and threats to the development of entrepreneurship and international cooperation in a variety of countries and types of border regions,
- diagnosis of the degree and needs of support for the purpose of complete adjustment of countries and regions to EU policy requirements as well as new forms of management established following EU integration and enlargement.

www.cbced.eedri.pl

CSR and competitiveness – European SMEs good practices

ENTR Grant theme – ENTR/05/CP01 “Mainstreaming CSR among SMEs”.

Partners

The Austrian Institute for SME Research (Austria) (coordinator), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad**

Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym (Poland), Business Research and Development Centre, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration (Finland), Institut für Mittelstandsforschung (Germany), Agderforskning (Agderresearch) AS (Norway), Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and Bucharest (Romania), Instituto Vasco de Estudios e Investigación (Spain)

Objectives

- identification and description of best practice examples presenting the activity of SMEs in the area of corporate social responsibility which would contribute to the consolidation of their competitive position,
- increase in the awareness with regard to the interface between corporate social responsibility (CSR) and competitiveness,
- dissemination of information accumulated in SME and institutions engaged in CSR and preparation of the guidebooks enhancing CSR implementation in enterprises.

Publications

Mandl I., Dorr A , *CSR and Competitiveness. European SMEs' Good Practice. Consolidated European Report*, KMU Forschung Austria, 2007.

www.eedri.pl

Evaluation of public intervention aimed at increasing the efficiency of Regional Innovation Systems. A practical guide for organisations ordering evaluation studies

Transitional Measures 2005 (Multisectoral Project for Strengthening Administrative Capabilities, Component 6).

Coordinator

Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym (Poland)**

Objectives

- production of a practical guide for the evaluation of actions aimed at the development of regional innovation systems in particular regions,
- development of a methodology and culture of evaluation.

www.eedri.pl

Gearing adult education towards occupational mobility - GATOM

Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013.

Partners

The Austrian Institute for SME Research (Austria) (coordinator), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym (Poland)**, Business Research and Development Centre, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration (Finland), Berufsbildungswerk des DGB GmbH (Germany), Tom Martin & Associates/TMA (Ireland), Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and Bucharest (Romania), Instituto Vasco de Estudios e Investigación (Spain)

Objectives

- review of types of education, training and retraining of adult persons employed in the construction industry, public health and tourism available in seven countries: Austria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Romania and Spain,
- assessment of the degree of compliance of educational and training activities with the real requirements and needs of companies and employees,
- identification of best practices in respect of the adaptation of lifelong learning forms and methods to the needs of the labour market,
- development of recommendations on the improvement of lifelong learning quality in Europe.

Food and nutrition in 21th century – a vision for development of the polish food industry

Operational Programme Innovative Economy, Measure 1.1.

Partners

Instytut Sadownictwa i Kwiaciarnictwa w Skierniewicach-(coordinator), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym**, Politechnika Łódzka, Wydział Biotechnologii i Nauk o Żywności, Spółdzielnia Mleczarska „MLEKPOL” w Grajewie

Objectives

The project's immediate objective is to identify research and development directions through the foresight method in respect of support for the development of a strategy for the Polish Technology Platform for Food.

Specific objectives are as follows:

- development of a strategic research programme aimed at the development of technology for high-quality food in Poland (vision of the sector development, strategy for the high-quality food technology development in Poland; initiation and conducting scientific and technological research; development of methods of implementing new technologies in the food industry at a mass scale),

- determination of coherent “farm to table” measures that would ensure close links between science and industry in respect of the development of new food technologies based on food science, food biotechnology as well as providing high food safety (health, animal welfare and plant health),
- development of recommendations for innovation policy in respect of the development of technology for high-quality food,
- integration (within the framework of possibilities provided by foresight instruments) of key business and research partners interested in technologies for the production of high-quality food,
- support for agricultural producers and agricultural and food processing companies to prepare for facing future development challenges and provide them with the instruments to build a development strategy.

www.zywnoscizywienie.pl

Advanced industrial and ecological technologies for sustainable development of Poland

Operational Programme Innovative Economy, Measure 1.1.

Partners

Instytut Technologii Eksploatacji – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy, z siedzibą w Radomiu-(coordinator), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym** (Poland)

Objectives

Overall objectives concern the following:

- development of a R&D directional map for Poland in respect of manufacturing technologies, maintenance of machines and devices, environmental protection and staff training to meet the demands of advanced industrial technologies, industry requirements and the potential of research units,
- preparation of a plan for implementing a vision for the development of these technologies in the area of sustainable development by 2020.

The project’s specific objectives include the following:

1. Development of a strategic research programme enhancing the development of advanced manufacturing technologies, operation and maintenance of machines and devices, environmental protection and staff training to meet the demands of advanced industrial technologies in Poland.
2. Development of recommendations on new qualification standards and modular curricula as well as educational packages for advanced industrial technology specialists, which will translate into the efficient training of highly qualified staff for the economy.

3. Determination of innovation policy guidelines which take into account the requirements of companies as well as R&D and educational institutions operating in the areas covered by the project.

www.portaltechnologii.pl

Governance as a means to increase the involvement of non-public entities in the realization of regional policy objectives

National Strategy for Cohesion

Coordinator

Spółeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi – **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym EEDRI (Poland)**

Objectives

The project's primary objective is to provide the regional authorities (or other policy-making entities) with the knowledge and tools for innovation and increasing the efficiency of public intervention in respect of the development of regional innovation systems.

The project's specific objectives are as follows:

- development of tools (a set of indices) for measurement of the implementation of the governance principle with reference to the development of regional innovation systems,
- development of recommendations for the Ministry of Regional Development and regional self-government administration in respect of the implementation of governance solutions with reference to the development of regional innovation systems,
- organisation of a closing conference where the project's results will be presented,
- preparation of publications presenting the project's results.

Modern technologies for textiles. Opportunity for Poland

Operational Programme Innovative Economy, Measure 1.1.

Partners

- Instytut Biopolimerów i Włókien Chemicznych-(coordinator), Politechnika Łódzka, Instytut Włókiennictwa, Instytut Technologii Bezpieczeństwa MORATEX, Instytut Włókien Naturalnych i Roślin Zielarskich, Centralny Instytut Ochrony Pracy – PIB w Warszawie, Spółeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi – **Instytut Badań nad**

Objectives:

The project aims at the identification of research and development guidelines through the application of the foresight method in respect of support for the development of the strategy for the Polish Technology Platform for Textile Industry.

The project's general objectives are as follows:

- developing a vision for the development of the textile industry in Poland through the identification of Polish areas of competence and global leadership as well as the development of technological scenarios for the textile industry,
- verification and extension of a strategic research programme for the development of technology for textiles,
- identification of technological regimes characteristic of individual textile industry segments and influencing the types of links between the system's participants as well as the intensity and character of innovations,
- identification of factors increasing the scale of the exploitation of advanced technological and information solutions (knowledge-intensity),
- development of qualified staff for the textile industry: preparation of recommendations in respect of the development of new qualification standards, modular curricula and educational packages,
- drawing up innovation policy foundations – more precise and corresponding to the requirements and possibilities, identification of the strength, direction and scope of a support policy for the domestic textile industry.

RESEARCH SERVICES

The following research services for Polish and international institutions and scientific centres were rendered by the Institute between 2004 and 2009:

- 2004 – 2005, Chemicals substitution in the European SMEs
- 2005 – 2006, Analysis of support measures for business creation following restructuring
- 2005 – 2006, Employment initiatives for an ageing workforce in the new member states plus Romania and Bulgaria
- 2006, The social insurance system for young entrepreneurs and their spouses
- 2006 – 2010, EU R&D Investment Scoreboard
- 2006 – 2007, Study on practices and policies in the social enterprise sector in Europe
- 2007, Cluster mapping report for Poland
- 2008, Diversification of labour and human resources
- 2008, Textile – Clothing – Leather. Assessment of obligatory tools in the area of safety TCL
- 2008, The economic effects of seasonal migration on the Dutch economy
- 2008, Providing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the EU - best practices and financing schemes
- 2008, Industry of stove-fitters
- 2008, Access to the standardisation in Europe
- 2008 – 2009, Regional Innovation Strategies - Implementation Experiences
- 2008 – 2009, Representativeness of business organizations for SME in the EU
- 2009, Benchmarking of the efficiency of regional structures managing, implementing and monitoring the development of innovation in the Silesian Province
- 2009, Study on non-legislative initiatives for companies to promote gender equality at work

Chemicals substitution in the European SMEs

Research commissioned by EIM Business & Policy Research (Netherlands) was aimed to:

- analyse the use of harmful and dangerous chemical substances by European producers, processors and end users and their substitution with more environmentally friendly substances (retaining the same functional values of the end product) or reduction in respect of their use,
- identify external factors determining the process of substitution of these substances in small and medium enterprises.

The study identified and examined Polish companies which reduce the extent of the use of harmful and dangerous chemical substances (also through their substitution). The study results were further incorporated in a report prepared by a team of experts from other European countries.

Analysis of support measures for business creation following restructuring.

Research commissioned by IKEI Research & Consultancy SA (Spain), financed by The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions was aimed to:

- explore the restructuring processes of the European economic sectors (including their legal, social, economic and other circumstances),
- identify and disseminate actions undertaken in these sectors resulting in job generation both following changes in the qualification profiles of employees and their starting business on their own, including self-employment.

The services rendered included the following:

- making an inventory of Polish studies concerning the restructuring of various economic sectors along with actions supporting job generation,
- making an inventory of Polish best practices in this field,
- conducting in-depth analysis of selected ‘best practices’,
- preparing a synthetic national report,
- presenting the research results at the EMCC Company Network Seminar “Business creation as a result of restructuring processes”

Employment initiatives for an ageing workforce in the new member states plus Romania and Bulgaria

Research commissioned by the Austrian Institute for Small Business Research (Austria), financed by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions; it was aimed at:

- making an inventory of institutional and programme frameworks supporting an increase in the occupational activity of the 50 plus population and identifying the most important initiatives in this respect,
- identifying and promoting of good practices in occupational activity of the ageing workforce

The research service involved:

- establishing a national database of Polish institutions, strategic and operational documents and initiatives (programmes and projects) aimed at the activation of occupational activity among the ageing workforce,
- making an inventory of Polish best practices in this field,
- preparing a national report,
- presenting research results at an international forum, at seminars held by the Austrian Institute for Small Business Research.

The social insurance system for young entrepreneurs and their spouses

Research commissioned by the EIM Business & Policy Research (Holland). It was designed to conduct an international comparative analysis (European Union member countries plus Turkey, Island, Norway and Liechtenstein) in respect of relationship between social insurance contributions and people's willingness to start their own business, also in the form of self-employment.

The research service involved developing a national report on the social insurance system for entrepreneurs and their spouses along with indicating Polish "best practices" in this field.

EU R&D Investment Scoreboard

Research commissioned by Company Reporting Ltd (Great Britain) in order to:

- evaluate investment outlays on the research and development activity of stock listed companies in the European Union and other European countries,
- compile a ranking list of the studied companies.

The research involved evaluating yearly financial statements of the selected Polish enterprises and the preparation of indispensable information to compile the final ranking list.

Study on practices and policies in the social enterprise sector in Europe

Research commissioned by the Austrian Institute for Small Business Research (Austria), in order to:

- characterise social firms in the European Union and in Island, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey,
- identify national and regional activities supporting the creation and functioning of the social sector,
- make an inventory of “best practices” in supporting social firms,
- develop recommendations for the European Commission indicating the directions and forms of supporting the social sector in the future.

The research involved the preparation of a description of Polish social sector including: analysis of legislation, identification of best social firms in Poland and activities supporting their creation and operation.

Cluster mapping report for Poland

Research commissioned by Oxford Research AS (Norway) in order to:

- develop a map of Polish clusters (existing and envisaged),
- analysis and evaluation of activities taken by central and regional public administration bodies which support cluster initiatives.

The research involved the development of a map of cluster initiatives and public assistance for cluster initiatives.

Diversification of labour and human resources

Research commissioned by EIM Business & Policy Research (Holland) in order to evaluate activities taken by EU enterprises and employer organisations in:

- implementing new organisational and technical solutions in production management,
- developing human resources (training, improvement of skills, re-training, facilitating education),
- facilitating the development of international and multicultural employee teams,
- evaluating programmes and activities taken by employer organisations directed at the diversification of work and human resources.

The research involved implementing a questionnaire survey in enterprises in Poland enabling the evaluation of human resource management and compiling a national report presenting results of this research.

Assessment of obligatory tools in the area of safety TCL (Textile – Clothing – Leather)

Research commissioned by the President of European Textile Collectivities ACTE involved analysis of the degree of compliance with EU directives in respect of safety of textile, apparel and fur products supplied to the European Union market by EU and non-EU manufacturers. The opinion served as a supporting guideline for the “Petition for certified quality of textile, apparel and fur products” addressed by ACTE to the European Commission.

The research involved analysis of Polish legal acts and European Union directives which constituted the basis for textile, apparel and fur product manufacture and trade in the European Union. The expert report evaluated the directive on chemical substances and compounds, CE markings, ecological markings and activities of audit bodies and laboratories. The report proved the coherence of the Polish legal system in respect of TCL with the European system. The reason why textile goods of non-Polish origin do not meet the requirements is the low awareness and knowledge both on part of importers and consumers. The fact that random control of the toxic properties of fabrics, apparel and shoes is conducted only after these are allowed to the market is a cause for concern. There is a call for establishing a TCL Research and Information Centre and for explicit specification of contents of information markings in EU trade.

The Economic effects of seasonal migration on the Dutch economy

Research commissioned by EIM Business & Policy Research (Holland) in order to evaluate the influence of free workforce flow in Europe on the economy of Holland.

The research involved conducting a study to evaluate the extent and dynamics of economic migration of Polish citizens to Holland. The evaluation was conducted on the basis of statistical materials of the Polish Central Statistical Office, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Parliamentary Analysis Office, and relevant research institutes and expert opinions. The research and analyses resulted in the description of an image of Polish economic emigrants.

Providing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the EU - best practices and financing schemes

Research commissioned by the Austrian Institute for Small Business Research (Austria) in order to:

- evaluate adaptation of work places to the needs of disabled persons,
- make an inventory of “best practices” in particular countries and their popularisation throughout the whole European Union.

The research consisted in analysis of conditions of employing persons physically and mentally disabled in Poland (on the basis of desk research and interviews conducted in enterprises employing disabled persons, associations and foundations concerned

with problems of disabled persons as well as in the Polish Association of Employers of Disabled Persons).

Industry of stove-fitters

Research commissioned by the Austrian Institute for Small Business Research (Austria) in order to conduct in-depth analysis of the stove-fitting occupation in Poland and Ukraine.

The research involved analysis of present and future standing of stove-fitting businesses. The analysis was based on a questionnaire survey conducted among craftsmen – owners of stove-fitting businesses regarding their financial condition, possibilities of learning the skills of a stove-fitter, possibilities of receiving apprentice certificates or qualified craftsman's diplomas in stove-fitting. At the same time information was gathered on syllabi for this profession in vocational schools.

Access to the standardisation in Europe

Research commissioned by EIM Business & Policy Research (Holland) in order to define the extent of inclusion of European entrepreneurs in the process of the development and implementation of norms and standards regulating various spheres of economic activity.

The research involved in-depth interviews in selected Polish enterprises which participated or were interested in participation in normalisation and standardisation processes carried out in the European Union.

Regional Innovation Strategies - Implementation Experiences

Research commissioned by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development under the National Cohesion Strategy Human Capital, carried out in collaboration with PSDB WYG International. The research was aimed to identify and promote the best solutions in the organisation and implementation of Regional Innovation Strategies and in the creation of regional innovation systems through local self-governments in Poland.

Representativeness of business organizations for SME in the EU

Research commissioned by EIM Business & Policy Research (the Netherlands) was aimed at:

- gathering detailed information on the structures of business organisations of entrepreneurs in the 27 EU countries.

- preparing a database of key business organisations representing SMEs.

The research involved:

- description of the condition of small and medium enterprises in Poland (analysis of statistical data),
- preparation of a database of Polish SME organisations,
- conducting interviews in these organisations about the scale and type of their activities and services offered to SMEs in Poland.

Benchmarking of the efficiency of regional structures managing, implementing and monitoring the development of innovation in the Silesian Province

Research commissioned by the Marshall's Office of the Silesian Province under the Human Capital Operational Programme, Priority VIII, Measure 8.2.2, in collaboration with PSDB WYG International. The research was aimed at acquiring knowledge which will constitute a keystone for further development of structures responsible for the management, implementation and monitoring of the regional innovation strategy and, by the same token, of the regional innovation system. In particular, the goals pursued in the research included:

- gathering information about the management, implementation and monitoring processes for the Regional Innovation Strategy in the Silesian Province and about the functioning of structures responsible for these processes,
- acquiring knowledge about possible organisational and structural solutions and planned actions used in the management, implementation and monitoring of regional innovation strategies in selected Polish provinces at the current stage of implementation of regional innovation strategies,

The research will result in the preparation of the following models for the Silesian Province:

- management, implementation and monitoring of the regional innovation strategy in the Silesian Province,
- development of a regional innovation system.

Furthermore, recommendations will be provided as to their implementation in business practice.

Study on non-legislative initiatives for companies to promote gender equality at work

Research commissioned by the Austrian Institute for SME Research (Austria) was aimed at the identification of the most interesting initiatives in EU member states and in EU regions which promote and encourage gender equality at work. The goal was to identify actions not falling under the Labour Code that would enable people to thrive

at work, get education, acquire new qualifications, and be promoted to managerial positions irrespective of their gender and family obligations related to parenting.

The research involved the preparation of a national report (on the basis of desk studies and questionnaire surveys) presenting best practices used in Polish companies.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

- 2006 – 2009, Improving Innovation Management with Sustainable - IMP³ROVE
- 2005 – 2007, Innovating enterprises – raising the standard of Staff training in the cloth and textile industries - TEX PLUS
- 2009 – 2011, Academy of Innovation Management
- 2009 – 2011, Innovation management as a key competence of creative staff

Innovating enterprises – raising the standard of staff training in the cloth and textile industries - TEX PLUS

Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development, Measure 2.6

Coordinator

- Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym (Poland)**

Objectives

The project was meant to apply the results of the LORIS TEX project in preparing customized training courses for entrepreneurs and employees of textile and clothing companies.

Improving innovation management with sustainable IMP3pact project - IMP³rove

Partners

A.T. Kearney /Germany/ (co-ordinator), Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering, IAO /Germany/ (co-ordinator), Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym** /Poland/ Advansis Oy /Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia/, Technofi SA, /France, Belgium i Netherlands/, Pro Fill CS, s.r.o. /Czech Republic/, I.con.innovation GmbH, /Germany, Austria/, Logotech SA /Greece, Turkey/, SC tr@net servicii SRL /Hungary, Romania/, Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, APRE /Italy/, Malta Federation of Industry /Malta/, Abis, d.o.o /Slovenia/, ZABALA Innovation Consulting/ Spain, Portugal/, InnovationsTransfer Zentralschweiz ITZ /Switzerland/, IAGO Limited /Great Britain, Ireland, Bulgaria/

Objective

Training in innovation management for strengthening the growth potential of small and medium enterprises through a web-based self-assessment and benchmarking tool and through access to a network of consultants.

Publications

Diedrichs E, Engel K., Wagner K., *European innovation management landscape. Assessment of current practices in innovation management consulting approaches and self-assessment tools in Europe to define the requirements for future “best practices”*, Europe INNOVA paper No 2, 2006.

Insights on Innovation Management in Europe Tangible results from IMP³rove, Europe INNOVA paper No 10, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, Luxembourg 2008.

www.improve-innovation.eu

Innovation Management Academy

Human Capital Operational Programme, Measure 8.1.1 Support for the development of professional qualifications and consulting for companies.

Partners

Spółeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi – **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym EEDRI (coordinator)**, Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Łódź (Poland)

Objectives

The main objective is to provide 120 adults working in the sectors that are strategic for the Łódź Province with competencies in the area of innovation management by the end of 2010. This objective will be implemented by completing the following specific goals:

- Improving innovation management qualifications by at least 70% in 120 adults working in the sectors that are strategic for the Łódź Province,
- Improving qualifications in the area of the creation and effective implementation of innovation-based business strategies by at least 70% in 120 adults working in the sectors that are strategic for the Łódź Province,
- Improving qualifications in the area of applying for EU financing for the implementation of innovative solutions by at least 70% in 120 adults working in the sectors that are strategic for the Łódź Province,
- Training 120 adults working in the sectors that are strategic for the Łódź Province in using the SAT tool (Self-Assessment Tool for Innovation Management).

Innovation management as a key competence of creative staff

Human Capital Operational Programme, Measure 2.1.1 Development of human capital in companies

Partners

Spółeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi – **Instytut Badań nad Przedsiębiorczością i Rozwojem Ekonomicznym EEDRI (coordinator)**, Związek Pracodawców Warszawy i Mazowsza, Collect Consulting Sp. z o.o. (Poland)

Objectives

To support the adaptation potential of 350 small and medium companies, which will translate into their business growth through training 400 employees and entrepreneurs in innovation management (40% of the participants are going to be persons 45 years of age or older, and at least 55% of the participants will be female). To implement innovative management strategies and remedial activities in the companies involved in the project by 31 August 2011.

Publications

Monographies

Fabińska M., Piasecki T., *Benchmarking regionalny*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź 2008.

Ignasiak B., *Analiza doświadczeń regionów europejskich, które przekształciły przemysł tekstylny-odzieżowy z pracochłonnego w naukochołny - możliwości wykorzystania tych doświadczeń w rozwoju polskich przedsiębiorstw tekstylny-odzieżowych*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź 2007.

Kosińska S., *Poziom innowacyjności firm z sektora tekstylny-odzieżowego w województwie łódzkim. Zarządzanie innowacjami*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź 2007.

Krucieńska I., *Diagnoza potencjału jednostek badawczo-rozwojowych i procesu komercjalizacji badań*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź 2007.

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Michalczyk L.(red), *Pozycjonowanie technologii*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź,2008.

Piasecki B., Kubiak K.(red), *Partnerstwo dla innowacji*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź 2009.

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Regionalna strategia innowacji - foresight regionalny, Prace Instytutu EEDRI przy SWSPiZ - Nr 1/2004.

Rogut A., Barwy włókiennictwa, *Potencjał przemysłu włókienniczo-odzieżowego w województwie łódzkim*, Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania w Łodzi, Łódź 2007.

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