



Workshop

Internationalisation of Innovation in SMEs

Brussels, Hotel Bloom
(Rue Royale 250, 1210 Brussels)

Monday, 13th June 2016, 10:00 – 16:00 hrs

Background and objectives

This expert workshop deals with the Internationalisation of innovation activities in SMEs. We expect a group of about 25 to 30 experts from different backgrounds (industry, SME associations, research, consulting and policy).

The workshop takes place in the wider context of a study on the same issue which is being conducted by empirica GmbH (Bonn, Germany) and Dialogic (Utrecht, NL). “Internationalisation” means, in this context, that SMEs engage in systematic cooperation with third country partners, and/or that they customise their innovations in order to access a market outside of the European Union. The study has three main objectives: (1) gaining new insights on drivers and barriers for European SMEs to internationalise their innovation activity; (2) analysing related infrastructures and policy measures (in terms of strengths and weaknesses); and (3) developing recommendations for improved policies to support SMEs in this respect. To this end, the study has conducted case studies of SMEs and has compared policy measures at EU Level seeking to enhance such internationalisation and identified good practices in Member States.

The goals of the workshop are to validate the pre-final results of the study, to provide a platform for the exchange of views on related issues among experts and, thus, to support evidence-based policy making in the field of SME innovation.

Preliminary agenda

09:30 Registration and welcome coffee

10:00 **Welcome and introduction**

- *Jean-David Malo, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, B3 – SMEs, Financial Instruments and State Aid*

Part I: Current practices: how European SMEs internationalise their innovation activity (case studies, challenges, issues)

10:15 **Empirical evidence:** findings from a European study on the internationalisation of innovation in SMEs

- *Dr. Stefan Lilischkis, Senior Consultant, empirica GmbH*

What experts think about related issues: results of an online survey

- *Hannes Selhofer, Project Manager, InnovationLab, Salzburg Research GmbH*

Discussant

- *Margaret Mulligan / David Tee, EBN Innovation Network*

11:15 **Case studies / best practices:** examples of SMEs with international innovation activities

LifeTec (Netherlands): customising innovative services in medical testing for international clients

- *Dr. Lars Mulder, Director of Operations (to be confirmed)*

WEPROG (Denmark/Germany): providing innovative weather forecast services for large international business customers

- *Dr. Corinna Möhrten, Director*

11:45 **Discussion**

12:30 Lunch break

Part II: Policies in support of SMEs' international RDI activities

13:15 **Initiatives of the European Commission** to promote the internationalisation of SMEs – an overview

- *Samuel Maenhout, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation*

A comparative analysis of policy measures to support SMEs: good practice examples, lessons learned, and recommendations for future policy (presentation of study findings)

- *Robbin te Velde, Principal Researcher, Dialogic*

Discussants

- *Christin Pfeiffer, Secretary General, INSME*
- *David Golding, Innovate UK*

14:15 **Discussion**

15:00 Coffee break

15:20 **Concluding remarks and discussion – the way forward**

16:00 End of the workshop

The workshop will be chaired by Mr Hannes Selhofer, Salzburg Research GmbH.

Location

Hotel Bloom (<http://www.hotelbloom.com>) is located besides the Brussels' inner ring road and adjacent to the Botanical Gardens, just 20 meters from the Metro station, trams and busses at "Botanique". The nearest rail connection is from Gare du Nord / North Station (500 meters). Brussels Airport is 12 km or 25 minutes by taxi in normal traffic. There are direct train connections between Brussels Airport and North Station.

Contact persons & further information

The workshop is organised by the InnovationLab of Salzburg Research GmbH on behalf of the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation. For questions please contact:



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