



PRESS RELEASE

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BEPART receives additional EU-funding; total funding now € 1.87 mill.

The promotion, training and support of future entrepreneurs are top on the agenda of European universities and regions.

BEPART (Baltic Entrepreneurship Partners) is an international network of universities, polytechnics, incubators and regional development agencies to further develop quality and effectiveness in entrepreneurship training and promotion. The network was started in year 2004. Now, this initiative was granted another € 200.000 EU-funding out of the programme Interreg III C. Financing is added by own contributions of each and every partner. With a total funding of nearly € 1.9 mill. BEPART will be able to continue project work until end of 2007, and to go into additional activities.

'Good' training programs for entrepreneurs need criteria beyond the mere look onto the number of new businesses. (It is obvious that even poor seminars can illustrate start-ups if the organizers are smart enough!) But quality in entrepreneurship training and education means for example that participants shall grow in their entrepreneurial spirit and competence. This is why BEPART emphasizes action-oriented, empowering methods and training-designs, which are still used quite little. Entrepreneurship is a pedagogical challenge. Another criterion for universities is to support effectively the transformation of research know-how into the founding of businesses within their regional surroundings. Programs shall therefore be linked to the region, shall bridge theory and application. Last but not least can international orientation be regarded as an own criterion for entrepreneurship promotion by modern universities and innovative regions.

International exchange of experiences and additional research make up most of the daily work of BEPART. The network does not offer entrepreneurship trainings by itself, but each partner links and uses generated and received know-how for local and regional seminars and promotional activities. In Rostock, the trainings of a project called 'ROXI' uses the experiences, and this 'additional value' on local spots is similar with entrepreneurship education programmes of partners from Tallinn, Krakow or Twente, to give some examples. Vice versa, BEPART makes use of experience transfer by practitioners from the spots into the international network.

A recent BEPART initiative now aims at an international Tain the Trainer for entrepreneurship, as such an offer still is an international and European bottleneck. Of course everyone expects entrepreneurs to have a look beyond their regional markets and be competitive. But a similar expectation can be applied to entrepreneurship promotion and education, which does also need more European and quality orientation. This is what BEPART will invest the additional funds for.

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