

KARIM MEMBERS



**BOOST
THE COMPETITIVENESS
OF INNOVATIVE SMEs
IN EUROPE***

New European Project 2011-2014

karim knowledge
acceleration
responsible
innovation
meta network

www.karimnetwork.eu



INTERREG IV B - 207G - KARIM
KARIM Project is co-financed by the European Union.

— JOIN THE KARIM NETWORK

In the perspective of expanding its expertise and missions throughout Europe, Paris Region Innovation Center won the bid tender for the KARIM (Knowledge Acceleration and Responsible Innovation Meta-network) project as part of the INTERREG IVB North-West Europe strategic initiatives program, which brings together eight partners from six Member States of the northwest European Union (France, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland).

KARIM aims to improve SMEs' access to technology and innovation support services, particularly responsible innovation, and to boost North-West Europe's competitiveness.

The project has developed two strategic focus areas:

- Setting up and running a North-West Europe transnational innovation support network
- Developing exchanges between SMEs and academic researchers

The project will link over 500 innovation players in North-West Europe by 2014.

Whether you're an SME, laboratory, university or responsible innovation player, please visit www.karimnetwork.eu:

- Find out about activities and events taking place within the KARIM project's framework
- Find all the responsible innovation news and key information
- Contact the various European partners

— ACTIONS

Setting up and structuring the KARIM network:

- Mapping North-West Europe's innovation support and technology transfer players
- Creating the KARIM website
- Defining a Responsible Innovation shared vision and terminology

Promoting university skills with SMEs:

- Creating a program enabling SMEs to call upon the services of Researchers, Masters and PhD students at partner universities to design and set-up technological partnership projects
- Fostering relationships and collaborative support between SMEs and research laboratories based on technology supply and demand (Open Forum, project tenders)
- Studying spin-offs: definition, identification and development
- Promoting university R&D with SMEs Europe-wide

Making the most of SMEs' skills by integrating a responsible, transnational approach:

- Raising responsible innovation awareness
- Training for transnational collaborative projects
- Encouraging meetings between SMEs and European investors
- Distributing Economic Intelligence studies



The centre aims to educate student on courses about entrepreneurship, such as finance, product development and marketing, and support researchers in transferring their knowledge to the market. The Delft Centre for Entrepreneurship collaborates with the YES!Delft incubation centre which has accommodated over 100 start-ups in the last 5 years.

Within KARIM, TUDelft investigates the interaction between university and SMEs, the specific technology transfer mechanism of academic start-up companies. These companies put into practice scientific knowledge generated at universities. Supported by government authorities that intend to improve the high-technology knowledge density within regions, academic institutions increasingly adopt this approach to commercialize their scientific findings and at the same time develop a cluster of high-tech firms in their neighbourhood.

— MFG INNOVATION AGENCY FOR ICT AND MEDIA



MFG Innovation Agency for ICT and Media Baden-Württemberg has been strengthening Baden-Württemberg as a business location for IT, media and creative industries since 1995. MFG improves regional innovation and competitiveness including the promotion of regional, national and international cooperation. Its focus is on the support of successful entrepreneurship especially in small and medium-sized companies, also connecting them with application-oriented research and public funding programmes.

MFG hosts a variety of clusters and networks and delivers targeted services (ISO 9001 certified) in the area of innovation management, technology transfer and regional development and marketing. By managing Coach&Connect MFG has built up broad experience in training startups, young enterprises and young scientists on how to develop business plans and set up their own companies.

MFG is also the initiator and organizer of the Heidelberg Innovation Forum a regional innovation forum, which match researchers, startup companies, investors and entrepreneurs, thus accelerating innovation and pushing businesses.

— UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



University College Dublin (UCD) is Ireland's largest University. It is a leading research-intensive university ranked 134 in the QS World University Ranking (2011). It has over 23,000 students, 6,000 graduate students and 1,300 academics. Over 50% of UCD undergraduates progress to 4th level masters and PhD studies.

In 2010-11 UCD was awarded over 420 new research contracts totaling €89m. Alongside Teaching and Research, Innovation is the third pillar in the University's Strategy 2010-2014 – a key aspect of which is to maximize the commercialisation of research, build stronger industry collaborations including SMEs, and to establish a framework for entrepreneurship and innovation skills training. UCD has a major contractual track record in successive EU Programmes, including Framework Programmes and INTERREG.

UCD's College of Engineering and Architecture comprises ~80 Research Principal Investigators and their associated research teams, working in areas of Energy, Materials Engineering, Nano-bio Science & Engineering, Biomedical Device Technologies, Environment, and Computational Modelling. These people will contribute to and participate in this project.



— PARTNER EUROPEAN REGIONS

— PARIS REGION INNOVATION CENTER



The Paris Region Innovation Center has three key missions:

Assisting innovative SMEs implement their projects

With extensive hands-on expertise in engineering innovative projects, the Center's advisers provide SMEs support prior to the marketing process for their innovative project by helping them find the right partners, the skills they need to achieve their plans and sources of funding. The Center even assists SMEs in their project's planning phase so they can adopt a responsible innovation approach.

Circulating good practices for responsible innovation and academic research partnerships

The Center specifically supports responsible innovation, which is not only intended to anticipate new markets but also reduces the environmental footprint and promotes social equality. The Center has set up a targeted advisory approach to encourage SMEs in the Paris region to apply the principles of sustainable development in the planning phase of their project.

The Center works closely with the tech transfer offices at research institutes to disseminate their work and help companies apply their know-how. It develops and directs the Paris Region Innovation Network to help create a community of public and private stakeholders to benefit innovative SMEs in the Paris region.

Networking public and private innovation stakeholders

The Center unites a variety of public and private stakeholders who promote research, innovation and economic development within the Paris Region Innovation Network. The Network's team of mediators organises events where members of the Network can meet one another, see which skills and initiatives other members are offering, learn about the Center's resources and exchange ideas on consulting services and joint project support measures for SMEs. The Center also provides training courses so the Network's members can come together to address multi-disciplinary topics and improve their skills.

— LANCASTER UNIVERSITY



Lancaster University has a world class reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. Highly ranked in UK and global league tables, Lancaster continues to sustain its reputation for teaching and research excellence both nationally and internationally. Our knowledge exchange strategy aims to generate high-impact research by making sure that 20% of our research is undertaken with partners outside the university through collaborative research, consultancy, commercialisation of intellectual property, student placements, innovation vouchers and enterprise-awareness training for staff and students.

The Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC) brings together academic researchers from the University of Lancaster alongside the Natural Environment Research Council's (NERC) Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) and a growing number of co-located businesses. With over 450 scientists and £35 million of capital investment, LEC forms one of the largest centres of its kind in Europe.

LEC offers incubation for innovative new ventures and in addition to scientific, technical and specialist expertise from across the university a dedicated relationship manager is on hand to provide support and access to a range of services, including intellectual property management, access to laboratories/workshop facilities, financial support and support via our Graduate Consultancy Programme.

At Lancaster University we aim to apply our ideas, knowledge, technologies, skills and services for all - we do so by pursuing research at the highest international level, and by creating a stimulating and innovative learning environment for all students and staff.

— ECODESIGN CENTRE (EDC), CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



The Ecodesign Centre (EDC) is an applied research organisation that aims to build capacity and capabilities to enable effective ecodesign and eco-innovation in industry, in particular SMEs. EDC is part of the CARDIFF Metropolitan University.

Unique within the UK, EDC was designated a 'Centre of Expertise' by the Welsh Government in 2008 as a result of its excellent track record in delivering award-winning ecodesign and eco-innovation projects in a range of industry sectors.

Through its role as a Centre of Expertise / strategic adviser to the Welsh Government EDC will ensure that the project partners and network have a direct link to the relevant regional policy makers and innovation support organisations. EDC has links with all of the universities in Wales and the regional government knowledge exchange manager.

EDC create ecodesign knowledge through applied research, participation in UK and international networks, collaborative projects and international best practice scanning. A key role of EDC is to translate policy into practice.

— BUSINESS SUPPORT KENT, COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY



BSK-CiC is a Community Interest Company that is dedicated to supporting SMEs to develop and grow. Our work can be summed up as 'Preparing Businesses for Tomorrow'. We have an outstanding 15 year track record of delivering UK and European funded programmes across the South East of England and Northern Europe.

Our core expertise is in the following 4 key areas:

Enterprise Development: Supporting new business start ups, including entrepreneur coaching in universities and with disadvantaged groups.

Sustainability and the Low Carbon Economy: Using BSK-CiC expertise to ensure SMEs have access to advice and tools to reduce their carbon footprint and take advantage of Low Carbon business opportunities.

Coaching Innovation for High Growth Companies: Driving economic growth and employment through enabling companies with global ambition and with the highest potential to innovate and grow to move up to the next level of effectiveness and profitability.

Internationalisation and Knowledge Transfer: Provision of internationalisation and innovation services to enable SMEs to do business in Europe. We facilitate business and technology collaboration partnerships (including suppliers, distributors and agents) as well as access to European R&D funding including FP7.

— HTW CHUR HOCHSCHULE FÜR TECHNIK UND WIRTSCHAFT



The HTW Chur is a university of applied sciences in the canton Grisons in Switzerland. Its five departments: Management, Tourism, Information Science, Engineering, Construction & Design, and Media are offering Bachelor and Master of Science programs as well as professional development courses such as Executive MBA classes.

Besides these educational activities the HTW is mandated by the canton government to act as the SME centre, which is implemented by the Swiss Institute for Entrepreneurship (SIFE). The mandate includes innovation support of SMEs and the transfer of technology and knowledge between universities and SMEs. Many of the tasks conducted by the SIFE are corresponding to actions in all three working packages of the project proposal.

The SIFE is also part of the WTT CHost (Transfer of Knowledge and Technology in Eastern Switzerland) funded by the Confederation's Innovation Promotion Agency (CTI). In this cooperation the HTW Chur is codesigning regional open innovation systems (ROIS). The ROIS is a pilot model addressing SMEs with difficulties in technology and knowledge transfer and innovative behaviour.

The research and consulting activities at the HTW institute SIFE are focusing on the internationalizing of SMEs, the management of technology and innovation, and business development. A recently defined and announced field of research between the management department and the SIFE is Social and Sustainability Entrepreneurship which is perfectly corresponding to the focus of the KARIM proposal on responsible innovation.

— DELFT UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



TU Delft is a university of technology with a very strong reputation internationally. The faculties at TU Delft are internationally recognised as being among the best in their field, in terms of education, research and design. The faculties are home to an enormous technical-scientific and economic potential. Their reputation - and therefore that of TU Delft as a whole - is based on the individual and collective achievements of the many generations of researchers, designers, lecturers and countless engineers who have been or are being trained in Delft.

The section Technology, Strategy and Entrepreneurship (TSE) in the faculty of Technology, Policy and Management (TPM) conducts research and provides education in the fields of innovation management, entrepreneurship and strategy, all taken from a business perspective. TSE operates the Delft Centre for Entrepreneurship which encourages students and researchers from the TU Delft to become entrepreneurs or to engage in entrepreneurial activity.

