Networking actions in Mirandola Biomedical District

Laura Aldrovandi; Silvia Ferrari; Umberto Perati

Opportunity and best practice in order to create a partnership between enterprises belonging to the biomedical supply chain. These networks aim at performing research projects through the spreading of knowledge, skills and competencies.

Emilia Romagna is acknowledged as the Region of industrial Districts. The Regional authorities supported the realization of innovative projects through the call "*Dai Distretti Produttivi ai Distretti Tecnologici*", which financed projects implemented through collaboration between enterprises. The initiative involved 35 enterprises, triggering investment for EUR 16,7 million.
Democenter Foundation supported this networking program, where 2 approved projects concerned with biomedical themes are:

- **ICL** - Integrated Compounding Lab – involved *B.BraunAvitum Italy* and *Lean*. ICL Laboratory aimed to realize an integrated and multidisciplinary technology platform for pharmacological compounds' authomatic production.
- **FARE** - Filtration and Adsorption Emilia-Romagna - promoted by Bellco) and Medica. The F.A.R.E. Project, dedicated to creating a system for extracorporeal blood clearance capable of overcoming the technological restrictions that today preclude or drastically reduce the clinical practice.

Democenter Foundation actively supported the dissemination activities of the call by organizing "Distretti Day", an event aimed to spread the achieved results; 180 people, 70 enterprises, 15 authorities, and 6 trade associations participated.

Thanks to the successful results obtained during the first edition, Emilia Romagna Region launched in 2012 a new call "*Dai distretti produttivi ai distretti tecnologici – 2*". The initiative aims at promoting the evolution of the districts involved through the implementation of novel methodology such as open innovation, knowoledge management and design management approaches. *Democenter Foundation* is in charge as actuator of "Biomedical and prosthetic district" where 6 networks working on this theme will be selected.

This kind of initiatives could be transferred to other regions or districts, where enterprises could create network in order to reach new markets. Technologies transfer centers could help to overcame diffidence existing between enterprises working in the same sectors in order to carry on joint projects.
"Dai Distretti Produttivi ai Distretti Tecnologici" gives the opportunity to create 8 partnerships between biomedical enterprises in order to develop R&D projects.

These initiatives highlight the relevant role played by technologies transfer centers, as Democenter Foundation, as facilitators for the creation of collaborative partnerships between enterprises and Universities. These networks will have positive effects on the productive district.
Technologies transfer centers could act as facilitators also for the creation of international networks between enterprises located in different EU countries.