

Communities of Practice on Inclusive Entrepreneurship (COPIE)

01 February 2009 – 31 January 2012

COPIE is a network of ESF managing authorities and implementing bodies actively involved in opening up entrepreneurship to all parts of society. As recession strikes, all of the EU Member States are looking for new solutions to create jobs that are being lost across the economy. Micro enterprises have a very important part to play in providing new growth and jobs.

Many people have the drive and passion to become entrepreneurs but for various reasons they do not seize the opportunity. Sometimes it is about enterprise culture, sometimes lack of support or finance and sometimes they start but fail too early because they lack skills in running an aspect of the business or become trapped in the wrong market. It is people not policy that create businesses but good policy can make more people try the enterprise option and more of those who try succeed.

What we do

Our aim is to work together to put into practice policy changes in our partners' country or region that will widen participation in enterprise. We focus on four Communities of Practice, or COPs:

- COP 1: Quality management of enterprise advisers and programmes
- COP 2: Enterprise education
- COP 3: Integrated start up support
- COP 4: Access to finance

We will identify strengths and weaknesses in the enterprise support system in each partner country or region and on that basis develop and implement local action plans. The development phase is designed to allow partners to define what they can and want to do in detail, who with and where they can find useful experience at an EU level. The critical step here will be to set up local stakeholder groups which will work as action learning sets in the COPs. An external lead expert for each COP carried out a baseline study and helps partners to get set up. The action learning sets will be overseen by regional facilitators.

Who we are

The network consists of eleven partners:

- Germany, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (*lead partner*)
- Czech Republic, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- Belgium
 - Flanders, ESF Agency
 - French speaking, ESF Agency
- Lithuania, Ministry of Social Security and Labour
- Spain represented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and INCYDE (Institute for Business Creation, Chamber of Commerce/Implementing body).
- Spanish Region of Andalucía
- Spanish Region of Asturias
- Spanish Region of Extremadura
- Spanish Region of Galicia

How are we funded

The main contribution to our network comes from the Community with about € 629,700.

Contact us

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