

EBN CONGRESS NEWSLETTER

Budapest — Hungary
25, 26 & 27th June 2008



helping new
talents
to grow

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Editorial

"Intensive. Inclusive. Interactive". EBN has once again gathered all its energy, talents, and entrepreneurial spirit to ensure that its 17th Annual Congress could deliver plenty of new ideas, inspiring speakers, success stories, visibility and awards for our Community of BICs.

This achievement was made possible because of you, **the 400 + delegates** coming from so many different countries, bringing along the passion, the collaborative and participative spirit which distinguishes the EBN Network, and makes it the perfect hub for convivial and yet professional business opportunities.

Speaking at the 2008 Budapest Congress, top level industry leaders and institutional representatives, came on stage to join the debate on collaborative entrepreneurship, open innovation, and brainstormed together on the importance of stimulating innovative talents in all academic, industry, and public policy sectors.

400 Delegates and 75 brilliant Speakers attending the EBN Congress. Coming from 35 EU and non-EU countries.

In line with EBN constant search for talents and for excellence, the Budapest Congress has been home to the 4th Edition of the EuroLeaders Award. A competition which is becoming a tradition, allowing us to celebrate EBN Community's success stories and an ideal way to share good practices within and outside the network.

The Congress Venue itself, the Vam Design Centre, was the powerful symbol of a Congress where creativity and talents were the leading themes. Surrounded by inspiring colourful paintings, embraced by the Hungarian sense of hospitality, the small team of organizers have joined their forces to deliver a great congress and meet the audience expectations !

We would therefore like to warmly thank **Innostart Team** and its partners.

This Newsletter will offer snapshots of opinions, stories, recommendations brought up during our stay in Budapest.

We hope you'll enjoy it as much as, we now know it, you have enjoyed Budapest !

All the best,

Luigi Campitelli,
President

Philippe Vanrie,
CEO

Eleonora Sambasile,
Event s Manager

Congress Delegates

The **2008 EBN Congress** has registered a high number of participants, coming from all over Europe: **400 Delegates from 35 countries!**

Almost all the EU countries were represented, but EBN attempt to widen the network's contacts and partnerships has led the event to reach an international Cross-cultural dimension. This means we hosted delegations from non European Countries such as **China, Mexico, Chile, Russia, Morocco, Tunisia and the United States.**

The numerous workshops and meetings were particularly enriched by a consistent number of international speakers who played an active role in the Congress and contributed to its success.



Gordon BAJNAI, Minister of National Development and Economy (HU)



Geza EGYED, State Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Economy (HU)

Congress Opening Ceremony at the Hungarian Parliament



This 17th Annual Congress edition hosted a total of **5 Plenary Sessions** and **9 workshops** during two days, and opened its doors to a total of **24 exhibitors** who took advantage of the exhibition space to promote their projects and contribute to making the networking atmosphere lively and enjoyable for all congress delegates.



ECON-IT Project Exhibitors



VAM Design Centre

A highly interactive **pre-Congress programme** took also place on Wednesday 25 June, with a total of 8 **European Project Meetings** (Kis4Sat, IP4Inno, Econ-IT, Swan) and **thematic workshops** (Maritime BICs, Micro-enterprise Acceleration Institute, ENISA Micro-enterprise working group, Interreg4 Aditec Working Group), and the EBN Board of Directors meeting.

EU innovation & entrepreneurship *policies*: what's on the agenda?

More and more representatives of National, European and International Institutions are showing a growing interest for the EBN Community. The traditional gathering of the EBN Members in the framework of the Annual Congress, which this year took place in Budapest on 26 – 27 June, has offered to National Authorities Representatives and EU officials the opportunity to spread their message to practitioners and exchange views on the political role of innovation and entrepreneurship.

John Walsh, Deputy head of Unit for 'Thematic Coordination & Innovation', representing DG Regio (European Commission) has brought up the issue at the Opening Ceremony.



Mr Walsh stressed in his speech how European cohesion policy nurtures innovation, namely by fostering regional and multi-level governance and by delivering integrated and in-

novative regional development strategies.

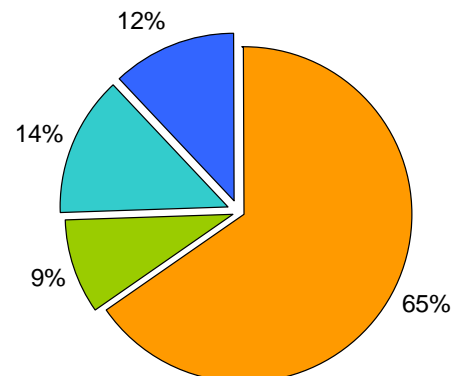
Building on Commissioner Hubner's statement of last 7 April, in which it was emphasized that "Cohesion Policy is not a simple redistribution mechanism or money-go-round. It is an investment policy (...)", Mr Walsh reminded of the importance of EU financial resources to pursue the Lisbon Agenda's goals. Indeed fostering the links between cohesion policy and the Lisbon agenda has been one of the key achievements of recent policy reform, as it proved by the fact that over 200 billion euros of the total EU Cohesion Policy Budget is allocated to Lisbon-related priorities.

"The EU provides several financial resources, said Mr Walsh, made available to all countries, starting with the poorer ones, in the attempt to help them valorizing their own internal existing resources, which are too often left unexploited".

Talking about EU Financial Resources

Talking about EU financial resources, Mr Walsh has underlined that a budget of 27 billion euros has been made available to target directly SMEs' growth. With no surprise, a large part of this budget (65%) is targeted to technology and innovation, which once again proves how urgently Europe needs to tackle its delay in innovation policies and practices.

The exchange of good practices between EU Member States has been pointed at, by Mr Walsh, as another core element for boosting innovation and supporting cohesive regional development. This is why Mr Walsh has congratulated EBN for its continuous commitment to further strengthen BICs and other public-private partnerships, therefore providing a networking chain to the EC. Indeed, in his own words, the networking activities are vital to the exchange of know-how and to the cooperation among innovators within and outside Europe.



■ Technology & innovation
 ■ Eco friendly SMEs
■ ICT in SMEs
 ■ Start-ups

EU innovation & entrepreneurship *policies*: what's on the agenda?

Recently appointed Head of Unit "Innovation Policies" at DG Enterprise and Industry, and formerly Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Potočník, **Peter Dröll** is in an ideal position for a foresight comment..



At a time when the entry into force of the EU Reform Treaty is uncertain, Peter Dröll said, moving European integration ahead by projects is particularly important. Europe's broad-based innovation strategy has led to the initiation of many projects such as the renewed, research and innovation friendly state aid framework, guidelines for knowledge transfer, the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Lead Market Initiative.

The proposed Small Business Act will complement these initiatives by improving the business environment for SMEs (red carpet instead of red tape). In the near future, attention will be given to

strengthen clusters as drivers for innovation and to innovation in services. For all these measures to succeed, innovation needs to be accepted as a value in our societies - and celebrating innovation helps to achieve exactly this.

A Network like EBN, being a true innovation accelerator, being a serial "network networker" (with EEN for example), pushing forward innovative projects (including EuropeInnova and Pro-Inno projects) is a perfect partner for the EC as far as small business and innovation agenda is concerned.



From left to right: Mr Luigi Campitelli (EBN President) and Mr Peter Dröll (EC)

MEP Edit Herczog calling for more SMEs oriented policies

Known in Brussels and Strasbourg as "*Mrs Innovation*", **MEP Edit Herczog** has been a true advocate for the innovation & SMEs policy at the European Parliament. Speaking at the EBN Congress, Mrs Herczog, clearly stated that it's time for accelerating pragmatic entrepreneurial innovation initiatives.

SMEs and micro-enterprises must feel concerned by innovation policies, which in turn should be addressing areas such as non-technological innovations, services innovations, and regional innovations. Mrs Herczog concluded by insisting on the importance of a better integration and collaboration between European support networks such as EBN, EEN, and others.



Mrs Edit Herczog, Member of the European Parliament

EU French Presidency Agenda: A renewed strategic vision to increase European competitiveness?

Few days before the official take off of the EU French presidency, set on 1st July 2008, Mr Etienne Coffin - Director General for International Relations, at the French Ministry of Industry – joined the EBN Congress in Budapest and gave an anticipated flavor of France's strategic vision over the EU Presidency, listing the set of priorities for the next 6 months to come.

A French Government report¹ published last April, presented a critical review of the Lisbon Strategy, mainly pointing at its failure to reduce the competitiveness gap with the US. The report argues that "EU growth & jobs strategy needs to be supplemented by a global arm if Europe wants to remain competitive in the future".

Contextual Background

In 2000, the EU launched its ambitious 'Lisbon Strategy' to become "the world's most dynamic knowledge-based economy by 2010".

After five years of dismal results, EU leaders re-launched the strategy in March 2005, including a greater emphasis on growth and jobs and transferring more ownership of the initiative to the member states via national action plans.

The 2008 Spring Council endorsed the priorities for the last three years of the Lisbon Agenda, laid out in the Commission's strategic report on the Lisbon Strategy.

In response to increasing public concern on climate change, ageing population and social exclusion, the heads of state and government agreed to shift the Lisbon Agenda away from the purely "growth and jobs" focus of the past three years and to put the environment and citizens more "in the foreground"

([EurActiv 18/03/08](#))

In his analysis, the French author Laurent Cohen-Tanugi urges a post-2010 strategy, called "Lisbon plus", which would foster a more comprehensive approach to innovation by linking different economic, social and environmental dimensions. "Lisbon plus", the author suggests, would be one of the two EU pillars for competitiveness, the second one being the "EuroWorld 2015 Strategy", which would rely on the Member States' harmonization of their external policies to join forces in a common European plan to face globalization².

Failing to implement this global approach to the Lisbon Strategy, will reinforce the America/Asia duopoly leaving Europe out of the global competition race.

Is the French EU Presidency going to take Cohen-Tanugi's advice, and start working on a review of the Lisbon Strategy?

Mr Coffin, representative of the EU French presidency at the EBN Congress, has confirmed France's willingness to place European Competitiveness at the heart of political agenda, particularly by paying attention to small and medium sized businesses.



"This is why - Mr Coffin has explained - the priority of the French presidency is to secure the smooth implementation of the Small Business Act (SBA*) for Europe, which constitutes a crucial milestone in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs".

Recently approved by the Commission on 25 June, the Small Business Act, is inspired by the "think small first" principle, with the aim of creating a more entrepreneur-friendly environment in Europe. SMEs constitute a vital part of Europe's economy, accounting for almost 80% of jobs created, and yet, Eurobarometer recently reported that 49% of Europeans have never thought of setting up their own business³.

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1 Too read the report see http://www.strategie.gouv.fr/article.php?id_article=760

2 For more information see http://www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/chantiers/europe_864/presidence_francaise_ue_une_1091/une_nouvelle_strategie_pour_59732.html

3 Report available on: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/survey/eurobarometer2007/eb2007summ_en.pdf

French Presidency Agenda: A renewed strategic vision to increase European competitiveness?

(Following from page 4)

In an attempt to tackle Europeans' reluctance to setting up new businesses, the European Commission has launched last January 2008 a public consultation, involving major European stakeholders and SMEs, which led to the signature of the Small Business Act⁴.

Stakeholders pointed out that administrative burden, lack of promotion of entrepreneurial mindset, heavy taxation, late payments, low access to risk-capital, are the main obstacles faced by small businesses. As a result, the Small Business Act, tackles these obstacles by proposing new EU Directives:

- **Directive on European Private Company Statute**
- **Directive on Reduced VAT rates**
- **Directive on Late Payments**

Speaking at the EBN Congress, Mr Coffin has underlined that France is committed to ensure the actual implementation of the Small Business Act, through the approval of concrete measures, and to the issuing of the corresponding regulations/decisions both at the European Level and at the National level.

Giving an insight on France priorities, Mr Coffin has furthermore stated that France will support the stimulation of an entrepreneur-friendly environment by promoting the role and better definition of entrepreneurs. Too often entrepreneurs are looked at with reluctance in current European Society: building confidence and raising the society awareness about the role and success stories of the entrepreneurs is one of French Presidency priorities.

Mr Coffin also put the accent on the need for **integrating European markets for risk capital, and for facilitating investment in SMEs**. In line with

the Small Business Act principles, Mr Coffin also called for the need to improve SMEs access to public tenders, to **create a common consolidated tax basis for companies, and to simplify the administrative burden of SMEs**.



In conclusion of his speech Mr Coffin has also addressed French "pôles de compétitivité" system as an example to be followed across Europe. This model brings small and larger businesses together as part of a cluster, to answer the need for new technologies and services. The model has proved successful in France, and the French Government will surely did not miss the chance to promote it during the next 6 months ahead of its EU Presidency.

EBN reminded Mr Coffin of the recently published « **Retis White Book on Innovation** », addressing 10 proposals to accelerate innovation in France and in Europe. (*Livre Blanc: 10 propositions pour favoriser l'innovation en France*, RETIS - June '08)⁵.



⁴ For more information on Small Business Act, see http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/sba_en.htm

⁵ For more information on RETIS White book, see <http://retis-innovation.fr/downloads/download.php>

Industry leaders: what does *Open Innovation* mean for them?

It is broadly agreed that government policies targeting innovation and technology, are essential to create a stimulating and appropriate environment.

Industry leaders, speaking at the EBN Budapest Congress, noted that the market itself determines whether these government programs succeed or fail in turning knowledge into business, based on industry's capacity to translate these incentives into innovative products, and to foster the demand-supply chain for innovation products.

Entrepreneurial, creative and collaborative behaviours & talents are becoming critically needed skills within a competitive and unpredictable business environment, increasingly driven by the "open-innovation" revolution.

The most significant sources of innovative ideas are teams, business partners and customers. Corporate R&D labs and Innovation teams have become decreasingly central, and large firms like Procter & Gamble, Hewlett-Packard, Oracle, Ericsson, Eli Lilly, Philips, Xerox, Nokia, or BT are making full use of out-sourced partnerships, collaborative processes, users' communities, "Connect and collaborate/develop" concepts.

Industry leaders, present at the Congress Plenary Session, have explained what innovation means for them, and how their views on innovation practically affect their businesses, the market, and their global competitiveness.

Mr. Klaus Hilbig, a Connect & Develop technology entrepreneur at Procter & Gamble explained why and how P&G reinvented itself in the year 2000 and develop it's own open innovation model. Klaus clearly showed that such an approach should be very well structured with systematic processes and robust tools. He says that finding the best ideas and partners requires an absolute customer-led/market-led culture, even if (and especially if) teams are operating at the vicinity of an R&D environment.



Mrs. Lisa Dillon a senior Director at Oracle, demonstrated the power of users' community development and of "pervasive innovation". Lisa said they never stopped innovating since Oracle started-up, and that their open innovation is driven by 4 pillars : employees, customers, partners, communities. She went through some Oracle



open innovation cases, such as their *European centre for innovation in Geospatial & location-based services*, powered in partnership with Tele-Atlas (TomTom) and EBN.

She also highlighted the *Open Alchemy* program, a joint NESTA-ORACLE initiative focused on collaboration with Leading Customers, not so far from the EC Lead-Markets vision. Steering our imagination, Lisa said we should be open to more open business models, and other web2.0 tools (web-demos, virtual flipcharts, social networks, ...)

The potential of Technology Licensing is one of the main potential driver to unlock the development of applications and the stimulation of new business models. That's what **Mr. Dan Croft**, the Director for Technology and IP licensing at the H-P headquarters in Palo Alto, has told us. A clear identification and location of the assets, a clear leadership and engagements, together with attractive proposition and rigorous planning: that's not a receipt, but it is required and it works ! Dan said "be ready, you start-ups and small businesses to harvest non-core business IP and to hunt opportunities from a large corporation such as H-P".



(continue on page 8)

Industry leaders: what does *Open Innovation* mean for them? (Following from page 7)

In his speech **Mr Istvan Fodor**, Former CEO of Ericsson Hungary, said ***“the future of mankind depends more on knowledge than on money”*** and commented how globalization has drastically increased the pressure on industry’s performance and achievements.



Who will survive the global competition race? According to Mr Fodor, a surviving company must be solution-oriented, technology-leader, and talents-employer. For Mr Fodor, there is no doubt: **knowledge wins the competition battle**. The main critical point is how to attract, combine, retain and value multi-disciplinary talents.

Talking about the “Open Innovation Paradigm”, **Mr Gilbert Harrus, XEROX**, addressed in his speech:

*“The central idea behind open innovation is that in a world of **widely distributed knowledge**, companies cannot afford to rely entirely on their own research, but should also be open to external ideas, processes or inventions (i.e. patents) from research organisations or other companies. This paradigm assumes that firms can and should also use **external paths to market**, as they look to advance their technology.”*



Mr. Harrus noted that the overall goal of innovation is to create value for the company, and hence the innovation created by Corporate R&D is delivered into business units or licensed-out (to other companies or through spin-offs). Xerox Research Centre Europe, he explained, carefully manages the overall innovation circle, mainly organized in three phases: research, technology development, and validation with customers, each phase being intrinsically related to the others. According to Mr. Harrus, open innovation ensures that the company is connected to and can benefit from the

Knowledge has been widely debated at the EBN Congress, being a central element of the “open innovation paradigm” on which industry leaders were challenged during the Congress Plenary Session.

“Suppose you are running a successful company, your products are selling well and you become a leading firm in your industry. Realizing that this fortunate situation will not last forever, you determine that the best way to ensure continued leadership is to create new and improved products to sell to market in the future. What is the best way for you to pursue the creation of these new products and services? Where is the useful knowledge you need and how can you incorporate it into your business? You might start by assessing what the state of knowledge is for your industry outside your firm”.

(Henry Chesbrough, 2003, Open Innovation)



outside world, namely those who complement the value-chain, delivery partners, customers or even competitors, all of which constitute key elements in the co-creation of innovative technologies .

In conclusion, open innovation is today’s answer to the challenge of “doing more with less”, as we could learn at the EBN Congress Open Ceremony from large leading companies who need to build and operate along relationship-based networks.

The message was clear : a Network such as EBN, with hundreds of professional innovation intermediaries, and thousands of small innovative firms is a fantastic pool of talents, applications, channels and assets for Industry. Let’s spot these collaboration opportunities!

A Community of *Talents*: EBN EuroLeaders Awards.

Keeping up with one of its distinctive features, "the search for talents and for excellence", EBN 2008 Congress did not miss the chance to award excellence within the BICs Network.

Following the success of Madeira, Aosta, and Naples, the 2008 Budapest Congress has been the home of 4th EuroLeaders Award edition.

The 2008 EuroLeaders Award was dedicated to *talents and excellence* in business support, innovation and incubation practices that are put in place by EBN Members. In line with the EC BIC Quality Initiative, the award is based on the principle that BICs are innovation support champions capable of generating inspiring projects, best practices, and strategic, approaches to business & innovation support and development.

EBN CEO, Philippe Vanrie, congratulates all the finalists and winners of the EuroLeaders Award: "You are the flag-ship of a vibrant community which is everyday setting more good examples on how to boost entrepreneurship, how to turn innovation into practice, how to inspire new dreams and then work hard to make them turn real!"

Candidates for the "EuroLeaders 2008 Award" were competing on 5 different categories, which have been selected amongst the BICs core business areas of activity (Spin-off, Clusters, Early Stage Finance, Small but Global Businesses, ESINET).

16 Finalists, selected from an open call for applications, were invited to showcase their « practices of excellence » during the second day of the EBN Congress.

Their performances were evaluated by their peers, the public attending the event, and by a panel of experts, composed by MM. **Bruno Robino** (European Investment Fund), **Roberto Villarreal** (OECD), **Jean Marie Rousseau** (ADE), **Raffaele Buonpane** (European Patent Office), **Frank Salzgeber** (European Space Agency), and **Jacques Pronk** (EBN Senior Advisor).

Categories	Finalists
EuroLeaders in "scouting for knowledge Spin-offs"	EuroLeader: Kathryn STEWART, Coventry University Enterprise (Uk) Miranda KNAGGS, Biocity Nottingham (Uk) Gilles TALBOTIER, Grenoble Alpes Incubation (GRAIN) (F)
EuroLeaders in "clusters animation"	EuroLeader: Annukka HAVAS, and Risto MAUNO, Lahti Science & Business Park (Fi) Dr. Gaetano GRASSO, Creazione d'Impresa – Tecnopolis - Bari (it) Roberto GIULIANI, BIC Lazio, Rome (It)
EuroLeaders in "fast-track to early stage finance"	EuroLeader: Juliana GARAIZAR, Antipolis Innovation Campus, Sophia Antipolis (F) Bjørn LILLEKJENDLIE, Forskningsparken AS, OSLO (No) Cristina FANJUL ALONSO, BIC ASTURIAS, Oviedo (Es)
EuroLeaders in "small but global business champions"	EuroLeader: Marie POPKOWSKA, Savoie Technolac ,Chambéry (F) Jean-François BALDUCCHI, ATLANPOLE, Nantes (F) Elena LAPOLE, CEEI TALAVERA, Toledo (Es)
EuroLeaders in "space & sat technologies"	EuroLeader: Agnes FLEMAL, WSL , Liege, & Ludovic WAHA, IDE-LUX, Arlon (BE) François BAFFOU, Bordeaux Technowest & Frederic DAUMAS, CEEI Theogone, Toulouse (F)



A Community of *Talents*: the EBN-UNDP Award.

The Award for the best innovations for human development, jointly organized by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and EBN (the European Network of the Business Innovation Centers), was finalized on Friday 27 of June with the award to three winners.

The Award is part of the agreement signed by UNDP and EBN, with the aim to transfer European innovations through cooperation channels activated by the IDEASS Programme, and to promote cooperation between Business Innovation Centers - BICs - associated to EBN and Local Economic Development Agencies - LEDAs - associated to the ILS/LEDA network.

The international Jury of the Award was composed by Gustavo Lopez Ospina, Coordinator of the ART Scientific Committee; Jasminka Lukovic Jaglic, Director of the Regional Agency for Economic Development of Sumadija and Pomoravlje, Serbia; Christophe Bouvier, Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Europe; Sergio Boisier, Professor of the Temuco University of Chile and Marina Ponti, Europe Office Director, United Nations Millennium Campaign.

During the event, the prizes were released by Mohand Cherifi (UNDP-Geneva), to the following innovations:

- 1st. Prize: The **Albergo Diffuso**, submitted by BIC Lazio (Italy)
- 2nd Prize: The **Solar Ice Fridge**, submitted by Thesame Innovation Ancey (France)
- 3rd Prize: **Cultural Incubators**, submitted by BIC Basilicata (Italy)

The winning innovations were illustrated by the authors, during a special session of the EBN Congress, chaired by Mr. Giancarlo Canzanelli (UNDP/ART), and they raised great interest from the participants, many of them manifested interest also in collaborating with the United Nations.

Mohand Cherifi underlined, in his conclusive speech, the success of the initiative, the willingness to go ahead with the UNDP-EBN collaboration, and the interest for the winner projects, because of their innovative solutions to demands coming from the countries for a tourism based on the valorization of local resources and of local communities, for the use of renewable energy, and of cultural resources.

The first prize, consisting in a visit to the Dominican Republic LEDAs, in the framework of the UNDP ART GOLD Programme, was given to Giordano Dichter of BIC Lazio,



Mr Giordano Dichter
BIC Lazio



Mr Pascal Bourgier
Thesame - Innovation



Mr Vittorio Simoncelli BIC Basilicata

who presented the "Albergo Diffuso", a new form of hospitality and an innovative model for territorial tourist development, based on the involvement of local authorities and population in organizing hospitality and tourism services.

The second prize, consisting in a visit to the Lebanese LEDAs, in the framework of the UNDP ART GOLD Programme, was given to Pascal Bourgier of Thesame Innovation, who presented the "Solar Ice Fridge", an innovative device, that allows to fridge any kind of products (drugs, food, etc.) through the solar energy, but without any use of mechanical, electronic, or chemical instruments, and without any need of maintenance at all, so resulting in a very cheap and easy-to-use product.

This Partnership between EBN and UNDP is a proof of the « transferability » of the BIC model towards developing countries and emerging economies. Furthermore it confirms the importance for the EBN Network to further « connect & develop » beyond the EU borders, building on its previous successes in Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Serbia, Croatia, Chile, China, Russia, etc.

Recommendations from the *SCientific Community*

The EBN Congress was honoured by the active presence of **Professor Norbert Kroo**, Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Science, and Member of the European Research Council (ERC). Author of about 300 scientific publications and 40 patents, Prof. Kroo is a highly recognized personality within the European Research Area.

Speaking at the EBN Budapest Congress, he concluded:

“Europe has to speed up its efforts to strengthen the knowledge base to more competitive on the global scale by supporting excellence in research, improving the level of education & trainings; by increasing the open access to scientific findings and the speed of knowledge’s dissemination; by stimulating cooperative attitude in R&D, by improving infrastructures, and by increasing private sectors partnerships as well as public-private dialogue”.



Professor Norbert Kroo



Mrs Ilona Vass



Mr Tivadar Lippenyi



Mrs Ilona Vass, and **Mr Tivadar Lippenyi**, Vice Presidents of the Hungarian National Office for Research and Technology (NKTH), both noted how the effective translation of the Lisbon Strategy at state level is essential to enable an efficient implementation of national policies for Innovation, Research and Technology. They highlighted that NKTH’s role has been essential in driving “regional innovation” forward across Hungary, particularly thanks to its focus on key areas, such as convergence/ inter-operability, nano-electronics, regional clusters, and last but not least “regional BICs”.

Mr Miklos Bendzel, President of the Hungarian Patent Office and Member of the European Patent Office (EPO), said: *“Innovation and intellectual Property are closely linked, and even if patenting is still challenging for small businesses in Europe, it’s important to keep raising awareness on the whole IP chain”.*



Mr Miklos Bendzel

Zoom on Living Labs Europe - EBN Partnership .

Living Labs Memorandum of Understanding has been signed during the EBN Congress on Thursday 26 June. The signature marks the beginning of a fruitful mutual cooperation and exchange of best practices. The EBN Board of Directors has welcomed the initiative and wishes the two communities, EBN & Living Labs, a bright productive future for their partnership.

 **living labs europe** Living Labs Europe is the European consortium of open innovation urban clusters that aims at facilitating the creation of regional highlight projects with international dimensions.

Regional highlight projects, benefiting from access to international best practices and financing tools, mainly aim at providing an efficient and transparent platform for innovative actors to share experiences thus avoiding duplication of innovation activities. Regional highlight projects are conducted in a private public partnership framework, involving all relevant innovation actors in a regional cluster.

All projects involve the local population and/or visiting travellers based on the principle of "user driven bottom up innovation". In addition Living Labs Europe creates and administers regional innovation academies as well as third generation project incubation laboratories called yet labs. Both Academies (trainings) and Laboratories (Incubation Centres) are designed to facilitate the innovation generation via the international attraction of talents, to support the creation of commercial entities and start – ups. In this respect, the Living Labs Europe network also provides regions with an efficient toolset



EBN signs a memorandum of understanding with Living Labs

to value its regional innovative forces and allows for export and import of knowledge and solutions.

EBN shares with Living Labs the same objectives of supporting the Competitiveness Clusters, Internationalisation of companies, training, incubation and cooperation on EC funded projects. EBN and Living Labs have therefore agreed on pursuing the shared objectives through a common strategy which will mainly focus on:

- Development and promotion of regional highlight project activities to open markets for innovative ICT solutions with a special focus on cross-sector mobile communication solutions
- Cross-marketing and cross-membership
- Living Labs Europe Innovation Forum (Training Academy & Incubation)
- EC Funded Projects

EC - Projects Factory Corner

The Congress traditionally offers the opportunity to several project consortia to meet and take advantage of the dissemination opportunity and the several business development opportunity which EBN is capable of deploying.

EBN there welcomed to Budapest Enisa Working Group, Econ-it, Kis4Sat Platform, IP4inno, SWAN, MEA-I, and Aditec working group.



EBN Thanks the Congress Partners, Sponsors and supporters

EBN warmly thanks all the congress sponsors, partners, and delegates for all their support and positive feedback:



The voice of participants.

« Congrats for the overall organisation of the EBN congress in Budapest ! I was pleased to meet the EBN vibrant community and to attend high quality workshops. Networking opportunities were also very fruitful »
Christine Vaca, Grenoble - France

« Just wanted to say thank you for a really excellent congress - the best one yet for me - it was so well organised and put together I wanted to congratulate you on all your hard work and that of the team.»

Kathryn Stewart, Coventry - UK

“This event was a very valuable experience and allowed us to make interesting business relations”.

Julia Leybovich, Russia

« Congratulations for the very interesting content and for the inspiring environment » **Alvaro Bustos, Chile**

« I am impressed by the time and effort you are putting into the conference. This is not common. Congratulations ». **Roberto Villarreal, OECD, Paris.**



Stay with us for next years congresses:

More To come in 2009 !

Meet us next year at the XVIII EBN Congress in Fes – Marocco (2009) for another great networking experience !!



المركز الجهوي للإستثمار
 Centre Régional d'Investissement
 Fès-Boulemane

And if this is not enough

Then meet us again in 2010 for the XIX EBN Congress in Burgos – Spain.



News from EBN:

We officially announce that Eleonora Sambasile will leave EBN on 17th July. Eleonora has been an active member of the EBN team, being in charge of EBN Annual Congresses and Events for last 3 years.

Eleonora's message: "the EBN Network has taught me a lot. I will make a treasure of all the good memories, the exiting challenges and the lessons learnt from all of you. I wish to my colleagues in Brussels and to all the BICs, and EBN Members and Partners, to keep on working as they do with passion, creativity, and determination".

The EBN Team and the Board thank Eleonora for her fantastic job and wish her all the best for her new career in the field of development aid projects.

