

SCRI in Action

The original SCRI project aimed to fill a gap perceived in rural, peripheral regions of elements required for the successful generation and growth of micro and small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). Building on the success of the SCRI project (which ended in January 2005), the extension implements the process emerging from joint understanding of the various international experiences. While the SCRI project focussed specifically on 4 areas (entrepreneurial development, knowledge transfer, company spin-out and distributed support), SCRI in Action focuses on the combination of all these sectors in a way which is relevant to the needs of the local partner communities. In addition, a focus in this phase will be on finding solutions to the remaining issue of securing decentralised, different types of funding for start-up companies, and the co-operation between small and large companies. This will, in effect, put into practice and demonstrate the methodology developed during the SCRI project, which will enhance innovative business development in the region.

Objectives

The main objectives of the project are, within rural peripheral regions, to:

- Build on the successful work developed in the original SCRI project
- Make practical use of knowledge gained from the SCRI project
- Put the acquired transnational theory into practice
- Demonstrate a new integrated approach to successfully develop and work with micro and SMEs
- Develop a new financial support mechanism for business start-ups
- Relate back to findings in the SCRI project, and integrate any new understanding
- “Hand hold” the participating micro/SMEs throughout the process, taking a “hands on” approach
- Increase the competence of the micro/SMEs as well as the participating partner organisations
- Increase the number of successful businesses in the region.

Project activities

Business ideas and opportunities will be collected and explained on specific informational worksheets, which will be continuously updated by the partners and posted on the project's database. Entrepreneurs/individuals will be identified and matched, as necessary and relevant, to these ideas and then supported through the process of developing a business plan and raising appropriate financing for a local start up. Knowledge transfer from the academic sector will be delivered into the new company by the appropriate academic centre and, on launch of the company, the appropriate distance support structures will be mobilised in order to support the new business through its initial stages. The partners will aid in the process of succession between innovators and entrepreneurs. This further develops the ‘hands on’ approach that has been developed in the first SCRI project.

Expected results

The expected results in each country are to:

- Identify and assess 20 projects using a simple form of audit
- Select and work with approximately 50% of these projects
- Aid the development process of 5 new companies
- Complete the process of at least 2 new spin-out (trading company and/or limited company)
- Complete the process of at least 2 licensing agreements (ideally based on international business partnerships)
- Complete 5 action/business plans that are transnationally applied
- Two cooperation agreements (technology transfers, property rights, know-how and show-how)
- 1 international distribution agreement (import and/or export of new products)
- Aid in the attraction of funding for the relevant selected projects (including seed funding and venture capital)

The added value of the project to the programme region will be the adoption of a streamlined, integrated approach to business development which has an additional valuable transnational element. By strengthening the international exchange of knowledge and business opportunities, the region as a whole benefits, as well as the individual communities. The project will be actively working with international business creation, concentrating on cooperation between partner countries and actors, and developing best practice for micro/SME development taking this unified approach.



Partners

Uminova Innoation AB - Sweden
Oulu University, Learning & Research Services - Finland
The Regional Development Centre, South Iceland - Iceland

Measure

2.2

Total Budget

347 700

NPP Award

194 620

Project Period

01/03/05 – 28/02/06

Countries Involved

Finland, Sweden, Norway,
Iceland

Lead Partner

Organisation

Kunnskapsparken Bodø
AS, Norway
+47 75 40 25 30

Project leader

Tomas Norvoll