



## COOPERATION AGREEMENT

### ***on mechanism for fostering innovation in South East Europe***

*BETWEEN the undersigning organizations:*

1. Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Development, Investment and Tourism; Dimičeva ulica 13 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
2. Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas; 100 N. Plastira str. Vasilika Vouton 100 N Heraklion, 70013 Greece
3. Executive Unit for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding; Str. Mendeleev 21-25, sector 1 Bucharest, 010362 Romania
4. Agency for Digital Italia; Viale Marx 43 - 00137 Roma
5. Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company; Zichy liget 12, Szekesfehervar, 8000 Hungary
6. Ministry of Economic Affairs of Herzegbosnian Canton; Stjepana II Kotromanica b.b., Livno, 80101 Bosnia and Herzegovina
7. Chamber of Commerce & Industry Tirana; Rruga "Ludovik Shllaku", Palati Kultures, Kati III, Tirane, 1001 Albania
8. Agency for promotion of entrepreneurship of the Republic of Macedonia; Nikola Vapcarov 7, Skopje, 1000 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
9. Ministry of Economic Development and Technology; Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
10. Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency; Seregelyesi ut 113, Szekesfehervar, 8000 Hungary
11. The Association for Technology Implementation in Europe; OSEO, Avenue du General Leclerc, Maisons-Alfort-Cedex 27-31, Paris, 94710 France
12. Ministry of Science, Education and Sports; Donje Svetice 38, Zagreb, 10000 Croatia
13. National Agency for Regional Development; Trg Nikole Pašiča 5/VI, Beograd, 11000 Serbia
14. Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Macedonia; Jurij Gagarin 15, Skopje, 1000 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
15. AREA m styria GmbH; Koloman-Wallisch-Platz 1, Kapfemberg, 8605 Austria

*Hereafter, jointly or individually, also referred to as Parties or Party,*



### **With Respect to:**

- Importance of the innovation-related development for the economic and social development in SEE regions.
- Create sustainable network in the area of innovation management in SEE area with specific focus on policy issues.
- Create partnership, which consists from competent institutions in the area of innovation management services.
- Taking advantage of the ongoing project FINNO, SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme.
- This newly established community is an open network which striving to concrete actions deriving mutual benefits from joint participation and steady collaboration among parties in development as well as promoting actions in the area of mutual interest.

Have agreed as follows:

### *Background*

#### ARTICLE I

The background of this cooperation is given by Mechanism for fostering innovation in South East Europe (FINNO) project. The 15 participating partners from the South East European region have common interest in cooperation, capacity and common understanding of innovation performance, policies and supporting instruments in the region. The goal of the FINNO project is to contribute to better productivity and achieve more comparable level of innovativeness between countries in SEE region.

### *Purpose*

#### ARTICLE II

The purpose of this agreement is to create a formal basis to develop collaboration in the frame of development of innovation development in SEE;

### *Principles*

### ARTICLE III

The Parties share the view that collaboration activities shall be conducted on the basis of the following principles:

- Mutual benefit based on an overall balance of advantages.
- Timely exchange of information which may affect collaborative activities.

#### *Cooperative activity*

### ARTICLE IV

1. Cooperation under this agreement may cover all the topics of mutual interest in which all Parties are implementing or supporting activities to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. The cooperation stresses on the issues as follows:
  - **Training for BDO intermediaries:** Sustaining a strong support through trainings for intermediary staff in inter-regional learning platforms is one of the most important goals of the further cooperation. By coordinating the training activities on SEE level might make them effective on supporting innovation policy development.
  - **Pool of ICT driven services for the SMEs:** As the main cooperation platform, the FINNO SAT is existing since 2013. It gives an organizational, operational and professional background for strengthening of know-how coherence in the South East Europe region to be developed further after project's end. The intention of the partners is to increase synergy effects at transnational level and therefore strengthening competency of business support system in the innovation policy process.
  - **Joint awareness raising:** One of our further collaboration field is joint awareness raising that covers campaigns (participation on e.g. fairs, conferences) on a mutually beneficial base that supports the familiarization with our services and the importance of effective innovation policy instruments and measures.
  - **Strategic planning platform:** The partners are committed to actively participate in the strategic planning processes of the involved regions,

countries and the whole SEE area on innovation management and policy development. By doing so, joint proposals, evaluations and other policy related activities will be realized on a common and agreed way.

2. The areas of interest of this agreement covers relationship among the Parties with the aim of sharing best practices, collaborating on project opportunities and discussing new policies for improving innovation environment.
3. Partners should collaborate to find a way to facilitate common developed supporting programs and initiatives.

### *Board of Members and Membership*

#### ARTICLE V

1. There shall be a Board of Members composed of representatives of the Parties.
2. The activity of the Board of Members will be fitted to the issues of FINNO Committee.
3. The role of the Board of Members shall be to supervise and review the operation of this Cooperation Agreement.
4. The Board of Members should be chaired by one of the Parties and will rotate yearly.
5. The Board of Members will meet once a year, if agreed by all Parties, audio or video conference may replace meetings. The Board of Members shall be convened by the request of each Parties or agreed on the previous Board of Members meeting.
6. All Parties signing this Cooperation Agreement shall be called “Founding Members”. Third interested Parties may submit candidature for joining. Their acceptance will be compiled by majority vote of all the founding members.

### *Program*

#### ARTICLE VI

Activities of the Program are:

1. Develop a concept of a community to exchange best practice models and share experience among regional networks with the aim to explore how public policy can influence the work of the members.



2. Organize a framework for discussions on how SMEs needs shall be addressed by the development and provision of services and how the SME could land in the partner region if they need.
3. Promote at EU level the objectives and the interests of this agreement, cooperation with relevant associations and networks.
4. Promote the present collaboration to relevant organizations in the partner regions.
5. Promoting the results and recommendations of the FINNO project in order to ensure the integration of these issues to related EU policies.
6. Develop future project proposals in order to ensure the funding for common future programs.
7. Parties may agree to implement any other arrangements recommended by Board of Members.

#### *Termination and entry into force*

#### ARTICLE VII

This Cooperation Agreement shall enter into force after the ratification by all Parties.

The Cooperation Agreement shall initial be valid for a period of two years and may be renewed by mutual agreement between Parties.

This Cooperation Agreement may be amended by agreement of the Parties. Amendments shall enter into force after the ratification by all Parties.

This Cooperation Agreement does not create any enforceable rights or impose any legally binding obligations on the Parties.

Done at ....., in ..... originals, in English language.



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Name of Organisation:

Name of legal representative or authorised person:

Signature:



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