

Gliwice, 10 June 2014

V4Clusters match-making event in Gliwice “V4 Leading Clusters Formation”

Going in line with what was proposed within the V4Clusters project, the goal and the topic of the third cluster matchmaking event was “V4 Leading Clusters Formation”. Formation of leading clusters is one of the core goals of V4Clusters project and it labels the network of V4 clusters in one industry including meaningfully related and/or supplementary clusters representing an economic strength of the Visegrad Group towards global markets. The project is co-financed by the International Visegrad Fund and is implemented in the period of October 2013 to December 2014.

The third event took place on 28th May 2014 in Gliwice (Poland) and was hosted by Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd – the Agency which is aiming to promote and strengthen ICT and creative industry by networking clusters from the branch to form strong leading clusters in Silesia and Poland. That is why the leading cluster appointed by the Agency – e-South, took active part in the event.

Since one of the main goals of the V4Clusters project is Networking, the main objective of the Gliwice meeting was to establish collaborative cluster networks represented by Visegrad Leading Clusters representing industries such as ICT: e-South Cluster (PL); machinery: Czech Machinery Cluster (CZ); furniture: Pannon Wood and Furniture Cluster (HU); automotive and plastics: Automotive Cluster Slovakia (SK). In other to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation, the invited stakeholders included researchers and cluster managers also from other branches. Participants had the opportunity to discuss the topics of their concern and to address the main challenges they are facing together. Cluster managers jointly revealed the potential for cooperation and thus contributed to the creation of action plan.

At the end of the event all partners of V4Clusters project signed the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of internationalization towards the emerging markets of ASEAN based on the networking of clusters under **The V4-ASEAN Cluster Initiative**. The undersigned partners decided to cooperate on: the networking, inter-cluster cooperation and internationalization of clusters within the Visegrad Group and ASEAN countries; the identification of business opportunities, initiation and facilitation of project development and cooperation of companies, universities and research institutes including mobility of experts and students; the active participation in the EU SEBSEAM project including the building of a joint representation in the ASEAN countries.

More information is available:

Karolina Piwowarska, Górnośląska Agencja Przedsiębiorczości i Rozwoju, kpiwowarska@gapr.pl, tel.: +48 32 3393143 or +48 784 964 377

Marek Koňarík, National Cluster Association – CZ, konarik@nca.cz