



INNOVAge - Meeting the excellences of Innovation in Italy: Torino Wireless and HABITECH

(Ancona, 30 January 2013).

A delegation of the Marche Region, composed by SVIM (Innovage technical secretariat) and researchers from 3 out of the 4 Marche Universities (Urbino, Camerino e Macerata), visited the Torino Wireless headquarters last January 24. Torino Wireless is a non-for-profit Foundation based in Torino (Italy). Since 2003 it has been managing and coordinating the ICT District and since 2009 the ICT Innovation Pole in the Piemonte Region. Torino Wireless is widely recognized as an Italian excellence with regard to Research and Innovation Driven initiatives.

With a yearly turnover of 3 M€ and a staff of about 30 people, Torino Wireless is an important partner of the Marche Regional Authority in several Innovation and Smart Specialization challenging projects. Just to give an example, in July 2012 Torino Wireless and Marche Region jointly elaborated a project proposal under the call for National Technological Clusters which has been approved by the Italian Ministry of University and Research in December 2012.

Moreover, on November 27th 2012, SVIM and the University of Macerata visited HABITECH – the technological Cluster for energy and environment recognized by the Italian Ministry for University and Research. HABITECH is a reality of excellence, comprised of over 300 companies, research organizations and public agencies, a turnover of close one billion euro and 8000 employees focused on improving the habitat we live in.

The study visits are part of the activities of included within Innovage, a set of actions aimed at detecting European best practices in terms of governance, processes, financing and internationalization of R&I Driven Clusters. The selected Best Practices will be transferred to EU regions which are about to create or are dealing with new-born clusters that favor innovative products and services for independent living of aging people and green solutions for assistive smart homes. In this framework, Torino Wireless and HABITECH have been selected for being presented as Italian R&I Driven Cluster Best Practices at the Innovage Best Practice Exposition, that will be held in Valladolid next April, and included within the Innovage Best Practice Catalogue, that will be distributed Europe-wide to key policy-makers, industry associations, cluster managers, universities and consumer associations.

During the half-day visit, the Torino Wireless managing director Laura Morgagni, along with the ICT cluster manager Gian Marco Piola, presented the Foundation and the ICT cluster to the Marche delegation, going into depth details for what concern governance structure, field of activities, funding channels, European projects and internationalization strategies. The meeting was concluded by a mutual Q&A session between SVIM and Marche Universities on one side and Torino Wireless' representatives on the other. Besides getting to know Torino Wireless, an outstanding reality of Piemonte - one of the most advanced region in promoting Innovation in Italy - it is worth highlighting that this visit has been the occasion to share interests, goals and priorities between the



Innovation actors of the 2 regions and therefore throw the seeds for future collaborations on Innovage as well as future national and European projects.

During the HABITECH visit, the CEO Mr Gianni Lazzari and the Responsible for Innovation and services to the local partners Mr Andrea Tomasi, presented the governance of the cluster and the main innovation activities offered to the partners and territory. Green, Smart, Small: Habitech is transforming a small region into a competitive leverage by developing a new and innovative approach to energy production and distribution. Among the other activities, HABITECH supports companies by offering a wide range of integrated services allowing them to obtain the LEED® certification and develop client knowledge and experience.

For more information about Torino Wireless and the Piemonte ICT cluster please visit www.torinowireless.it and www.poloinnovazioneict.org

For more information about HABITECH please visit <http://www.dttm.it/index.php>

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