

The project is in an intermediate stage and, through this event, InCompass partners wanted to share with a wider audience the first results from the study visits to different creative incubators.

Avilés hosts InCompass Interim Conference and the sixth study visit

PRESS RELEASE

Cultural Municipal Foundation of the Avilés City Council (Spain) organized the Interim Conference and the sixth study visit of the InCompass project, which took place on 19th, 20th and 21st of November 2013 in the region of Asturias. During the three days visit, more than 25 attendants from the 14 project partners participated in the event, while visited different incubators and cultural and creative initiatives of the region.

The Film Centre of the Niemeyer in Avilés Centre hosted the Interim Conference on 20th November. The conference, titled 'Incubators and initiatives for the creative industries in Europe', was inaugurated by Pilar Varela, Mayor of Avilés, who welcomed all the attendees and the project partners. After a brief introduction of the InCompass project by Dundee College (Scotland), Arie Romein from Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands) conducted an interesting review though the best practices detected so far in the last five study visits. This tour included the revised practices of studied incubators, such as DNAMO and Creative Factory in Rotterdam (The Netherlands); Make a Cube³ and HUB Milano in Milan (Italy); MINC and Media Evolution City in Malmö (Sweden), LX Factory-CoWork in Lisbon (Portugal) or Patras Carnival Lab and Corallia in Patras (Greece).

Financial opportunities for CCIs and incubators in the framework of the 2014-2020 programming period of the EU were also presented by Tamar Lavado Huerta, representative form the Cultural contact point of the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Education and Sport, who made a review of the key points of Creative Europe, the new programme focused on creative sectors replacing the MEDIA, MEDIA Mundus and Culture programmes.

The program also counted with the collaboration of the Business Innovation Centre of Asturias, which Deputy Director Cristina Fanjul presented "Let's game", a business accelerator programme focused on the video game industry. Last but not least, Yuriy Vulkovsky, expert in the field of culture and creative industries and member of the Regional Implementation Group of Sofia (Bulgaria), made an inspiring presentation about Youth cultural entrepreneurs in Sofia

In addition to the Conference, Avilés organized meetings and workshops study visits of various institutions and initiatives focused on creative and cultural sector in the region. Namely, the study visit agenda comprised visits to the Cultural Factory of Aviles, the LABoral Centre of Art of Gijón and the Valnalón Technological City in Langreo. Detailed information about the results obtained through this visit shall be found in the Study Visit Report in progress, which will be

available on the project website (www.incompassproject.eu). Meanwhile, project activities will continue with a study visit to London and Medway, scheduled for February 2014.

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NOTE FOR EDITORS

InCompass project aims to support the self-sustainability of creative incubator units and enable them to develop and share innovative methods to move away from a general dependence on public funding. Funded by the EU's European Regional Development fund through the INTERREG IVC Programme, the project aims to support and inform the collaborative development of local, regional, national and EU policy and thereby increase the capacity to create more spaces for experimentation, innovation and entrepreneurship in the creative industries, and to enable them to provide a driver for sustainable growth and job creation as stated in the Lisbon Agenda. The *InCompass* project website will be available very soon at the following link: www.incompassproject.eu

INTERREG IVC is an EU funded programme that helps Europe's regions form partnerships to work together on common projects. These projects enable regions to share knowledge and experience that will help them develop new policy solutions to economic, environmental and social challenges. More information can be found at www.interreg4c.net