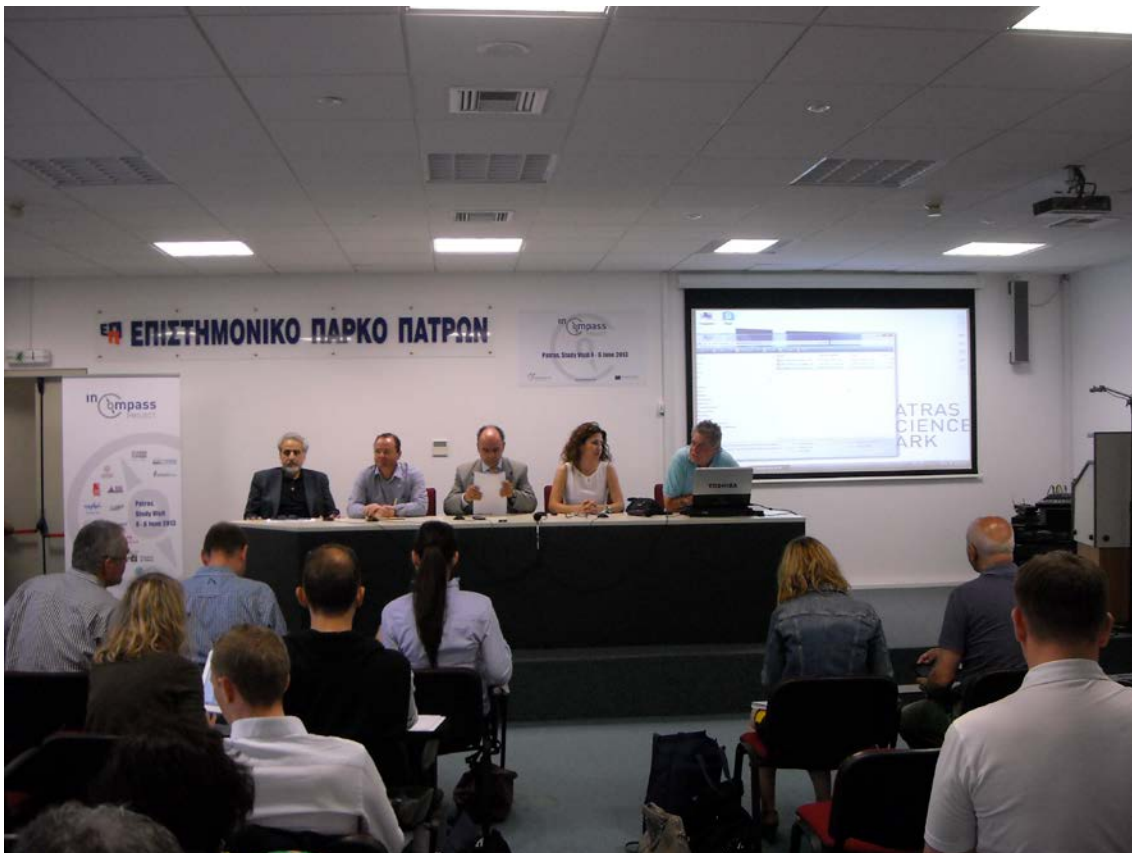


On the 4th, 5th and 6th of June 2013, the Western Greece Region and the University of Patras co-organized the fifth study visit in the framework of the European project InCompass, aiming at identifying good practices to support the self-sustainability of creative incubator units

The Western Greece Region and the University of Patras host the fifth study visit of the project

PRESS RELEASE

The fifth InCompass project's study visit took place on 4th, 5th and 6th of June 2013 in the city of Patras, Greece. The study visit was co-organized by two project partners: the Western Greece Region and the University of Patras. During their three days stay, the 19 attendants had the opportunity to visit three incubator units, Patras Science Park, Patras InnoHub and Patras Carnival Lab.



Patras Science Park (PSP) is an active organization established 15 years ago. Today, it hosts many high tech firms (three of which are strongly related to creative industries) which produce innovative products or services and present a strong exporting orientation. Its main areas include Administration Offices, Services and Account Offices, photocopy centre, foyer, Restaurant, Meeting Room, Presentation Room and Conference Hall, Data and telecommunication network Room. The bulk of PSP's financial resources comes from the rents of the incubatees. A smaller portion comes from its participation in a few European projects; while, there isn't any financial contribution from the founding members which is solely the Greek Ministry of Finance. In 2006 the founding member financed with equity an expansion and modernization of PSP. An analogous process is taking place at the current time for minimizing the negative impacts of financial crisis and especially of past management inefficiencies.



Patras Innohub is designed to accelerate the successful development of innovative companies in Western Greece through an array of business support resources and one-stop-shop services, developed and orchestrated by Corallia. Its Incubation Area offers eight fully furnished offices from 12 to 20 sqms designed to keep companies' overhead to a minimum. Patras InnoHub offers three professional meeting rooms, reception area, administrative support, executive catering, and office services including copying, printing, scanning and more. It also offers a

high-tech exhibition area, that is specially designed to collectively promote to the visitors the achievements of the InnoHub tenants and with its 15 stands and touch screens, can be configured on demand for any promotional need.



Patras Carnival Lab is a public utility enterprise of the Municipality of Patras. There are actually no firms *per se* hosted in Carnival Lab. It mainly consists of artists (free lancers and part timers) who work for the purposes of Patras Carnival. In terms of financial sustainability, Carnival Lab is a newly established Social Incubator. It may be of a public utility type enterprise but it aspires to be able to attract sponsors (e.g. from local shop owners that in return get the analogous publicity) and exploit its core competencies so as to provide its services and products to other occasions inside and outside Greece. Carnival Lab currently is experiencing a transitional phase from being completely sheltered and oriented exclusively to Patras one and only Carnival event, to become more extrovert and rendering itself attractive for investment due to its unique skills acquired by time.



During the three visits, a number of presentations was delivered by representatives from the firms and the directors of the incubators; while, InCompass project partners had also the opportunity to discuss with them in order to identify good practices that support their self-sustainability. These presentations and discussions set the basis for the “Report Preparation” session, where all the InCompass Project partners indicated the good practices that they had identified during the visit.

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The InCompass project

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 is available at the following link: www.incompassproject.eu.

INTERREG IVC programme

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.