

THE BIG STEP FROM RESEARCH TO INNOVATION OPERATIONS AND MENTAL PATTERNS

CLOSING CONFERENCE OF THE TRANS2CARE STRATEGIC PROJECT

>> University of Trieste
 Former Advanced School of Modern
 Languages for Translators and Interpreters
 Auditorium, via F. Filzi, 14 - Trieste
 >> 11th September 2014, 15:00-19:00

Vademecum

The Trans2Care Strategic Project has received
2.61 million Euros to achieve two objectives of the
 Operational Programme Italy-Slovenia 2007-2013:

- Promote R & D and the knowledge-based economy.
- Improve and qualify the potential employment in the sector through coordinated education.

IS THIS MONEY WELL SPENT?

- We are asked this by the citizens, whose taxes have created the large 'war-chest' of the **EU Structural Funds**, which were also used to finance the Trans2Care Strategic Project.
- We are asked the same question by the **Managing Authority of the Programme for the Cross-border Cooperation Italy-Slovenia 2007-2013** which selected this project among many others, has duties of supervision and must report to the **European Commission** on what has been accomplished.

We want to explain how we used the funding and the results we have obtained:

A REVIEW AND A COMPARISON, TWO OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

We want to present a **summary** of the actions and results **to the public and to the authorities** so that everyone can make their own **judgment**. At the same time, we want to enter into a **dialogue with the experts**, that will help us verify that the results of the project can really **produce a lasting effect in the area in question**.

The **experts** will tell us what are, in their view, the the **State's** most urgent knowledge requirements in terms of **health care** and **industry**. For each of these sectors a **Slovenian** and a **Italian expert** have been invited.

Each expert's presentation will serve as a counterpoint to the report on the activities and the results of **entrepreneur training, education, research and technology transfer**. **Three researchers recruited by Trans2Care** will also speak, witness as well to the balance achieved between their dedication to the project and their family commitments.

The **public** and the authorities will therefore have the opportunity to form their **own idea** as to whether the results of the project provide specific answers to the needs expressed by the experts.

THE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The questions for the experts:

Knowledge has always been a source of growth, wealth and health. Therefore, the specific questions are:

1. The modern **state** organizes and finances **universities** and **research centres**, where studies and research, conducted by students and young researchers, produce **new knowledge**. The Europe 2020 strategy indicates, among other things, that investment in R & D should reach 3% of GDP. However, with current levels of investment in R & D in both Italy (1.27%, national target 1.53%) and Slovenia (2.8%, national target 3%), smart growth seems not to have taken off as yet. There is therefore **unemployment**, and **"brain drain"** bringing about social impoverishment and pushing the horizon for "smart growth" ever further away for lack of human resources.
 - a. What, in your opinion, represents the knowledge necessary for the State to improve the efficiency of investment in Research, Innovation and Development?
 - b. One hears about the importance of scientific and technical disciplines, but at the same time, of the need for "Soft skills". Where does the right balance lie? Where should the State invest in doctorates? Technical-scientific, socio-economic or in humanities-based research?

2. **Health care**, especially in a city like Trieste, which is a social model in Europe, faces the growing challenge of an ever-older, ever-poorer population and more and more plagued by loneliness.
 - a. What knowledge is needed to ensure the sustainability of public health services?
 - b. What knowledge is needed to promote healthy aging?
3. **Industry** has a constant need to innovate products and services for an increasingly demanding and competitive global market.
 - a. What technical and scientific knowledge are biomedical companies looking for?
 - b. What professional profiles are companies looking for when hiring their staff?

THE ACCOUNT OF THE ACTIONS AND RESULTS OF TRANS2CARE

1) A new profession for young researchers: scientific experts in close contact with industry and society

A group of 14 researchers recruited for 3 years. The researchers have perfected their **technological training**, providing **impetus to research and cross-border collaboration** and have carried out an **entrepreneurial training programme**. They now have skills suitable for working with industry, healthcare professionals and associations.

2) Scientific research, discovery and utilisation

Partner	Problem	Discovery	Who cares?	What is left to do?
PP4, PP12, LP	Obesity and overweight	New early markers of disease risk; Mechanisms for prevention	Healthy young adults	Communication campaign
PP12, LP	Cancer and lifestyles	Mechanisms for prevention	Healthy people	Communication campaign
PP2	Neurodegenerative diseases	New early markers of disease risk	Clinical researchers, neurologists	Designing and implementing clinical studies
PP6	Syncope	New cheap diagnostic method	Cardiologists, neurologists	Software development for data analysis
PP9	Coeliac disease (gluten intolerance)	New method for early diagnosis	Pediatricians, gastro-enterologists	Using the method in other hospitals
PP11, PP8	Life span of orthopaedic implants	New biocompatible materials	Orthopaedicians	Technological development
PP1, PP3, PP7, PP8, PP10, LP	Supply of diagnostic and research reagents, advanced computational and analytical methods	New computational and analytical methods (laser and electrochemical technologies, bioseparations) and diagnostic bio-reagents	Researchers	Further validations

3) Innovation & Technology Transfer

Innovation is the use of knowledge to solve problems and improve people's lives. Therefore, the knowledge must either reach people directly or specialists for health and well-being. The process is gradual and requires teamwork.

We have created an organic innovation model, the first we are aware of in the cross-border area.

4) Management and Communication

Careful management of funding and internal control of the performance have allowed the use 97.7% of the funding obtained in accordance with the regulations.

The publication of the activities and results on the project website and their diffusion through seven different information channels have helped reach an enormous number of people. The project is recognized as a reliable and promising with regard to future initiatives.

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

Improve >> Refine the innovation model using technological and management improvements.

Include >> Widen the innovation model by including other local biomedical and clinical research units, technological development preventive medicine services and communication operators.

Connect >> Strengthen the links with local industry, healthcare organizations and administrative bodies in the area.

Attract >> Involve large companies in the development of new products and services.

THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE TOO!

Sign up for the Conference! >> Trans2care-bigstep.eventbrite.it

- to ensure a seat
- to meet The Innovators
- to keep in touch with Trans2Care



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