Dissemination meeting – Competence Brokering and Innovation: Tools and Competences to support Innovation – the 25th of November 2011 - SUPSI – Manno/Lugano (Switzerland)

Particularly after the settlement of the University Campus, Ticino region experienced the raise and consolidation of significant industrial innovation, showing the road toward a development based on the ability to integrate innovative technologies in products and services as well as their launch in fast-growing market niches. In order to ensure the growth of such a model in an environment where infrastructural, economic and institutional capacities are adequate, all available resources shall be coordinated through the Triple Helix cooperation among the main players of innovation: Public institutions, Academy and Industry, together with individuals with strong entrepreneurship skills.
As the key access to innovation is the interaction between Academy and Companies, the event, promoted in cooperation with the REBASING partnership by the Conference for Continuous Training in the Italian Switzerland (CFC), the Competence Centre inno3 of the SUPSI –DSAS (University of Applied Sciences of Italian Switzerland) and the Foundation Agire, fostered the debate about the competence brokering as a tool to strengthen research and production connections. Participants moreover analysed the impact and the re-qualification of innovation policies in the Swiss Confederation through the model proposed by the Federal Commission for Technology and Innovation.
After a first presentation of the state of art of Canton Ticino economy, trends and perspectives within the Regional Innovation System, REBASING partnership shared their view and experiences. In particular, the model developed in Norway and the analysis of informal brokering experiences in Italy, Germany, Estonia and Switzerland will led to the definition of the competences and the tasks of the professionals able to facilitate connections and exchanges among innovation stakeholders. The Conference included the benchmarking with the Foundation Agire activities, including the experience of their brokerage service.

The II Workshop: 16-17 February 2012 – August Horch Akademie – Zwickau (Germany)

The II Workshop allowed the partnership to analyse the Broker profile and the Protocol of intervention based on the Bergen University College experience, in order to validate the profile and proceed to the definition of the Open Innovation Networks at local level.

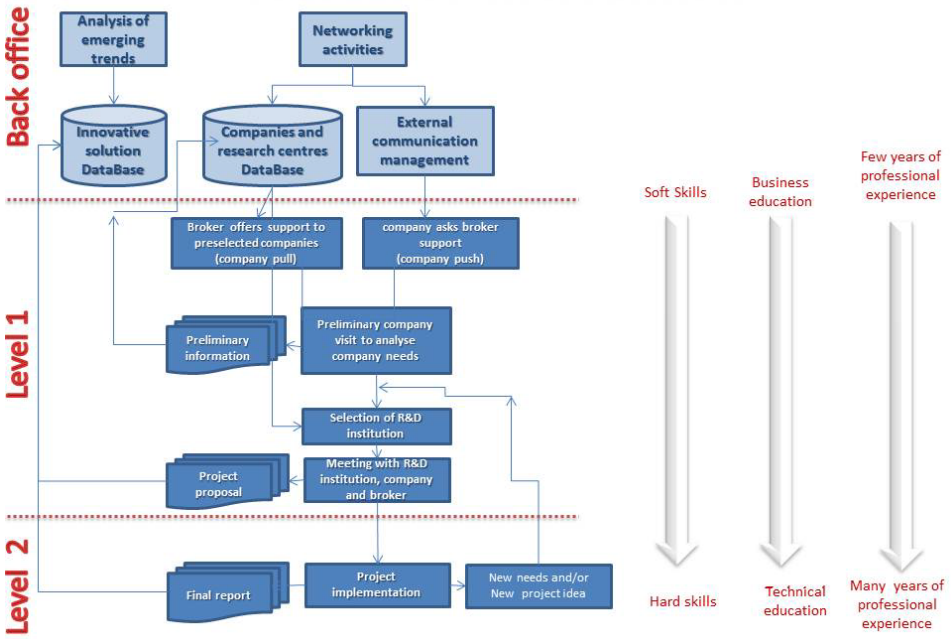


Image 1 – University of Padua – G. Bernardi; P. Garengo

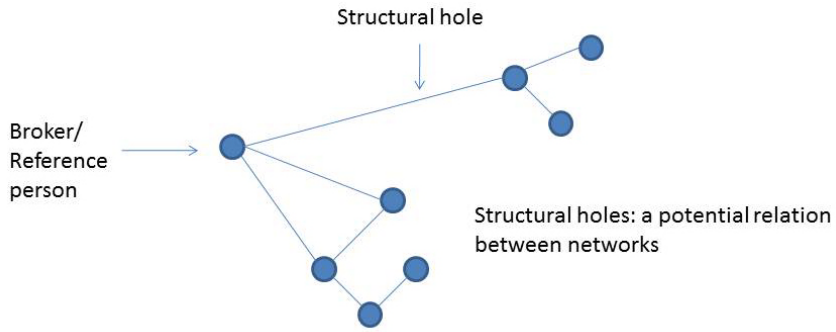


Image 2 - proposed by the Bergen University College after Burt-1992

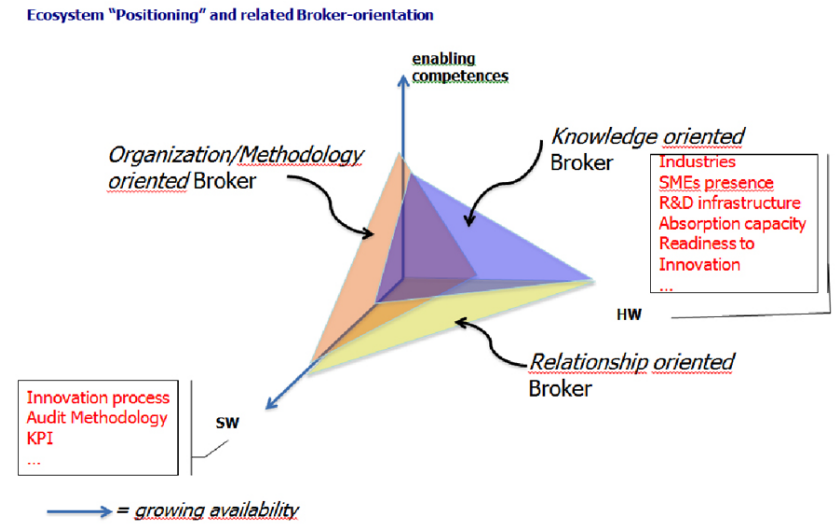


Image 3 – Innovation networks and Broker's orientation – Treviso Tecnologia

To define the Broker profiles within Intervention process, three key components were considered: Soft vs. Hard Skills - also related to gender; Education – economic vs. technical; Work Experience – related to sector and local environment (Image 1).

Partners provided feedbacks concerning the validation of the Broker profile, underlining the knowledge and the ability to identify and strengthen networks (Image 2).

The partnership will now launch Pilot tests to relate the broker profile within each local Open Innovation Network, thus identifying the key competences applied at local level. Within the pilots the broker skills orientations will be considered: a. Organization / Methodology; b. Knowledge; c. Relationship (Image 3).

The University of Applied Sciences of Zwickau – Institute of Management and Information, invited as guest participant, showed the opportunities of Saxony networks among Large and Medium Enterprises, professional associations and research institutions at regional, interregional an international level. The meeting provided an insight about the Open Innovation Network and the role played by informal brokers and their limits (mainly motivational) when operating within the University, as well as the need to foster actions toward small companies.

NEXT EVENTS:

- The 11th and 12th June 2012 – III Workshop; Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia.
- The 28th of September 2012 - Final Conference; Città della Scienza, Naples, Italy.

Applying EQF and ECVET: The broker profile

The partnership went through the analysis of the broker profile structured within the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) methodology, thus syntegrating the process activated in Norway with literature analysis and informal brokering case studies in Italy, Estonia, Germany and Switzerland.

Five key activities and their related results were defined and broke down into Knowledge, Skills and Competences description, namely:

1. Firm's innovation needs identification; 2. Innovation goals identification and selection; 3. Acquisition and planning; 4. Exploitation and protection; 5. Transversal and prerequisite activity: Networking.

The results of activities were considered equivalent to learning outcomes, as there is no formal education provided to innovation brokers.

The complete profile will be validated and defined also at local level through 10 Innovation Audits in Northern and Southern Italy, Saxony-Germany, Estonia.

The broker competences: a case study

Key activities	Activity	Competences	Skills	Knowledge
1. Firm's innovation needs identification	Audit of the project and analysis of the functional requirements	C.1 Capability of identification with accuracy the needs of the customers of the robot (what expectations? What industrial application? What industrial application in different sectors?)	C.1.S.1 Capability of replication of knowledge acquired in past experiences C.1.S.2 Capability of integrate and apply mechanical and electronics knowledge	C.1.K.1 Advanced mechanics Knowledge C.1.K.2 Advanced hardware and software Knowledge C.1.K.3 Manufacturing systems and Manufacturing engineering Knowledge
Innovation goals identification and selection	New characteristics design: hardware, software and mechanical	C.2 Capability to link specific company's problems to adequate research center	C.2.S.1 Technology partner recognition on the basis of their ability to successfully collaborate with the firm	C.2.K.1 Knowledge about Research Center capabilities and abilities C.2.K.2 Knowledge about the research processed and activities
Acquisition and planning	Identification and selection of the partners for the technology transfer	C.3 Capabilities to identify those departments and laboratories able to contribute to the evaluation of the technical requirements	C.3.S.1 Ability in the partners selection	C.3.K.1 Knowledge about the industrial research labs

Image 4 – University of Naples - DIEG - G. Capaldo, P. Rippa, L. Cannavacciuolo

ECVET/EQF Broker's profile: Methodology process

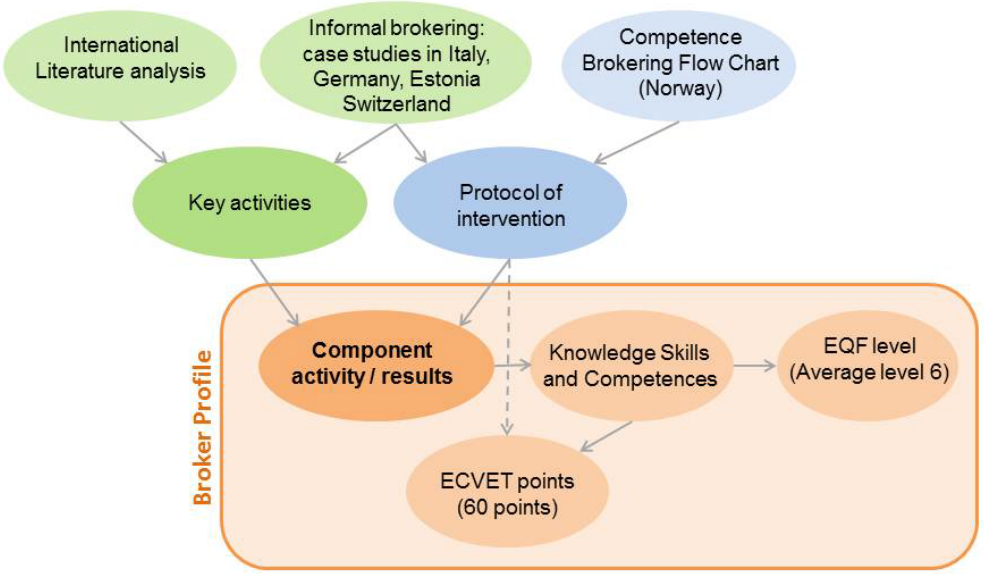
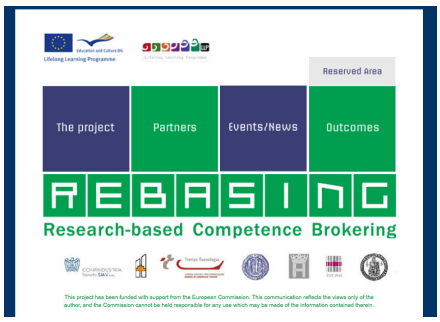
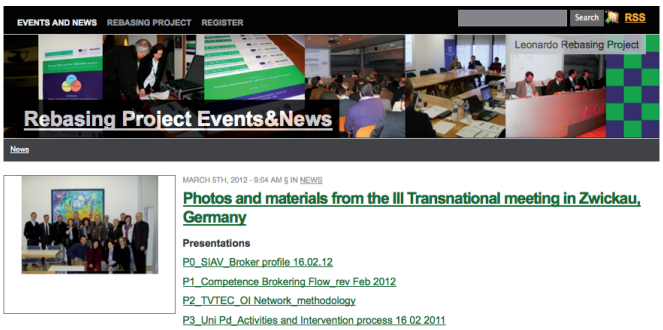


Image 4 – Confindustria Veneto SIAV

Newsletter n°2 - Contacts

WEBSITE: www.leonardorebasing.eu - BLOG: www.leonardorebasing.eu/wordpress





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