



HANSE-PARLAMENT

NEWSLETTER

++++ APRIL 2009 +++++

HANSE-PARLAMENT INTERNAL

The office of the Hanseatic Parliament has moved: new address

The office of the Hanseatic Parliament has moved to another location. Please note the new address:

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New challenges for Dr. Navickas

Until the End of 2008 the vice-chairman of the Hanseatic Parliament Dr. V. Navickas was Lithuanian Minister of Economy. After the parliamentary elections, Dr. Navickas left politics and is now working as a professor for Economics and Business Studies at the University of Vilnius. Of course he will stay vice-chairman of the Hanseatic Parliament and will be actively involved in the promotion of Baltic SMEs.

Hanseatic Parliament's New Members

The following new members joined the Hanseatic Parliament like decided at the Members' Meeting in November 2008 in Hamburg by a unanimous resolution:

- Chamber of Crafts Poznań
- Chamber of Crafts Rzeszów

Thus, there are 42 general members from 12 countries that belong to the Hanseatic Parliament association, which together represent over 400.000 small and medium-sized companies.

Membership fees

The members meeting on 19.11.2008 has decided that fees for the membership in the Hanseatic Parliament shall be collected in the following amounts (per year):

- Members from the „old“ EU member states and Norway: 600,00€
- Members from the „new“ EU member states: 400,00€
- Members from Russia and Belarus: 300,00€

In accordance with the members decisions the payment of the membership fee was voluntary for 2008. Nevertheless the majority of the members has paid this contribution.

Beginning with 2009 the payment of the membership fees is obligatory. In the future the payment shall be done in the first quarter of a respective year.

The invoices for the payment 2009 will be send by the end of April 2009.

PROJECTS

During the workshops and members meeting on 17. – 19.11.2008 in Hamburg 3 new projects were introduced. Here is a short progress report:

Project „Doing Business International“

Aim of the project is the development, test and realization of a further education course for self-employed craftsmen and executives in the field of international business. Partners are organisations from Germany, Poland, Latvia, Finland and Norway. The Chamber of Crafts of Latvia might leave the project for capacity reasons. If another member of the Hanseatic Parliament from an EU country is interested in joining this project, please send a short message to: ldoeding@hanse-parlament.eu.

Meanwhile a concept, curricula etc. were developed as well as participants recruited to the practical test of the course. Since March 1st the Chamber of Crafts Schwerin is carrying out the test with 18 participants. During the test stage until autumn 2009 a workshop with all project partners will be organised in Schwerin.

After completion of the test, a revision and translation of the course documents will be undertaken and afterwards transferred to all project partners and members. Than the chambers can offer the course as a service for their member companies and generate additional money by collecting course fees. Further information on the project website: www.go-sme.eu

Project „Dual Vocational Training“

The aims of the project are the transfer of dual bachelor courses of studies (full studies and vocational education in parallel) for SMEs to other locations of the Baltic Sea Region as well as an international exchange of students and temporary employment in SMEs abroad. Project partners are universities from Hamburg and Buxtehude which already realize such courses of studies, universities from Gdansk, Vilnius, Pori and Tallinn as well as



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members of the Hanseatic Parliament from these regions.

The Chamber of Crafts in Gdansk is going to start this kind of studies (Management in SMEs) in collaboration with a private university in autumn 2009. The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts Vilnius and the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University are also going to start with a dual course of studies "Civil Engineering". Dual courses of studies are also prepared in Pori/Finland.

As of 2010 an international exchange with a temporary employment in a foreign SME shall start. All members of the Hanseatic Parliament and their companies can participate in this program. Such a practical training abroad is at the same time an excellent way for companies to start cooperation with foreign enterprises and to break into new markets. Further information on the project website www.dual-training.eu

Project European Regions for innovative productivity – ERIP

ERIP targets to make approved management methods accessible for SMEs and develop consulting points at different locations. The Hanseatic Parliament is partner of this project which is led by an English Lead partner. The task of the Hanseatic Parliament lies in the transfer of the results to all member organisations. A project meeting took place in Trondheim in March; in summer we will present first results in a television programme. The members of the Hanseatic Parliament will obtain all project results.

Further information about the project on our website www.hanse-parlament.eu or at <http://www.erip.eu.com/>

GENERATING NEW PROJECTS

Baltic SMEs further education

During the last members' meeting in Hamburg the Small Business Chamber from Warsaw has presented a suggestion for a project aiming at strengthening of the chambers in the new EU countries through training of the chamber employees in order to intensify the use of the promotional measures developed within the Hanseatic Parliament.

We have immediately checked some EU programmes and together with the Small Chamber Warsaw developed a concept. Shortly after (on 27.02.2009) we have submitted an application within the Leonardo programme "Innovation transfer". The first examination step was taken successfully; an examination by 2 external experts is carried

out now. Decision about the project will be made in August 2009.

10 members from different countries are involved as project partners. We have planned in the application that all other members of the Hanseatic Parliament which are interested in this topic can participate in the planned measures and trainings.

QUICK

In accordance with the results of the consultations with all project partners on 18.11.2009, the QUICK application was intensively revised. Involved are:

- 25 members of the Hanseatic Parliament from 10 countries
- 9 universities from 7 countries
- 5 public administrations from 4 countries

Furthermore, 41 public institutions (towns, regional governments and administrations, ministries as well as organisations of the Baltic Sea Region and the EU) support this project as associated partners. Since Russia has not signed the agreement with the EU on the INTERREG programme, institutions and organisations from Russia can not participate in the project as project partner. The Russian members of the Hanseatic Parliament are involved now as associated partners, so that it would be possible to cover their journey costs for working groups, etc. and that all project results can be transferred to Russia.

The decision on the application will be made in September 2009. All project partners will receive a short version of the application as well as further information in April 2009.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PROJECTS POSSIBILITIES FOR CHAMBERS, ORGANISATIONS AND SMEs

INTERREG IV A: "Cross-border cooperation"

The aim of this program is to support the cooperation between neighbour countries, for example between

- Finland, Estonia and Russia
- Latvia and Lithuania
- Poland and Lithuania
- North-West of Poland and Mecklenburg Vorpommern (Germany)

The promotion of a sustainable social and economic development of neighbour regions as well as the strengthening of their economic and entrepreneurial competitiveness are the aims of the programme. Priorities are e.g. Facilitating business, Labour Market and research and Technology Development. The percent of co financing is up to 85%.

The programmes are very good from the financial point of view and there are comparably not many



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applications. Partners from 2 neighbouring countries must be involved, for example a chamber and a university from country A and a chamber from country B. The office of the Hanseatic Parliament helps with the development of the application, referring of project partners and if needed is also ready to take over the project management during the implementation. Interested organisations please contact the Hanse-Parlament office.

More information on the website of the INTERREG BSR program IV A (www.latlit.eu)

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Aim of this programme is to allow young businessmen, company founders and persons with foundation intentions to gain experiences working at established foreign enterprises within the EU. All EU member countries can participate in this program. Subsidy: up to 1000 € per month for travelling expenses and accommodation. Application deadline: Ongoing till December 2009. More information on the website: <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu>

Eurostars within EUREKA

An initiative for the promotion of research measures of SMEs. Applicants are at least two SMEs from two EU countries. Applications deadline 30.9.2009. Further information: www.eurostars-eureka.eu