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**21 September 2017**

**Crown Plaza Hotel, 13, Kyrova str., Minsk, Belarus**

Draft Agenda

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| 09:00 - 09:30 | **Registration and welcome coffee** |
| 09:30 - 09:50 | **Conference Opening**   * State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus * EU Delegation to Belarus * DG Research and Innovation |
| **Session I: Disclosing challenges – discussing the needs** | |
| 09:50 - 10:15 | **Keynote Speech**  **SMEs and innovation in transition economies**  **Prof. Dominique FORAY,** Chair of Economics and Management of Innovation,Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland |
| 10:15 - 11:15 | **Panel discussion „Challenges in early stage financing of innovative firms: national context“**  Participants: representatives of the EaP countries   * public bodies (national, regional) responsible for support of business and innovation and * funding agencies and organizations providing financial support to start-ups, spin-offs and wider innovative businesses   *(to be identified by EaP Plus partners; one expert per EaP country with 5-7 min interventions)*  Moderator: *TBC* |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | *Coffee Break* |
| **Session II: EU instruments for supporting the innovative business available for EaP SMEs** | |
| 11:45 - 13:15 | **Supporting EaP youth entrepreneurship and innovation**  EC Delegation to Belarus (TBC) |
| **HORIZON 2020: support for innovative SMEs**  **Iker AYERBE**, SME Unit, DG R&I, EC |
| **SME instrument**  EASME, EC (TBC) |
| **InnovFin**  **Marc D’HOOGE,** InnovFin Programme Manager  European Investment Bank |
| **Subgrant scheme and innovation hubs within FI-ADOPT and DIATOMIC EC-funded projects** (tentative)  **Babis IPEKTSIDIS,** INTRASOFT Intl. S.A., Luxemburg |
| **The EaP PLUS Project instruments in support for innovation**  **George BONAS**, Coordinator of EaP PLUS, Managing Director, CeRISS |
| 13:15 - 14:15 | *Networking lunch (standing)* |
| **Session III: Best national practices of the EU member states (and in EaP)** | |
| 14:15 - 15:45 | **Country X experience in funding start-ups, spin-offs and innovative SMEs**  *Speakers for this session will be proposed by the EU and possibly also by EaP partners of EaP PLUS, Panel for R&I members and may be also by the Commission.*  *Speakers will be requested not only to present a successful scheme but also to analyze specific conditions which, in their view, are needed for its effective implementation in case of a transfer to another country.* |
| **Experience from Poland:**  **Mr. Daniel SZCZECHOWSKI**, Department of Programmes Supporting Innovation and Development, Ministry of Economic Development of Poland [Daniel.Szczechowski@mr.gov.pl](https://e.mail.ru/compose?To=Daniel.Szczechowski@mr.gov.pl) |
| **Experience from Lithuania:**  **Mr. Kęstutis ŠETKUS, D**irector, **Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA) e-mail** [kestutis.setkus@mita.lt](https://e.mail.ru/compose/?mailto=mailto%3akestutis.setkus@mita.lt) **(TBC)** |
| **Experience from Germany:**  **BMBF** (tbc) and **Ms. Maiia DEUTSCHMANN**, Research Center Jülich GmbH, Department of “Start-up, Transfer and Innovation Support” (EXIST Programme) |
| **Experience from France:**  **Mrs. Sylvie COGNEAU**, Bpifrance |
| 15:45 - 16.15 | *Coffee Break* |
| **Session IV: How to better use the EU and national best practices in the EaP countries?** | |
| 16:15 - 17:15 | **Mixed panel with participation of the audience**  **Discussion along the pre-defined questions**  Moderator: TBC  *The goal of the discussion is to exchange views on a possibility of transferring the effective financial instruments of funding the innovative business to the EaP countries , as well as on whether the existing EC mechanisms for supporting the EaP countries could be used for that transfer.*  *Participants:*   * ***Mixed panel*** *of experts from the EaP/EU countries (authorities, intermediary organizations, beneficiaries) and Commission; short interventions in line with the proposed questions;* * *participants interested to contribute to discussion*   **Tentative questions:**   * Which are the most pressing needs in terms of early stage financing of innovative companies in the EaP countries? * Which of the existing EC mechanisms of support for EaP countries could be used for adapting to the best EU/EU MS practices and how? * How to boost participation of EaP SMEs in H2020? * Are there any recommendations that could be addressed at regional level? * Could the EaP Plus instruments be of help? |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | Wrap-up and closure |