

## **Detailed comments of FBK (Bruno Kessler Foundation) to the “call for ideas” on European Innovation Council (EIC).**

FBK is an applied research Foundation located in the Autonomous Province of Trento.

In Trentino there is a relevant number of new companies with a high rate of innovation, thanks to the opportunities offered by the "Trentino System" with dedicated programs supported by the Autonomous Province of Trento. In the field of innovation, in our region, there is a close convergence and interdependence of software (Information Technology) and hardware (Mechatronics, Electronics and Materials Science). Innovative companies working in the territory could have access to the "Provincial Law on incentives to businesses" (LP 6/99): this initiative is addressed to local companies wishing to promote innovation in both product as well process chain. The initiative also provides for an additional contribution when a research center is involved.

The above described initiative is one of the tools created by the Province that has helped to create an ecosystem that includes entrepreneurship research, innovation, politics aimed at promoting local innovation and growth.

Trentino is the first province in Italy for density of innovative startups: 108 companies each 10000 industries.

EIC should create the opportunity to develop a similar regional innovation system as an important opportunity to create a critical mass all over Europe, thus encouraging also the local economy.

The EIC should:

- Support a team of qualified professionals who can support the innovation activities (managerial and technical / scientific expertise skills);
- Create a spirit of territorial system, pushing a network between all stakeholders in the territory and in collaboration with other regions;
- Create a territorial excellence (following EU smart region specialization) for skills that will reply efficiently to research topics, innovation, technology transfer and training;
- Support linking between companies and research centers / universities pushing the corporate side the opportunity to do industrial research, development and improvement of existing products and processes;
- Create the possibility of access to risk finance, training courses custom, at events and in EU enterprise networks, international cooperation and the search for potential partners.
- Create awareness of the processes that lead to innovation from the market in a "bottom up" approach;
- Awareness of the processes leading innovation to the market in a "top-down" approach; research results that should be valued for a transfer to the market;
- Support research to the market, taking care of a fundamental aspect for the companies, the so-called "last mile". Helping Companies to reach the highest TRL (Technology readiness level) for their innovative products;
- Realize support actions for companies, incubators, accelerators and other activities for the testing of products and services (co-design).