

European Business & Innovation Centre Network



EBN 25th Anniversary



Conference & Reception

27 January 2010

17.00 - 21.00

*Palais des Académies
Brussels*



*EBN operates in partnership with
the European Commission (EC), the European Space Agency (ESA),
the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
and The European Voice as exclusive media partner*



What is EBN?

The **European Business & Innovation Centre Network (EBN)** was set up in 1984 as a joint initiative of the European Commission, European industry leaders and the first pioneering Business and Innovation Centres. EBN is now the leading non-governmental pan-European network bringing together **200+ Business and Innovation Centres (BICs)** and similar organisations such as incubators and entrepreneurship centres across the enlarged Europe.



BICs are organisations which promote innovation and entrepreneurship. They help enterprises to innovate and accelerate; they drive the creation of start-ups, provide integrated incubation services, support innovation-based projects and mentor growing SMEs. They promote economic development through job and enterprise creation and development.

The network is **an umbrella organisation** bringing together over 200 BICs from all around Europe and beyond. It provides help and support to these BICs by acting as an interface with other organisations including the European Commission and the European Space Agency, by providing expertise in numerous areas including funding and by stimulating the sharing of best practices.

EBN follows closely the European Union Enlargement and Neighbourhood policies and is developing 'hub and spoke' networking connections with innovation platform in Russia, China, Middle-East, North-Africa, North & South America. EBN is also deploying projects for the UNDP and the World Bank.



EBN implements a certification and quality system enabling the development of a network of excellence through the integration of a quality approach. The BICs that have been granted **the BIC trademark** commit themselves to respect their obligations within the quality process of the network. The EBN quality process adds value to the BIC trademark and to the organisations that have received the licence – professionalism, performance, consistency and positioning. This label is the unique professional European standard for Incubators.



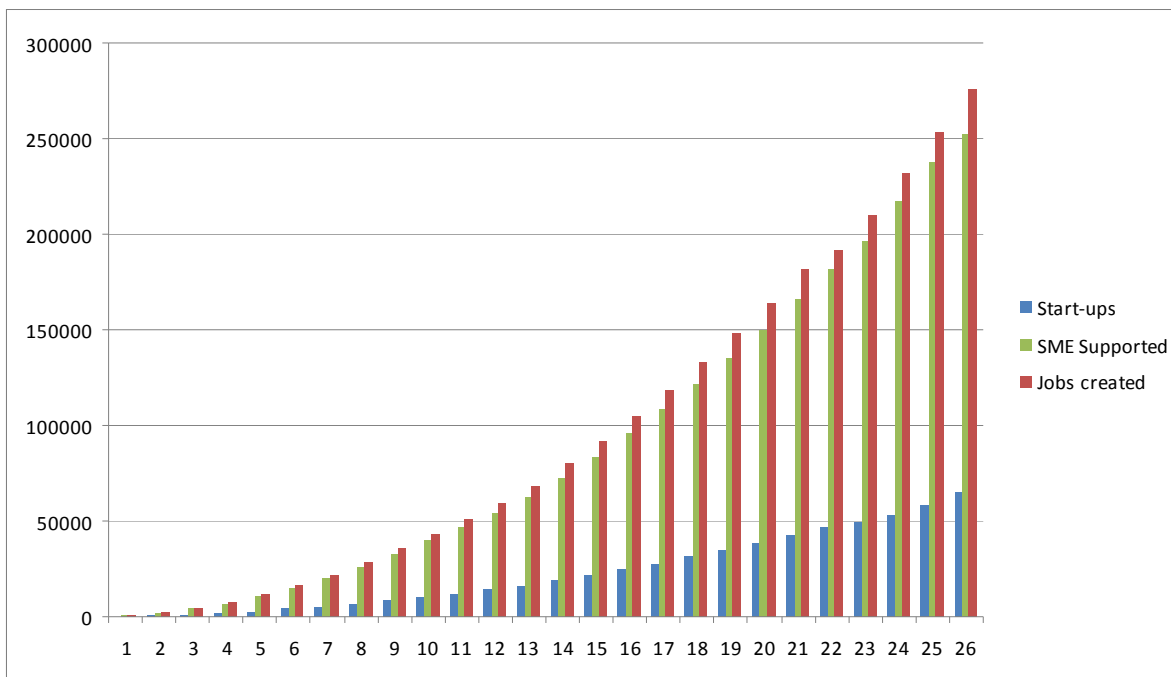
EBN is a Brussels-based team coordinating members' activities and providing services to them ranging from **EC-BIC quality support** to **international projects, events and networking opportunities**. EBN is a community of qualified and committed intermediaries and a dynamic cluster of talents and champions entrepreneurs.

25 years of BICs in a nutshell

Over twenty five years ago the European Commission decided to put its vision for economic development into operational action by creating relevant instruments to enhance entrepreneurial innovation: **the Business & Innovation Centres (BICs)** with a unique role to play: to encourage the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation through incubation.

BICs have since faced this challenge and have contributed effectively to meet the development of communities with different levels of prosperity and diverse cultures. Their direct hands-on support such as advice, guidance, incubation and mentoring which has proven to be of great value to young promising and high growth businesses.

Through its Quality System, EBN ensures high standard services and gives an accurate picture of the impact of the BICs' activity. When analyzing the key figures produced by **the annual BIC observatory**, it is clear that BICs are playing a leading role in Europe to stimulate local economies.



Over the last 25 years, BICs have – cumulatively - directly supported the creation of more **65 000** start-ups and more than **276 000** jobs. BICs have also assisted **252 000** SMEs and developed more than **170 000** business plans.

The average survival rate of the enterprises supported by the BIC system is **89% in 2009**.

Today...



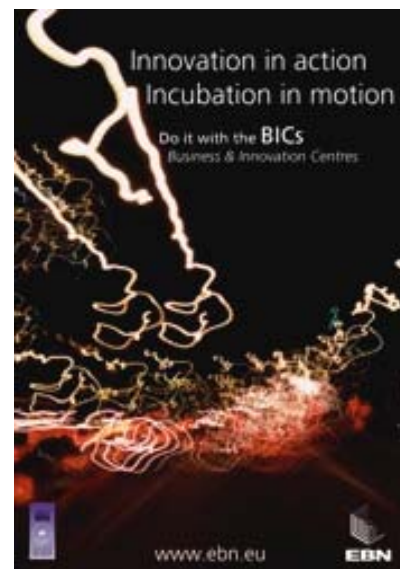
Today EBN has reached maturity and develops its expertise and reputation beyond the early objectives and frontiers. For the BICs, helping regions to adapt to competitive environments is an ongoing priority totally in line with the *“Lisbon strategy”*: they promote synergies between centres of knowledge, enterprises, and public and private investors. They facilitate in a proactive and selective way the creation and development of innovative enterprises. As a result, the EBN network is instrumental in shaping the knowledge-based economy of the future, anchored in value-added jobs, robust economic models,

technology and innovation-based enterprises, academic spin-offs, dynamic clusters and efficient accelerators of the *“Growth and Jobs”* challenge.

In the last couple of years, the network experienced **an increase in the number of BICs** demonstrating that this business and innovation support model is highly relevant and efficient and always more embedded in the strategies of local economic development of the territories it addresses.

The core focus on innovation, all types of innovation, is still there, and well there, as it has always been, despite the changes in the surroundings realities, and BICs have demonstrated a high capability of adapting their models and the activities to them.

With its 25–years experience, the BIC Model is increasingly adequate and flexible enough to adapt itself to the changing surroundings and is capable of remaining up-front on the spear of innovation. It is not by mere coincidence if large companies are showing more and more interest for the BIC model and are getting in touch with the network as a visible source of innovation detection.



Programme

Wednesday 27th January 2010

During the celebration of 25th Anniversary, the Business Innovation Centres (BICs) will showcase their entrepreneurial achievements realised within the EBN network. The Anniversary will be the occasion to highlight the efficiency and performances of the BICs, which have successfully deployed and professionalised a pilot initiative launched by the European Commission in 1984.



25 years later, EBN network is a key-player in promoting and deploying incubation, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The EBN 25th Anniversary will take place in the prestigious "Palais des Académies", home of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Belgium. Besides the 25th birthday celebration, the conference will be the occasion for addressing the view points of field-level players to EU policy makers, highlighting the fundamental role of the BICs in the deployment of regional innovation policies and looking at the future.

16.30 - 17.00: Registration

17.00 - 17.15: Official Welcome addresses

- **Luigi Campitelli**, President of the Board of Directors of EBN and CEO of BIC Lazio
- **Benoît Cerexhe**, Ministre du Gouvernement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (tbc)
- **Hervé Hasquin**, Secrétaire perpétuel, Palais des Académies (tbc)

17.15 - 17.30: "The economic and territorial impact of the BICs"

- **Lennard Drogendijk**, Vice-President of EBN
- **Joe Greaney**, Vice-President of EBN

17.30 -17.50: "Towards a new EU perspective for innovation-based SMEs"

- **Pavel Samecki**, Commissioner for Regional Policy (tbc)
- **Lambert van Nistelrooij MEP**, European Parliament (tbc)
- **Jorgo Chatzimarkakis MEP**, European Parliament (tbc)

17.50 -19.00: Roundtable: "Entrepreneurs and Innovators talk to policy-makers"

The roundtable will be animated by a journalist and it will welcome the participation of BIC's entrepreneurial champions, representatives of the EC, the ESA, the UN, a member of the EP and a visionary academic leader.

Moderator: Philippe Vanrie, CEO of EBN

- **Mikel Landabaso**, Head of Unit, Thematic coordination, Innovation, Policy Coordination, DG REGIO, EC

- **Robert-Jan Smits**, Director, DG RTD, EC (tbc)
- **Françoise Le Bail**, Deputy Director General, DG ENTR, EC
- **Frank M. Salzgeber**, European Space Agency - ESA
- **Professor Thomas Koulopoulos**, Founder and President of Boston-based Delphi Group
- **Professor Isaac Getz**, Professor of Idea, Involvement and Innovation Management at ESCP (tbc)
- **2 BIC's Entrepreneurial Champions**

19.00 – 21.00 Cocktail Reception

- **UNDP "Eco-Innovation" Award Ceremony**
Christophe Bouvier, Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (tbc)
- **ESA/ESINET Award Ceremony**
Jean-Jacques Dordain, Director General, ESA (tbc)



19.00 – 21.00 Cocktail Reception & UNDP “Eco-Innovation” Award Ceremony and ESA Award Ceremony

1) UNDP Eco-Innovation Award Ceremony



Develop Innovations to Innovate Development!

UNDP “Eco-Innovation” Award

The European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through Innovations for Development and South-South cooperation (IDEASS), have established a cooperation framework aimed at developing innovations and their dissemination by launching, among other activities, the realisation of an international contest open to the 200+ BICs gathered into the EBN. The contest’s objective is to identify innovative products, methodologies, solutions and experiences which can be adapted and implemented in other contexts, particularly in less industrialized countries, to solve problems in various sectors.

EBN – UNDP/IDEASS International Contest for Innovation 2009

This year’s theme, **Eco-Innovations**, has been first announced at the Clean Tech Thematic Working Group meeting on 24 June 2009.

A Scientific Committee will evaluate the applications submitted and award the 3 best ones during the EBN 25th Anniversary on the 27th of January 2009. The jury panel will be officially announced soon. **Guidelines, application form** and **description of the award** are available at the following page:

<http://www.ebn.eu/EventDetail.aspx?id=62>

2) ESA/ESINET Award Ceremony



ESA/ESINET Award

A living and interacting community of start-ups, spin-offs, entrepreneurs and early-stage ventures sharing a common interest for technology transfer innovative projects using applications & advanced services, linked to space & satellite technologies, systems, or related knowledge & expertise.

Accept the challenge of becoming a high profile incubator & company awarded with an irresistible package deal and international support, in close partnership with ESA (European Space Agency).



For additional information you can contact:

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Useful Information

The event is **free of charge**



The venue:
Palais des Académies
rue Ducale / Hertogsstraat 1
1000 Brussels – Belgium

Target audience

The event is open to EBN members and to any organisations which express interest in the EBN network. The event is addressed to European, national and regional policy-makers and to public and private sectors stakeholders

For additional information you can contact:

Content, Speakers and Promotion

Silvia de Pasquale

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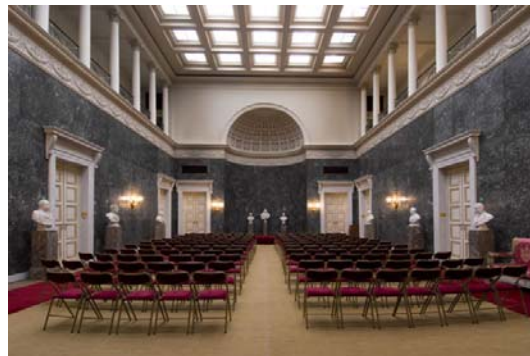
Registration and Logistics

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To register please send by Friday 22nd January the registration form to:
Emmanuelle Pastor: epa@ebn.be or by fax +3227729574