

ECAbit incubators and technology parks network aims to add value to its members' activities by fostering and strengthening innovation and entrepreneurship support, exchanging information and knowledge, collaborating among incubators and entrepreneurs in the ECA region and on a global level, and disseminating knowledge about national SME and innovation development policies and programs. (ECA Mission Statement, May 2005)

What ECA incubators say

- *"We have the vision to bring innovation and technology to our region. The main role of our organization is to change the mentality of entrepreneurs and to think and act innovative."*
Radu Big, CDIMM Baia Mare, Romania
- *"ICT is only a tool, but direct contacts and projects outside the virtual world lay the groundwork."*
SODBI, Kazakhstan

Business Incubation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA)

infoDev's Business Incubator Initiative

The Incubator Initiative has supported more than 60 business incubators in countries worldwide, leading to the establishment of five regional networks in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and Northern Africa. infoDev services include:

- Financial and technical assistance
- Knowledge-sharing and networking
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Research on challenges and opportunities

ECAbit Network

Many ECAbit Network members are located in countries that have been undergoing a transformation from planned to market economies. Business incubators and technology parks in ECA play a key role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. The ECA Network of Business Incubators and Technology Parks was launched in May 2005 at the ECA regional workshop in Kiev, Ukraine. In **September 2007, the ECA incubators regional workshop in Yerevan, Armenia**, will focus on the role of business incubators and technology parks in innovation development and technology transfer in economies in transition.

infoDev also operates the infoDev Incubator Support Center (iDisc) website dedicated to strengthening the Incubator Initiative, and to serve as a virtual platform for interactive knowledge-sharing and networking among incubator professionals. More information can be found on www.iDisc.net/eca.

Key focus areas of ECAbit activities include international and science/academia to business technology transfer, rural innovation and incubation, youth and women entrepreneurship, financing mechanisms for innovation, and networking and collaborative research in SME training and consultation. The integration of business incubators and technology parks in regional innovation policies and clusters is increasingly important for the successful implementation of these activities.

How to get involved

- ✓ Get to know about activities on www.infoDev.org/businessincubation
- ✓ Latest advice and event updates on www.iDisc.net
- ✓ For developments in the region, e-mail the infoDev team at infodev@worldbank.org; for latest ECA news and developments, e-mail Mr. Andrey Tarelin, ECA Incubator Network Coordinator, at atarelin@ubica-ict.kiev.ua, or visit www.eca-network.org



ECA Network at the 2nd Global Forum on Business Incubation

Strengthening Competitiveness

Strengthening the market orientation, diversification and competitiveness of economies in the East European and Central Asian region by fostering entrepreneurship and innovation on all levels from rural to high tech has become a main feature of this dynamic region. Business incubators and technology parks have achieved to become key instruments of this development by specializing and focusing their services according to market needs and innovation development programs, as well as by utilizing the potentials ICT provides for business and innovation support.

Country	Incubator & Mission	Contact information
Armenia	<i>Viasphere Technopark and Enterprise Innovation Foundation</i> Capacity building grant to improve the managerial and operational capabilities of the Viasphere Technopark and its tenants to strengthen the growing ICT sector in Armenia.	Mr. Aram Vardanyan, General Director, e-mail: vardanyan@viasphere.com Website: www.viasphere.com
Azerbaijan	<i>InfoTek, Sumgait Business Incubator Project</i> Planning grant to foster the social and economic development of Sumgayit by introducing a business incubator that will promote entrepreneurship, private sector development and internationalization.	Mr. Araz Marmadov, e-mail: araz@azerinet.com Website: www.gateway.az/cl2_gw/pages/az
Bulgaria	<i>ARC Foundation Sofia and Business Incubator Gotse-Delchev</i> Capacity building grant to foster the development of innovative ICT-based products, services and enterprises and enhance economic growth in Bulgaria through developing sophisticated, integrated, online innovation incubation services.	Mr. Angel Milev, Program Manager, e-mail: angel.milev@online.bg Website: www.arcfund.net
Georgia	<i>Civil Society Support Center Business Incubator Program</i> Planning grant to conduct a feasibility study for the Georgian business incubation environment, raising awareness of the incubation concept in the public and private sector, and creating an operational framework for an incubator.	Mr. Vazha Goginashvili, Project Director, e-mail: csscge@yahoo.com Website: www.cssc.ge
Kazakhstan	<i>SODBI Business Incubator Shymkent</i> Operational grant to enhance the capabilities of SODBI and its tenants by improving the business, project and knowledge management levels of the tenants to increase innovation and SME promotion.	Mr. Kairat Sugurbekov, Director, e-mail: k_sugurbekov@sodbi.kz
Kyrgyz Republic	<i>Union of Business Incubators and Innovation Centers</i> Capacity building grant to add three main activities to the Union: exposing tenant companies to existing ICT incubators, launching an operational branch to incubate ICT projects, and rendering help in ICT development to regional business incubators.	Ms. Zamira Akbagysheva, e-mail: congresswomen@intranet.kg Website: wcongresskr.freenet.kr
Romania	<i>CDIMM Maramures Foundation</i> Operational grant to develop programs and mechanisms that foster the establishment and incubation of start-ups based on ICT developed in Romanian universities and research institutions, and increase competitiveness of SMEs through ICT-enabled solutions.	Mr. Radu Big, Executive Manager, e-mail: radu@cdimm.org Website: www.cdimm.org
Turkey	<i>Ankara Cyberpark Technology Incubator</i> Capacity building grant to enhance the mission of the Cyberpark to serve R&D project groups, technology-based start-ups, and SMEs. <i>METUTECH Technopark</i> Capacity building grant to stimulate and accelerate the creation of technology-based innovative start-ups with high growth potential.	Ms. Hanzade Avi Saricicek, e-mail: havci@cyberpark.com.tr Website: www.cyberpark.com.tr Mr. Ugur Yuksel, Manager, e-mail: ugur.yuksel@metutech.metu.edu.tr Website: www.metutech.metu.edu.tr
Ukraine	<i>Joint grantees: Ukrainian Business Incubators and Innovation Center Association (UBICA) and the Center of Small Business Development, Kharkov Business Incubator</i> Operational grant to assist the social and economic development of the population by supporting, developing the infrastructure for, and widely implementing the use of ICT in SMEs	Mr. Nikolay Paal, e-mail: ubica@ubica.kiev.ua and Ms. Inna Gagauz, e-mail: kt@isc.kharkov.com Websites: www.ubica.kiev.ua www.isc.kharkov.com/kt
Uzbekistan	<i>ABIT Association of Business Incubators and Technoparks</i> Capacity building grant to promote business innovation and private sector development through building institutional, managerial and technical capacity and effective use of ICT in business incubation.	Mr. Zafar Mukhitdinov, e-mail: zafarm@rambler.ru Website: www.binc.uzsci.net