



UPDATE No. 53

April 2004 - For SPICE / ICECE Members only

«Vorname» «Name»

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In this UPDATE:

- **SPICE Group now represented in 35 countries**
- **Missing reactions: A & O and Board elections need feed-back from members**
- **About members**
- **New Members**

Dear «Vorname»

The SPICE event season 2004 began with a remarkable event in a place new to SPICE Group. Christchurch, New Zealand in March 2004 hosted a conference of the APEC Science Ministers and combined this with several innovation related events: The **6th Summit of New Zealand Business Incubators** focussed on "Capital for Growth Companies", the "Innovation Showcase" offering innovative products and services in an exhibition, and a number of other workshops and seminars – too many to list them all. Whoever responsible for the weather after some weeks of rain, offered sunshine for the conference days and thereby contributed to the wellbeing of conference participants. The quite young, but very ambitious and dynamic business incubator scene of New Zealand impressed all participants. Another exceptional component of business incubation in this country seems to be a very active, intensive and competent involvement of government representatives. Financial support from the public sector to develop business incubators is available – and organized with entrepreneurial spirit. The invited international experts from Australia, Canada, China, Germany, and United Kingdom. contributed to this lively discussion about future perspectives for business incubation development – and learned from the experiences made "down under".



Another event in the network took place in early April in the city of **Tägerwilen, Switzerland**. Leading representatives of the national business incubation associations of Austria (Wolfgang Rupp), Germany (Christian Herrmann, Herbert Hoffmann, Heinz Fiedler and Switzerland (Jan Larsson) met with SPICE to discuss potentials for intensifying cooperation between the associations. The host, **Jan Larsson**, has built and developed the High-Tech Center Tägerwilen as one of the few truly private, for-profit business incubators.

"Not one cent" of public money was used to build and operate this successful technology business incubator. Possibly the entrepreneurial spirit of Jan Larsson, certainly his perfect hospitality created the basis for a very successful meeting. The associations agreed on a number of joint activities, for example to agree on criteria for measuring the service quality of business incubators or the certification aim and procedures.

The global SPICE Network is growing

SPICE Group network now is active in **35 countries** and members are representing **19 associations**. New challenges ahead: To maintain the same level of personal commitment and activity as it was and is "standard" in our network, the regional presentation needs to be strengthened and refocused to reflect the membership around the globe.

The election for the SPICE Board in Riga, September this year offers a good opportunity to take care about this matter. The Board at this time consists of seven members (see information on "Answer Form) representing Eastern and Western Europe and North America. There are proposals to elect a Regional Director for the Asia-Pacific Region to have a stronger representation of the interests of members (net-)working there. And as there is growing interest in membership also from Central and South America, at a later stage the SPICE Group representation in this region should be strengthened as well.

Very important matters

The last two issues of SPICE UPDATE provided information about elections for the Board of SPICE Group and planned adaptations of the "Aims and Organization" document. Members were asked for their comments and recommendations and the majority already reacted. But the ambitious aim is to get reactions from all members. Therefore, if you did not yet send you reply, please do –if possible today.

As a help to remember what needs to be done:

- The **new version of the "A & O" document** has to be checked and commented. If you do not have your copy anymore, we will send a new one.
- Your nominations for the new **Board of Directors and President** of SPICE Group are needed (to remember see answer form).

Not to forget:

- check and comment the new "Aims & Organization" document
- make your nominations for the elections for Board & President

Information, Facts & Views

International **Incubator Forum in Milano**

Report by Barbara Harley

The Incubator Forum held in February, at the Politecnico di Milano is a project of the European Commission's Gate2Growth Initiative. www.gate2growth.com. The goal of this initiative is "to raise professional standards and to foster the exchange of experience and good practice among incubators at the European level."

The Incubator Forum is coordinated by Inno Group AG of Karlsruhe, an independent economic consultancy. Elected at the General Assembly portion of the event as next Chair of the Board is **Paul Bradstock**. He is Board member of the UKBI, the UK's association for business incubators, and founding director of Oxford Innovation. The daily host of the Workshop was Professor Giuseppe Serazzi, head of the business accelerator at the University.

Key speakers included Paul Bradstock, who described network of incubators in the UK and the efforts of UK Business Incubation, Ltd.- Both Jack O'Herlihy, Senior Manager of the Letterkenny Institute of Technology of Ireland, and Bernd Thomas, Managing Director of the AGIT in Aachen Germany, described their technology incubator's experiences as well as unique cross-border activities; and Peter White, Chairman of YTKO Cambridge, who described the experience at the University of Norfolk where his group created a dynamic science and technology focused community network which had major impact on the incubator and the community; and Dr. Juergen Wuest, Manager of the Incubator Forum, who described the growth of the Incubation Forum. Also speaking was **Barbara Harley**, Director of the International Business Incubator in Silicon Valley, who had the task, as she put it "to talk about incubation in all the rest of the World" as she described some of the challenges of incubation in the U.S. and introduced the infoDev (World Bank) Incubator Initiative to support incubators throughout the Developing World. The SPICE Group network also was represented by **Aniko Soltesz**, Budapest.

Bulgaria **New National Incubator Association**

In December 2003 the National Business Development Network (NBDN) was established in Bulgaria as association of business incubators of the JOBS project. **Rositsa Djambazova** (see new members/bi-gd@goce.ttm.bg) was elected President of this association. The main association activity – besides building up the membership and developing the national network is proposal writing. Acquiring financial support and projects is as important for NBDN as it is for all other associations.

Czech Republic I **BIC Pilsen is Growing**

Report by Jana Klementova

In 2003 BIC Pilsen entered its second decade as a business-innovation support organization. Business conditions and the entrepreneurial climate in the Czech Republic have changed enormously over the past ten years, and even more major changes can be expected in the year ahead, when our country is to join the European Union.

The BIC Pilsen offers specialised services primarily for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) while simultaneously being involved in numerous development projects: services of the networks of Innovation Relay Centers (IRC) and Euro Info Centers (EIC). BIC Pilsen is also a partner in a project to draw up an innovation strategy for the Pilsen region. Based on the analytical work carried out in the project to date, actions for specific projects will now be proposed. BIC Pilsen helped preparing the City of Pilsen Development Program. One of the priorities defined in the Program is the development of innovative industry and localization of high value added production.

BIC Pilsen was closely involved in implementation of programs to prepare for drawing on EU Structural Funds, and will be able to pass on this experience to companies wanting to obtain support for their development projects, especially in the field of new technology applications and innovation development to strengthen their competitiveness.

A challenge for BIC Pilsen going forward is to prepare the next phases of the Science and Technology Park (STP) project, under which a Business Incubator and a Technology Centre are already operating on the site of the former Bory airfield. The recent decision by Mercedes to build its development centre in the STP zone, where it will open in 2004, is further evidence of foreign investors' interest in locating their development operations in Pilsen. To encourage more such activities the Science and Technology Park provides the ideal tool.

When the Czech Republic joins the EU in a few weeks time, BIC Pilsen will provide its services and prepare business innovation projects in tune with the changing conditions. For this purpose BIC Pilsen welcomes the widest possible cooperation with all organizations involved in regional development and business support. Contact: klement@bic.cz

Czech Republic II **Initiatives for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

The Czech Government has approved a new National policy for research for the time 2004 – 2008. **Pavel Komarek** has been preparing much of the basic documents for this policy. In Czech Republic much is now changing in preparation in view of becoming part of the EU. This also will positively influence the development of business incubators and technology parks as part of the "innovation supply chain". For the first time ever, EU programs are used for developing a systematic national approach to support technology transfer and innovation. The Czech Government allocated 55 Euros for the creation of infrastructure to support collaboration between the R&D sector and industry. Pavel recently organized the international TRANSACT conference Prague (www.transact-innovation.com).

Kazakhstan **3rd Annual Conference and Plans for Projects**

The Kazakh Business and Innovation Center Association held its 3rd International Annual Conference, this time focussed on Technology Transfer as a means of implementation of the industry and innovation development strategy of Kazakhstan. Over one hundred participants from both KABICA and CABIN, and also representatives of the Ministries, scientists, international organizations, entrepreneurs associations attended the conference. The results are concrete projects: (a) develop more educational programs for BI and TP managers, and also learn and teach about the organization of technology transfer, (b) end of this

year, a Business Forum on technology transfer is planned to bring together foreign companies interested in transfer of their technologies, and entrepreneurs, interested in purchasing those technologies. KABICA will develop the network of business incubators and technology parks through these two main activities. **Tatyana Shpuling** representing KABICA and CABIN will attend the Atlanta Summit and provide first hand information about these projects.

Kyrgyzstan *More Business Incubators in Kyrgyzstan*

In January 2004 in Shopokov a business incubator of the Congress of women of the Kyrgyz Republic was opened with participation of President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The incubator already has many tenant companies providing much needed products and services to the local community. Moreover information-technology, educational-consulting and marketing-centers are operating in the Business incubator. A large number of further firms is in preparation and soon will open in the incubator. The incubator offers 1,500 sqm of rental space for tenant companies. Now tenant companies provide 87 jobs. This number is expected to grow to 417 as soon as all prospective client firm have moved in. 30% of the incubator project cost is financed by the Eurasia foundation – USAID. The district administration has allocated a hospital building for the business incubator. Money for restoration of the building came from the Congress of Women of Kyrgyzstan. Furthermore the German Embassy, and large (foreign) enterprises made contributions.

Zamira Akbagysheva, underlines the visible impact this project has: “In fact, if it were not for this project, the hospital would remain in ruins. Sometimes we see quite a sad picture of the ‘razed to the ground’ once blossoming edifices”. The administration of the area is willing to provide another building for the Business incubator in Tokmok.

Sweden *Business Incubator joined Science Park*

During the last year the Creative Center Business Incubator in Jönköping, Sweden has expanded as well as merged with the Science Park. Therese Sjölundh now is Managing Director of the Science Park Jönköping which includes the Business Incubator. For those who want to update contact information: Science Park Jönköping, Gjuterigatan 9, 553 18 Jönköping, tel +46 36 10 03 10, mobil + 46 70 347 86 87, therese.sjолundh@sciencepark.se, www.sciencepark.se

United Kingdom *20th Anniversary - UKSPA Award*

UKSPA, the United Kingdom Science Park Association, celebrates its 20th Birthday in May this year. The UKSPA Board would like to mark this occasion by holding an Award Ceremony at the evening function of the Members’ Meeting. This ceremony of celebration will recognize the achievements of everyone associated with the science park movement over the last 20 years. In order to highlight work within the science park movement UKSPA has developed five special recognition awards to which you can make nominations and applications. UKSPA has left the categories sufficiently broad in order to attract a high number of nominations and applications, and hope that the spirit of the inaugural UKSPA Awards program will be embraced by our many colleagues and friends. Each application will be judged by a member of the Science Park Association and the award sponsor representative. Application forms should be sent by e-mail, fax or post to Roz Bird at UKSPA, **by April 23rd 2004**. Award winners will be notified on May 7th 2004, and will be awarded their prize at the evening function to be held in Plymouth 20th May 2004. And here the UKSPA Award categories: The most successful company on a Science Park / Significant contribution by a business affiliate, agency, sponsor, partnership or consultancy that has enhanced the profile of the Science Park Movement / Innovative design of a building, product or process that demonstrates environmental sustainability / The science park making the most significant contribution to the exploitation of the knowledge base / The person or organization making the most significant contribution to the development of the UK Science Park Movement.

Uzbekistan *How to connect incubators in the region?*

Incubators in Uzbekistan operate in a centralized structure with the roof ABIT, a „main“ incubator in every region, and smaller incubators in the regions. The main incubators in the regions are almost all already connected to the internet. Smaller incubators meet with their regional „main“ incubator managers once a week, allowing internet and portal access.

The Internet portal of CABIN, Central Asian Business Incubation Network, provides access to information about business incubators in the region – including Uzbekistan. Furthermore, SODBI Business Incubator conducted in Shymkent a presentation on the World Bank infoDev program, and the activities and project course.

In general, the meetings were pragmatically focused on „using the existing opportunities“ and helped developing the overall network. The next workshop will be held in Almaty, targeting Kazakhstan incubator and technopark managers. This part is much more difficult, as Uzbekistan incubator managers and clients are more interested in the Kazakh market, than vice versa.



Ukraine *Will Ukraine become the competent player in the IT world market?*

“Why Ukraine, “Cooperation with Ukraine in a High-Tech Area - Is That Easy, “Ukraine: The Reality is better than the Media Image”. These issues about the reality and perspectives of the outsourcing industry in Ukraine were discussed during the US-Ukraine IT Cooperation Forum, in Washington, DC. The event was organized as a joint public relations effort intended to develop a platform for mutually beneficial US-Ukrainian collaboration in the IT industry. The US-Ukraine IT Cooperation Forum was an initiative of the Ukrainian Embassy in the US and supported by the Science & Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU), American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, Ukrainian High-Tech Initiative, Ukrainian Chamber of Science and Technologies, and also other Ukrainian and US commercial companies. The Center for Innovation Development www.cid.kiev.ua was the overall coordinator of the Forum. The Forum was coordinated in conjunction with the Exhibition: "Partnership for Prosperity & Security", held in Philadelphia, (USA). The exhibition was organized by the United States Industry Coalition (USIC) and sponsored by the US Department of Energy (DOE)). The Ukrainian organizer was AVentures.

The Forum aimed at demonstrating the existing potential, features, benefits and actual achievements of US-Ukrainian cooperation within the Information Technology sector; providing internationally recognized data on the Ukrainian software exports market, and attracting investors to the Ukrainian software exports market.

In support of the original objectives, features and benefits and actual results of existing US-Ukraine cooperation were presented by; Aventures, Miratech, VoliaSoftline/Software, and the Ukrainian Software Consortium. Further written information was provided in the Forum catalogue, which included data points from Ukrainian firms participating virtually in the forum.

More information about the Forum, presentations and participating firms which are currently providing services and product to the US market and those interested to provide service and product, can be found on the Forum web-site

www.cooperation.org.ua. A catalogue of the Ukrainian participating firms, detailing their capabilities, can be received upon request via e-mail to: sever@cid.kiev.ua or vandr@cid.kiev.ua, Center for Innovation Development.

Coming Events

NBIA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, April 25-28, 2004



NBIA's 18th International Conference on Business Incubation "The Power of Supporting Entrepreneurs" is the place to be for access to cutting-edge industry information. 60 conference sessions or at the Preconference Institute workshops offer an extensive range of opportunities to interact and network with colleagues and to exchange views and insights!

One of the nation's premier university-associated incubators, Georgia Tech's ATDC (see picture), will welcome attendees to tour its facilities Monday afternoon, April 26. And a post-conference incubator tour will provide an opportunity to see Atlanta area incubators in action including the Intelligent Systems Incubator.

For information: www.nbia.org/nbiaevents, email education@nbia.org or call +1-740-5934331

At this NBIA conference **the 9th International Summit** will be held for invited representatives of national and international associations (see www.spice-group.net/summit) This Summit will continue to discuss ways and instruments to maintain and develop the services of business incubators, benchmarking issues, and experience with incubator certification.

**The 9th
International
Summit**

The 103rd SPICE Meeting

Last not least, the **103rd SPICE Meeting** will bring together members and friends in Atlanta. For this meeting 11 members and 10 guests have registered already.

BALTIC DYNAMICS 2004

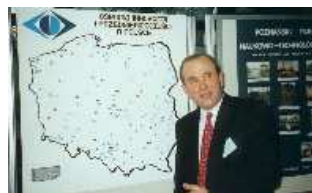
Janis Stabulnieks is ringing the bell for the BALTIC DYNAMICS 2004. BASTIC and LTICA are the organizers of this conference – together with EBN. The main focuses will be "Development of National Innovation Systems", "Network Cooperation", "Role of Professional Associations", "Creation of Infrastructure for Knowledge-Based Business", "Technology Transfer & Commercialisation", and "Public-Private partnership". As usual SPICE Group is helping to prepare the event, but this time the aim is to organize a workshop special in content and form (see information in box on page "Answer Form")

Most SPICE members meanwhile approved the BALTIC DYNAMICS as "the" SPICE Meeting of the year 2004. Now as many members as possible should attend this event to make sure that this meeting excellent networking opportunities. Elections for the Board of Directors and President will be held at this meeting.

If you are interested in coming events, look at www.spice-group.net/events or contact spice@spice-group.de

About members

This part of the UPDATE is aimed at keeping members informed about each others activities. The aim is to develop the basis for synergy and cooperation. All members are invited to send brief articles (or material for writing such articles) for "publication" in the coming issues of our newsletter.



Since October 2003 **Krzysztof Zasiadly** has been Team Leader to 2,1 million EURO project: PHARE 2001 "Promotion of Employment and Human Resources Development Mazovia Region, Poland". The main objectives of this project are to promote employability, adaptability and entrepreneurship, to assist EU-accession process in the field of employment policy and to strengthen capacities of central and local authorities and local service providers to implement ESF programmes after accession. The scope of activities includes different kinds of vocational /

labour market guidance and training, entrepreneurship promotion as well as promotion of local partnerships for employment.

About 3,500 people will be trained and assisted through September 2004. Info: zaza@sooipp.org.pl, www.szansa-mazowska.pl



A lot of changes in Czech Republic are under way. And SPICE Boy **Pavel Komarek** is actively involved with helping to structure these changes. For example a new program for creating the infrastructure for co-operation R&D and industry (including science parks and innovation centres - 55 mil. Euro for 3 years) has been prepared. Pavel is member of Monitoring Committee of Operational Program Industry and Enterprise. This initiative is aimed at identifying barriers for development and finding solutions for overcoming such obstacles. He also is collaborating very closely with CzechInvest - a new agency for business development and investment in the country.

New members



Rositsa Djambazova joined the SPICE network as President of the **National Business Development Network** of Bulgaria (see “information, facts and views” in this UPDATE). Rositsa already attended business incubation meetings and conferences in Bulgaria as well as internationally – for example the infoDev Workshop in Berlin, September 2003. She is very experienced and actively engaged in business incubation not only for the association but also as managing director of the business incubator in Gotse Delchev, Bulgaria.

Anders Stolan joined the SPICE network (ICECE status) beginning this year. He is working for the SINTEF Group, the largest independent research organization in Scandinavia. SINTEF (www.sintef.no) offers intelligent and profitable solutions based on R&D in technology, natural science, medicine and social science. The annual turnover is 200 million Euro, 90% from commercial. SINTEF also acts as an incubator for new R&D based companies, resulting in 10-15 new companies each year in average. For the 2 last years Anders has been engaged in projects for SME development in Macedonia to set up a local branch of SINTEF in Macedonia with 3-4 local staff, co-operating close with university staff. After donors decisions, two incubators in Macedonia and one in Bosnia & Herzegovina will be started. The first in Skopje will be targeting young people and entrepreneurship training. The second is link to restructuring of a large former state textile company. The incubator in Bosnia & Herzegovina will focus on ITC related companies serving the domestic market.



Julian Webb, CEO of one of the most successful incubators in Australia became SPICE member in March this year. His incubator, CREEDA in Dickson ACT, Australia, won the NBIA award “Incubator of the Year” as the first foreign business incubator. Julian is very experienced in business incubation not only on his continent, but also worked on projects in many other countries. He has an extensive network of contacts with professionals in Asia, the Arabian countries – and the “rest of the World”. Julian is ready to specifically care about the SPICE network in the Asian – Pacific region.

Some Pictures of the first SPICE events 2004



And finally...

This UPDATE does not offer sufficient space to report on the many project initiatives underway, initiated by different (groups of) members. There is much work on the agenda for the coming months in the global SPICE Group network – and much room for member’s initiatives.

Looking forward receiving your information and proposals and – hopefully – meeting you soon personally at one of the conferences or workshops.

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska

Elections for the SPICE Board of Directors and the President

The SPICE Board (see box) was elected last in 2001 for a three years term. This means, elections have to be held this year. As last time, the election process will be organized in following steps.

1. **Nominations** of candidates for the SPICE Board of Directors and the President. The answer form of this UPDATE is prepared for **Your** nomination.
2. As soon as we have most of the answers members will receive a **nomination list** including all candidates who accepted nomination.
3. **Personal voting** will be organized during a SPICE Meeting – tentatively at the BALRIC DYBANICS 2004, in September 2004.
4. Members not being able to attend the meeting personally may give proxy to another member or vote in writing.

SPICE Group Board of Directors Elected October 2001		
Heinz Fiedler	President	Germany
Krzysztof Zasiadly	Vice President	Poland
Janis Stabulnieks	Vice President	Latvia
Peter Asmussen	Regional Director	Denmark
Barbara Harley	Regional Director	USA
Slava Khodko	Regional Director	Russia
Stefan Vrátny	Regional Director	Slovakia

For information about coming events check the web site:
www.spice-group.net/events



Events of SPICE History

	<i>Warnemünde, Germany May 10, 2003</i>	95	<i>Vilnius, Lithuania May 15–17, 2003</i>	96	<i>Virginia, USA May 18–21, 2003</i>	97	<i>Lisbon, Portugal, June 1–4, 2003</i>
98	<i>Berlin, Germany, September 28–30, 2003</i>	99	<i>Kalisz, Poland, October 12–14, 2003</i>	100	<i>Kitakyushu, Japan, November 12–14, 2003</i>	101	<i>Christchurch, New Zealand, March 12–14, 2004</i>

Answer Form for SPICE UPDATE No 53

Please send your answer to email spice@spice-group.de

Call for Creative Proposals for the **BALTIC DYNAMICS 2004**

At the BALTIC DYNAMICS 2004 scheduled for September in Riga, Latvia, we are planning to organize a special SPICE Workshop. Your suggestions for actual topics are welcome:

elections

We need your proposals for the elections of the new SPICE Board. If you are SPICE Member, now is the time to nominate **Your** candidate And here is the place to inform SPICE about **your nominations**:

President:

Vice President: Regional Director.....

Vice President: Regional Director:.....

"A & O"

The proposed adaptation of the "Aims & Organization" document is presented in the attached revised version. Members are requested to inform about their position regarding the changes:

Yes, I approve the proposed changes of the "Aims & Organization" document

No, I do not approve the proposed changes of the "Aims & Organization" document

Yes, I approve the proposed changes of the "Aims & Organization" document with the following changes:

SPICE Homepage

This is a **never ending request**: Please check www.spice-group.net/members and inform us if you want your email and homepage links activated.

Yes, I want my email and homepage links on the SPICE Group Homepage to be active. These links should lead to
(a) for email:
(b) for homepage:

«city», Date

Signature «Vorname» «Name»