Improvement of management skills in biotechnological companies
The role of clusters

Madrid, 3 – 4 June 2009

Organisation of the Madrid visit

The Spanish partner organised a meeting in Madrid (3 - 4 June 2009) addressed to biotech cluster managers in CLUNET regions, aimed at exchanging experiences related to the improvement of skills and training of biotech professionals in areas like IPR, management, etc. This is a key aspect for companies in this sector, and biotech clusters are in the excellent position to lead and manage innovative solutions concerning training and qualification of professionals in biotechnological companies.

During the session different mechanisms and tools in the biotech clusters of our regions were shown and discussed. The experts discussed a diagnosis of needs in this field, as well as on-line training tools, both of them developed by Madrid Biocluster. Although this meeting was developed in the framework of pilot project "Developing European Biotech Clusters - short term staff exchange programme", all CLUNET partners were invited to join the pilot action and all biotech cluster managers from CLUNET regions were invited to participate.

Summary and conclusions of the Madrid visit

Mrs. Jocelyne Le Seyec, Brittany (FR), proposed that a good area for cooperation was the area of matching companies and laboratories, especially in the area of intellectual property in hospitals.

Madrid Biocluster and madri+d suggested that E-training addressed to biotechnological companies would be a good area for collaboration, and that any institution interested in sharing the tools developed in Madrid and in other regions would be welcome to make proposals.

Finally, another possible cooperation area was mentioned: the area of funding issues for companies going through "valley of death" (providing evidence of successful cases to potential founders for this long critical period).

Partners decided to continue their cooperation activities based on the above subjects.

The outcomes of the biotech workshop were presented at the CLUNET final conference in Madrid on 5 June 2009.