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## EDITORIAL



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ENTERPRISE  
TRAINING  
PARTNERSHIP OF  
THE REGION OF  
MURCIA - FUERM

Dear readers,

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce you to the second newsletter of the OSAIS Project.

The aim of this newsletter is to be a practical communication tool for the dissemination of the project development and results among those companies, institutions, organizations and authorities interested in state aids and issues related to them.

In the second edition of the OSAIS newsletter you will find detailed information about the events and activities implemented during the last three months. The partnership met in the old city of Bautzen, where the second Steering Committee and the forth Thematic Seminar took place in September. The OSAIS partners also took this opportunity to discuss and decide about the survey methodology of the Project, cooperating to determine how to proceed in order to obtain all necessary information concerning the impact of state aids for SMEs in the participating regions. In this trimester, the Project has also been presented to different European countries and organizations in Brussels in Open Days, where the OSAIS partners have participated not only in the Workshop “Grow smart! Focusing European Regional Policy on future well-being” but also with a permanent stand of the Project at the Committee of the Regions.

In this issue we would like to present you the European Observatory on State Aids - EOSA as well as to introduce you to the project's website: [www.osais.eu](http://www.osais.eu), where you will be able to find more information about the Project and the Newsletters in PDF format.

At FUERM, we consider the OSAIS Project of great importance since it gives us the opportunity to have a better overview of the needs of the companies located in our region and the impact that the state aids have on them. This way we can obtain new guidelines that enable us to adopt the best approach regarding state aids and those fields of most interest for the companies.

I am convinced that you will find interesting information in our newsletter and hope you will enjoy the reading.



PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON STATE AIDS



## The European Observatory on State Aid: The legal complement to OSAIS Project

The European Observatory on State Aid (EOA) was established in 2006. This initiative stemmed from a wide collaboration between the Veneto Region, the Association of Italian Industries (Confindustria), the University of Padua, the Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo and the Regional Union of Chambers of Commerce of Veneto (Unioncamere del Veneto).

EOA is a crucial component of the OSAIS project since it provides the legal argument on which the project idea is based upon. Concretely, EOA is **a tool which aims to provide private and public actors with update information regarding the correct implementation of European Union rules on State aid**. More specifically, the Observatory wants to help **private and public actors to better assess whether a certain public decision or instruments constitutes a State aid, and if so, whether it complies with the European Union law**.

The overall aims of the Observatory are pursued through:

- a) **Monitoring and studying** the evolution of the European Union law on State aid, which is a complex and evolving process
- b) **Awareness-raising and assistance** for the correct implementation of European rules on State aid. This is mainly achieved thanks to accurate analysis on the field. In particular it involves research and identification of the main actors engaged in this field; Seminars and Meetings; Web desk information ("Ask your question"); Update online information; Newsletter; Preliminary studies carry out by the Scientific Committee members; Participation of EOA experts to conferences organized by other institutions; Training courses; drafting and dissemination of materials
- c) **Providing an interactive** platform for policy-makers during the evaluation of possible strategies for developing the local economy, and for the EU institutions towards the complex review of the European Union law in this field.

## PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON STATE AIDS

These activities are carried out on a daily basis by the two offices of the Observatory, respectively in Brussels and Padua. The activity of the **Brussels office** is focus on developing the international dimension of the Observatory. In this sense, the office has established contacts with other European regions interested in the issue of State aid. It closely monitors the activities of the EU institutions and organizes seminars with a European perspective. The other office in **Padua** concentrates its activities in the area of the Veneto Region, providing support to public and private bodies engaged with the issue of State aid. It carries out a broad range of activities such as providing legal opinions to the different

stakeholders, constantly monitoring the acquis communautaire, organizing thematic seminars and the timely update of the web site.

During the implementation of the EOSA activities, it has been underlined the fundamental importance of having a clear and comprehensive overview concerning the impact of State aid on the European member states. This ambitious objective can be really achieved through the realization of OSAIS. This project assesses the economic benefit of State aid through a substantial and complementary evaluation that represents a continuum to the great achievements of EOSA.



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## Welcome to the OS AIS website!



Opolskie Region, Coordinator of the Component 2, has introduced an improved project website as well as a brand new intranet application during the meeting in Bautzen. Project website will be mainly used for the dissemination of the current and final results of the project. It is also a source of information about both the project itself and the project partners. There have been suggestions at some stage in the Bautzen meeting to develop an extra section in the website that will contain a photo report gallery of every single meeting throughout the project. Opolskie Region is currently making

efforts to build up the gallery section inside of the website.

Moreover, the Intranet section has been introduced. This application was basically created to improve internal communication inside of the project. It will allow project partners to share data and other files regarding the project. It will also eliminate minor communication issues that already appeared several times. The process of the Intranet development is at the final stage and application will be launched in the beginning of November.

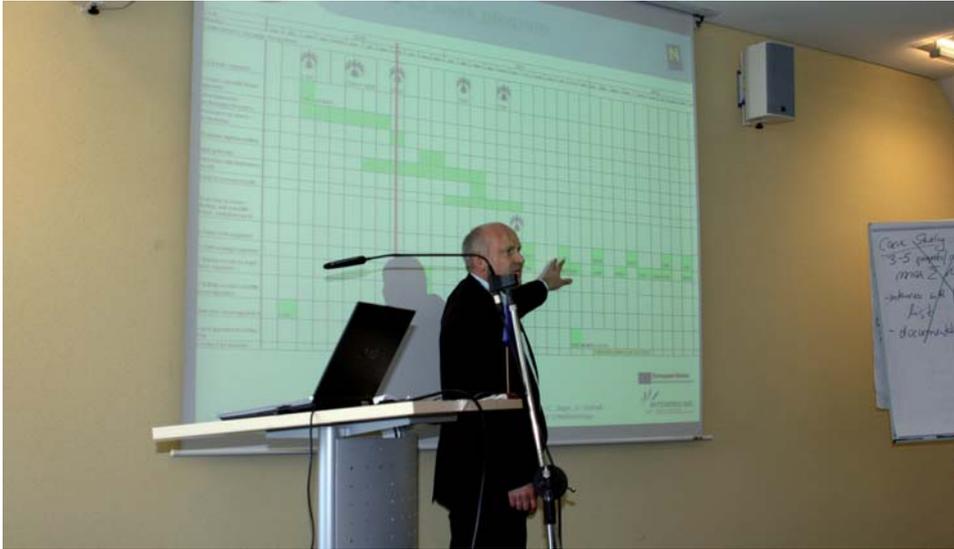
## OS AIS EVENTS

### 4<sup>th</sup> Thematic Seminar in Bautzen 8-10<sup>th</sup> September, 2010



In September 2010 representatives from 10 European countries met with local authorities from the district of Bautzen, the Dresden Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Saxon Network Initiative for Mechanical Engineering in Bautzen to find out a common methodology for the impact analysis of state aids. Rainer Staudt from the Saxon state bank Sächsische Aufbaubank explained the state aid system of the Free State of Saxony. Manuela Gogsch and Dr. Peter Baumann informed about the impact of the state aids for companies from the point of view of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce. OSAIS aims to find out differences and common aspects of state aid programs in Europe. After the analysis all partners will formulate proposals how to improve the state aid programs. About 100 companies will be involved in each region in the investigation of the state aid impact.





## Significant progress in development of impact analysis methodology

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> OSAIS meeting in Bautzen in September the partners have gained significant progress in developing the methodology for the impact analyses of regional state aid schemes in order to identify Good Practice state aid schemes among the OSAIS partner regions. Based on the detailed proposal by the regional government of Lower Austria as component coordinator the partners have approved a list of 75 compulsory indicators and additional 39 optional indicators to be gathered for individual state aid projects. These indicators describe the companies as beneficiaries of the state aid schemes, the overall state aid characteristics including the sources and funding types (like grants, loans or guarantees), general project data, and - of course! - the impact of the state aid schemes on the companies.

The OSAIS partners have also made a first pre-selection of the state aid schemes, which will be tackled within the impact analyses. According to the pre-selection approximately 40 state aid schemes from the 11 OSAIS partner regions will be analysed in detail. For every state aid scheme between 30 and 40 data sets will be considered. In total the data of round about 1,400 individual state aid projects will be gathered and analysed, which is a tidy data basis for a statistical descriptive analysis.

The OSAIS partners were very satisfied with the results. Currently the OSAIS partners are working on the interview guide to gather the data for the impact analyses under the leadership of Lower Austria.



## OSAIS EVENTS

OSAIS Project took part in the eighth edition of OPEN DAYS - European Week for Regions and Cities, a very important event sponsored every year by the European Commission and the Committee of Regions which took place in Brussels from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

## Participation of OSAIS in Open Days

The project was presented at the Conglomerate "Creative and Inclusive Economic Growth Network (CIEGnet)" composed by Lisbon and Tagus Valley Region, Veneto Region, Opolskie Region, Abruzzo Region, Azores, Bucharest, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and West Sweden.

In the 2010 edition of OPEN DAYS, over 6,000 representatives of regional and local bodies took part. Under the slogan "Europe 2010: competitiveness, cooperation and cohesion for all regions", OPEN DAYS acted as a forum where to exchange ideas on the role of European regions and cities as part of the Europe 2010 strategy.

The Osais partners wanted to take part in the event since the values and aims of the Project were in line with the principles of OPEN DAYS.

The Project participated with two main events:

- The workshop "Grow smart! Focusing

European Regional Policy on future well-being" on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010 from 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at the Permanent Representation of Portugal to EU, which involved directly three partners of the project Lisbon and Tagus Valley Region, Veneto Region and Opolskie Region - in its organization.

- The Osais Stand at the Committee of the Regions from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October, organized directly by two partners of the project: Veneto Region and Opolskie Region.

Both events were a great success.

The exhibition space was visited, on the first day, by Mr Constantin Ostaficiuc, President of Timis County Council (the Romanian partner of the Project) and, in the following days, by a lot of people coming from different European Regions and Cities which have shown a great interest in the Project.

## OSAIS EVENTS



The workshop, which was attended by a lot of Authorities - Mr Roberto Ciambetti, the Minister of the budget, Local Authorities and ERDF Programs of Veneto Region (Leader Partner of the Project), Mr. Jozef Sebesta, President of Opolskie Region (the Polish Partner of the Project) and Mrs. Teresa Almeida, President of Lisbon and Tagus Valley Region (the Portuguese Partner of the Project), also had a great success.

During the workshop a video clip of Osais was projected to the public in order to explain our commitment on this Project.

The film has been set in the Veneto Office in Brussels, thanks to a team of amateur actors of the European Commission, a Director and an Editor. The video was composed of a short story regarding a grant request made by an entrepreneur to the Region and an important description of the Project.

After the projection, the speaker of the Project, Mr. Roberto Ciambetti, went into the film content to explain more in detail its contents: *“The overall objective of the project is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency*



*of regional and local policies, in the field of economic modernisation, and increase the competitiveness of the business sector by identifying, exchanging and sharing good practices and knowledge on the financial assistance to SME. Small and Medium enterprises, in addition to being an engine of the production system in Veneto Region and in other European countries, are an important ethical and social value of the economic action. The loss of these values in great measure in the international finance has created the conditions of a deep economic crisis we are experiencing. It's therefore our duty to implement policies to support this model of development”.*

However, we have to underline that OPEN DAYS did not just revolve around Brussels. As part of "Europe in my region/Europe in my city", between September and November 35 countries will see about 260 local events held by partner regions and cities. In addition to raising awareness on how the EU invests in projects with wide-ranging effects on the daily lives of EU citizens, the initiative will also spread future cohesion policy themes among the public.