

Project acronym - Project title			
<b>I KNOW - Interregional Key Networking for Open innovation empowerment</b>			
Programme Priority Axis	2 Promoting the competitiveness in the cross-border area		
Programme Investment Priority	3 a) Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators		
Investment Priority Specific Object		2.1 To promote the creation and the enhancement of enterprises (micro, small and medium) in the intervention field of the cooperation area	
Project Lead Partner			
Parco Scientifico e Tecnologico della Sicilia			
Project Partners			
Partner 2	Università degli Studi di Messina - Dipartimento di Economia, Technology Transfer Office		
Partner 3	Libera Università degli Studi di Enna "KORE" - Facoltà di Scienze Economiche e Giuridiche		
Partner 4	University of Malta - Centre for Entrepreneurship & Business Incubation		
Partner 5	Arkimede s.r.l.		
Project duration (months)	Start date	End date	
36 mesi	01.03.2018	28.02.2021	
Project summary			
<p>The KNOWs face the problem of the reduced competitiveness and innovation of the Sicilian and Maltese entrepreneurial system also characterized by a lack of cooperation with the world of research and by a scarce knowledge of the investors that could ensure processes of growth and internationalization for the companies of the territories.</p> <p>The project intends to support the creation of innovative start-ups and strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the challenge for access to international markets through the creation of a permanent service hub to foster the creation and strengthening of entrepreneurial realities.</p> <p>The provision of services follows an open innovation approach to the various beneficiaries (SMEs, start-ups, aspiring entrepreneurs, university students and innovation givers) and is divided into specialized information seminars for business plans, pitching, social innovation, competition, mentorship, incubation, Open Innovation working lab, hackaton, networking, matchmaking with investors.</p> <p>The creation of an "Open Innovation Lab Platform" will be the incentive and acceleration tool for companies, offering financing and investment opportunities, links to initiatives and open networks and will guarantee the sustainability of circular and integrated knowledge.</p> <p>Cross-border cooperation will allow beneficiaries to take advantage of new opportunities for economic, relational and employment growth and to implement commercial agreements.</p>			
Project results			
6 enterprises submitting cross-border trade agreements			
Project outputs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 100 enterprises involved in Open Innovation Working Lab</li> <li>✓ 50 enterprises that acquire the technological and commercial foresight for the definition of their market penetration strategies</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 10 incubator services</li> <li>✓ 10 business ideas selected through competition</li> <li>✓ 3 patent proposals</li> </ul>	
Budget	ERDF Contribution	National Contribution	Additional Co-financing
€ 1.548.104	€ 1.315.888	€ 232.216	€ 0
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