

Global Innovation Bridges

A new generation of business & innovation centres

Canterbury, Kent **20-21-22 June 2007**





Book the dates in your diary!
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www.ebnkent2007.net

EBN is delighted to invite you to the XVI EBN Congress

Global Innovation Bridges A new generation of business & innovation centres

Discussion will cover

- Rethinking SMEs' business models within a global arena
- Benchmarking outside Europe – Best Practices from the US, the Americas and from the rest of the world
- Teaming up public policies and private sector
- Partnering with large corporations for an acceleration of the Lisbon Strategy
- The road-map for the future generation of BICs, Incubators and Innovation Centres
- Transatlantic cooperation between SMEs in innovation and technology
- Innovation in the public sector

What's the problem with Europe?

European headlines are depressing: poor growth rates, lack of Venture Capital, low FDI, productivity falling behind, ageing population problems, no European patent, state aids a mess, inefficient public sector, outsourcing killing jobs, lack of true entrepreneurship, persistent gaps in innovation, inadequate business support services...

It's time for action!

The EBN 2006 Naples congress clearly concluded that the time for theories & academic studies was over, and that "Innovation in Action" was the name of the challenge: pragmatic, market-driven, quick & operational, committed, consistent and focused, open...

Wanted: Blue-sky and Global approaches please.

Solutions for taking Europe forward should be structural and found internally, but looking outside, at the world around, nearby or far away can provide fantastic ideas, lessons, practices, models, opportunities.... It's all about benchmarking.

Innovation is by nature an open source of knowledge.
Innovation needs to be considered globally.
Innovation requires bridges to flourish.
It's a collective and team affair.

These are exactly the subjects we'll be talking about at the 2007 EBN-Kent Congress: building bridges to the world for benchmarking and then bridging our community of business and innovation centres on its way to the future.

A particular focus will be made on the transatlantic cooperation corridor, as the EBN-Kent congress is part of the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the first English-speaking settlement in America.

At the heart of the congress, delegates, experts and speakers will be challenged to elaborate on the future trends affecting the patterns of Business/Innovation Support Organizations, ranging from the pressure arising from a globalized economy, new emerging needs from customers, and changes in the public sector's objectives and support mechanisms.

The event aims to brainstorm the evolution of the business support mission, the vision and the position of Business & Innovation Centres (BICs), Incubators and Innovation Centres.

The strategic ambition of this year's congress is, together with Europeans & non-Europeans, to build a universal road map for the BICs for the next 10 years, and to look ahead for a new generation of business & innovation centres.

Canterbury– Kent, the 2007 EBN Congress Venue

The County of Kent is located in the South-Eastern part of England, characterized by its pattern of large and medium sized towns surrounded by a peopled countryside of historic market towns and traditional villages. Canterbury, the largest city in Kent, has been attracting visitors for hundreds of years, and it is the aim of the 2007 EBN Congress to continue this tradition and let the international group of delegates enjoy the so called “garden of England” and its finest countryside, cathedrals and local products.

Kent is a county of contrasts, prosperous in the west, less so in the east, divided between rural communities and urban centres. Taken as a whole, the county represents one of England’s largest sub-regional economies. The industrial structure of the Kent economy is based upon knowledge-based business and employment. Tourism is another important economic resource for Kent: not only the county is a beautiful green space easily accessible from London, it also has many sites of international historical interest.



Kent and innovation

Kent benefits from a variety of sources of innovation, and it has been in the forefront of developing an innovation culture linking with other EU Member States. Kent has been very successful in securing European Funds for projects in the county.

Interreg I, II and III, Urban and Leader + are some of the funding programmes the county has received. The North Kent coast along the river Thames is part of the Thames Gateway, the largest area for regeneration in Northern Europe, and forming part of the “golden triangle” between London, Paris, and Brussels.

BIC Kent is also currently working with ERDF, ESF and Research Framework Programme undertaking RTD projects that serve to quantify how SMEs assimilate and respond to the ever-changing environment in which they operate. BIC Kent has been an active member of EBN Network and has been involved in many EBN led projects, such as ETI-BIC, ENTRAIN.NET and Detect-it.



Draft Program 20th, 21st, 22nd June 2007 Canterbury, Kent

The 2007 EBN Congress addresses one of the most current issues for both European policy makers, scientists, SMEs and of course Business Support Organizations: *Globalization and the urgent need of benchmarking across the frontiers as well as across the different continents.*

Investing in innovation and new technologies, transferring knowledge globally and benchmarking within and across the borders, provides an innovative successful model to face globalization.

Wednesday 20th June 2007

09:00 - 16.00 PRE-PROGRAMME EBN

Project Partners Meetings & EBN Board Meeting

This session will host several closed door meetings, small partners group will gather on private roundtables.

16.00 - 18.30 EBN Kent Congress Official Opening Ceremony

Several Key Note Speakers, UK and US Government Officials, EC Representatives, Icon Entrepreneurs, Policy Makers and Academics from Worldwide known Scientific Institutions will welcome delegates to the 2007 EBN Kent Congress. They will present their views about integrating economies on a global scale, and will explore gateways to future prosperity and growth.

19.00 - 20.30 Welcome Cocktail: Canterbury Cathedral
"Chapter House" followed by Cathedral Guided Tour

Thursday 21st June 2007

09:00 - 09.30 Plenary Briefing Session.
"Why benchmarking?"

09:30 - 12.30 Parallel Sessions A & B
"Global Actors' best practices: the EU / US Trans-Atlantic Cooperation"

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 Parallel Sessions C & D
"Global Actors' best practices: EU / Asia / Russia / Latin America

16.00 - 17.30 Parallel Interactive Workshops
"What does going global mean for SMEs and for BSOs?"

Lead by professional experts, small groups' discussions will address issues of Finance, Innovation, Research & Development, IPR, Clusters This will be a chance for delegates to discuss the best practices presented during the parallel sessions A, B, C, D, and to analyze how European Companies end their Business Support Centers can respond to the new global pressures.

19.30 - 23.00 Gala Dinner

Friday 22nd June 2007

09:00 - 11.00 Parallel Interactive Workshops
"Discussing the road map for the new generation of Business & Innovation Centres"

Lead by professional experts, the interactive workshops will propose several exercises to develop a strategic vision for the BICs and for Business Support Organizations with similar background and scopes. The outcome of the parallel workshops will consist of a series of strategies and recommendations, drafted by the groups of delegates in each workshop. The results will be presented during the Congress Closing Ceremony, and will provide a prospective road-map for the BICs, Incubators and Innovation Centers.

11:30 - 13.00 EBN General Assembly
& Separate Networks & Partners Meetings

13:00 - 13.30 Conclusions of the Congress

13.30 - 15.00 Closing Networking Lunch

For more information, you can contact:

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