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INSTITUTE
for SOLID FUELS
TECHNOLOGY
and APPLICATIONS

BIOCLUS BENCHMARKING VISIT TO THE KEWEENAW AREA, MICHIGAN, USA

Introduction to Benchmarking visits

The aim of this sub-task is to learn and get new innovative ideas from visit sites that introduce best practice case in the field of innovation management. The **work package leader NCF organises** two visits targeted in the regions that have successful innovation systems. The best practice regions that are benchmarked have similarities to BIOCLUS regions in terms of magnitude of regional economy and the fields of RTD activities. At least one of the benchmarking regions is located in the United States or in Asia. There will be tailored programmes for authorities, research entities and for business entities. The aim is to learn and obtain new ideas from the peer entities.

Introduction to the US Benchmarking Visit

Houghton, Michigan, MAY 9—13, 2011

Keweenaw County is a county in the Upper Peninsula of the U.S. state of Michigan. It is part of Houghton, Michigan. As of the 2010 census, the population was 2.156; it is the least populous county in Michigan (source: Wikipedia).



Michigan's location in the US



Keweenaw's location in the state Michigan

Source: Wikipedia

The Team, the objectives and goals...

1 participant from Slovakia (**Elena Stieranková, coordinator of the visit**), 5 from Central Finland (Tytti Laitinen, Pekka Äänismaa, Asko Ojaniemi, Janne Keränen, Jyrki Raitila), 2 from Navarre (Carolina Santamaria, José Manuel Cabrero), 2 from W. Macedonia (Manolis Karampinis, Valantis Ketikidis) and one from Poland (Jan Bronislaw Dawidowski) participated in the Benchmarking visit, from 9-13 May, 2011. The agenda included visits to Michigan Technological University ("Michigan Tech") and to Finlandia University. In specific, at Michigan Tech the visitors had small introductions to the Sustainable Futures Institute and Wood to Wheels program, Innovation programs and Enterprise programs. The BIOCLUS team discussed among others about innovation, sustainability and business incubators at the "Institute for Leadership and Innovation" as well as the "Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance (KEDA)". The latter belongs to the Finnish American Heritage Center of the Finlandia University as the "Jutila Center for Global Design and Business". Last but not least, **Kevin Manninen**, BIOCLUS' host in the US, made this visit possible and introduced the participants to the economic development initiatives of the "Western U.P. Planning and Development region (WUPPDR)". Mr. Manninen, who is the regional economic coordinator of "WUPPDR" had an interesting discussion on the last day about attracting a wood pellet mill to the western Upper Peninsula. The discussion which took place at the Michigan Tech Smart Zone included inter alia a review of previous contacts and connections, potential cooperation in biomass in general and the possibility/potential for the Upper Peninsula to attract Finnish/European biomass and other business and technology.



The BIOCLUS "Benchmarking visit" team

MTEC Smart Zone – Business Accelerator

Carlton Crothers, CEO: "We support technology-based start-ups and established enterprises with facilities and resources to make business flourish.

Our team energizes work spaces to help nourish and support business networks - from basic operational systems such as internet, phone and productivity equipment – to legal, marketing and sales consultation.

The MTEC SmartZone works collaboratively with the cities of Houghton and Hancock, Michigan Technological University, Finlandia University, and local and statewide economic development organizations to increase employment, income, wealth and recognition for the Upper Peninsula communities we serve.

Our vision for economic development of the region includes a vibrant technology sector to lead Michigan's technological vitality and drive economic growth with sustainable opportunities for companies and their employees to prosper".



MTEC Smart Zone Lakeshore Center

Michigan Technological University

Sustainable Futures Institute

The Sustainable Futures Institute (SFI) is an education and research leader on sustainability initiatives related to water, air, and energy; industrial ecology; environmentally conscious manufacturing; green engineering; public policy; the built environment; sustainable development that includes issues of the developing world; pre-college education for students and teachers; community outreach; and university campus eco-improvements. The SFI has over 100 participating campus members and oversees more than \$15 million in research projects addressing all areas of sustainable systems development.

Mission

The mission of the Sustainable Futures Institute (SFI) is to enhance knowledge, develop technologies, and expand capabilities in working towards a sustainable future.

School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science

Mission

The School's mission is to prepare students to sustainably manage the natural resources providing leadership in forestry and in natural resource science, management, and education.

Vision

The School's vision is to be a premier community of scholars who investigate ecological processes from molecular to global scales and their relationship to society. We strive to be internationally recognized educators of creative scientists and those who develop technologies and strategies for sustainable natural resource management. We educate students in the maintenance of healthy ecosystems through intensive field-based training and cutting edge interdisciplinary research programs.

The Jutila Center for Global Design and Business

Finlandia's Jutila Center on the banks of Portage Lake less than a mile from the main campus, was opened in 2005. Formerly a hospital, the renovated building now houses Finlandia's International School of Art & Design (ISAD) and the Lily I. Jutila Center for Global Design and Business. ISAD students enjoy spacious, modern studios and classrooms. **The Jutila Center is a small-business incubator with more than 30 leasable spaces and other resources for business, including design and business consulting, rapid prototyping, and training seminars.**



Latest Events

4th Innovation & Entrepreneurship Conference on

Green Tech:

Energy, Transport, Agriculture

12 & 13 May, 2011

Centre for Research & Technology Hellas, Thessaloniki, Greece

Purpose of Conference

The Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), the French Embassy in Greece, the General Consulate of France in Thessaloniki and the French Institute of Thessaloniki, in the frame of a common effort for developing collaboration between academic and research institutions, enterprises and investment companies of Greece, France and other European countries, co-organised the **4th Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference** on **12 and 13 May 2011** in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The Conference focused on the innovatory use of Green Technologies and operating methods in the following 3 thematic areas:

- **Energy production** (electricity, hydrogen, "clean" fuels)
- **Urban mobility / transport**, and
- **Agricultural / food production**

This Conference aspires to become a major scientific and at the same time business event. Its aim is to project the technological and scientific advances that have been achieved in the last few years in the 3 fields of focus, and at the same time to give an opportunity for interaction and interface between the scientific and the business / entrepreneurial community. Distinguished scientists, as well as business representatives, have been invited to participate in the conference.

More information available at: www.ie2011-greentech.gr



ie 2011
Green Tech



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