



PRAXI NETWORK PROFILE

Athens, June 2016

IDENTITY

PRAXI Network is the leading technology transfer and innovation support organization in Greece with long-standing experience in assisting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and research organisations throughout the country to achieve cross-border technological cooperations. It is a distinct administrative unit operating within the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH), the most active research organisation of Greece.

It started out in 1991 as a partnership between FORTH and SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, later reinforced by the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece (FING), with the mission to link industry and academia. With a view to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and research organisations, PRAXI Network provides a series of high-added value, high-impact innovation and internationalisation support services, addressing the whole innovation chain. Between 1995-2008, PRAXI Network was nominated by the European Commission as one of Europe’s Innovation Relay Centers (IRC). Since 2008, PRAXI Network provides innovation and technology transfer services, initially as a member of the Enterprise Europe Network, the largest network of integrated business support to Small and Medium Enterprises, and coordinator of the Enterprise Europe Network – Hellas.

In parallel, the General Secretariat for Research & Technology in Greece appoints PRAXI Network as the National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development and currently Horizon 2020, rendering it an official entity for information and advisory support for EU-funded research programmes.



SERVICES

PRAXI Network's mission is to make Greek enterprises and research organisations more competitive via the linkage between research and industry, the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship as well as the transnational cooperation. Its services are extended from information to mediation and advisory support covering the whole spectrum of activities related with innovation, technology transfer, research collaboration and commercial exploitation of research results, such as:

Technology transfer services

With over 25 years' experience in technology transfer, PRAXI Network:

- » provides assistance in the commercial exploitation of research results (pre-assessment, preliminary market research, patent search, etc.)
- » assess your technology needs and spot the most suitable technology solutions and partners
- » identifies qualified partners abroad for technological, business and research cooperation
- » promotes Greek technologies abroad undertaking technology marketing actions (publications, company missions, international exhibitions, matchmaking events)
- » provides business information on issues related to market, competition etc.
- » advises on intellectual property management, licensing, spin-off creation etc.

Services related to "Horizon 2020"

PRAXI Network, as National Contact Point in Greece for "Horizon 2020", the EU's largest program for research and innovation, provides guidance, practical information and assistance on all stages of participation in Horizon 2020:

- » provides information and advice on upcoming calls that are relevant to specific business and / or area of research
- » identifies competent project partners from other countries
- » advises on legal, financial and administrative aspects of research proposals and projects
- » organizes information events and dedicated workshops and trainings



Support and innovation management services

PRAXI Network supports organizations abroad to develop innovation and research cooperation related services (training, mentoring) while it undertakes networking initiatives on research policy issues on behalf of international organizations.

At the same time, and on the basis that the effective innovation management increases competitiveness, reduces production costs, increases profitability and ensures sustainable development, PRAXI Network provides specialized services for innovation management through a systematic process, which includes:

- » detailed assessment of the innovation capacity of the enterprise
- » benchmarking services - comparison with other enterprises of the same sector at national and international level
- » identification of area(s) where the enterprise lacks behind
- » detailed action plan for improvement based on the above

The service is provided by innovation management consultants of PRAXI Network and is funded by the European Commission.



PERFORMANCE

With considerable experience and a long record of providing customised services related to transnational technology transfer, commercial exploitation of R&D and SMEs consultancy, PRAXI Network is proud for a solid performance. Some of its main activities / results are highlighted below:

- » Mediation for 15-20 business / technological / research agreements per year
- » Provision of high added value innovation support services to more than 350 enterprises per year
- » Instrumental role for the setting-up, creation and internationalization of 1/3 of the spin-offs from Research Centers and Universities ever created in Greece
- » Setting-up and animation of the Hellenic Bio Cluster, the first ever Life Sciences business cluster in Greece, comprising the R&D driven Greek Life Sciences companies
- » Co-organiser of the Private Equity Forum (former International Venture Capital Forum) in Greece since 2003 - www.eiforum.gr
- » Strong networking with business networks, development authorities and technology transfer players in Greece and abroad

In particular, during the period 2004-2015, PRAXI Network mediated for the achievement of 260 technological, commercial and research cooperation agreements between Greek and foreign companies as well as Greek and foreign research organizations. Moreover, PRAXI Network's contribution was of utmost importance for the the creation of 6 spin-off companies from Universities and Research Organisations (2 of which at FORTH). PRAXI Network also supported the submission of hundreds research proposals to the European Commission. In addition, every year PRAXI Network organises or participates in more than 20 technology transfer events with more than 100 participants and 300 bilateral meetings.

PRAXI Network has been the motivator and acts today as the facilitator of two national Clusters: the Hellenic BioCluster (Hbio – www.hbio.gr) and the Hellenic Photonics Cluster (H-PHOS – www.hphos.gr).

The Hellenic Bio Cluster (HBio) is a coalition of Greek Life Sciences companies, encompassing corporate players in the sectors of Biotechnology, Diagnostics, Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals and Services. HBio is aiming at the promotion of the Greek Life Sciences business sector and the facilitation of business & research collaborations between Greek and foreign companies and research groups.

The Hellenic Photonics Cluster (HPhos) comprises approximately 20 innovative enterprises active in diverse areas of Photonics related Technologies (photonics instrumentation for industrial manufacturing & automation, telecoms, defence & security, cultural heritage, food, health, energy efficiency and conversion), supported by a talented academic community in the field. A milestone for the creation of HPhos and its later development is the development of the Greek technology platform PhotonicsGR by the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas, as an active member of the European Technology Platform Photonics21.



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