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ACCELERATING LOCAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS IN EUROPE

NEWSLETTER #3: FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE



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ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe



Accelerating the Future: Unveiling the Impact of ACCELERO

Welcome to the third edition of the ACCELERO Project Newsletter. In our continuous pursuit to balance the innovation ecosystems across Europe, this edition is a testament to our unwavering dedication. The ACCELERO Project, a beacon of European ingenuity, is steadfast in integrating emerging technologies with sustainable business practices, focusing on empowering entrepreneurs and startups.

We prioritize partnerships and knowledge sharing, turning visionary concepts into tangible solutions that benefit society. This issue showcases the ACCELERO Project's significant impact in driving European innovation forward, highlighting the journey of individuals and businesses involved, and offering insights into the project's future directions.

Join us as we explore the new frontiers of innovation, celebrating community successes, and looking forward to an exciting and sustainable future for all. The ACCELERO Project is committed to creating a sustainable and inclusive future, driving innovation, and building a better world.

In this edition, we thoroughly review 2023's major achievements and initiatives, and set forth ambitious goals for 2024. We aim to enhance collaborations, expand communities, and establish new innovation excellence standards. This issue also covers key upcoming innovation trends and outlines the pathway to EU|BIC certification for BSOs. It concludes with a detailed presentation of the ACCELERO Consortium's unique contributions to European innovation. Additionally, we include an overview of the planned activities calendar, highlighting ACCELERO's participation in the EBN Congress 2024 in Nantes, France.

ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe

Expanding Horizons: ACCELERO's Year in Review 2023

2023 was a landmark year for the ACCELERO Project, marked by significant achievements and initiatives. We saw the project evolve and expand its reach across Europe, strengthening the innovation landscape through various key events and educational programmes.

- **ACCELERO Consortium Meeting in Paris:** Held in March at Bpifrance, this meeting was a cornerstone for strategic planning. It provided a platform for consortium members to align on the project's roadmap and introduce the ACCELERO Framework. This event was pivotal in reinforcing our collaborative efforts and setting the direction for future endeavors.
- **Co-Creation Design Sprint:** This innovative 5-day event was a showcase of ACCELERO's collaborative ethos. Participants from Local Ecosystem Builders and European Hubs came together to ideate and create prototypes that address challenges faced by startups and SMEs. This sprint was a melting pot of creativity and practicality, fostering an environment where challenges were transformed into viable opportunities.
- **Educational Webinar Series:** A series of webinars covering essential topics like legal frameworks, business modeling, and corporate partnerships were conducted. These sessions were crucial in building a shared understanding and enhancing the skills of Business Support Organisations across Europe. They served as a knowledge hub, disseminating vital information and fostering a sense of community among participants.

2023 has indeed been a year of reflection and celebration for ACCELERO. Each event and initiative has contributed significantly to building a balanced and inclusive European innovation ecosystem. As we move forward, ACCELERO is more committed than ever to its mission of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. We are dedicated to ensuring that every member state, regardless of its innovation status, can make a meaningful contribution to our shared European innovation landscape.



ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe



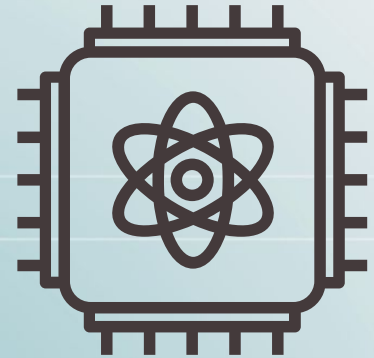
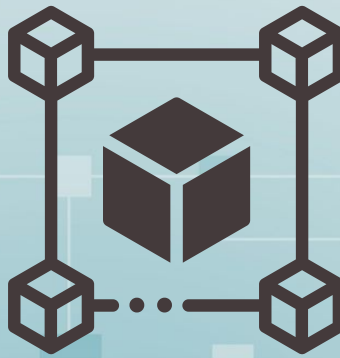
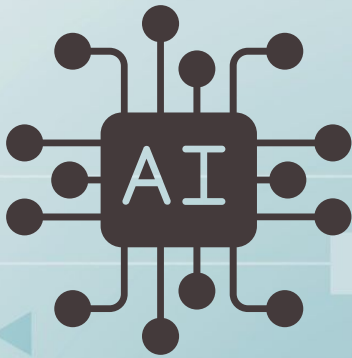
Envisioning the Future: ACCELERO's 2024 Roadmap

As 2024 begins, ACCELERO continues its mission to balance innovation ecosystems across Europe. Our primary focus is on enhancing connections and collaborations among Business Support Organisations (BSOs). This effort includes bridging gaps between BSOs from various innovation levels through innovative activities and pilot programmes, fostering knowledge exchange, and improving the efficiency of co-created services.

- **Enhancing Collaborations Across Europe:** A central goal is to strengthen connections among Business Support Organisations (BSOs), particularly between regions at different innovation levels. We're initiating innovative activities and pilot programmes to facilitate knowledge exchange and improve co-created services' efficiency.
- **Expanding the ACCELERO Community:** Another key focus is growing our presence on the EuroQuity platform. This expansion aims to create a dynamic forum for stakeholders like BSOs, startups, investors, and policymakers, encouraging idea sharing and collaborative opportunities.
- **Setting Standards of Excellence:** A significant 2024 objective is the certification of select BSOs to maintain high service quality. This process will utilize robust monitoring and evaluation tools, enhancing the network's credibility and impact.
- **Fostering Inclusive Growth:** We continue our commitment to inclusive growth, offering support to startups and SMEs from diverse regions. Special attention will be given to emerging and moderate innovator countries to ensure equitable opportunities in innovation.

2024 represents a pivotal year for ACCELERO, with a clear focus on collaborative efforts, pilot programmes, and community building. These initiatives aim to create a more balanced and inclusive environment for innovation across Europe. Join us as we drive innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe, striving to balance the innovation ecosystem.

ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 - Catalysing Innovation Across Europe



Looking Ahead: Innovation Trends for 2024 with ACCELERO

As we transition into 2024, the innovation landscape is poised for transformative change, with ACCELERO at the forefront. This year's key trends include:

- **Sustainability and Green Tech:** Advances in renewable energy, particularly in wind and solar power, are becoming more efficient and cost-effective. Developments in new materials and processes aim to reduce waste and carbon footprints.
- **AI and Ethical Tech:** AI will increasingly permeate sectors like finance and healthcare, with a newfound emphasis on ethical standards. This shift aims to ensure privacy, fairness, and transparency, transforming how AI impacts societal issues.
- **Remote Work Technologies:** The evolution of remote work technologies continues unabated. Expect advancements in virtual collaboration tools, enhancing productivity and inclusivity in remote work environments.
- **Healthcare Advancements:** Telemedicine is set to become more prominent, offering remote diagnostic and treatment options. AI's role in personalizing medicine will grow, allowing for more targeted and effective treatments.
- **Blockchain in New Domains:** Blockchain's utility will extend beyond cryptocurrencies. Applications are emerging in securing digital identities, improving supply chain transparency, and revolutionizing democratic processes like voting.
- **Emergence of Quantum Computing:** Quantum computing is on the cusp of breakthroughs in cryptography, drug discovery, and modeling complex systems. Its ability to process vast amounts of data rapidly holds immense potential for various industries.

The innovation trends of 2024, shaped by initiatives like ACCELERO, promise a transformative period. These developments not only propel us towards a more interconnected and sustainable future but also reinforce ACCELERO's role in cultivating a balanced, inclusive European innovation ecosystem.

ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe



Advancing Innovation: Pilot-Testing Co-Created Services

In the ACCELERO Project, the pilot-testing phase is a crucial element designed to enhance the quality of business acceleration services provided by emerging and moderate innovator Business Support Organisations (BSOs). This process involves a series of meticulously planned activities:

- **Implementation of Co-Created Services:** Each of the 10 selected Local Ecosystem Builders (BSOs located in emerging and moderate innovator Member States or regions) will conduct pilot tests of key services, specifically tailored to address the unique needs of their local ecosystems, primarily targeting startups and SMEs.
- **Expert Monitoring and Impact Assessment:** Consortium experts will closely monitor these pilots, ensuring the services maintain high standards. This stage is crucial for measuring impact, gathering feedback, and drawing insightful conclusions for further improvement.
- **Promotion of Quality Systems and Certification:** An essential part of this phase is the promotion of quality systems, particularly focusing on the EBN methodology for Monitoring & Evaluation. This task aims to identify BSOs ready for the EU|BIC Certification, a prestigious recognition by the European Commission.
- **Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme:** The project also includes a peer-to-peer exchange between Local Ecosystem Builders and European Hubs (BSOs located in strong or innovation leader Member States or regions), encompassing both online and offline activities. This programme is tailored for different target groups and focuses on service-oriented interactions.

These activities represent a multi-faceted approach to bolstering the capabilities of BSOs in emerging and moderate innovator regions. By involving these organisations in detailed needs assessment, service provision, mentorship, and quality training, ACCELERO is committed to elevating their operational standards and service delivery.

ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe



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certified by ebn

Elevating Excellence: The Path to EU|BIC Certification for BSOs

In 2024, ACCELERO proudly offers a transformative opportunity to three of its Business Support Organisations (BSOs): the chance to attain the distinguished EU|BIC certification. This certification is more than a mark of quality; it's a testament to a BSO's commitment to innovation and regional development.

EU|BICs, known for their exemplary support to startups and SMEs, play a crucial role in regional economic, sustainable, and social development. The certification process involves a comprehensive, transparent evaluation against high standards of business support and organisational impact. Being an EU|BIC means not just holding a title but embodying a set of values that prioritize continuous improvement and service excellence.

For ACCELERO's BSOs, this journey towards certification is an opportunity to benchmark their performance, enhance their service delivery, and join an elite community of over 110 quality-certified EU|BICs across 35 countries. It's a step towards gaining international recognition and credibility, symbolized by the EU|BIC trademark, a prestigious emblem of innovation-based incubation and acceleration.

This process underscores a commitment to professionalism, performance, consistency, and strategic positioning, elevating the BSOs' stature in the European innovation ecosystem. As ACCELERO BSOs embark on this certification path, they not only elevate their own standards but also contribute significantly to the overarching goal of balanced and inclusive innovation across Europe.

ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 - Catalysing Innovation Across Europe



ACCELERO Consortium: Spearheading European Innovation

The ACCELERO Consortium represents a powerful union of expertise, experience, and visionary thinking, all aimed at revolutionizing the European innovation landscape. This consortium is a remarkable coalition of leading organisations, each bringing its unique strengths to the table, thus enriching the collective effort.

- **EurA PT (Portugal):** With vast experience in business scale-up and a network spanning over 80 technology sectors, EurA PT is a pivotal member of the European Innovation Council.
- **EBN (Belgium):** EBN excels in BSO services, leveraging its EU|BIC Certification to facilitate matchmaking and networking across various European sectors.
- **Bwcon (Germany):** Known for its practical approach, Bwcon offers a diverse portfolio of services including summer academies, hackathons, and workshops, specifically designed for budding entrepreneurs.
- **BIC Innobridge (Bulgaria):** Integrating project management and forward-thinking business planning, Innobridge is a strategic contributor to ACCELERO's mission.
- **Bpifrance (France):** Specializing in equity investment and innovation funding, Bpifrance brings a unique skill set to the consortium.
- **KPT (Poland):** KPT stands out for its customized incubation and acceleration programmes, focusing on financial incentives and building a cohesive entrepreneurial community.

Together, under the ACCELERO banner, these organisations create a dynamic synergy. By blending their individual skills and resources, they aim to establish a balanced and inclusive innovation ecosystem. Their collective strength is the driving force behind ACCELERO's mission, setting the stage for pioneering initiatives and marking a new era in the European innovation journey.

ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe

ACCELERO Project: Upcoming Milestones and Activities

In the coming months, the ACCELERO Project is gearing up for a series of dynamic and transformative activities. These initiatives are designed to enhance collaboration, recognize excellence, and bolster community engagement within Europe's innovation ecosystems.



February 2024 – June 2024: A unique peer-to-peer exchange programme is set to occur, aimed at creating synergy between emerging, moderate, and leading innovation ecosystems. Both promising startups and experts from Business Support Organisations (BSOs) will engage in a variety of dedicated activities designed to encourage knowledge sharing and collaborative learning.



March 2024 – May 2024: To honor excellence within our network, we will undergo a rigorous selection process that culminates in awarding the prestigious EU|BIC Certification to three standout organisations. This recognition signifies their pivotal roles in regional development and innovation and integrates them into a global community committed to nurturing startups and SMEs.



May 2024: Our first ACCELERO Workshop, dedicated to local ecosystem transformation, will be co-organized by EBN and BIC Innobridge. The main focus of the event is community building and engagement creation. During the event the selected BSOs will be able to get acquainted with best practices and tools for building and straightening collaborations within their local innovation communities.

As we move forward, this carefully planned schedule reflects our ongoing commitment to shaping a more balanced and inclusive innovation landscape across Europe. Please stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to participate.

ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe



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SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

Save the date!

12-14 June 2024 | **Nantes, France**

www.ebncongress.eu

ACCELERO will take part at the EBN Congress 2024

Powered by Atlanpole, in 2024, the EBN Congress, the largest gathering of European incubators, accelerators, innovation centres, and innovation supporters of all kinds, will gather innovation experts, business incubation executives, corporate leaders, and senior-level government officials in Nantes, France to discuss how can we best navigate the delicate balance between sustainable, economic, and industrial development goals.

- How are we orchestrating our innovation ecosystem towards answering sustainability challenges?
- How are the best business support programmes tackling the specific challenges of industry-oriented (green)tech start-ups and SMEs?
- How can we tap into the right skills to maintain high-level human capital capacities for Europe's innovation ecosystem?

Why joining ACCELERO at EBN Congress?

- Meet the ACCELERO Community and the new EU|BIC certified ACCELERO BSOs.
- Connect the different future partners – develop a global network of innovation leaders, experts, and decision-makers.
- Debate, co-learn, and design strategies to navigate your business support.
- Develop new business models and improve your support programmes – mitigate risks and position your company.
- Create opportunities – repurpose knowledge, resources, practices, and technologies to tackle sustainability challenges.



ACCELERO Project Newsletter: Issue #3 – Catalysing Innovation Across Europe

Embracing the Future: ACCELERO's Path Forward

As we wrap up this edition of the ACCELERO Project Newsletter, we reflect on our significant journey towards fostering a balanced European innovation ecosystem. This year has been pivotal, marked by remarkable collaborations, strategic advancements, and a deepened commitment to sustainable and inclusive innovation.

We extend our sincere gratitude to each member of the ACCELERO community for their dedication and innovative contributions. As we move into the future, our focus remains steadfast on empowering entrepreneurs, fostering meaningful collaborations, and driving impactful change across Europe.

The upcoming year promises exciting developments and opportunities. ACCELERO is set to continue its vital role in shaping a dynamic and balanced innovation landscape, embracing new challenges and exploring uncharted territories in the realm of innovation.

Your involvement in the ACCELERO project is not just participation; it's a crucial part of a larger movement towards innovation, collaboration, and transformative success. Your engagement and support fuel our shared journey towards creating a future rich in innovative solutions and collaborative achievements. Together, we're not just envisioning a new era of innovation; we're actively building it.



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