



Brno, 2nd March 2017

The second event of the V4Clusters Go International (V4ClusGO) project was held in Brno, Czech Republic. The V4ClusGo project is implemented and co-financed by the International Visegrad Fund. After the Kick-off Partner Meeting in Győr in December 2016, the project partners and representatives of clusters from Visegrad countries came to Brno to learn about cluster internationalisation at the joint “*NATUREEF + V4ClustersGo International*” seminar organised by the National Cluster Association – CZ (NCA) and the CREA Hydro&Energy cluster, the member of the European Strategic Cluster Partnership of NATUREEF. Pavla Břusková, President of the lead partner, the NCA, introduced the topic of the seminar and V4ClusGO project to the audience of 35 participants.

The meeting served as a demonstration of the advanced internationalisation of clusters based on the success story of the NATUREEF presented by Břetislav Skácel, Cluster Manager of CREA Hydro&Energy and Vice-President of the NCA. The European Commission’s supported international collaboration of nine cluster organisations in NATUREEF under the COSME programme. Programme reached the phase of joint investment projects in the third countries of ASEAN and Latin America. Martin Šlais from Nanoprogress cluster presented the ADPACK European Strategy Cluster Partnership and its advantages for the clusters organisations.

The international cooperation of clusters and universities was another topic of the rich program of the event. Petr Kupec, Ph.D. of the Mendel University in Brno “brought” the participants to Philippines pinpointing the most important events, such as MoU with Philippine universities and training courses for the students of tropic and sub-tropic programme, accomplished by the Mendel University academics and students using the foreground created by CREA Hydro&Energy’s long-term business and diplomatic activities. Similarly, Professor Drahomíra Pavelková, Vice-Rector of Tomas Bata University in Zlín presented the benefits of cooperation between the Tomas Bata University in Zlín and Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City. The Tomas Bata University established the Bata centre, which is coordinating exchange of students and academics and encouraging new research and development projects. Professor Pavelková also mentioned the already closed project on cluster policies in Visegrad countries - V4ClusterPol, which enabled to share the best practices among the partners.

The programme of the V4ClusGo seminar invited the audience to make use of the market opportunities of the ASEAN and Latin America countries through the presentations of Šárka Stegbauerová, Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce, Czech-Pacific Alliance, and Antonio Alcazar of the EU - Philippines Business Network (EPBN). A business success story of the Cluster of Czech furniture manufacturers in Vietnam with the establishment of the Czech Industry Company in Hanoi presented by Milan Tříška crowned the programme of the NATUREEF + V4ClustersGo internationalisation meeting and opened a fruitful networking discussion among the participants. A new cooperation potential was revealed among wood



industry clusters of the V4 countries represented by The A new cooperation potential was revealed among wood industry clusters of the V4 countries represented by the National Wood Cluster (CZ), Pannon Wood and Furniture Cluster (HU), Lublin Wood Cluster (PL).

The afternoon session of the project partners evaluated the V4ClusGo project performance of the partners and opened the preparation of the third and last project activity - the Education Workshop focused on cluster internationalisation strategy, which will be held in Poland in May 2017.

The V4ClusGo project is implemented and co-financed by the International Visegrad Fund. The partner consortium consists of the National Cluster Association - CZ (Lead partner), the Hungarian National Alliance of Innovative Clusters (HU), the Union of Slovak Clusters (SK) and the Polish National Association of Innovative Entrepreneurs (PL). More info about the project is available at <http://klastr-portal.cz/en/v4clusgo>

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