

Knowledge4Innovation launches first national chapter ~ K4I Slovakia ~

Brussels, 3 March 2011 – On the 3rd of March 2011 Knowledge4Innovation (K4I) launched the first national chapter in the TeleDom Conference Centre in Košice, Slovakia.



From left to right:

Peter Blaas, Business Development Director from Antik Technology;
Co-Founder Dr. Attila Tóth, Founder of the NTG innovation zone;
Interim-President Prof. Dr. Juraj Banský, International Advisor for Innovation Projects;
Dr. Roland Strauss, Founder and Managing Director of Knowledge4Innovation;
Co-Founder Prof. Dr. Peter Magvaši, Chairman of the Science & Technology Committee;
Dr. Jaroslav Kónya, Innovation Manager

K4I, a non-profit membership association under Belgian law and an independent multi-stakeholder platform with members from the public, private and academic sectors supported the launch of “K4I Slovakia”, a civil association under Slovak law, established by seven founding members: Dr. Attila Tóth, Founder of the NTG innovation zone; Dr. Jaroslav Kónya, Innovation Manager; Prof. Dr. Peter Magvaši, Chairman of the Science & Technology Committee; Interim-President Prof. Dr. Juraj Banský, International Advisor for Innovation Projects; Dr. Igor Kolla, Managing Director of the Slovak Innovative Telecommunication Company; Dr. Rudolf Požgay, Chairman of the Slovak Association for Knowledge Society; Dr. Štefan Chudoba, Managing Director of the Autocluster – West Slovakia.

Being the first of its kind, “K4I Slovakia” will contribute to the implementation of the ‘Innovation Union flagship initiative’ at the local level. Similar to K4I’s European level activities, the main mission of “K4I Slovakia” is:

- Information sharing between “K4I Slovakia” and the Slovak Parliament’s initiatives in the field of innovation policy.
- Participation of the members of the Slovak Parliament at EU level events (e.g. the Annual European Innovation Summit, Round-table discussions with Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission representatives on specific innovation issues).
- Informing the Slovak Parliament Committees on how EU initiatives can endorse local innovation support measures.
- Organising local innovation events and dissemination of best practices from other EU countries to the benefit of Slovak innovation stakeholders.

In the name of the K4I Forum of the European Parliament Governing Board, Chairman **Lambert van Nistelrooij**, Member of the European Parliament, fully support this initiative on the national level.

Prof. Dr. Juraj Banský, Interim-President of “K4I Slovakia”: “The overarching objective of “K4I Slovakia” is improving the dialogue and collaboration between all key stakeholders and policy makers in the Innovation-Eco-System in Slovakia.”

Dr. Attila Toth, Founder of the NTG innovation zone, Co-founder of “K4I Slovakia” and host of the launch event: “Innovation must become part of our daily lives. Employees are the major source to drive innovation in our companies. K4I Slovakia will help building Slovakia’s innovation community.”

Dr. Roland Strauss, Managing Director of Knowledge4Innovation fully endorses the initiative: “K4I Slovakia is an important milestone in implementing the Innovation Union at the local level. We encourage other EU Member States to follow this example.”

K4I’s national chapters, like “K4I Slovakia”, are playing a crucial role in linking the EU level with the national, regional and local levels. They will help bridging the gap between policy makers and innovation practitioners throughout Europe.

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Knowledge4Innovation and its Forum of the European Parliament

Knowledge4Innovation (K4I) is a non-profit, independent multi-stakeholder platform with members from the European public, private and academic sectors. K4I is unique because it engages the relevant actors and sectors with different backgrounds and expertise, mobilising their know-how and resources and engaging in a permanent dialogue under the framework of the K4I Forum of the European Parliament.

Under the K4I Forum of the European Parliament, K4I regularly organises monthly dinner debates and working breakfasts in the “Salon des Membres” of the European Parliament and the annual European Innovation Summit. K4I’s mission is to provide a space for debate on the future of innovation in Europe. The main objective is to make issues relevant to knowledge and innovation the top priority of European policy-makers.