



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTER NETWORK (EBN)
AND
THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LIVING LABS (ENoLL)**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (hereinafter EBN), based in Brussels, Belgium (hereinafter designated as "EBN") and the European Network of Living Labs (hereinafter designated as "ENoLL"). EBN and ENoLL are hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Signatories".

WHEREAS, Business and Innovation Centres (BICs) are organizations serving both the public interest and the private sector, which employ a dynamic system of detection/selection/monitoring/management of entrepreneurs and projects. They are aimed at creating and developing innovative businesses, by offering a wide range of business support services within a professional cost-effective structure. BICs contribute to the stimulation of local economies in areas with industrial development and knowledge intensive potential. Their purpose is to adapt/prepare endogenous human physical and financial resources in order to strengthen the business sector. This concerns not only the creation of small and medium sized enterprises and the development of existing ones, but also actions aimed at improving the local governance of the SME systems as well as actions aimed at providing self-employment tools to disadvantaged groups.

The European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN) was set up in 1984 as a joint initiative of the European Commission, European industry leaders and the first pioneering BICs. At present EBN is an independent body and acts as an umbrella organization that, currently, brings together over 250 organizations (of which over 150 BICs) from all around Europe and beyond (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Switzerland, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom). EBN operates an original quality system, developed together with DG Enterprise & Industry, with a cumulative impact of the network of: 175.000 business plans developed, 65.000 start-up companies created, 275.000 jobs created and 250.000 existing SMEs supported.



EBN's mission is to promote the growth of Business and Innovation Centres as well as of other mixed public-private organizations both within and outside the European Union, supporting the emergence of new small and medium sized businesses and develop activities in existing businesses based on new ideas with growth potential. The mission is carried out through the provision of tools and services for the strengthening of local and sustainable entrepreneurship based on the utilization of the territorial endogenous potentials, and through the provision of world-wide exchange opportunities recognizing that although acting locally BICs must daily face global economy and market needs

WHEREAS, ENoLL is the leading organization for Living Labs research and practice, launched in Helsinki at the end of 2006 under the Finish Presidency of the European Union. Coordination and support actions under the European Commission ICT Programme, Framework Programme 6 (FP6), were important instruments to establish the foundations of Living Labs policy, methodologies and tools. The continuous enthusiasm and motivation among all the stakeholders have contributed to the accelerated expansion of the Living Labs adoption and the engagement of communities of citizens/users. The political support from the successive European Presidencies has allowed ENoLL to become a pillar of the European Innovation System. The 6th wave for ENoLL membership was launched during the Polish Presidency taking the expansion to over 300 certified Living Labs now during the Danish Presidency (Spring 2012).

Due to the already existing interaction between BICs and Living Labs methodologies both networks want to deepen its cooperation and create a multiplier effect of cases similar to IBBT-iLab.o (BE) and City Lab Coventry (UK).

Thus, the Signatories mutually recognize their legal capacity to enter into this MoI and

DECLARE

- I. That they respectively recognize EBN as leading organization dealing with business incubation and ENoLL as leading organization dealing with user's engagement and communities' sustainability.
- II. That they acknowledge specific differences which characterize both networks recognizing contemporarily the presence of similarities. These represent strengths on which to base joint actions and future cooperation activities

NOW, THEREFORE, the signatories agree to cooperate on the following areas of activity:



1. Setting up joint workshops between EBN and ENoLL in partnering for the future;
2. Increase communication and cooperation between BICs and Living Labs;
3. Cooperatives research & development projects of enabling technologies and approaches oriented to future internet, smart cities, energy, health, logistics, transport, ICT (others);
4. Sharing knowledge, experience of best practices in business incubation, commercialization, users involvement and co-creation;
5. Soft Landing services

This MOU may be signed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and both of which duly executed shall constitute one entire document, and shall enter into force and effect on the date ("Effective Date") in which it is duly signed by both signatories.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Signatories, affix their signatures below.

For EBN:

Philippe Vanrie
EBN CEO

For ENoLL:

Alvaro de Oliveira
ENoLL Chairman