

The company, previously known as BioBaltica, as a result of undergoing organizational and functional development and transformation, changed its name to InnoBaltica, meaning: **innovation** in the **Baltic** Sea Region.

In this article we would like to present the philosophy behind those changes, the purpose and the mission of renewed strategy of InnoBaltica.

### **To get innovative, we need a system approach**

Most of activities, in the field of innovation' support, that were undertaken in the region so far, were short-distanced and diffused. Thus, they did not bring any spectacular results for the economy. The processes leading towards building of the innovative culture should be programmed and continuous, requiring taking up various coordinated actions with participation and involvement of many diversified entities. Their effects can be observed within few years' time. The proper economic growth can only be created in the long term perspective, through for example the increased number of implementations, as a result of intensified cooperation between the business and the scientific worlds. To achieve this stage, the adequate, consequent, comprehensive and coordinated actions are required, that aim to increase the competitiveness of the region by growth of the economic innovation.

Another crucial issue within this process is to identify the roles of each actor supporting innovation. The effective cooperation of local governments, science parks, technology transfer centres, R & D institutions, regional development agencies and financing institutions as well as the developed system of pre-incubators and business incubators in the region are the foundation of the integration of the entities and the stakeholders of the knowledge-based economy. Establishing the solid system of stable relationships amongst all partners of the innovation process is the basic condition underlying the building up of an effective and efficient system of fostering innovation in the region.



### **Our space – our mission**

The Self-government of the Pomeranian Region together with the Self-government of the City of Gdańsk implementing their innovative economy development policy and diagnosing the current state and the Metropolis' and Pomeranian future economy needs, came to the similar conclusions in subject of necessary activities to be undertaken. This led to the decision that the currently existing company BioBaltica should be re-profiled to become the full-fledged institutional coordinator/manager of the cooperation processes amongst all the players from the business, science and administration sides.

Renewed InnoBaltica, as the company owned by the three key Pomeranian universities (University of Gdańsk, Medical University of Gdańsk, Gdańsk University of Technology), Pomeranian Voivodeship, the City of Gdańsk and, recently, the City of Gdynia becomes the main tool to implement the innovation development policy aiming to build the strategic cooperation between universities and companies with strong support of Self-government. This way defined company's role is first: to enable and then: to coordinate the innovation support network of all the specialized institutions (such as universities, science parks and R+D institutions) and their activities to build up a comprehensive and complete system.

### **What do we do exactly**

InnoBaltica was design to act on the following four main fields:

1. Supporting the major national intercollegiate projects with aim to foster the cooperation between the scientific research centres and the leading companies in the region;
2. Regional level management of the complex Pomeranian enterprises' innovativeness support system;
3. Development of an effective tool to foster business innovative projects from the early stage of their incubation;
4. Participation of the company and other interested stakeholders from Pomerania in the projects that build national and international identity and prestige of the Pomeranian research and development centres.

In the consequence of the above mentioned actions, the regional system of creating and fostering innovation will be build, based on the research potential of the Pomeranian universities.

### **Disciplines**

In accordance with the diagnosed regional and metropolitan economic potential on one hand and the research and institutional potential of the leading academic centres of the region on the other, the following core disciplines of the innovative economy were chosen, as the fields of main interests of the company:

1. Biotechnology and Medicine,
2. Energetics,
3. ICT,
4. Smart City,
5. Logistics,
6. Nanotechnology,
7. Economic exploitation of the Baltic Sea.

All those areas however will be validated in the process of identification of the 'Smart Specialisation' for the Pomeranian Voivodeship – in dialogue with the central authorities and the European Commission.

### **Our goals and direction**

The Company, as a tool for innovative economy development policy, in its activities will focus on building regional conditions for the growth of innovation among companies that are ready, willing

and able to create the economic base for the innovative development of the Region and the Metropolis. Thus our main goals and directions are:

1. To create strong links and effective cooperation between academic and business entities toward implementation of innovative products;
2. To increase the competence level of the regional innovative processes' managers and the cooperation networks' leaders;
3. To attract investors for the Pomeranian innovation offer.

All those actions are designed to generate a permanent and significant stream of innovation that will enable to achieve satisfactory income in enterprises. As a result, the innovation and expenditure on R+D from the private sector will raise as well as the metropolitan and regional share and participation in production of the national GDP.

### Tasks and projects

The core activity of the company focuses on inspiring and stimulating of the development processes as well as the implementation of the key projects. Currently InnoBaltica acts as a partner and the promoter of few large national and international projects:

- Pomeranian Triangle of Knowledge (a package of four major projects),
- The Baltic Hub of Knowledge and Entrepreneurship,
- BHSR HealthPort (cofinanced by the EU from the Baltic Sea Programme, ERDF),
- NanoPUZZLES (cofinanced by the EU from the 7th Frame Programme),
- POM- biogas (cofinanced form the Polish-Norwegian Research Programme).

InnoBaltica is also an administrator and coordinator of two major Pomeranian clusters:

- BioEkoChem
- KlimaPomerania.

This way InnoBaltica gains an access to the demand and the supply side of innovation process, being able to organise those processes in a comprehensive system.

Developed ability to generate innovative solutions in the most effective and systemic way is going to determine the position of firms, regions and countries on the economic map of the world in the coming years.

Together we build the innovation culture in Pomerania and the Baltic Sea Region:

