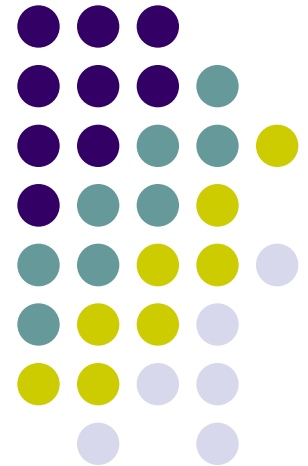
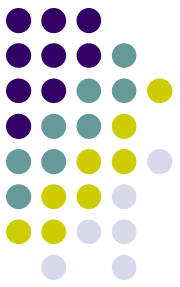


Development of Liaison Offices in Cypriot Universities

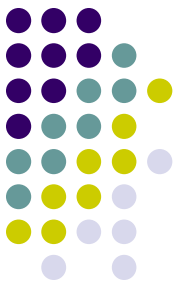
WHEB Skills Round Table





Background

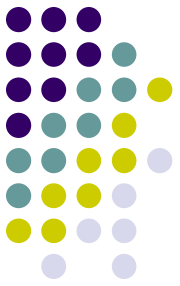
- One of the two ESF Projects where all Cypriot Universities participate in a Consortium (the other is development of e-learning material for use in university curricula – not started yet)
- Participation of all 6 (3 public – 3 private universities)
- Aim to foster closer links with industry for collaborative projects, uptake of industrial research and young researcher placements



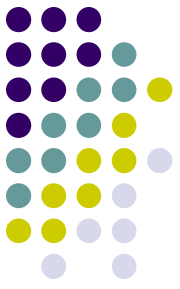
Background

- Cypriot Public University scene very young (University of Cyprus 20 years ago, Open University 12 years ago, Cyprus University of Technology 7 years ago)
- Three private colleges (with history of 25 years+) accredited as Universities 2 years ago
- Limited connection with industry both on the research and training areas

Priorities Addressed - National

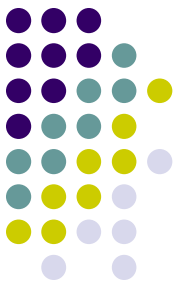


- Improvement of adaptability of businesses and employees to changing market environment and connection with academia
- Restructuring of industry and academia for future labour market challenges
- Development of Innovative methods of structuring business and employment practices



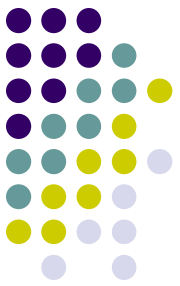
Priorities Addressed - EU

- More and Better Jobs Created
- Improvement of Skills and Innovation with a goal to Development
- Adaptation of education and training systems to the new needs for skills



Target Audience

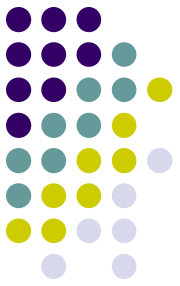
- Cypriot Businesses – not sector specific due to small size of country and not regional focused since the participation of all universities ensures national coverage
- Cypriot Researchers and students
- Cypriot HEI (understanding the needs of industry both in relation to research but also training and education – for students but also executives of industry)



Aspects of the Project

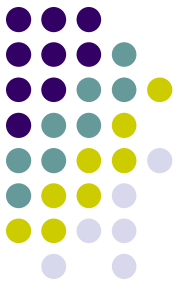
- Staffing of 6 offices by experienced advisors for 4 years (Univs. to take up staff costs afterwards)
- Development of a number of studies and research:
 - Commercializable Research Register
 - Research Needs of Cypriot Business
 - Training needs of research staff at businesses
 - Development of mechanism for placement of young researchers in businesses for joint projects

Aspects of the Project



- Comprehensive Report on IPR issues and their specificities in Cyprus
- Developing and offering training to researchers for research commercialization, partnering with business etc.
- Developing Training for University staff (non-academic) on how to develop links with business
- Central Portal for Businesses, Universities and Researchers / Students to exchange views but also develop partnerships for joint projects and / or placements

Challenges



- Industry apparently interested but no active participation – may be solved when offices fully staffed and promotion effort initiates
- Students confuse scope of project with Alumni office (simply seeking jobs)
- As best practices study will soon be tendered, the project is looking for potential transnational partners for exchange of experience and best practices
- ESF Funding in a new member state and in new beneficiaries (univs) imposes huge administrative burden which slows project considerably

Thank you

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