

## ECAbit Activity Plan 2009: *Summary*

The ECAbit network agreed in Tambov to focus on the following seven areas to be implemented in 2009:

**Finalizing the network's office and constitution:** A main objective for 2009 is the finalization of ECAbit's network office including constitution, procedures, and the long-term sustainability plan.

**Strengthening ECAbit's thematic working groups:** The ECAbit thematic working groups on rural innovation, innovative youth, SME education in transition economies, and Incubation 2020 (innovative tools for effective business incubation) will seek stronger links to similar thematic networks as well as better outreach through ECAbit's website. Under consideration is also a thematic working group on innovation in the tourism sector. Integration with infoDev's global working groups will be continued.

**Enhancing information exchange:** Improving information exchange among network members is a further priority for 2009. Activities will include improved online information exchange and better integration of members in information exchange. Integration with iDisc will be continued.

**Y2i Youth 2 Innovation Contest:** The objective for 2009 is to successfully launch and complete the pilot contest and to start the 2009/2010 contest. Advancing Innovation in ECA 2009: Given the encouraging outcomes of ECAbit's annual event in 2007 (Yerevan) and 2008 (Tambov), ECAbit is aiming to continue the tradition and to organize Advancing Innovation in ECA in 2009. Participation via video conferencing will be furthermore developed.

**Incubation management trainings:** ECAbit will continue the training activities in the areas of SME training and consulting skills as well as investment-readiness. In addition, study tours and internships for incubator managers are planned. Marketing for the SME trainer portal myconsultant.ru will be improved.

**Studies:** ECAbit will continue studying specific aspects of business incubation in the ECA region. In addition to international and network activities of incubators in the region, an analysis of the investment-readiness of incubators and clients is planned.

### *Sustainability note:*

*Key objective is to achieve a high level of self-sustainability of the network office based on membership fees. The network office has the main tasks to guarantee network operations and administration as well as information exchange. The office will provide administrative support for projects, events and training activities. Projects, events and training activities are implemented based on individual sustainability plans, seeking funding from other sources and member in-kind support.*