



Finanziaria laziale  
di sviluppo

the Filas international newsletter

# to innovation

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## Hello

This issue of *An Eye to Innovation* returns upon a subject that is not only its *raison d'être*, but also the key to competitiveness and modern entrepreneurship: innovation.

In an interesting editorial, Klaus Kofler, EU Legal Representative of the SAB Sächsische AufbauBank, introduces three new initiatives (Jeremie, Jasper e Jessica) that aim to encourage member states of the European Union to intensify their efforts in order to attain the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda.

At the regional level, we take a look at the Regional Innovation Policy Impact Assessment and Benchmarking Pilot Action of the Enterprise and Industry DG that has launched a series of eight projects.

The objective of the pilot action is to encourage European regions to promote the use of existing methodologies and tools to develop new methods through which to evaluate the impact of regional innovation policies and strategies, and create methodologies and instruments for benchmarking innovation performance in European regions.

In the framework of this Pilot Action, Filas coordinates Project OMEN that was presented, in January, at the "Exaudio - to listen to achieve" Conference organized in collaboration with the EU Representation in Italy.

Along the same lines, the "Innovation Drivers" section presents an interesting article by ISTAT (the Italian Statistics Institute), which participates in OMEN as scientific expert, which analyses innovation and the development of local economies in terms of policy tools and challenges.

Filas' mission is based on promoting and directing the economy of the Lazio region, particularly in the new technologies sector, in order to boost the competitiveness of the Regione Lazio both in terms of regional product growth and external investment incentivitation. This is how *An Eye to Innovation* aims to keep you informed of the developments pursued and attained by the Regione Lazio through Filas at the regional, European and international levels.

## Three Js for Cohesion Jaspers, Jeremie and Jessica

The European Commission has recently introduced three new initiatives - Jaspers, Jessica and Jeremie - that pursue the strategic guidelines for 2007-2013 as set by the Commission's Communication of July 2005. The strategic guidelines for 2007-2013 stress the importance of improving access to finance for the development of SMEs, and, in particular, the need to enhance support for start-ups and micro-enterprises, through technical assistance and financial support. Moreover, there is a new emphasis on the added value of undertaking these actions in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF).

The capacity for financial engineering varies significantly across Member States and regions. Indeed, the lack of access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises - especially innovative ones - has been consistently identified as a major obstacle to productivity and employment growth in Europe. Furthermore, this obstacle prevents many SMEs from taking full advantage of technological progress and global trade, thereby depriving many of our regions of a paramount source of competitiveness and dynamism.

As pointed out by Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, at the Conference on Financing Growth and Cohesion in the Enlarged EU, the contribution of the private sector, including finance and banking, is essential. Not only does it bring additional resources, but it also introduces expertise, efficiency and stronger incentives for the beneficiaries of EU funds to succeed. And this is all reflected in these three Js: Initiatives Jaspers, Jeremie and Jessica.

## Jaspers

*Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects  
in European Regions*

The aim of Jaspers is to offer a service to Member States, targeting regions covered by the new Convergence Objective for the period 2007-2013. The service will help authorities to improve the quantity, quality and rapidity of major projects for submission to the Commission. This, in turn, will provide benefit not only for the Member States and regions directly involved, but also spurn growth and convergence in the Union as a whole.

The main novelty introduced by Jaspers is the partnership between the Commission (DG REGIO), the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Specialised staff will provide comprehensive technical assistance directly for all the stages of the project cycle from the initial identification of a project through to the Commission decision to grant assistance.

Jaspers focuses its action on large projects supported by EU Funds (over 25 million for environmental projects and over 50 million in transport and other areas). In smaller countries, lacking projects of this magnitude, Jaspers will target the largest projects available.

## **Jeremie**

*Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises*

The aim of Jeremie is to promote increased access to finance for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the regions of the European Union.

The Commission, the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund (EIF) jointly promote this initiative in an effort to increase the availability of capital in Europe for new business formation and development.

The first phase of Jeremie consists in evaluating the supply of financial engineering products in the Member States and regions of the Union and assessing the potential needs.

Subsequently, in the programming actions for the period 2007-2013, resources would be allocated from the programme to a holding fund.

The role of the holding fund will be to organise calls for expressions of interest addressed to all interested financial intermediaries, who will, in turn, be responsible for making funds available on competitive terms.

Special emphasis will be given to supporting the Lisbon growth and jobs agenda, by emphasising technology transfer, start-ups, technology and innovation funds and micro-credit.

The final result is that the management authority will have access to a turn-key system, which will greatly facilitate the realisation of the otherwise complex task of organising more action in this important field for European economic competitiveness.

## **Jessica**

*Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas*

The aim of Jessica is to promote sustainable development, growth and jobs in Europe's urban areas.

The initiative, which is jointly promoted by the Commission, the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank, will provide the managing authorities of operational programmes with external expertise and greater access to loan capital for the purpose of promoting urban development, including loans for social housing.

Analogous to Jeremie, this initiative would operate through the identification of specialist urban development funds or holding funds.

### **Klaus Kofler**

*EU Legal Representative*

*SAB Sächsische AufbauBank*

## New funds for the I=rp2 "innovation contracts"

*The Regione Lazio, the Rome City Government and the Chamber of Commerce have allotted five hundred thousand euro for the next call of I=rp2 or "Innovation=research projects people".*

The initiative is based on direct collaboration between universities, research centres and companies in order to support small and medium enterprises in the city of Rome that decide to develop innovative projects.

Twelve projects have been financed by Filas, the Financial Investment Agency of the Regione Lazio, whose specific mission is to support innovation, and the City of Rome through the 2005 I=rp2 call. Some of the most interesting projects include a Pda (personal digital assistant) distributed at the entrance of museums that functions as a guide and provides information on all the works of art in the exhibition, plants that absorb polluting substances in closed environments and intelligent chips that allow people to save time by calculating shopping expenses in real time. According to Raffaele Ranucci, Regione Lazio Councillor for Economic Development, Research, Innovation and Tourism, "the city of Rome, unlike the rest of Italy, is performing positively but in order to continue to grow and produce, investments must be made. This is why the Regione Lazio intends to double its contribution, from 125 to 250 thousand euro, which will be awarded by Filas."

The call requires the joint creation of innovative projects by universities, research centres and enterprises that are implemented under the guidance of a researcher who is paid by the "innovation contracts" to supervise the development of the project in an enterprise for twelve to eighteen months, depending on the contents and objectives of the project.

The researchers receive a contract for a monthly retribution of 1600 euro per month for the entire duration of the project.

Guidelines and the application form can be downloaded from the Filas portal.

## Financial Times: Lazio is a favourite for foreign investors

According to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the bimonthly magazine of the Financial Times on enterprise and finance, Lazio is the Italian region preferred by foreign investors.

Councillor Ranucci emphasized that this is "an important recognition, a first step towards re-launching Lazio on the international markets and a confirmation of the role of Rome and the region as national locomotives."

The success of the Regione Lazio, according to the analysts of FDI, is based on a series of factors including a highly qualified workforce, especially in the hi-tech sector, the efficiency and experience of goods and services providers and the dynamism of universities and research centres.

On March 14, during the International Real Estate Market Fair (MIPIM) in Cannes, FDI bestowed the prestigious "FDI European Cities & Regions of the Future 2006-2007" award on our region.

## The Innovalazio Award: assessment is underway

About 50 small and medium enterprises operating in Lazio are presently under assessment for the "Innovalazio" award and prizes that go to the best SMEs in three categories: product innovation, process innovation and development model innovation. Filas received 47 applications by the deadline on February 10th, 2006.

The breakdown of applications was as follows: 32 for product innovation, 9 for process innovation and 6 for development model innovation.

Filas will evaluate the innovation level of every applying enterprise, even through visits to their headquarters, and will assign a 100,000-euro award to the top placing enterprise in each category. All the enterprises that score above a given threshold will be presented with the Innovalazio award to be used in promotional activities and materials.



## Enterprises in Lazio on the rise

In 2005, 9447 new enterprises were created in Lazio. This figure is provided by Unioncamere through Movimprese, the trimestral survey on the demographic trend of enterprises performed by InfoCamere. This increase in entrepreneurship boosts Lazio to the third position nationally, behind Lombardy (14,500 new enterprises) and Campania (10,338 new enterprises).

In terms of percentage growth, Lazio at +1.74%, compared to 2004, places fourth nationally behind Calabria (+2.42%), Campania (+1.94%) and Puglia (+1.92%).

Rome is the second Italian province in terms of active enterprises (398.744) with a growth rate of 1.8%. Rome is followed by the province of Latina with 55,985 enterprises and a growth rate of 1.8%; Frosinone with 45,023 enterprises and a rate of 2.6%; Viterbo with 39,294 enterprises (0.7%) and Rieti with 14,937 enterprises and a rate of 1.4%.

Francesco De Angelis, Regional Councillor for SMEs, Commerce and Artisans, in commenting the data provided by Unioncamere, pointed out that this was "a reassuring signal that awards the work that the Region has carried out with local agencies, the chamber system and the labour and union representatives in order to simplify procedures and stimulate private entrepreneurship. It is also a reason to accelerate these policies by providing strong support for the competitiveness of the local productive system and the processes of internationalisation of our entrepreneurial system."

In general, Unioncamere has found an increase in SMEs in Italy. There are more than six million registered companies and two million of these have been registered in the South of Italy. The year 2005 closed with 80,277 new enterprises and an overall national growth rate of +1.34%.

For further information: [www.infocamere.it](http://www.infocamere.it)

## Lazio has top GDP in Italy

The growth of the GDP in Lazio (+3.8%) is the highest in Italy according to the data presented by Unioncamere President Andrea Mondello at the Third General Assembly of the Lazio Chambers of Commerce.

The assembly was also the occasion to review the main economic indicators for Lazio.

According to the data provided by Unioncamere, 551,112 enterprises were registered in the third trimester of 2005, 9.1% of the total national figure. Moreover, 396,426 enterprises were registered in Rome during the same period, which account for 72% of all enterprises in Lazio and 6.5% of the national figure.

In the Research and Development sector, in 2003, Lazio spent 2.6 billion euro (or 17.7% of the national total) placing second after Lombardy. Lazio is also the first Italian region in terms of R&D workers (30,440 workers or 18.8% of the national figure).

According to ISTAT, the National Statistics Institute, in the third trimester of 2005, Lazio has 2,060,000 workers, 165,000 unemployed workers and an unemployment rate of 7.4%. The total value of exports between January and September 2005 amounted to 7,987 million euro.

## FinNetSME Filas in Berlin to prepare the mid-project Conference

On February 13th, the Investitionsbank Berlin, a partner in the FinNetSME Project, invited Filas, to prepare the mid-project Conference held in March in Kiel. The FinNetSME Project, which has 20 partners including banks, public investment agencies and regional agencies, is financed by the Interreg IIC Programme and aims to analyse the various financial tools that are available at the regional level to SMEs. The final objective is to create new financing models for SMEs.

In particular, Filas participated in two specific workgroups: the first on early stage financing and the second on "capital" collaborating and participating with the experience accrued as a financial investment agency in the evaluation phase of the existing financial modes.

**finNetSME** €  
Network for Regional SME Finance.

## Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2006

The Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2006, organized by the Institute of Geodesy & Navigation of the FAF University of Munich, in cooperation with the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, celebrated its fourth edition and confirmed the success that it has carefully constructed over the years. In fact, one of its biggest strengths is its attractiveness to the main decision-makers from industry, science and government.

Participants at the 2006 Summit included: Galileo Industries, Galileo Joint Undertaking, EADS Space, Fraunhofer Institut, Ifen, Thales, Quebec, Teldix, Sprient, and Alcatel Alenia Space. Moreover, besides the presence of exhibitors from the United States, it is important to point out the participation of many high-level representatives from top-notch institutions and research centres in Japan, China, South Korea, India, Israel, Australia and Canada.

Filas participated with a delegation to study a number of specific issues on transregional international cooperation in the aerospace sector as well as to consolidate relations with the main institutional actors of the Bavarian aerospace cluster.

As the motto "GPS and Galileo... creating new services" indicates, participants in the 2006 Summit discussed, among other topics, the development of satellite navigation systems. The main focus of the ten sessions focused on new services and applications of satellite navigation in different fields of industry.

In particular, two sessions were reserved to the increasingly important topic of security and the role of satellites.

Naturally, as the summit motto implied, many presentations and audience participation reflected the on-going debate on groundbreaking applications, and therefore business opportunities, that could arise from Galileo and other existing GPS possibilities. In fact, this matter becomes even more central in consideration of the important role that the Galileo Test Labs (GATE-Munich, GTR-Lazio, CGTR-China, and GTB-South Korea) will have in the development of new applications.

## EXAUDIO: to listen to achieve

The European Union and Small and Medium Enterprises: careful listening for better achievements.

The first official conference held to disseminate the initial results of Project OMEN took place on January 26-27, 2006 in the Sala Tevere of the Regione Lazio headquarters. The conference, which was held to disseminate the initial results of Project OMEN reached after six months of activity, was organized within the "Exaudio - Listen to Achieve" meeting organized by the EU representation in Italy and the Regione Lazio in collaboration with Filas.

The two-day meeting involved over 100 participants in a rich series of presentations and debates among officers from the Directorate Generals (DG) of the European Commission and regional political authorities, economic development, research and innovation specialists and entrepreneurs from various European regions, including many New Accession Countries (NAS).



*Michel Pasca-Raymondo, DG Deputy Director for Regional Policy of the European Commission, Pier Virgilio Dastoli, Head of the EU Representation in Italy, and Raffaele Ranucci, Regione Lazio Councillor for Economic Development, Research, Innovation and Tourism*

The opening panel, chaired by Pier Virgilio Dastoli, Head of the EU Representation in Italy, was centred on "Communicating Europe" and featured speeches by Raffaele Ranucci, Regione Lazio Councillor for Economic Development, Research, Innovation and Tourism, Michel Pasca-Raymondo, DG Deputy Director for Regional Policy of the European Commission, who also presented the JEREMIE initiative, and Brigitta Bodin of the EU Representation in Italy.



*Michela Michilli, Head of Filas EU Unit, and Gerhard Berger, ICCR-international*

Stefano Turi, General Manager of Filas, who outlined all the activities that Filas carries out to catalyse innovation in the Regione Lazio, closed the morning panel.

The afternoon session was opened by Donato Chiarini, Head of Delegation, DG Enlargement, European Commission, who introduced "Significant Experience of New Member States" and featured presentations by Karel Klusacek, Director of the Director, Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of Prague (Czech Republic); Ireneusz Drzewiecki, Vice President of the MARR Regional Development Agency (Poland); Ildiko Polgarne, CEO of the Hungarian Centre for Innovation; and Alexandros Michaelides, Head of Talos (Cyprus). The Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of Prague and Talos are OMEN project partners. The second day of Exaudio opened with a workgroup focused on "Listening to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)". The panel moderated by Maive Rute, Director for the Promotion of SME Competitiveness, DG Industry and Enterprise of the European Commission, featured an interesting presentation by Paolo Bonaretti, Director of ASTER, on the system employed to promote innovation amongst SMEs in Emilia Romagna. The next model was presented by ISW, the Institute for Structural Policy and Economic Development of Halle (Germany). The morning session was closed by the presentation of Carmen Baena, Director of the Department for Innovation and Technology of the Instituto Andaluz de Tecnologia (another OMEN partner along with ISW) who explained the system that is implemented in Andalusia in Spain.

## Project OMEN

The first official conference held to disseminate the initial results of Project OMEN was held during the last panel of the Exaudio Meeting dedicated to "Measuring and Communicating Innovation Policy". The Panel was chaired by Ms. Michilli, who heads the Filas EU Initiatives and Projects Unit and coordinates, among others, the OMEN Project. The opening presentation, which introduced the Pilot Action on "Evaluating the Impact of Regional Policies and Benchmarking" financed by the European Commission, was held by Agnieszka Turynska, Officer of Innovation Programmes, DG Industry and Enterprise of the European Commission.

The objective of the pilot action, which includes OMEN, is to encourage European regions to promote the use of existing methodologies and tools to develop new methods to evaluate the impact of regional innovation policies and strategies, and create methodologies and instruments for benchmarking innovation performance in European regions.

The afternoon was then dedicated to the presentation of various project financed by the European Commission to develop the pilot actions. The first presentation, held by Lucio Paderi, a member of the OMEN Project Board, and European Commission Officer for the Regione Lazio, concentrated on OMEN. Subsequently, Adriana Agrimi of ARTI, coordinator of the IASMINE project, illustrated the scheduled activities planned by the pilot action and Gerhard Berger of ICCR-international (Austria), also coordinator of the EURO-COOP project, illustrated the methodology used to plan the project. Augusto Ferriera, coordinator of IRE (Innovating Regions in Europe) presented a short review of the achievements reached to date and outlined the future objectives of regional innovation. The panel was closed by an interesting presentation by Andrea De Panizza, Senior Researcher at ISTAT and member of the OMEN Project Board, who explained how available data is analysed to extrapolate and formulate conclusions and indicators that are useful for the creation of new methods for the evaluation of innovation.



*Participants at the 1st OMEN RRT in Lazio*

The Exaudio Meeting was closed by Pier Virgilio Dastoli, Director of the European Commission Representation in Italy, who called for a continued collaboration amongst the Representation, the Regione Lazio and Filas to help promote regional innovation in Lazio and all the other regions of Europe.

## IST and Security

### Filas participates in the SECURE-FORCE Project

In January 2005, Filas participated in the Secure-Force kick-off meeting, a project in which Filas participates together with 22 other partners. ALMA Consulting, a specialized consulting agency and the Secure-Force project coordinator, held the inaugural meeting in Lion.

The objective of Secure-Force is to promote the involvement of SMEs and SME groups in European research and development projects in the field of security via an innovative methodology based on the diffusion and sharing of knowledge, support, training and matchmaking activities among world leaders in this sector. Secure-Force will analyse the main global issues concerning security in the ICT field, a sector that in 2004 was estimated at over 13 billion euro.

In particular, the Secure-Force will analyse:

- Cyber-crime and terrorism issues (privacy, data protection and protection of information and networks);
- Hardware management;
- Crisis management.

The European IST research system is still too fragmented. This is largely due to regulatory, entrepreneurial, fiscal and financial elements. Secure-Force will contribute to reducing the fragmentation in this sector and, in particular, in the field of security, by creating synergy and interaction between research and innovation activities implemented at a regional, national and European level.

The final aim is to divulge the project results to 3000 SMEs (over a period of three years) in no less than 14 member states.

In particular, the project will identify and involve three categories of SMEs operating in the identified research areas:

- SME groups that demonstrate specific needs in terms of integration and legislation, especially with regard to their interaction with large enterprises.
- SMEs specialized in medium and high technology, as well as start-ups that are directly involved in innovative activities in the project areas.
- SMES (mainly those involved in software development) that can integrate innovative solutions directly into their commercial propositions.

Further categories may be identified during the project cycle when a complete classification of all SMEs will be produced.

The project will be monitored throughout its lifecycle by the new mechanisms foreseen by the Seventh Framework Programme in order to remain on target with the new strategic objectives as well as to direct the Secure-Force strategy towards all the new opportunities and philosophies that may arise from the new framework programme. In fact, based on some of the new opportunities that have already appeared, the project objectives may soon be updated.

The objectives of the Secure-Force consortium are to:

- Develop integrated transnational, trans-sectorial and trans-thematic networks to integrate the existing networks into a single coordinated unit that will include IRCs, BICs, professional associations, trade associations and consultants.
- Implement a structured network that will allow optimal communication and sharing of knowledge between the consortium and the involved parties (SMEs, SME groups and potential newcomers in the field of security).
- Establish new definitions for the roles and expectations of SMEs, promoters, and coordinators.

## Participants

**ACFCI** - France  
**ALMA CG Israel** - Israel  
**ALMA** - France  
**ATLANTIS** - Greece  
**CATT** - Austria  
**CIAOTECH** - Italy  
**CONSEN** - Spain  
**DLR** - Germany  
**ECONET** - Spain  
**FILAS** - Italy  
**IAT** - Spain  
**INNOST** - Italy  
**INNOSTART** - Hungary  
**IVSZ** - Hungary  
**KIGEIT** - Poland  
**LUXINNOVATION GIE** - Luxemburg  
**PNO** - Holland  
**SESM** - Italy  
**STEINBEIS** - Germany  
**TALOS RTD** - Cyprus  
**TARGETING INNOVATION** - United Kingdom  
**TESEO** - Belgium  
**ZERNIKE** - Holland

## Innovation and Development of Local Economies: Policy Tools and Challenges

The role of innovation in economic growth, which is largely acknowledged in the relevant literature, has in recent years become even more strategic as a consequence of the changes in the demand and intensification of international competition.

Clearly, the common denominator in these dynamics is technology. When speaking about innovation, however, it is better to adopt a vaster outlook and refer to knowledge, which permits an efficient use of technology, opens up new opportunities and also includes immaterial aspects such as enterprise organization.

The ability to innovate and the sum total of available knowledge have become increasingly influenced by the institutional context both at the national level and, especially, at the local level, where the role of policy can be incisive.

This is reflected in the operation of administrations, in the ability to promote the diffusion of tools and the “cultural elements” of innovation that are coherent with a territorial reality. This means that it is increasingly necessary to innovate certain aspects of the operation of institutions, such as the way in which these operations occur (i.e. changing the priority in the allocation of resources and instituting specialised agencies to organize the diffusion of innovation in local enterprise systems) as well as the creation, development and implementation of investigative tools to sound the characteristics of local economies and monitor the efficiency of policies, shifting the focus from the *input* of policies to their *output*, to their quality and impact.

Policy assessment, which was widely employed in the English-speaking world during the sixties, has become an important tool for policy makers as it has increased their range of action and their ability to intervene on specific problems even through the use of increasingly sophisticated techniques and tools. In particular, important advances have been made in the development of indicators (elementary, thematic and composite) to trace the course and measure the results of policies in terms of objectives, cost-efficiency, etc. with techniques that include impact analysis, benchmarking and scoreboarding.

Assessment activities, which are key for policy creation, require that a significant amount of information be made available for analysis by new technologies, but data often remains scant at the regional level and in local systems.

In this context, European institutions have recognized the availability of information and assessment tools on a regional basis as an emergent priority. In fact, the European statistical system and the national statistics institutes are significantly increasing the supply of territorial information. Moreover, the European Commission has decided to finance a cluster of research projects on innovation and the assessment of regional policies based on benchmarking.

One of these initiatives is OMEN, a project coordinated by Filas, which has already set up an initial system of regional innovation indicators for the Lazio region. Nonetheless, the concrete implementation of assessment activities in local administrations requires - together with the acquisition of the necessary competencies and technical knowledge - a conceptual and organizational effort to extract measurements and statistics from the existing sources, especially administrative sources, through the adaptation of processes and the development of relative information activities that must still be implemented.

**Paolo Roberti**

*Dirigente di Ricerca, ISTAT*

## ROME

### The Italian Locomotive

"It's a beautiful day here in Rome, and not only because of the weather, but also thanks to the data that reveals the [economic] growth of the city." Luca Cordero di Montezemolo, President of the Italian Industrial Association, used these words to introduce his reflections on the data provided by Uniocamere Lazio on the economic rebirth of the city of Rome. Mr. Montezemolo emphasised the significance of the data. "It is an important signal and I say this as the President of the Italian Industrial Association. These figures reflect the Roman industrial component along with the ever significant tourism and craftsmanship sectors." The positive data on the Roman economy, also recently issued by ISTAT, was confirmed by the second general assembly of the Commerce Chamber of Lazio. During the course of the meeting, new projections were presented that confirmed the ISTAT Report for 2005.

## The Key Numbers

- Rome leads the national growth and has the highest gross product (3.8%);
- In 2004, Rome increased by 4.1% (Milan lost 0.4%) against a national average of 1.3%.

### And, in particular:

- 4.3% increase in the services sector;
- 3.8% increase in industry;
- 4.1% increase in the construction sector;
- A leap forward in the agricultural sector: +15%;
- An increase in the number of enterprises: more than 396,000 enterprises (third trimester 2005);
- 10.4% increase in employment between 2001-2004 (against a national average of 3.7%) with female employment growing by 1.7% and with an investment plan for 2006-2008 equal to 2170 million euro;
- The Roman territory houses 6.5% of all Italian enterprises;
- The growth rate of enterprises is a positive 8.7%, while it continues to decrease in the rest of Italy.

"However, we are very happy that Rome is also a city that maintains social inclusion as one of its main objectives. It is a city in which economic inequalities are never emphasized," Mayor Walter Veltroni added.

**1-2 June 2006 > Vienna, Austria**

EU Presidency Conference - "A Researcher' Labour Market: Europe a Pole of Attraction?"

**1-2 June 2006 > Turku, Finland**

Best Practices in Transfer of Science and Technology

**6 June 2006 > Helsinki, Finland**

IASP Pre-Conference Workshop: The Dos and Don'ts of Science Park Management: Lessons from Experienced Operators

**6-9 June 2006 > Helsinki, Finland**

XXIII IASP World Conference on Science and Technology Parks

**8-11 June 2006 > Paris, France**

2nd European Research & Innovation Exhibition

**11-14 June 2006 > Athens, Greece**

17th ISPIIM Annual Conference 2006 - "Networks for Innovation"

**12-13 June 2006 > Brussels, Belgium**

"Innovating Through the Structural Funds"

**13-14 June 2006 > Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro**

The 2nd Conference on Access to Finance for SMEs: "Sources of Funding and Supportive Measures for SMEs in South Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans"

**13-14 June 2006 > Vienna, Austria**

Conference on the European Charter for Small Enterprises

**13-15 June 2006 > Nova Gorica, Slovenia**

European Regional Economic Forum (EREF-2006) - Building Knowledge Society through Regional Innovation Support

**14-15 June 2006 > The Hague, Netherlands**

WIPO Forum on Intellectual Property and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Intellectual Property Offices and Other Relevant Institutions in OECD Countries

**15-16 June 2006 > Ronneby, Sweden**

Innovative Actions Network for the Information Society Plus Annual Conference 2006: "TOWARDS eREGIO 2010 - Challenges and Threats for the Competitiveness of the Regions in the Global Knowledge Economy"

## Filas

Filas' mission is based on research and development and the management of tools related to innovation and new technologies in order to boost the competitiveness of the Regione Lazio both in terms of regional product growth and external investment incentivitation.

As the reference agency for the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development (6PQ), the five-year plan of the European Union for research and development, Filas promotes project proposals and initiatives with the aim of developing new models of international cooperation capable of promoting high-level partnerships between Universities, Research Centres and Industry and improve SME access to advanced and innovative technological know-how.

In this context, and in line with the strategic orientation of the Regione Lazio and the European Union, Filas participates in the initiatives of the European Commission to improve the development of regional policy (Single Programming Document Structural Funds, Interreg, Innov4, Innovative Actions, etc.) and help Lazio region SMEs participate in cross-border, trans-national and interregional projects. All Filas project proposals have the common objective of promoting European competitiveness globally.

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**managing editor**  
michela michilli

**design**  
due\_pavese

**layout**  
idearte.it

**content editor**  
laurence steinman

**filas EU group**  
michela michilli  
andrea romagnoli  
laura santarelli  
valentina diana

**consultants**  
carlo donzella

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**Filas**  
Finanziaria Laziale di Sviluppo S.p.A.  
via Alessandro Farnese 3  
00192 Rome, Italy  
t +39.06.328851  
f +39.06.36006808

