

Summary- TAFTIE EXPERT SESSION 1

Thursday 7 February 2019, TAFTIE members met in Luxembourg for the first Expert Session and the launch of Luxinnovation’s Chairmanship. Discussions and interactions were organised around the theme “scaling start-ups including relationship between innovation agencies and incubators”. The Expert Session gathered 57 participants from 22 agencies and 22 different countries.



TAFTIE agencies were involved early on in the preparation of the session by answering a questionnaire on their start-up ecosystems. Twenty surveys were received before the meeting and analysed by Jari Romanainen, the expert supporting the knowledge capitalisation process, who presented the results during the Expert Session. The surveys highlighted the variety of agency practices regarding start-up support, including direct funding schemes and indirect schemes such as vouchers. The outcomes of the survey also identified as well the similarities, possible lock-ins, and potential opportunities for innovation agencies for the development of innovation ecosystems.

These results sparked exchanges between members and served as a basis for the working group discussions, which focused on:

- incubator funding models,
- the relationships between business angel networks, crowdfunding platforms and innovation agencies,
- the health sector and how innovation agencies address specific issues related to the development of healthtech start-ups,
- the scale-up phase, regarding what instrument are used to support fast growth and internationalisation and how innovation agencies interact with financial intermediaries to develop the VC ecosystem.



The thematic working groups identified several opportunities and limitations in different topics. The outcomes of the discussions will lay the foundation for the white paper to be produced by the end of this year.