

“Q-CAMP 2010”

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Introduction

The first Baltic Forum for Youth Entrepreneurship “Q-Camp 2010” was held in Saint-Petersburg in October 6–9th 2010 being one of the steps of the international project *Best Ageds – using the knowledge and experience of professionals in their primes to foster business and skills development in the Baltic Sea Region*.

The aim of the Forum was to develop new forms of interaction between experts from Baltic countries (mostly people aged 55+) with young people interested in innovation and technology entrepreneurship. In the course of the Forum various activities were implemented, aimed at stimulating international and interdisciplinary collaboration for creation and promotion of innovative hi-tech projects.

13 Universities and organizations from 6 Baltic Sea countries participated in the Forum. During the three days experts and members of youth teams were exchanging experiences, presenting their projects, discussing the opportunities for collaboration. Workshops and business-games were the forms of cooperative work of older professionals and young people.

The Forum was organized by Saint-Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics. The key audience of “Q-Camp 2010” were the representatives of partner organizations, young entrepreneurs – students of the Faculty of Entrepreneurship of SPbSU ITMO and invited experts from different organizations of Saint-Petersburg and Moscow.

1. Business-game “Romashka”

During the Forum participants were invited to test the practical methods of cross-generation interaction with the help of business-game “Romashka”. The students of the Faculty of Entrepreneurship of SPbSU ITMO and one youth project team from Germany (University of Rostock) received nice opportunity of presenting their projects to the experts from Europe and Russia.

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The game consisted of 8 rounds (according to the number of student teams and experts). Each round was 15 minutes long and during these minutes the teams had to present their projects to the experts and receive feedbacks from the latter. During 3 hours the experts had time not only to evaluate and discuss the ideas of students but to build good contacts with the most perspective teams. Efficiency of such a form of interaction was revealed by confirmations of some experts that they were ready to support these students in the future.

2. Trans-generation round tables

The first round table “Cross Generation Innovation Environment. Interaction of generations as a stimulus of innovation development” attracted significant attention not only of the experts, but also of the young participants of the Forum. Various problems of cross-generation dialogue (including mechanisms of interaction in innovation area) were discussed at the round table. In the course of the discussion the following questions were mentioned: technological, philosophical and cultural aspects of interaction of generations, communication preparedness and skills of representatives of various ages including virtuality, etc.

The second round table “Youth Innovations: Infrastructure and State Support” was opened by Ivan Burtnik, Head of community “Futurussia”, Skolkovo (Moscow) and Igor Rozhdestvensky, director of business-incubator Ingria (Saint-Petersburg). Young entrepreneurs were able to get very interesting information from them up-close. They presented their organizations, denoted directions, aims and problems of development. Speakers touched upon the issues of integration of Russian companies in international innovative environment, participation in legislative initiatives on support of innovative progress, support and defense of innovative entrepreneurship, forming a demand for innovations in Russia.

The third round table was dedicated to the topic “Methodology of Interdisciplinary in Innovations”. The participants of round table discussed interaction between science and art in particular. In conclusions all participants agreed that skill of finding areas of common interest of various disciplines helps to define new perspectives of understanding the reality, it makes deeper our knowledge about the world and stimulates creativity via the interest to cognition.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Summing up the results of the First Baltic Forum of Youth Entrepreneurship “Q-Camp 2010” its worth mentioning the following:

1. The Forum presented to the European partners the Russian approach to development of hi-tech youth entrepreneurship in university and organization of respective interaction of young people with “best agers” (having the Inter-University student business-incubator QD as a pilot model).
2. Forum has become an example of successful work of experts (55+) and young entrepreneurs in the sphere of presenting and evaluating project ideas.

3. Russian and European experts shared their experiences in practice of consulting work with young entrepreneurs.

After the Forum organizers decided to develop the idea of “Q-Camp”:

1. Transformation of the project “Q-Camp 2010” into regular and periodic event.
2. Conducting “Q-Camp 2011” in Saint-Petersburg in the framework of Best Agers project in summer 2011.
3. Conducting European research on conditions of youth hi-tech entrepreneurship progress in Baltic Sea countries in 2012.
4. Development of an analogue of “Q-Camp” in the framework of Russian-Finnish cooperation.
5. Launch of new international projects together with Best Agers projects’ partners, aimed at development of entrepreneurship education in Russia and EU countries.

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Artykuł stanowi sprawozdanie z przedsięwzięcia “Q-CAMP 2010”, zrealizowanego w ramach Projektu *Best Agers – Using the knowledge and experience of professionals in their primes to foster business and skills development in the Baltic Sea Region* w Petersburgu, jesienią 2010 roku. Celem przedsięwzięcia było umożliwienie młodym przedsiębiorcom, w tym studentom planującym dopiero uruchomienie własnego biznesu, spotkania i wymiany doświadczeń z przedstawicielami biznesu. W rolę ekspertów i doradców, dzielących się swoją wiedzą i spostrzeżeniami na temat uwarunkowań prowadzenia firmy w XXI wieku z początkującymi przedsiębiorcami, wcieliły się osoby w wieku 55 lat i więcej, przedsiębiorcy i doświadczeni w branżach technologicznych specjaliści. Pełny raport z przedsięwzięcia „Q-CAMP 2010” jest dostępny na stronie internetowej projektu: www.best-agers-project.eu.