



Digital transition in Bielsko-Biala

Bielsko-Biala

📍 Poland
::: COUNTRY

👤 168 106
::: POPULATION

💰 55,7 M EUR
::: FUNDING

🏦 ERDF, National Domestic Bank revitalization loan, Just Transition Fund
::: FUNDING SOURCES

🏠 Digital innovation hub
::: TOPIC OF PRACTICE

🏢 Regional Development Agency in Bielsko-Biala
::: PRACTICE OWNER



📌 Bielsko-Biala developed its innovation ecosystem inspired by international exchange of experience, through systemic approach composed of two intermingling formats of FabLab (DIH) and multistakeholder engagement approach. It may be described as follows: (1) From FabLab through (European) Digital Innovation Hub to Beskidzki Hub – our innovative journey from small scale fabrication laboratory to 50M EUR investment (2) Connecting the dots – facilitating multistakeholder cooperation towards innovation ecosystem. Today, 5,7M EUR out of the 55,7 M EUR budget have been invested.

::: ABOUT :::

- 📌 1. Consistent, step by step approach
- 2. Multistakeholder engagement
- 3. Tailoring international knowledge to the local context
- 4. Committed people

::: STRONG POINTS :::

- 📌 1. Formal, time consuming procedures related to implementation of EU funded projects - it becomes easier!
- 2. Relation of value, time & stakeholder commitment - it is hard to maintain momentum.

::: CHALLENGES :::

- 📌 Bielsko-Biala's Development Strategy to 2030 outlines a vision for the city as a leading economic center in the region. A key element is the Digital Innovation Hub (DIH), which fosters collaboration among local tech companies. By providing advanced technology and networking opportunities, DIH strengthens the city's economy and leverages existing strengths. The multistakeholder approach ensures complex solutions that benefit the entire city.

::: CITY STRATEGY :::

- 📌 1. Portfolio of activities – workshops, events, training programs – tested on the local level with 2000+ participants.
- 2. Established network of stakeholders – committed and open to cooperate.
- 3. Regional game changing innovative concept & investment of Beskidzki Hub.

::: RESULTS AND IMPACTS :::

- 📌 • City Hall of Bielsko-Biala
- Local IT & tech companies
- NGOs operating in the field of entrepreneurship & startup support

::: KEY STAKEHOLDERS :::

- 📌 1. International knowledge exchange via EURADA (European Association of Development Agencies) – discovering the FabLab concept.
- 2. In-Focus (URBACT III) project implementation – creating a multistakeholder group and discussing ecosystem building issues in quadruple helix formula.
- 3. Exchange of experience and across Europe, piloting small scale formats programs that become a PoC to further develop the idea of DIH.
- 4. Becoming a co-organizer of BBDays4.IT, granting full credibility on a local level as a reliable partner.

::: ENABLING CONDITIONS :::

- 📌 1. Be active on international level and take the advantage of EU projects.
- 2. Test small scale solutions, make linkages among them and create complex structures out of it.
- 3. Look around and benefit from the networks you already have.

::: TRANSFER TIPS :::