



## Press Release

### **Biotech needs the right policies to stay on track in new EU Member States**

Prague, 21 September 2009:

EuropaBio, the European Association for Bioindustries, and Venture Valuation, with the collaboration of national stakeholders, have just published a ground-breaking report, evaluating the biotech industry across the 12 newest EU Member State, as well as Turkey and Croatia. The report was published during a workshop that took place in Prague on 21 September 2009.

The report identifies 260 biotechnology companies across 14 countries; and addresses the opportunities and challenges particular to each national situation. Four countries in particular, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Estonia, report the highest numbers of biotechnology companies and were the most developed biotechnology sectors among the 14 countries analysed. One of the main challenges for the biotechnology sector identified in the report is how to turn innovation into products when there is little guidance and support.

“Despite the political will to develop R&D as a national priority and government interest in biotechnology, concrete policies are not always put into practice.” said Patrik Frei, CEO of Venture Valuation and co-author of the report. He continued, “Setting up a coherent and consistent framework with support dedicated to the biotechnology and healthcare sectors is the key to long-term success for the industry.”

“Capacity building on intellectual property rights and patenting, as well as effective technology transfer offices are needed to stimulate commercialisation,” said Willy De Greef, Secretary General of EuropaBio and co-author of the report. “While achievements of the sector are not yet visible in terms of products on the market, it is important to acknowledge that a solid foundation is emerging in these countries to bring about future successful developments of the biotechnology sector.”

In addition to the reports, recommendations to the EU and national governments were formulated during workshops in Prague, Vilnius and Budapest and to improve the policy environment for biotechnology companies.

**The report and recommendations will be available on the following website at the end of September:**

[www.14allbio.eu](http://www.14allbio.eu)

**For further information, contact:**

Venture Valuation – Kasia Galecka

E-mail: [k.galecka@venturevaluation.com](mailto:k.galecka@venturevaluation.com)

EuropaBio – Jasmiina Laurmaa

Email: [j.laurmaa@europabio.org](mailto:j.laurmaa@europabio.org)

#### **About EuropaBio**

EuropaBio's mission is to promote an innovative and dynamic biotechnology-based industry in Europe. EuropaBio, (the European Association for Bioindustries), has 72 corporate and 6 associate members

operating worldwide, 4 Bioregions and 25 national biotechnology associations representing some 1800 small and medium sized enterprises.

<http://www.europabio.org>

### **About Venture Valuation AG**

Venture Valuation specializes in independent assessment and valuation of companies in high-growth markets, such as biotechnology and medical technology. Furthermore, the company also provides information services such as the global Biotechnology Database ([www.biotechgate.com](http://www.biotechgate.com)) and over 25 country databases for clients around the world.

<http://www.venturevaluation.com>

### **About the Indecs-H/14allbio project**

The InDeCS-H/14allbio project aimed at providing a picture of biotech development in the 12 newest EU Member States and candidate countries, as well as improving the visibility of biotech companies for networking and investment opportunities. The final report of the project highlights the status of growth potential for healthcare biotech SMEs in this region.

### **About CzechBio**

CzechBio is association which arches over 29 companies of the biotechnological industry to take advantage of the cooperation among biotechnological industry in the Czech Republic. CzechBio is achieving the potential to become an important crossroad to the Czech biotechnological scope, both commercial and academic that requires the joint efforts of all members in industry, academia, research, and government.

<http://www.czechbio.org>

### **About South Moravian Innovation Centre**

The goal of the South Moravian Innovation Centre (Jihomoravské inovační centrum, hereinafter referred as JIC) is to create a comprehensive infrastructure for the support of innovative companies and to become the leading provider of support for innovative companies in Europe. JIC supports innovative companies, students with original ideas, researchers and inventors. JIC supports many collaborative projects between innovative companies and research workplaces. The South Moravian Innovation Centre operates two technology incubators and one biotechnology incubator.

JIC provides the tenant companies with access to finance, premises, consultancy, contacts, promotion and PR and technology transfer services. Over a period of six years the centre has helped with the establishment of about fifty companies, of which 18 successfully completed the incubation programme.