

# Establishing EBN Business and Innovation Centres in Ukraine: opportunities, challenges and next steps

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EU4Digital Steering Committee Meeting Week



MINISTRY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMY,  
TRADE AND AGRICULTURE OF UKRAINE



[www.ebn.eu](http://www.ebn.eu)

# Background of the Action





- the Government of Ukraine continues its ambitious reform programme to accelerate economic growth and improve the livelihoods of its citizens
- Ukraine remains a priority partner for the EU, the two parties signed in 2014 the Association Agreement (AA), including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which is the main tool to bring Ukraine and the EU closer together
- Ukraine present a great potential to develop an innovation-based economy driven by its immense talents and entrepreneurial skills



Well-trained & talented workforce

Successful information technology  
(IT) industry

Long tradition of science & technology  
research (S&T)

Increasing access to markets in Europe

Significant natural resources &  
agricultural production capacity

Increase of high-growth potential firms

Start-up ecosystem is vibrant and Ukrainian entrepreneurs have expressed the need to access high-quality mentorship and support



2178 applications  
40+M UAH grants  
47 start-ups funded



Ukraine's first innovation park



Engineering startup contest  
20M UAH Grant



Business development services  
for startup teams



Incubator of  
the Junior Academy of Sciences  
of Ukraine



First Ukrainian accelerator  
for technology start-ups  
founded in 2008



Technology Hub w 350+ start-ups,  
1000 residents, 100+ partners

In Ukraine for the last 10 years many initiatives were implemented aimed to develop BSOs, not excluding the development of business incubators, production sites, tech-transfer organizations and clusters.

## The main obstacles for sustainability of UA BSOs along with low capacity are:



non existent system of Quality Control of the services provided by BSOs



low awareness raising for building strong credibility among UA SMEs



lack of networking and synergy among the BSOs themselves and the programmes implementing these activities

# Needs Assessment





## MEDTA team with SMEDO experts benchmarked the best practices according to the criteria

- building synergy and strengthening networking among the existing BSOs
- ensuring benchmarking the quality assessment of services provided to uphold the high-quality standards of business development support
- strong credibility based on the track-record of an organization
- powerful image of an organization to build high awareness and trust from SMEs to BSOs as service providers
- proven methodology on ensuring high rate of supported SMEs survival during economic/financial crises
- ready made approach along with methodology to launch in a short time period up to 12 months



In 2010 – 2011 three Regional Centres of State Agency of Ukraine for Investment and Development (in Lutsk, Kyiv and Kharkiv) became associate members of EBN and obtained technical support for implementing EBN|BIC standards in Ukraine

## Project Results

Lutsk and Kyiv RCs were assessed for further certification

## Next Steps Recommended

PPP model development with regional BSOs involvement

## Failure

SAUID was restructured and next liquidated in 2015 with all RC's

## Sustainability

BSOs are to be non-governmental, market driven competitive organisations



# Steps Done





## MEDTA team with SMEDO experts

- Partnered with European Business Network
- Amended “Innovative enterprise” definition in the Law of Ukraine with broader scope
- Included Establishment of national network of 24 EBN|BICs in Ukraine to UA Government Priority Action Plan of Economy Recovery 2020-2022
- Submitted budget request for funding from the State Budget in 2021
- Integrated the Programme as a Key Action to the EU4Digital Initiative
- Developed with EBN the detailed Programme to launch and develop BICs network in Ukraine

# EU BICs in Ukraine



## Ukraine – Innovation Ecosystem

- Capacity building activities for BSOs' staff
- Introduction to the EBN
- Setting up of EU|BIC Certification process for selected BSOs



### Direct Beneficiaries

- Business Support Organisations

### Final Beneficiaries

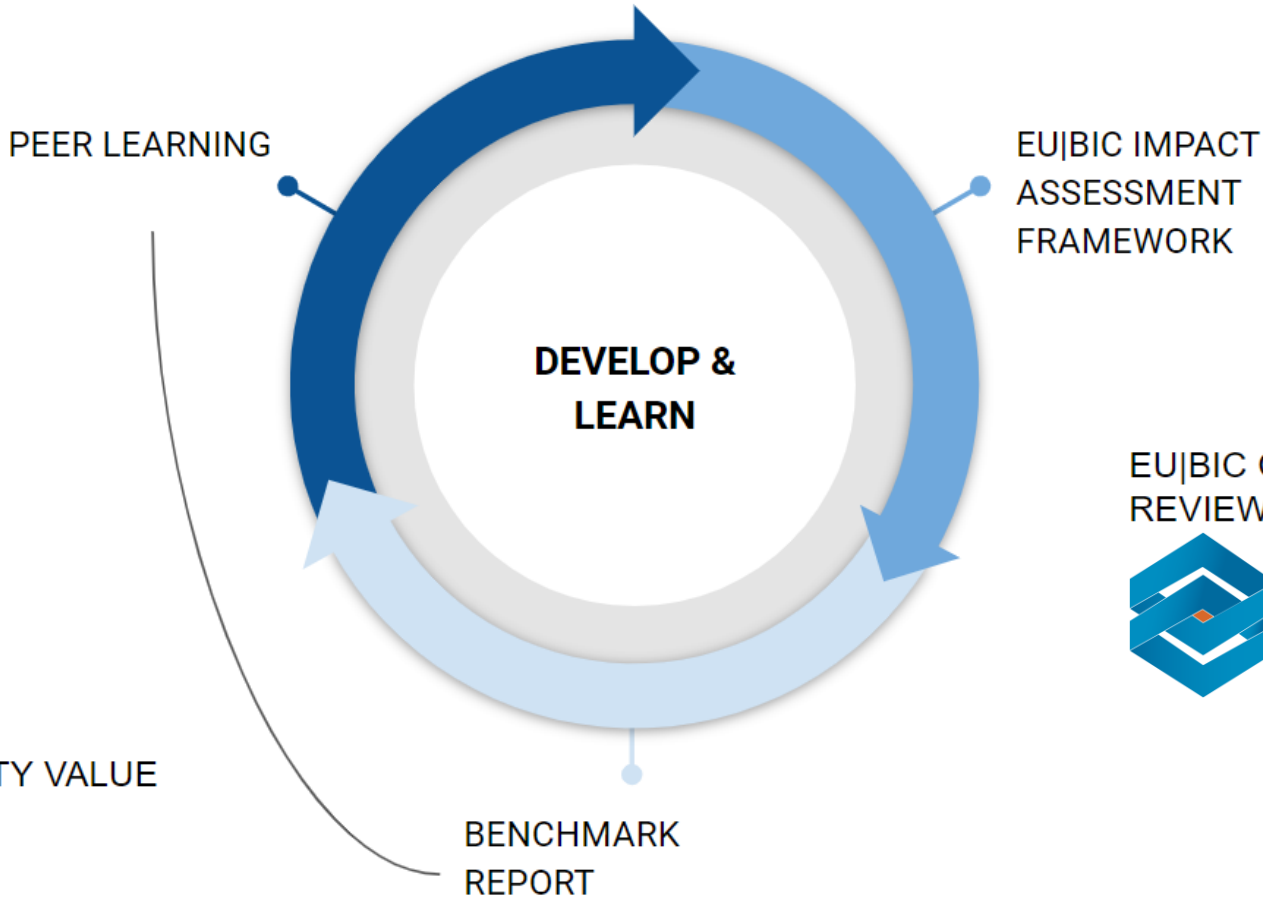
- Entrepreneurs, Startups, Founders

### Indirect Beneficiaries

- Enablers i.e. policy makers, business angels, universities, research institutes...

# ENHANCING THE UKRAINIAN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

BSOs



EU|BIC CERTIFICATION REVIEW



- Fostering job creation
- Strengthening human capital
- Strengthening social and economic fabric
- Creating links between academia and innovation ecosystem