

***ECSB Country VPs Meeting,
Budapest, Thursday November 20th, 2009***

Present:

Thomas Cooney, President of ECSB
Luca Iandoli, President-Elect of ECSB, country-VP coordinator
Anne St. Onge, President of ICSB
Olivier Torres, Country VP for France
Eddy Laveren, Country VP for Belgium
Paola Demartini, Country VP for Italy
Arnis Sauka, Country VP for Latvia
Peter Szirmai, Country VP for Hungary
Mustafa Tumer, Country VP for Cyprus
Miroslav Rebernik, Country VP for Slovenia

Introductions

The meeting began with each person introducing himself/herself as the participants included a number of people who were attending for the first time as they had been appointed Country VP during 2009. The ICSB President is invited to introduce ICSB and its activities. She illustrated a number of opportunities for collaboration among country VPs and ICSB.

Enhancing the Work of ECSB through the Country VP System

The President of ECSB emphasized the importance of Country VP system and its representatives for ECSB. The President also highlighted the many initiatives currently taking place in ECSB and how Country VPs could support them.

The President-Elect provided an updated members count by countries. He then notified the participants about the changes in the country VPs list (new nominations/resignations). He also informed the participants about the ECSB board decision to not have board members also serving also as country VP. The cases in which the conflict is present were reported and existing country VPs were invited to step down and wherever possible to nominate possible candidates in their own country.

The President-elect also informed the participants about the new initiatives recently undertaken by the ECSB board to increase ECSB visibility as well as the number of members as the ECSB webinars, the ECSB presence on social media like Liked-In and Facebook, and the creation of a work team charged with the task of improving the guidelines for the organization of the RENT conference (review process, program & organizational guidelines for local organizers, conference proceedings, ...).

The President-elect reminded the participants of the three basic duties that are expected from a country VP: 1) the increase in the number of local members; 2) the organization of at least one event at the national level in which ECSB is promoted and given visibility; 3) the communication with local members about ECSB initiatives.

Finally the President Elect informed the participants that he and the President outlined a set of guidelines for country VPs for the organization of ECSB co-branded local event (attached).

Actions

Letters to Members

The meeting then discussed how Country VPs could help grow the number of members that it has in each country. To achieve this objective the country VPs will be emailed with an up-dated database of current members. With the up-to-date database it will be more efficient to try to reach new potential members in member countries and to organize local events, workshops and other activities.

The database of names is organized in three categories: Present Members, Past Members, and Potential Members. The names of people in each of these categories will be generated for each country and then distributed with templates of letters for each category. The templates will be distributed by the end of January 2010. Every Country VP will then send an email to each person on their list about the benefits of ECSB using the appropriate template letter. This stage will be completed by the end of February.

Country Events

In the meeting each Country VP was given a possibility to express their expectations to ECSB local country events and workshops in 2010. Every attendee was interested in organizing a local event in their country. Here is a list of the proposed events.

COUNTRY	ORGANIZER	EVENT (tentative title & dates)
Italy	Paola Demartini	Workshop on Corporate Social responsibility in SMEs (May 2009)
Slovenia	Miroslav Rebernik	29 th Int. Conference on entrepreneurship and innovation, 14-15 April 2010
Belgium	Eddy Laveren	Entrepreneurship research day, March-April
Hungary	Peter Szirmai	Family Business conference, March 2010
Cyprus	Mustafa Tumer	SME conference, November 2010
France	Oliveir Torres	HRM, SME and Entrepreneurship, April 2010
Latvia	Arnis Sauka	Open workshop series (4 workshops on different topics to be held on Feb, Apr, May, July 2010)

The President-Elect then informed the participants about other relevant initiatives in which ECSB will also appear as a partner organization among which the FIN PIN conference and the Nordic Conference for Small Business.

Suggestions

According to the general discussion on how to develop the current events locally, the most important issues raised were:

- a) ECSB could provide a list of possible recommended invited speakers to be hosted at local event;
- b) ECSB could be involved into local Business Plan competitions.



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The President offered ECSB support regarding point a, while he suggested that point b should be reported for discussion to the ECSB board.

Beyond the comments already highlighted, there were no further suggestions that the Country VPs wanted to bring to the Board meeting.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.