

## **New Partnership to boost the Croatian ICT Industry**

Local ICT start ups and entrepreneurs are to benefit from a new partnership between the Future Cities Institute (formerly known as IISEIE) and the Croatian Association of Business Angels Network (CRANE) formed at the recent technology and business Conference WinDays.

As the managers of the Microsoft Innovation Center in Croatia, The Future Cities Institute will work closely with the Croatian Business Angels to deliver programs and activities that support and promote innovation entrepreneurship in Croatia.

Representing business incubators where ideas are turned into new ventures, The Future Cities Institute and Microsoft Innovation Centre network make ideal partners to help grow and develop local ICT jobs, entrepreneurs and companies in Croatia. In the last six years over 1000 entrepreneurs have been part of the Croatian Microsoft Innovation Centre program .

Future Cities Institute general manager for CEE, Marko Drenovački believes that the agreement means a concrete step forward for all entrepreneurs who have ideas and are willing to work.

“The Future Cities Institute, together with the Microsoft Innovation Centers in Varaždin and Split, are collaborating with the Croatian Business Angels to overcome one of the hardest barriers for ICT entrepreneurs - securing finance. For the first time we are putting ICT start-ups and entrepreneurs in direct contact with potential investors,” he said.

With a mission to empower local communities in a digital world, the Future Cities Institute has been built on the fundamental belief that to inspire people’s belief in the future you need to expand their freedom of choice and participation, and enable their freedom of action.

As an independent international organisation, the Future Cities Institute works closely with trade associations and city economic development agencies to lead urban development through the creation of new entrepreneurs, companies and high skilled jobs in local economies.

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