



Poslovno - inovacijski centar Hrvatske  
Business Innovation Center of Croatia

Planinska 1, 10000 Zagreb  
tel: +385 1 2352 601  
fax: +385 1 2352 615  
e-mail: ured-bicro@bicro.hr  
www.bicro.hr

**The Business Innovation Center of Croatia - BICRO Ltd.** was founded by the Croatian Government in 1998, in order to implement technology development and innovation support programs. It is a central institution in the national innovation system for technology advancement and innovation development.

Science makes vital contributions to knowledge-based economies through generation of new ideas and technology solutions. Equally important is our ability to derive value from knowledge. In order to effectively exploit new technologies it is necessary to adopt stimulative policies in all relevant social segments. Among those segments, there are three key elements necessary for transformation of scientific discoveries into successful commercial products or services. These are:

- An excellent and strong scientific base
- Appropriate sources of funding
- Adequate business and technology infrastructure

**BICRO** is the key organization within the national innovation system whose basic role is development and implementation of government support programs aimed at strengthening technology development as the main generator of sustainable economic growth.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Establishment of knowledge- and technology-based companies
- Development of adequate technology infrastructure
- Creation and development of venture capital industry
- Strengthening cooperation between the scientific and business community

#### **BICRO's PROGRAMS**

In accordance with the Government Guidelines for Support to the National Technology and Innovation, BICRO is responsible for implementing "The support for entrepreneurship based on innovation and new technologies program", which comprise of five complimentary sub-programs: RAZUM, TEHCRO, VENCRO, IRCRO, and KONCRO. These programs fund innovative technology projects with the aim of increasing the competitiveness of Croatian small and medium size enterprises and creating other conditions which are necessary for the successful flow of knowledge between the scientific community and the business sector.

#### **Program RAZUM**

The task of the Government is to stimulate and support the initial funding of newly established companies, which will in a later phase attract venture capital investments and achieve a positive impact on the economy through the successful operation of these funded companies on the international market.

The program ensures:

- Initial funding of newly established knowledge based companies
- Funding research and development of new products or services in existing companies

#### **Program TEHCRO**

Successful commercialization of research outputs and the transfer of knowledge from Universities and scientific institutions to business are possible with the help of adequate technology infrastructure within which the academic community can use various services for technology transfer, while knowledge-based start-up companies can use all the resources necessary for their development and growth.

The program supports development of:

- Technology Business Centers
- Technology Incubators
- Research and Development Centers

## **Program VENCRO**

Venture capital funds are one of the main sources of capital for fast growing small and medium companies based on innovation and advanced technologies.

The program supports:

- Establishment of venture capital funds
- Development of the venture capital industry

## **Program IRCRO**

An essential element of business innovation is research and development. With arising awareness for necessity of research and development in SME's, will create demand for services from scientific research institutions.

The program stimulates:

- Cooperation between industry and technology institutions
- Maximum usage of infrastructure in scientific research centers
- Support industrial companies to substantially increase their R&D activities

## **Program KONCRO**

The success of companies on the global marketplace depends on their competitiveness. Investment in new technologies and the successful acquisition of knowledge and skills are a precondition for effective participation in market competition.

The program ensures easier access to technology knowledge and management skills by:

- Co-funding of consultancy services with the goal of increasing competitiveness
- Creation of a network of consultants

## **EU PROGRAMS**

Business Innovation Center of Croatia – BICRO Ltd. actively participates in preparation of Croatian SMEs for the single European market.

BICRO is currently in preparation process for accreditation by the European Commission for becoming an intermediate body for future EU Structural funds on behalf of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

BICRO is one of the partner in Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the most significant European support initiative in which BICRO is the lead partner for technology transfer and innovation.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the University of Zagreb, BICRO has created the project “Incubation Center for Bioscience –BIOCenter”. The project is being implemented by BICRO and financed by EU (IPA Pre-accession Fund).