6  Lessons learned

The organisers of the first EurekaBuild workshop (in Rotterdam – www.deltaneth.nl) made a list of success factors and recommended improvements. These are quoted below, and supplemented with experience from the 2nd workshop:

Success factors
1. The commitment of the FA leaders is very important to get international people involved in participating in the workshop and brokerage event, and also in linking the brokerage event/match making to the FA groups and their research background and priorities.

2. The location: It is a big advantage to have both the lectures and the posters in the same room. This way we can connect the lectures with the posters by discussing the posters that are in relation to a particular lecture immediately after that lecture. Also, it was good to have the dinner at the same place to keep all participants assembled and focussed.

3. Both NUS and NUP should preferably be members of the organising and match making committee. This guarantees that both the public agencies and the industry will be involved. This committee has an important match making role during the event: they know the background of the participants and know the ideas presented on the posters/in the templates, therefore they can be active in connecting participants with one another.

4. The role of the NTPs – individually and as a network within ECTP – is also crucial and should be further developed as a basis for information, trans-national contact making and generating of ideas. EurekaBuild as an umbrella will not have the capacity to work pro-actively in all Focus areas and countries, and will have to rely on the initiatives and enthusiasm of the NTPs

Advised improvements
1. We should emphasize the simplicity of the process of combined research more. During the events it became clear that the participants are unaware of the process of combined research so we elaborated on:
   a. Clarity of your needs; what is necessary to develop?
   b. Do I do this development alone or in combination with others?
   c. Who will by my partners?
   d. What is our common goal?
   e. What is our action plan?
   f. What are the resources?
   g. What is the appropriate funding scheme?
   h. And how can we submit proposals?

2. We should involve clients in the event.
3. We could possibly add a prize for the best poster to stimulate participants.

4. We could end each morning and afternoon session by inviting participants to choose a poster that attracts them the most, to go sit around that poster and discuss with other participants who have chosen the same poster, about possible cooperation.

5. How can we support the more cross border participation of these workshops and brokerage events?

6. Many participants are confused on the big differences when it comes to National funding schemes, different deadlines and timing etc. We should elaborate a kind of easy-to-read guidance on how to launch projects, whom to talk to and how to handle the cross-European differences. The NPC/NUS/NUP/NTP in the different countries must know, and know, how to guide proposers, and where on the net to find the most essential information.

7. So far (the two workshops and Versailles) it has been quite easy to have a lot of project ideas presented. But we need to improve the process from idea to project. We also need to have a better marketing of the web site presenting “Project ideas looking for partners”.