



EBAN Press release 1/2007

## **EBAN Congress gathers largest number of participants since 2000 in Estoril**

### **Second Award Ceremony: 4 Awards distributed, UK swaps 3 prizes!**

### **Seventh EBAN Congress – Stimulating the informal venture capital market**

300 attendees from 28 countries gathered at the Seventh Annual Congress held on 16/17 April in Estoril, on the outskirts of Lisbon. The organising committee, namely EBAN, Gesventure, InovCapital, and the institutional sponsors, IAPMEI and Cascais Municipality, are very proud of raising such a high interest for the cause of business angel investing at this event.

The two working days have confirmed that the event is a relevant opportunity to network and build collaborations with colleagues who face the same opportunities and challenges in many of Europe's regions when the stimulation of business angel activity is concerned. The Congress is really becoming a unique opportunity to build an international community of individuals concerned by BA investing: this year participants from North America and Central and South America participated in the panel discussions.

In Estoril, all the participants had the opportunity to hear about the relationship between angels and entrepreneurs, the legal/fiscal/administrative framework for business angel investing in Portugal, the role of national federations of networks in supporting angel activity, the European Commission's PRO-INNO initiative and related trans-national initiatives, technology support for business angel networks, capacity building measures for investors and entrepreneurs, business angel investing in the US, co-investment models, and international trends in angel investing.

The objective of the EBAN Congress, the only annual event since 2000 organised around the theme of business angel investing and the role of business angel networks in supporting economic development, is to raise awareness on these issues near policy makers and public authorities in countries where the informal venture capital market is still in its nascent phases more often than not. The organising committee feels that this objective has been fulfilled, as intensive discussions have taken place to introduce fiscal incentives for business angels in Portugal to stimulate further activity, on the model of the UK's successful Enterprise Investment Scheme providing tax incentives up-front and on capital gains and capital losses. Moreover, most of the themes discussed will be picked up and followed through during the upcoming Portuguese presidency, as it is felt that business angel investing is one of the main solutions to the funding gap for innovative and high growth start-ups in Europe.

The EBAN Congress is also an opportunity to learn about exciting new initiatives which have the potential to be replicated elsewhere. This is the case of the now famous French Business Angel Week, organised by France Angels with the collaboration of the French Ministry for SMEs and Handicraft, for the first time in 2006 in 5 cities in 5 days, gathering 1500 people on the theme of BA investing. Based on this initiative, EBAN will look into the possibility of organising a European Business Angel Day in the coming years.

A full report will be available shortly on the EBAN website. Speaker's presentations are already available on [www.eban.org](http://www.eban.org)

Event supported by



## EBAN Second Award Ceremony



The jury this year was composed of the following personalities:

- John May, Chairman of the Angel Capital Association and of the New vantage Group (US)
- Miguel Henriques, from Lena Group (PT)
- Uffe Bundgaard-Joergensen, from Investornet/Gate2Growth (Pan-European)
- Luigi Amati, from Meta Group/EASY Project (Italy/Pan-European)

The jury awarded the following winners this year:

- Business Angel of the year: Hans Bertram, nominated by NeBIB (Netherlands) [www.nebib.nl](http://www.nebib.nl)
- Business angel network manager of the year: Finance South East for the South East Capital Alliance (UK) [www.financesoutheast.com](http://www.financesoutheast.com)
- Most promising exit: POUT nominated by London Business Angels (UK) [www.lbangels.co.uk](http://www.lbangels.co.uk)
- Best new initiative on the market: the Creative Business Accelerator, nominated by London Business Angels [www.lbangels.co.uk](http://www.lbangels.co.uk)

Awards sponsored by:



*The date and location of the next EBAN Congress will be announced shortly on [www.eban.org](http://www.eban.org)*

EBAN - Claire Munck, [info@eban.org](mailto:info@eban.org)

Gesventure – Francisco Banha, [fbanha@gesbanha.pt](mailto:fbanha@gesbanha.pt)

PME Capital– Luís Filipe Costa [luis.costa@pmecapital.pt](mailto:luis.costa@pmecapital.pt)

IAPMEI– José Furtado [jose.furtado@iapmei.pt](mailto:jose.furtado@iapmei.pt)

City Hall of Cascais – Carlos Carreiras, [carlos.carreiras@cm-cascais.pt](mailto:carlos.carreiras@cm-cascais.pt)