



**Title of the project:** Practice based research to enhance the innovation capacity of SMEs through learning and ICT supported collaboration

**Key Action:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

**Action:** Strategic Partnerships

**Field most impacted:** Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

**Main objective of the project:** Development of Innovation

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## ReInnovate a key element for innovation, training and formation

### Web site and ICT platform

The main objectives are:

- Implement an IT platform to support practice based research
- Develop all the necessary support material including training and support material
- Translate the IT platform into five languages

A website detailing the project and a platform for training has been set up, available at <http://www.reinnovate2017.eu/>, The platform was developed as a plug in to the moodle learning management system to allow it to be integrated into existing systems. This will increase usage and allow it to be transferred to other contexts.

The main function are training, in the field of innovation, research in benefit of SMEs, cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, strategic partnerships for vocational education and training, to develop research skills in SME to assist SMEs to find/create the knowledge required to become more competitive, develop a culture of entrepreneurship in SMEs and to help SMEs to become more innovative.

It act as a knowledge repository for individual SMEs allowing the company to retain the knowledge generated during the research process. If individuals leave the organisation the knowledge remains to enable further innovations to take place. If the company wishes they can publish results to allow other companies to see examples of research projects. Learners will be able to search for research projects.

The Learning Methodology work package will examine the future workplace and its implications for SMEs. It will identify the future skills needs of these companies and identify what transversal skills will be required to ensure success in future business. From this the project will develop an accredited curriculum to allow companies to develop these skills. The programme will be entitled: Smart Research as a 21st Century Skill for Business. This curriculum will be accredited following a pilot period.

The work package will also identify how research skills and inquiry-based learning can be used to develop these skills. It will examine pedagogical best practice in adopting such approaches. From this it will develop a learning methodology to leverage from research skills and inquiry-based approaches to satisfy future SME needs.

The Learning Material work package will develop learning material to allow employees in SMEs to become more entrepreneurial. The modules will be based on the needs analysis conducted during the proposal stage, an analysis of future workplace and emerging skills needs as a result. It will also consider the and the ENTRECOMP framework developed by the European commission.

The programme will over four modules in total. These modules will be based on developing practical workplace research skills and will allow those in SMEs to foster an entrepreneurial mindset.

The modules is delivered online and will be translated into English, Lithuanian, German, Spanish and Romanian.

The ICT Platform work package develop a learning platform that will allow learners in SMEs to complete and collaborate on workplace research projects. It will guide learners through the research process, offer collaborative tools, brainstorming facilities. This are done by developing a suite of moodle plug ins that allow the software to be modular.

The tutor can choose the software plugin they require depending on the curriculum requirements and will allow the project results to be applied to a variety of contexts.

This Pilot Results work package demonstrate how workplace practical research skills can be use to develop the entrepreneurial capability of an SME and improve the competitiveness of an SME. One hundred in SMEs will be recruited to take the programme Smart Research as a 21st Century Skill for Business. Learners will be supported to complete the programme using the learning material developed in IO2, a tutor and the ICT platform developed in IO3.

To test the ability of the project to develop the relevant skills learners will undertake a pre and post assessment of their entrepreneurial capacity using an adapted version of an assessment tool such as the intrapreneurial assessment tool.

In addition, learners will be asked to measure a competitive aspect of their company relevant to the research project being under taken prior taking the course and do a comparative analysis of this post programme.

Learner satisfaction of the programme and pedagogical approach will also be measured post programme.

This will be done by disseminating a survey to all learners and completing a content analysis of their reflective diaries.

Using research skills in our curriculum, work package identify how research skills can be developed in different sectors and educational contexts. It explore how research skills can be integrated into existing entrepreneurial programs. To do this it interview SMEs in various sectors regarding how they applied the research skills. It will also conduct a content analysis of existing entrepreneurship programs and interview VET providers about how research skills can be integrated. From this it will develop a report to guide VET providers and SMEs on how to develop research skills in learners in their organisations.

A report entitled 'Integrating practical research skills into entrepreneurship educatio' will be released on the 30th June 2020. This will summarise the results of the workpackage provide a guidance document for those wishing to develop research skills in their organisation.

## Best practices to present the project

### World Cafés organised for the civil society, Nitra, Slovakia, Budapest, Hungary, Vinkovci, Croatia.



The Open Innovation World Cafés have the goal to help build new links and strengthen existing ones between regional initiatives and the Regional innovation systems to create synergies and improve the impact.

The format consists in a whole group interaction method focused on conversations that stimulates a creative process for leading collaborative dialogue.

The event target the civil society in the broader sense:

- 1) the "third sector" of society, distinct from government and business, and including family and private sphere;
- 2) the aggregate of NGOs and institutions that manifest interests and will of citizens;

3) organizations in a society which are independent of the government.

During the event, the activities were opened up towards local and civil society and regional initiatives. By bringing together SMEs, researchers and NGO's new joint project ideas were discussed.

Participants were mostly citizens with various background and motivation.

During the vivid discussion it was agreed that the biggest problems of Budapest are waste management, traffic and air quality.

Bioeconomy has strong potential answering for these challenges. Civil society needs to be enhanced and the cooperation of the different actors has to be strengthened.

There are excellent local level innovations whose impact should be measured. If they prove to be successful, they could be promoted.

More... <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/news-and-events/project-news/3714>



### Project presented to policymakers



Prof. Milan Martinov presented two projects, including the elaborated Local Action Plans to Prof. Dr. Bogdan Lalic, Adviser of Minister for Innovation and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

The signing of innovation partnership agreements is one of the main objectives of the project.

### Workshop dedicated to start-ups, Craiova, Romania, 28 March 2019

IPA Craiova has implemented the ACCES project, which has created 60 start-ups, some innovative in the field of bio-economy.

For these, IPA organized a workshop in which experts presented the insured services (including business internationalization, innovative ideas financing), the Promotion Platform and the project, the opportunity to submit TO / TR, the benefits of the Innovation Audit, the opportunities offer by DTC Network.

Those who set up the Start-ups have missed interest, asked questions and asked to join the Clusters of the profile. The goal was to help build new links and strengthen existing ones between regional initiatives and the Regional innovation systems to create synergies and improve the impact.



## Technology Offers; Technology Request



### Technology Offers

<a href="#">Electronic warning system for wrong-way drivers using radio</a>	Germany
<a href="#">High efficiency catalytic method for the synthesis of mesitylene from acetone in a single stage</a>	Spain
<a href="#">High Resolution Epitope Fingerprinting</a>	Germany
<a href="#">A Romanian research institute is searching for partners for industrial applications</a>	Romania
<a href="#">Optimized extraction of PLFA (Phospholipid Fatty Acid) from soil for gas-chromatographic</a>	Romania

### Technology request

<a href="#">Spanish company is looking for medical device manufacturers for a new endouterine...</a>	Spain
<a href="#">Spanish company is looking for partners for further development of a non-conventional....</a>	Spain
<a href="#">Lithuanian governmental organization working in the field of social security seeks to develop</a>	Lithuania
<a href="#">German university research institute is looking for developer of anti-inflammation compounds</a>	Germany

ReInnovate web site: <http://www.reinnovate2017.eu/>