

INNOVATION COMPANY MODEL – IMODEL PROJECT

Institute for Innovation and Technology,
Korona plus d.o.o.



INNOVATION COMPANY MODEL – iModel project

(Description of the project from the field of Economy)

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Executive summary

Overall objective of the European i-model project was to introduce the innovation management strategy into the wood processing industry. i-model is a frame of methodology, procedures and "ready to implement" materials for introducing an efficient innovation management; i.e. company's diagnostic tool, booklet containing good practice cases, training programme, methodology for designing Strategy and Operational plan, web pages, supporting materials, etc.



Under the project over 100 top and middle managers coming from selected companies were trained to become mentors to over 1000 co-workers, who already participate in innovation processes actively. A short version of i-model, i.e. the so-called Innovation Toolbox was developed. It represents a possibility for a wider sphere of companies, especially small ones, to implement the i-model independently, and thus make use of their employees' innovation potentials efficiently.

The experience gained by the project partners and the companies from Greece, Sweden, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia prove that the project is effective, given that the benefits of the project have already led to concrete economic results in the participating companies. Other companies, coming also from other industries, are offered a possibility to use the i-model and thus increase innovativeness and consequently achieve higher competitiveness.

The added value of the project and its results is expressed in the following aspects:

- ❖ **A new methodology offered to enterprises of the SME sector – a tool supporting the process of diagnosing activities and operations of the enterprise.**
- ❖ **New professional competences acquired by top and middle managers, trainers and advisors working for the SME sector.**
- ❖ **Raising the awareness of the importance of innovation activities in the business sector.**
- ❖ **Research and expert findings concerning the innovation theory and praxis published in Journals and at Conferences.**

Transferability

iModel project was very successful. As an example of good practice it is being transferred also to other countries through Europe:

- ❖ Under the framework of the LLP, Leonardo da Vinci, Transfer of innovation: the project is being transferred to Austria, Italy, Hungary, Ireland and Spain. Project budget (Approved by the European Commission) amounts to 353,925Euro. The Maximum Community Contribution stands at 265,443Euro (app. 75%).
- ❖ Under the framework of the LLP, Leonardo da Vinci, Transfer of innovation: the project was transferred to Spain, Germany, Bulgaria and Greece. Project budget (Approved by the European Commission) amounts to 313,792.00 Euro. The Maximum Community Contribution stands at 226,417.00 Euro (app. 72%).
- ❖ Under the bilateral Programmes: the project was transferred to Serbia.

More detailed description of the project iModel

I. Partners: Leading partner: Korona plus Ltd - Institute for Innovation and Technology (Slovenia), Partners of the project: Hellenic Regional Development Center (Greece), ICDC – Mjärdevi Science Park (Sweden), Cassovia BIC, s.r.o. – Business and Innovation Center (Slovak Republic), Wood Industry Cluster (Slovenia), University of Primorska, Faculty of Management Koper (Slovenia).



II. Project duration and geographical scope: Project duration is 36 months, lasting from 1st December 2004 to 1st December 2007. Project activities were performed in all participating countries, namely Slovenia, Greece, Sweden and the Slovak Republic. Nevertheless, the results of the project are to have a more universal character. i-model provided a business model for implementing innovation process in the companies from the entire EU.

III. Budget: Project budget and the amount approved by the European Commission amounts to 503.803,00 EURO. The maximum Community contribution stands at 377.852,00 EURO (75%).

IV. Target Group: The project's target group covered 8 companies representing wood processing industry and furniture branch in target countries. 107 middle and top managers participated in the programme. Furthermore, 1 165 employees were trained/informed about the tools and methods for more efficient innovation work.

V. Main steps: The specific steps towards achieving the project goals are:

- ❖ analysis of existing situation of innovation management process in selected wood-processing companies in participating countries (analysis "before"),
- ❖ development of innovative learning organisational model on the basis of using modern ICT technologies,
- ❖ preparation and implementation of specific modern in-company training programme for top and middle management from selected companies (SMEs),
- ❖ preparation of innovative strategy and operational plans for selected companies,
- ❖ analysis "after" and optimisation of the i-model.

VI. Booklet: The Book “Managing Innovation and R&D Processes in EU Environment” was developed within iModel project as part of the Training programme. The purpose of the book was to encourage creativity and innovation processes in a company. It covers key topics identified as important – on the basis of theoretical base, analysis of state within the wood industry in the EU or other partner states, findings of adequate researches made on the influential innovation factors, experience from previous work with the employees and the opinion of participants from the wood industry. The book was published in 5 languages:

Slovene: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283463376_Management_inovacijskih_in_RR_procesov_v_EU,

English: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283463535_Managing_Innovation_and_RD_Processes_in_EU_Environment,

Swedish: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292127715_Innovationer_och_FoU_processer_i_europeiskt_perspektiv,

Slovak: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292127586_Riadenie_inovacii_a_vyskumnych_procesov_v_prostredi_EU and

Greek: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292127575_iacheirise_Kainotomias_kai_iadikasion_E_reunas_kai_Anptyxes_sto_Europaiko_Periballon

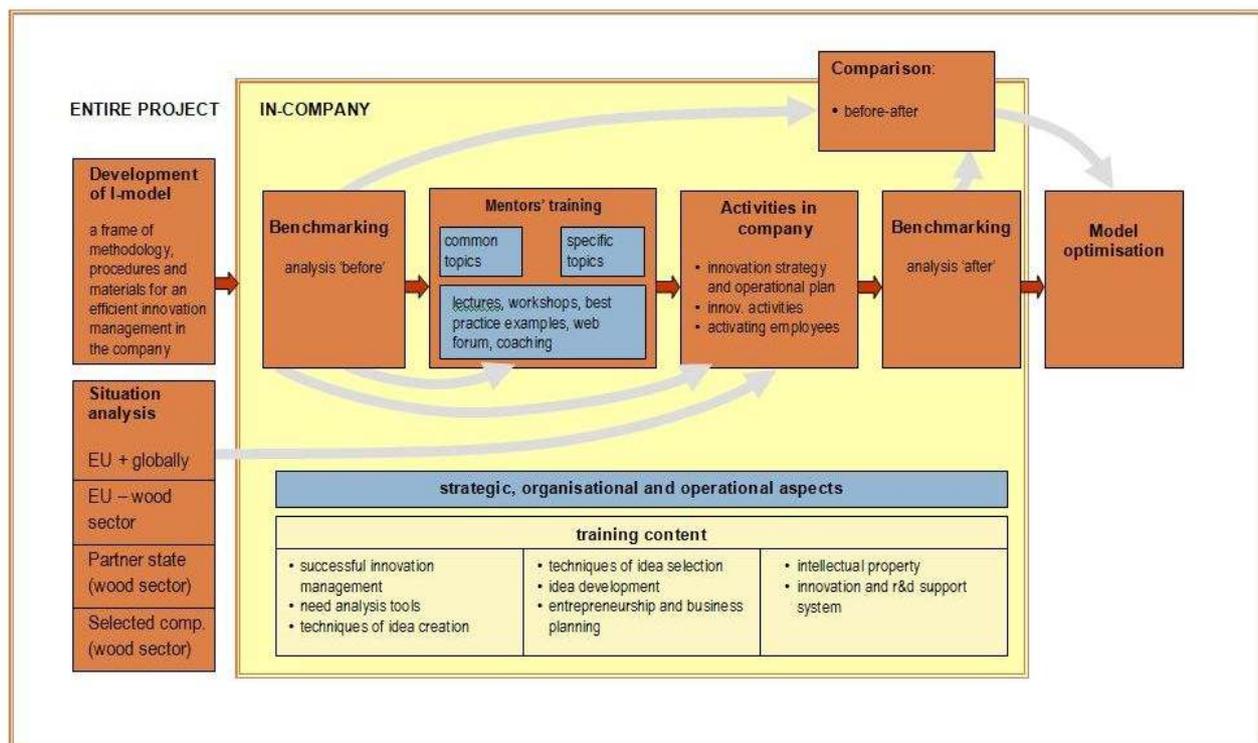


Figure 1: The concept of iModel project

Presentation of the Organization

Institute for Innovation and Technology, Korona plus d.o.o.

Institute for Innovation and Technology is an innovatively oriented organisation from Slovenia with its mission closely linked to rising innovativeness in schools, economy and among the youth in Slovenia, which is an integral part of EU. The organisation operates in close cooperation with a wide network of specialists of various professional profiles and collaborates with national and foreign organisations. The Institute has been developing the area of creativity, innovation-open innovation and technology transfer for over two decades.



Professionally, morally and financially the projects and therefore the development of innovative young people in this period were supported by many national and also international institutions/projects. About 100 successful research, applied, technological and other national and EU projects have been carried out (Ministries, Public Agency for Technology of the Republic of Slovenia, Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, the ESF– European Social Fund, Phare MOCCA, Leonardo da Vinci, FP7 etc.) numerous books and comics published, several award competitions, numerous conferences and exhibitions implemented at home and abroad, several cooperation with the economy established, tenths of widely recognised and expert papers... Owing to the uniqueness of their concept, the Institute was invited to present its concept at the United Nations' headquarters in Geneva as one of the best European concepts as well as at the Closing Conference of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation in Stockholm.

In addition, the Institute for Innovation and Technology has developed ten patents, numerous innovations, countless models and copyright works, many of which proved to be extremely marketable - nationally and internationally.

Project Leader's short Biography

prof. dr. Borut Likar, MBA

Likar is a full professor at the University of Primorska. His work encompasses management of creativity, R&D, technology, and innovation processes in the field of educational system and industry. He is the author of hundreds of scientific, expert and other publications, initiator of several international projects and the author of patents, models and copyright works - many proved to be extremely marketable. He is an innovator and a recipient of many international awards for his innovations and for scientific achievements. Among numerous lectures he has given, the talks at the United Nations' headquarters in Geneva and at the European Parliament in Brussels were met with a particularly wide response. Likar is also the amateur photographer, where he is particularly interested in creative and innovative approaches to photography. He also engages in writing aphorisms, which were published internationally.