

Science2Society boosting the innovation efficiency across Europe

The EU-funded project titled "Science2Society" will assess mechanisms through which universities, research organisations, society and industry collaborate to improve innovation processes and their effectiveness in society. The project is carried out by a consortium of 18 participating organisations which are based in seven European countries: Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK.

The overall mission of Science2Society is to understand and improve the efficiency of the European innovation system and the ways it creates new businesses, turns technology into products and services, attracts financing and generally creates value from academic research.

Key schemes currently used to encourage use of innovations are studied in the form of seven separate pilots. In particular, these pilots cover the following questions:

Pilot 1: Co-Creation

How can products be developed in a Virtual Idea Laboratory together with future users?

Pilot 2: Co-Location

How to establish industry innovation labs within universities?

Pilot 3: Collaborative R&D Projects

How to set-up, facilitate and reward cross-organisational research teams?

Pilot 4: Intersectoral Staff Mobility

How can intersectoral staff mobility be established between universities, RTOs and other companies?

Pilot 5: Big Research Data Transfer

How to motivate researchers to share their data and industry to take advantage out of it?

Pilot 6: University Knowledge Transfer

What is necessary to improve 1-to-1 knowledge transfer from academia to SMEs?

Pilot 7: Open Innovation Marketplace

How to connect universities, RTOs, industries, SMEs and start-ups with online knowledge marketplaces.

In-depth look at Pilot 1

For example, the first pilot (**Co-creation, Product development with future users in a Virtual Idea Laboratory (ProVIL)**) is a product development project with about 50 students from mechanical engineering and 10 students from industrial engineering held at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). The students will develop product concepts in the field of mobility answering a task assignment from the automotive car manufacturer Fiat. ProVIL consists of four phases starting with an initial research phase followed by the creating of product profiles and product ideas and ending with the creation of product concepts. The hub for the open innovation process is an innovation platform allowing to systematically perform co-creation in a virtual environment between the students and the car maker.

For more detailed information see the ProVIL-video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhWLBhRm9LI>

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