



Our project is coming to an end... but what we learnt?

The main objective of the ECOS4IN project is the improvement of regional innovation capacity by close transnational cooperation among RIS3 stakeholders on Industry 4.0 implementation. After three years of partner cooperation, we are closing project activities granted from Interreg Central Europe program and we are looking for ideas and tools for further ecosystem development.

From our personal point of view, we see three main points, lessons learned from project implementation important for innovation ecosystem development

1.) Human centred approach

Covid pandemic opened a great market window for digitization technologies, from online meeting through virtual product presentation to virtual maintenance etc. It opens new opportunities for start-ups and technology providers for example in technologies like digital twins, virtual and augmented reality. Same situation is also in cybersecurity, strongly important in remote work, and now amplified by Russian aggression not only in Ukraine.



On the other hand, we must understand that there is technology push, but these technologies must be implemented by real people, not by robots. So important is also relevant management methods, skills and communication across whole „quadruple helix“. There is also role of trade unions and consumers.

Covid pandemic is an opportunity, but also show to us a limit of digital communication, online fatigue, limited opportunity to developed common trust between remote teams, increasing aggressivity in communication through social networks. In next years, we must find the right balance between online and offline communication.

2.) Start with why - strategy is crucial!

Second point is the role of strategy management in digital tools implementation. We have recognized constraints in usage only static view on SME digitization, for example digital maturity models. Companies need tools for evaluation digitization impacts not only in technology infrastructure, but on performance of internal and external processes and influence on market situation. So complex tool for evaluation of digitization returns of investment, dynamic view on SME strategy.

3.) Ecosystem configurations depend on regional innovation maturity

Last point we have discussed during project several times, but we think that this is also important. It is nice to recognize several best practices, but we must be careful with transfer to another region due to different regional Innovation maturity. Best practice is for us an inspiration, but implementation must be fine-tuned to our specific conditions. There is crucial role of intermediary's organisation like clusters, Industry 4.0 information hubs, business support organisations and Digital Innovation Hub. They must understand problem (and best practice solution) in detail and be able to concentrate resources for ecosystem performance improvement.

We think that this ECOS4IN lesson learned could be a good point for thinking about follow-up activities, for new projects or informal cooperation among ECOS4IN partners in future. I hope that our network will be preserved!

ECOS4IN project in the International Engineering Fair in Brno

The International Engineering Fair (IEF) is the most important industrial fair in Central Europe.

The International Engineering Fair took place in Brno, Czech Republic, on November 8-12, 2021. All key fields of machinery and electrical engineering industry were represented, with primary focus on machining and forming. IEF's spotlight was Industry 4.0 and Digital Factory, i.e. digitisation in production, one of the key trends of the innovation process.



Usti region had its own stand located next to the expositions of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The individual days were rotated by presentations on the topic of the hydrogen economy, for example, and one day was also devoted to digitization. On this occasion, the ECOS4IN project was introduced to the public. Furthermore, the presentation focused on the development of the digital ecosystem and especially the preparation of the digital innovation Hub, as one of the activities related to the support of ECOS4IN projects.

It was an excellent occasion to promote our project results.

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