



Newsletter

1st semester – June 2018-November 2018

Short introduction of our Inno Provovement project

Industry 4.0 (I4.0) affects innovation activities of companies throughout Europe to a dynamically increasing extent. Failing to turn production or service provision adapted to I4.0 results in losing clients and markets. In our project it will be primarily SMEs that we intend to assist so that they can **better address the challenges this new paradigm** imposes to increase their competitiveness. Partners' experience suggests that policy instruments (PIs) targeted to SME innovation often struggle to support I4.0 related projects efficiently.

With 8 partners from 5 regions INNOPROVEMENT aims at improving SME PIs targeting innovation activities and adapting them to requirements set by I4.0. **This overall objective will increase the share and number of SMEs successfully implementing I4.0 related innovation projects in the partners' regions and countries.**

Project partners:

- Ministry of Finance (Hungary)
- ICT Association of Hungary (Hungary)
- Ministry of Industry and Trade CR (Czech Republic)
- Region of Thessaly (Greece)
- Marche Region (Italy)
- COMPETE 2020 Management Authority for Competiveness and Internationality Operational Programme (Portugal)
- Lodzkie Region (Poland)
- Regional Council of Kainuu (Finland)

The project based on 7 thematic issues which will be explored by partners through intense experience exchange:

- Innovation in software development;
- Effectiveness of public money used to support industrial R&D under I4.0;
- Introducing I4.0 to traditional industries;
- Definition of I4.0 public policy initiatives;
- Adjusting calls to I4.0 requirements;
- Market price assessment methodologies;
- Definition of an I4.0 maturity evaluation matrix.



Sharing transferable good practices from these 7 thematic issues will be central among project activities. **Using the outcomes partners will elaborate action plans to improve their PIs.** The experiences of the exchanges will be used for setting up the action plans. Improvements of the addressed PIs (mainly calls for proposals) will take place primarily at the level of management of the instruments. **The composition of the partnership contributes substantially to durability of project results since the 7 action plans will be elaborated by MAs and IBs directly responsible for the management of the addressed PIs.** INNOPROVEMENT's approach ensures 4 levels of learning. The project lies on a sound project management and implements a targeted communication strategy.

We are very excited to work together with the Inno provement partners and work out and implement interesting and useful action plans together. You can follow the working process and the result on the [Interreg Europe website](#). For more updates connect Inno Provement on [LinkedIn](#) and follow [@inno_provement](#) on Twitter. Should you have any question or specific interest please contact [your national Inno Provement partner organisation](#).



The project will be implemented with financial support from the European Union.

Inno Provement online kick-off meeting in July 2018

The Inno Provement project has started on 1st June 2018. On 11th July the first meeting was held in the Inno Provement project. As the project has started in the summer the most important issues and tasks for the official kick-off event was discussed online. All of the partners joined the call in which the details about the following kick-off meeting and the 13th Annual Conference of Competitiveness OPs in Budapest were discussed.

The Hungarian Ministry of Finance, as the lead partner presented a short overview of the project and summarized the main activities, outputs, tasks and the approved budget for the following years. The first steps of the project implementation were discussed and questions were answered.



At the kick-off meeting the partners will present their hosted topics connected to the project and their organisations. The project partners are looking forward to meet each other in Budapest on the kick-off event of Inno Provovement.

Kick off meeting of Inno Provovement in Budapest (24. October 2018.)

The first meeting of the Inno Provovement project was an online meeting but on 24 October the time has arrived for the official kick-off event of the project. The project partners of the Inno Provovement project has arrived to Budapest for the invitation of the Hungarian Ministry of Finance as the lead partner to get to know each other better and to receive important information for the first outputs of the project.

The project meeting divided into two half. The morning session was a closed steering committee meeting with discussions on the following tasks in the project and brief presentations by each partner about their organization, managed financing tools and selected thematic issue. After the useful discussions between the partners the afternoon session was a public event with full of interesting round table and panel discussions with the participation of SMEs and other companies and



also with stakeholders which ones successfully implemented Industry 4.0 solutions in the daily work. In the first panel three Hungarian companies presented the work they have done on the way of automatization and digitalization and how they used financial resources from EU funds to do so. In the second round table stakeholders from Hungary, Finland and Portugal had a moderated discussion about what is the most efficient way to support these companies. The official kick off day was closed with a summary of the day.

On the days after the kick-off event there was the international annual conference of competitiveness operational programmes organized by the Hungarian Ministry of Finance for the 13th time. Most of the project partners stayed for the conference and held a presentation or participated in panel discussions of the event. One of the sessions of the conference was dedicated to the challenges of Industry 4.0 in preparing calls for proposals which topic was influenced by the Inno Provovement project and had several participants from the partnership of the project among the discussants and also in the audience.



The kick-off day and the following conference was very useful for the partnership and the project partners left Budapest with a lot of impressions and information for the implementation of the project. The partnership is going to meet each other in the Czech Republic in March 2019. The partners are looking forward to present the first draft of their regional policy assessment.