



What is Innovative Trainer

The Innovative Trainer Programme (ITP) which has been funded with support from the European Commission will increase the capacity of Business Trainers and Mentors (BTMs) to support SMEs throughout Europe by developing a “Train the Trainer” blended learning training resource on non-technological innovation. By updating their skills, BTMs will be better placed

to provide guidance on how to innovate to small businesses, better adapting their services to changing business beneficiary groups & sectors and ultimately improving the innovation performance and growth of the enterprises they serve. The justification for the project is clear: SMEs are crucial to Europe’s future prosperity and are essential in attaining the goal of “a sustainable economy based on knowledge and innovation”. Alongside improving the institutional framework for business, BTMs are Europe’s key players in developing innovation and growth within SMEs, and do so via range of public and private bodies

INNOVATION - Not just Product Related



1 Courtesy Innovation Union

The Innovation Union – the flagship European Commission project supports the work of Innovative Trainer. They also look at the whole area of **NON TECHNICAL INNOVATION**.

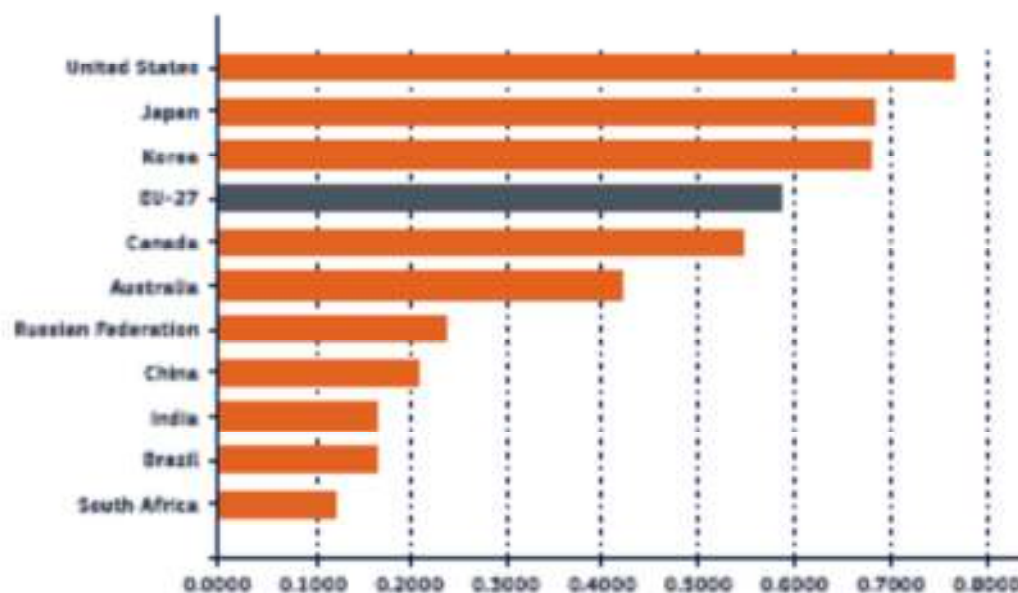


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So how is Europe Doing?

EU-27 PERFORMANCE IN INNOVATION COMPARED TO MAIN COMPETITORS - Innovation Union Scoreboard 2011



2 Courtesy innovation Union

Europe's future is connected to its power to innovate. The Innovation Union, an action-packed initiative for an innovation-friendly Europe, is the solution. It forms part of the Europe 2020 strategy that aims to create smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. For more information on this detail, please go to <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/innovation-union-pbKI3213062/>

Innovative Trainer – Out and About

Dublin and Bucharest were the hubs for Innovative Trainer activity in recent months, with the Innovative Trainer team presenting papers to the prestigious gatherings at eChallenges and Productica2014. eChallenges is the annual EU Commission sponsored technology research conference, while Productica is sponsored by the Romanian Academy of Sciences and this year focused on "From productivity to Innovation in Global Competitiveness". Both workshops were extremely well attended by innovation practitioners and academics from across Europe.

Catch the Innovative Trainer Team at the International Council for Small Business worldwide conference in June 2014 (www.icsb2014.org)

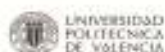




3 eChallenges, Dublin 2013



4 Katrin Reschwamm of Switzerland , addresses the eChallenges conference



**Innovation is everywhere,
for example:**

- In the private sector: Companies placing design at the heart of their practices
- In the public sector: Online public services saving people time and money
- In the third sector: Quality care for the elderly by social innovators

The word cloud contains the following terms: INNOVATION, TEAMWORK, CREATIVE, ORIGINAL, DESIGN, VISION, PROJECT, ANSWERS, SOLUTIONS, PARTNERSHIP, INSPIRATION, SUCCESS, ADVICE, SMART, BRAINSTORMING, THINKING, CORPORATE, INVENTION, EUREKA, EXPERTISE, CO-OPERATION, IDEAS, TEAM, SUCCEED, PROBLEM-SOLVING, WITH, DESIGN, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORA, ANSWERS, SOLUTIONS, BRAINSTORMING, INSPIRATION, SMART, ORIGINAL, ADVICE, SUCCESS, PROBLEM-SOLVING, ANSWERS, TEAM.



Project partners are:

Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, Northern Ireland
Louth County Enterprise Board Ireland
Universitatea POLITEHNICA din Bucuresti, Romania
Canice Consulting, Northern Ireland
Mindshare Consulting, France
Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain
European Business and Innovation Network, Belgium
National Enterprise Network, United Kingdom

How do I get more information?

The development phase of the project will last two years, with a final project review in October 2014. During the two years of the project the partners will be releasing materials and studies and soliciting feedback from the business and training communities.

The project website www.innovativetrainer.eu/en/ is the primary source for information about the project, or you can email the project team directly at info@innovativetrainer.eu

What is Innovative Trainer going to deliver?

Firstly, the project will raise the quality of training available to business trainers and mentors, by carrying out a Baseline Audit then developing an innovative training resource which blends classroom based real life learning & interaction, with online course content. The training goal is not only to teach the knowledge they require to provide expert, personalized assistance, but to improve their performance as mentors & teachers. This in turn will have a significant impact of the survival & growth rates of the start-up and early stage businesses they work. The non-technological innovation "train the trainer" course will be piloted tested with 36 BTMs & also with 60 individuals facing difficulties accessing the labour market- who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the course. The piloted materials will then be made available to business trainers, consultants and mentoring organisations across Europe.

