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Transnational pilot – Work plan / Roadmap. ICT and electronics

Version 1

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1 INTRODUCTION

Transnational pilot on ICT and electronics integrates two work plans elaborated by responsible duo partners, namely Croatian Chamber of Economy and Košice IT Valley. This synthesis composed of two work plans constitutes one of the pilot activities that will be implemented within CHAIN REACTIONS.

The main aim of this pilot work plan is to define collective actions to implement the potentials for value chain innovation processes identified during the value chain analysis of ICT and electronics carried out within the project. The actions proposed within this transnational pilot shall durably increase the maturity level of each relevant regional support ecosystem and its capacity to generate value chain innovation processes by using the toolbox developed within CHAIN REACTIONS.

Pilots will enable the project partners and their key regional stakeholders to deepen their knowledge of value chain innovation processes in general and a deep understanding on how they apply specifically in regional businesses and value chains. By using the models and instruments developed they will reach autonomy in the use of models and instruments for supporting and monitoring innovation in their home region and will be able to contribute to transnational innovation processes.

The pilot implementation of value chain innovation tools and models builds on the following project activities:

- Definition of a value chain innovation model and an innovation toolbox.
- Implementation of regional stakeholder groups – Innovation and Growth Alliances (IGAs) in the regions of Croatia and Košice (Slovakia) – willing to test the models and instruments developed in CHAIN REACTIONS.
- Value chain analysis of ICT and electronics with a specific focus on computer programming.

The elaboration of particular work plans was preceded by the organization of pilot definition workshops, where individual project partners in cooperation with WP leader and BWCON defined and prioritized relevant collective actions within selected sectors and discussed potential ideas to be implemented within their pilot work plans.

Each of the two work plans within this transnational pilot on ICT and electronics will be implemented separately by responsible duo partner. However, cross-cutting synergies will be achieved through the mutual involvement of duo partners in selected activities, as well as in the evaluation process. In this way, transnational character of the pilot will be ensured as well. It will be strengthened also through the involvement of other project partners in particular activities within each work plan. A dedicated section was developed in the pilot template to define the specific role of other partners in the implementation of each work plan. In addition to this, BWCON will be involved in all pilots to provide innovation tools support. On the consortium level, all project partners will be involved in exchanging on the pilots.

The results of the pilots will be monitored and evaluated with respect to both the value chain innovation approach as a triple-helix process for improving regional innovation ecosystems and the models and instruments. Feedback shall be used to improve the models and instruments integrated within WP T1.

2 TRANSNATIONAL PILOT WORK PLAN – CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY

2.1 Scope

Scope of the pilot activity is set on improving the value chain innovation of the computer programming sector. The aim of the pilot activity is to determine how to efficiently use the in favor aspects described in the analysis (namely, well-educated workforce with relatively lower costs) to mitigate the deficiencies of the national surroundings (namely, need to differentiate the products). In other words, the pilot project aims to define how to efficiently transform challenges (2.1.5.; 2.2.4.; need to differentiate products) to opportunities (2.2.4. digitalization of other industries). By implementing hackathon and matchmaking events we aim to positively influence on the ICT sector end expand its value chain possibilities.

National S3 places ICT sector in a peculiar position. Foremost, its applicability is placed in development of each of the S3 recognized sectors ("Due to these characteristics and its role in further technological development, ICT has been selected as a cross-cutting theme S3 with the aim of further developing certain areas of application that can support the development of all five identified thematic priority areas" (National S3,page 169). Its applicability and relevancy for upgrading the Healthcare services, Nutritionist services, Energy technologies, Ecology, Security sector, Sustainable production and processing of food etc., meaning that ICT is a relevant factor for a number of issues. Of course, this also goes hand in hand with the need and the opportunity to develop and diversify the innovation processes for the ICT sector as well, raising their own value chain value.

Regarding the ICT sector in itself, S3 places a priority in developing the e-infrastructure. Points of interest, or points of expansion so to say, vary from Robotics, Internet of things, Big data etc., all of which can find their place in any sector relevant to the CHAIN REACTIONS project as well.

Situation made by COVID-19 pandemic presents a necessary factor to consider, and ICT sector can be used to improve the value chain of other sectors by offering innovations as a response to this new situation, while at the same time diversifying the regional ICT sector products.

2.2 Objectives

Pilot project will aim to influence the value chain innovation in a few steps. Firstly, a hackathon will be organized with the aim of our ICT sector actors propose the best solutions for problems our project partners are facing. The pilot project will involve collaboration with our partners do determine the scope of ideas for our ICT sector to contribute. That would be the thematic framework of hackathon. Our initial suggestion is to steer the ideation process towards COVID-19 situation (or any similar future one) mitigation.

The hackathon would involve relevant sector actors wanting to improve their value chain by diversifying their products and services. This solution will be beneficial in a twofold way, as it will diversify the ICT sector products (thus increasing the quality of its value chain innovation) on one hand, and improve the value chain of our project partner related sectors through innovation. Our IGA members will be

involved in planning the event and evaluating the proposals, as we take in count their skills and knowledge needed to detect and steer the potential of the proposed ideas.

Secondly, the two collaborations with our project partners would take place in a form of a match-making event, offering the best tailored solutions to interested stakeholders. In that regard, we'd proceed to using stakeholder mapping and generation of product service system ideas, depending on our possibilities and our partners' needs.

In a sentence, the aim is to improve the value chain of the ICT sector by service product and service enhancement, or specifically defined as product differentiation, developed mutually according to the needs of our pilot partners.

2.3   Partners involved

- Matchmaking events would take collaboration with our pilot project partners. Specifically, *Styria Technology Park (STP)* and *RDA Pilsen* would define the themes their sectorial SME would need to improve in order to positively influence their value chain needs. Hackathon would present an ideation process needed to diversify the products tailor made for specific needs of our partners.
- *Košice IT Valley* will be our duo partner that will evaluate the pilot and implementation process on a 6-month basis.
- *IGA members* will be included in the evaluation of the ideas and the preparation of the hackathon event.

2.4   Activities, milestones, timeline and responsibilities

Firstly, a line of communication with our project partners would be made to define their needs and possibilities along with the potential of the ICT sector. CCE would communicate with our project partners and analyze the data for our ICT sector.

Timeframe: 2-4 months, October 2020.

Along with the communication with our partners CCE will communicate with IGA members what is the best way to utilize the potential of the regional ICT sector. Preparations for hackathon would take place.

Timeframe: 2-4 months, February 2021.

With all the gathered data organization of the hackathon and the event itself will take place. The event would be thematically scoped in agreement with our project partners and IGA members, involving the regional SMEs.

Timeframe: 2-4 months, June 2021.

The data gathered from hackathon will be gathered and analyzed and made approachable for our project partners sector needs. Preparation for matchmaking event would take place based on the gathered data.

Timeframe: 2-4 months, October 2021.

Matchmaking event would take place to mutually benefit the improvement of the value chain our ICT sector but also our project partners as well.

Timeframe: 2-3 months, January 2022.

2.5   Indicators

1 hackathon organized

2 matchmaking events organized

2.6   Risk assessment

The main risk would be that the regional ICT SMEs do not recognize the potential of collaboration with our project partners. This is a realistic problem, as there is no guarantee that any of the ideas would be well received and there are no visible benefits for the SMEs, while their workload would increase.

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3   TRANSNATIONAL PILOT WORK PLAN – KOŠICE IT VALLEY

3.1   Scope

The ICT sector is a key economic driver of the 21st century and it is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Slovakia is no exception, where ICT sector brings job opportunities of a new quality, diversifies the national economic structure, supports export performance and helps the country to build a knowledge-based economy. A solid position of ICT sector is also demonstrated by the presence of foreign owned companies as well as strong domestic companies. Dynamic growth of ICT usage in all business processes in Slovakia indicates a high potential of ICT sector for the further development.

Further development of the ICT sector in Slovakia depends on a number of factors, the most important are the availability of adequate workforce, inspiring incentives in order to set R&D divisions within companies and product differentiation.

Opportunities

- Support of SMEs can lead to new thriving digital startups
- ICT sector is not as much destroyed as others sectors after COVID19 and can offer new innovative perspectives at healthcare for the future
- Deepening the trialogue between academia, business and public sectors (as well as sharing of know-how as a result of international cooperation) can bring new business ideas

Challenges:

- Educational system is not linked to the practical needs, especially in the area of technical sciences, which leads to the lack of adequate workforce.
- Global manufacturers/suppliers with strong brand strength take a significant share of the market and thus disadvantage small, domestic companies.

3.1.1   Link to national S3

The involvement of Košice IT Valley and is linked to priority number 3 of the Slovak RIS3 with its focus on ICT and Services. Specific relevance is given to topics related to the Digital Agenda and the promotion of e-commerce and SMEs online.

3.2   Objectives

- Involvement of SMEs
- Involvement of a public
- Response to COVID-19
- Cooperation of academia and business

3.3   Partners involved

CCIAA Padova
- Sharing experiences and the needs of stakeholders in the field of health – trainings, conferences
- Innovative solutions of SMEs from Italy - Digital and technological solutions used during the COVID 19 pandemic
- Joint online meeting for ICT and Health companies
- Experts to join the conference/trainings

CCE-ZCC
- Experts to join the conference/trainings
- Joint online meeting for ICT and Health companies
- Innovative solutions of SMEs from Croatia - Digital and technological solutions used during the COVID 19 pandemic

IGAs
- Reflecting the needs of local community
- Cooperation and organization of events of Digital Fall
- Events open to all project partners and IGA members + interested SMEs

3.4   Activities, milestones, timeline and responsibilities

KEITVA - Online meeting (training) – July 2020 - With the help pf IGAs + interested SMEs – transnational activity.
Topic: *Business after coronavirus*

KEITVA - Digital Fall - 2020 October/November – transnational activity
2 meetups/conferences/training with aim to raise awareness about ICT sector, to point out the role of ICT sector after pandemic sector and the importance of linkages between ICT sector and health. Secondary goal is to attract the new workforce which is missed especially in SMEs.

KEITVA COVID 19 testing room - **March 2021 –** regional activity
The number of COVID-19 cases worldwide has surpassed two million people. The number of patients is putting extraordinary strain on medical staff around the world. With the aim to help the local NHS staff, IT Valley would like to participate on setting up the testing room (incl. digital tools) for virtual health.

KEITVA - Digital Fall 2021 - 2021 October/November - transnational activity
2 meetups, conferences and training with aim to raise awareness about ICT sector and to attract the new workforce.

3.5 Indicators

Organizations of total 6 activities (trainings, discussion, workshops, hackathon…) – app. 2 each 6 months.

3.6 Risk assessment

- Unclear situation after corona in business sector, some of IGA members can be affected
- National restrictions (still national status of emergency)
- Fear of pandemic (people will not attend meetings personally)
- Too many activities postponed to fall 2020, people will have to choose which one to attend