The INNOCORE project

InnoCore is an ERASMUS+ project that will address the needs of MSc and PhD students, postdocs, researchers and professionals working in academic and non-academic research infrastructures.

Specifically, it will provide training opportunities to these target groups in:

i) increasing their entrepreneurial mindset;

ii) training highly skilled professionals capable of boosting the innovation processes;

iii) improving their employability beyond the academic career as well as their self-employability (i.e. start-up creation).

1. Purpose of the INNOCORE network

INNOCORE network is intended to bring academia and industries in biotech field together and promote the convergence in objectives and activities. This cooperation will be grounded on the education of new professional figures that can fill the skills’ gap between academia and industry.

The main objectives of the collaboration are:

- Connect enterprises and students
- Engage students in industrial activities and challenges
- Create market-oriented curricula for biotech students
- Share knowledge (and facilities)
- Foster innovation

2. Advantages

1. Advantages for industry: Be in contact with cutting edge research; participate and contribute in educating new professional figures; individuate collaboration opportunities; request professional training on INNOCORE themes.

2. Advantages for research facility: Access to market-oriented organizations. Opportunity to structure collaboration between complementary stakeholders and build strong innovation clusters

3. Advantages for students: Knowledge and command of new technologies. Creation of a personal network in the Biotech industry, thanks to the possibility to engage in practical professional activities.

4. Advantages for innovation agencies: Increased competitiveness, improved productivity, reduced costs, new partnerships and relations, improved brand recognition, increased GDP and improved employment
5. **Advantages for investors:** An integrated system and workforce ready. Reliability of a structured cooperation among relevant stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem. Deal flow to get an advanced portfolio, therefore a probable reduction of risk on future investments.

3. **Conditions for participation**

Entitled entities include innovation driven enterprises, corporates, research facilities staff, students, innovation agencies, investors, public authorities

1. **Voluntary clause:**
   - Entities will join the platform on voluntary base, and will withdraw from it with a simple communication
   - Each entity will be allowed to exploit an independent activity in the INNOCORE perimeter

2. **Thematic areas**
   - Each entity at the moment of registration will select all the thematic areas and use cases in which they would like to be involved
   - Flexible working groups will be organized depending on preferences about use cases and thematic areas
   - Thematic areas are:
     i. Proteomics and protein characterization
     ii. Advanced imaging
     iii. Genomics
     iv. HTS for drug discovery

3. **Network management**
   - Network activities will be managed following the use cases structures
   - Working groups will be structured for each use case and animated by a responsible from project partners
   - The groups animators will do their best to minimize time and effort and make communication and actions effective and of added value for all the participants
   - A description of the use cases can be found in the following chapter, together with expected effort from participating entities.

4. **Obligations:**
   - The participation is free of charge
   - Entities will use all possible attention to improve the cooperation inside the INNOCORE use cases on a good Will basis
     i. By actively participating in the working groups activities including requests for information, student engagement and meetings
     ii. By sharing their knowledge (IP protected) and competences, if needed
     iii. By making available the most relevant results of their activity (IP protected)

5. **Intellectual property rights:**
   - IPR will be granted and discussed case-based
   - **Background, foreground, side ground rights will be shaped to**
     i. Protect inventor rights
ii. Defining the Industrialization Rights share
iii. Granting the existing background IP rights to the owner labs
iv. Granting cross license agreement needed for potential industrial exploitation rights
v. All other specificity

6. Funding:
   - All the activities foreseen in the use cases will be provided free of charge
   - Possible commercial agreement to go beyond the scope of the use cases can be activated between participants according to their internal procedures.

7. Privacy and data management
   - All data will be treated according to GDPR

4. USE CASES:
Selected use cases for the Innocore project are:

   • Organization of Internships
   • Organization of industrial challenges for students
   • Organization of the INNOCORE DAY
   • Involvement in the definition of business-oriented academic and professional courses
   • Joint projects

Organization of Internships
This use case fosters the students’ competences and gives them a possibility to acquire multidisciplinary skills related to the professional world outside of the university. They can complement their academic training, while cultivating a portfolio of contacts that can be of great use to them in their future professional development

Main educational purposes:

   • Integration in the teams of the companies for developing projects.
   • Professional development
   • Exploring career options
   • Professional socialization
   • Promote applied research

Required effort from participants:

   • Availability and interest to host students for 3-6 months internship
   • Participation at the coordination meetings to organize the internship

Innocore challenge
A challenge is a driven innovation initiative aiming at supporting SMEs in testing and improving products, or services. Furthermore, from the perspective of the participants (solvers) it is an opportunity to train skills and introduce new competences related to the world of innovation and the life of a company.
From the perspective of companies, challenges are an increasingly popular tool for implementing open innovation (i.e. collaboration with third parties to solve an industrial problem). From the point of view of training, we could talk about Open Education, a process in which the search for the solution to the problem is a tool to train the participants.

The pilot Innocore Challenge will be organized in the second semester of 2021.

The challenge process also includes intensive training for students and professionals related to challenge topics and innovation.

**Required effort from participants:**

- Sharing of industrial challenge to be presented to solvers
- Availability to support students during the challenges and to participate in relevant meetings
- Availability to share information and knowledge with students (IP protected)

**Innocore courses**

- Innoco training in core technologies and innovation management integrates the complementary expertise in the education and research on technologies of core importance for innovation in life science held at the participating Higher Education Institutions participating in the project: the University of Trento, the University of Coimbra and the University of Masaryk.
- The Innoco Courses include teaching on i) Genomics, ii) High-Throughput for Drug Discovery, iii) Proteomics and Protein characterization, iv) Advanced Imaging. An entrepreneurial course includes topics such as i) I&E and Innovation Management, ii) Regulations and Quality in Healthcare.

**Required effort from participants:**

- Involvement in the course to engage students with industrial needs
- Participation of company’s staff in training courses

**Joint projects**

The aim of this use case is draw up a best practices document to encourage and simplify the interaction between enterprises, universities, core facilities and research centres.

- Share R&D ideas and requests for collaboration.
- Share opinion about specific topics.
- Activate projects.
- Enterprises or academy members can start a conversation about a specific topic.
- Enterprises or facilities staff can place a request for specific competence.
- Moderator helps to find the right competences also using INNOCORE database.

**Required effort from participants:**
• commit to participate at the pilot
• Proposals for interaction between enterprises universities, core facilities and research centres
• Availability in the creation of price lists of the services provided
• Indicate a contact person who will take care of streamlining administrative procedures