

Project idea name (up to 250 characters, incl. spaces): **Fostering knowledge spillover to society through collaborative research results validation, procurement and funding digital infrastructure** (*very preliminary*)

Project idea acronym (up to 20 characters, incl. spaces): **Knowledge crowdfunder** (*very preliminary*)

4. Specific challenge to be addressed

Please describe the challenge you want to address in relation to the selected Programme specific objective. Please also indicate the need for transnational cooperation. (Remaining characters: 1,500)

Capacity for innovation depends on agility of academia-industry-public sector relationships. Societal expectations towards universities and other academic institutions have changed: universities are expected to be more and more entrepreneurial and to fulfill their so-called third role and adapt their innovation and research activities to meet broad societal challenges and at same time be more oriented on specific needs of SMEs. The main challenge is to find new connectivity tools and collaborations modes of researchers, entrepreneurs, investors and non-profit organisations to increase the private sector competitiveness but also to increase contribution of the private sector to validation of applied research results and to research funding. Still, academia often lacks the ability to translate research into business activity and wider societal. Business sector, particularly SMEs, but also smaller municipalities and NGOs have often very limited access to universities' science and research due to limited financial and time resources.

Our project addresses continuing innovation readiness and connectivity gap in this quaternary relationship and addresses the need for new enhanced research cooperation solution. The project builds on the recent rapid developments in the field of crowdfunding and crowdsourcing combined with open innovation by using these approach and tools to create new kind of knowledge transfer and science communication channels, science commercialisation possibilities and joint funding, investment and sponsoring opportunities that facilitate the collaboration between business, public sector; NGOs and academia in terms of optimal pooling and sharing of and scientific knowledge, application based know-how, human and financial resources.

5. Main project activities, outputs and results

Please describe the main activities planned in your project and indicate main outputs. Please also describe who will be using these main outputs and what change your project would make to the Baltic Sea region. (Remaining characters: 3,000)

The Project aims at developing (prototyping) collaborative research procurement (public and private) and funding (incl. investment) digital infrastructure.

Sub-activities (future WPs):

- Scanning / mapping main challenges, problems in innovative capacity and academia - business connectivity that inhibit knowledge spillover and procurement or research results in traditional and emerging industries, incl. ICT, health services and renewable energy (poorly understandable research findings, barriers between research results and commercialization, limited financial and human resources of individual SMEs for research, too rigid research frameworks, etc.) in industry-academia and local governments & NGOs

- academia collaboration with the aim to identify the nature of demand for applied research and aspects relevant for fostering the cross-sectoral research based collaboration of SMEs and cooperation with academia (or minimizing the innovation capacity gap and barriers for this cooperation). OUTPUT: report of the scanning / mapping results
- Knowledge exchange to identify the main societal pitfalls, and demand-driven perspective that activates the SMEs, investors, NGOs and/or local government representatives to invest or to order/procure the research and/or to participate in applied research projects by validating usability of research results and by sharing application-based know-how. Developing business models based on synergy of research-based technological and non-technological innovations, incl. involving NGOs for dissemination research results that assume changes in consumer behaviour. The multi-stakeholder dialogue with different parties in different forms (think tanks, idea hackathons, workshops) to identify specific co-operation modes that can be supported by the digital infrastructure -> Crowdsourcing research problems and joint funding of the research; OUTPUT: number of organised networking events and the report of the results;
- Creation of the prototype for the joint (crowd)funding and research communication digital infrastructure - 'all-in-one gateway' – which enables to identify different ways to participate in funding of the relevant researches for the company, local community etc. (incl. the classification of possible roles of stakeholders such as sponsor, SME consortium leader for research procurement, offering industrial equipment for testing, early-stage validator of business model for applying research results, know-how and idea contributor in open innovation processes, investor, etc.). OUTPUT: demo-version of the collaborative research procurement and funding digital infrastructure.
- Juridical feasibility study (in (selected) partner countries) -> identifying the legal issues and risks related to joint funding of digital platforms in different countries (including tax law, public procurement regulations, contracts etc) and finding the best solutions. OUTPUT: feasibility studies in partner countries.
- Piloting different research projects (local and cross-border) -> engaging companies, private investors, NGOs and/or local governments to validate the funding platform solution for different stakeholders. OUTPUT: number of piloted projects.
- Increasing readiness of involved stakeholders to use crowdsourcing and crowdfunding tools for academia – business collaboration. Science / research communication activities: for academia the written and oral pitching skills trainings and workshops; for business sector and public sector the awareness raising events (e.g. knowledge-based decision making). OUTPUT: number of organised trainings and events, trend analysis of emerging applied research needs and research collaboration readiness.

6. Partnership

Please describe the composition of your partnership. List the partners already involved, present their role in the project and geographic location. Please also indicate what type of partners still need to be added to the partnership. (Remaining characters: 2,500)

Tallinn University Open Academy - research partner, academia and business sector/NGO/public sector cooperation facilitator, developer of the digital infrastructure

Estonian Business School - research partner, business and legal aspects analysis

Fundwise/Hooandja - the developer of the crowdfunding platforms

Local Government ???

Estonian Chamber of Commerce ???

Vaasa University ???

Local government from Finland ???

Enterprise or business organisation from Finland ???

Roskilde University ???

Local government from Denmark ???

Enterprise or business organisation from Denmark ???

Norway

Please present the following (for January 10th):

- Potential role in the project (according to the activities mentioned above)
- Your main area of expertise
- Comments on activities and outputs (optional; with using track change!)