

NEWSLETTER

July 2021 - June 2023



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DRIVING CHANGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING TOWARDS INNOVATIVE, ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITIES



RECTORS' CONFERENCE

On the 27th of April, 2022, the leadership of five European universities met at the EIT Digital Budapest Co-Location Centre. It was a key event organised within the InnoChange project, rectors, vice-rectors and representatives of the partner universities discussed in person the process of increasing the entrepreneurial and innovative capacity of their institutions, their steps towards a third-generation research university model, and their deeper integration into the European Higher Education Area to unlock the innovation potential of higher education institutions.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (I&E) – EDUCATION FOR YOU TO FLY

The I&E courses were launched at the partner's universities and aimed to form the entrepreneurial mindset and unlock the creativity of students by introducing them the main theories of entrepreneurship and business fundamentals. Through creative team assignments and individual challenges, students were expected to understand the logic of idea creation, the need for market analysis and the challenges that come with the launching of a new venture.

MAIN TOPICS:

- Innovation and entrepreneurship: main definitions and interdependencies • Idea, USP, validation • Role of marketing • Team and leadership • Initial financing opportunities • Cooperations, ecosystem and intrapreneurship • Business models • Digital transformation and innovative thinking • Turn a problem into an opportunity • Social responsibility and new tech ventures • Trends and regulations considering social responsibility



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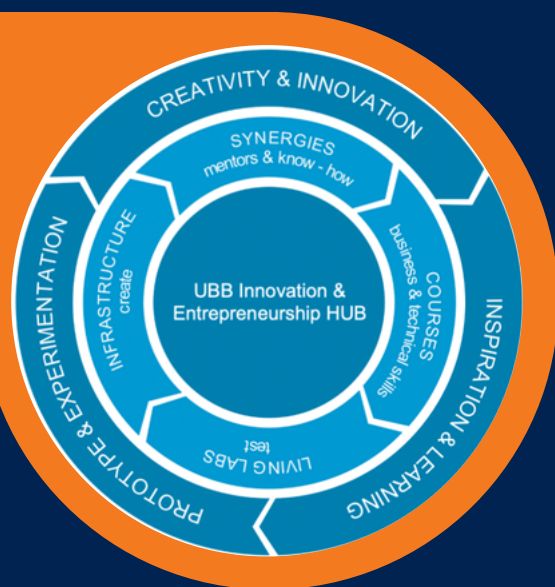
HERIOT
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ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED



As part of the InnoChange project's second phase activities, Babeş-Bolyai University established an **Innovation Hub**. It will support students to generate and successfully deploy innovative solutions that address social and economic needs and challenges capitalising on the opportunities offered by digital technologies. Students' innovative activities are facilitated by the InnoHUB team and supported by a network of mentors and advisors. The main goal is to create a community of creative and entrepreneurial students, oriented to the market and sensitive towards the demand side, interacting not only with each other but also with other key actors and stakeholders from the local and regional innovation ecosystem.

HACKATONS & DEMO DAYS

Online Hackathon (Idea Session)

3 – 4 December 2021

InnoChange IdeaHack

20 - 21 December 2021

InnoHack at BBU

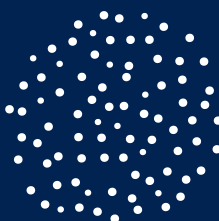
26 - 27 November 2022

Cluj Hackaton

25 - 26 March 2023

Hack Košice 2023

1 - 2 April 2023



Online pre -Accelerator Demo Day

24 November 2021

DEMO DAY for scouts

9 June 2022

Demo Day of FRC's 2022 Fall Acceleration Programs

8 December 2022

UPJŠ DEMO DAY

9 May 2023

ACCELERATION PROGRAMES

As a contribution to the InnoChange project, **Startup Wise Guys** offered a so-called “Acceleration Shadowing” to the nominated InnoChange participants. The participants of Shadowing witnessed daily activities and workshops designed to help the startups succeed, avoid common startup mistakes and get to know the structure and processes behind the management of an acceleration program first-hand.



After “Startup Acceleration Shadowing” activities started in Phase I of the InnoChange program, professionals tasked with managing innovation processes at our four participating universities got the opportunity of learning first-hand from and about one of Europe’s top startup accelerators, **Fil Rouge Capital (FRC)**. Two acceleration programs were given within Phase II. In particular, the opportunity was extended to innovation managers/ scouts and a wider circle of academic and non-academic staff involved, or at least interested in, business creation activities at our respective higher education institutions. The training in Autom and Spring brought to project 6 supported startups.



"The Fil Rouge Program made us think rigorously over many important details of our innovation and business model, and crystallize our project into a concise and eye-catching pitch presentation, which we hope will convince investors to support the realization of our idea."

Vera K., the program's participant



AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS ...



- Training of the Innovation Task Forces
- Workshop: IP in Software and Computer Science
- 6 UPSKILL WORKSHOPS
- Teaching I&E Teachers
- InnoChange Innovation Hub on LinkedIn
- Trainings & mentorings
- Gamification



Launching course on "Promoting Gender Equality and equity" self-paced course for teachers, students, leaders, and administration



To achieve gender equality in both research-innovation and learning as a means of improving innovation capacity and further develop innovation systems that will support equal societies, democratic values and address grand challenges it was developed self-paced course for teachers, students, leaders, and administration not only to understand the notions and policies in relation to the issue, but also to be able to act accordingly supporting the integration of gender dimension into education and research in STEM fields.



FACTS & FIGURES

INNOCHANGE PROJECT CLOSING EVENT

Participants from all partner universities and special guests met at the final event to jointly present the achieved results, which in many cases exceeded expectations at the beginning of the project. **David Oliva Uribe**, *Director of EUMex-Connect* gave some closing remarks: the society is aware of its own problems, they live them, but they are not the centers of the strategy to boost innovation. Students attending HEI experience are passing a traumatic path, where they are told, academia is not real world. There is a risk that the lack of strategic partnering with a single purpose to solve societal problems together will lead to an unavoidable increase in all societal gaps: economic, gender, regional, educational, etc. Citizen Science practices could allow increasing visibility. A society that can see a promising solution to their problems and needs will spread the voice and attract Investors.

Hoping, InnoChange helped a bit to the better future.

