

Providing training
to educators on
lean innovation
skills for micro
enterprises



Introducing the LIME programme

LIME (Lean Innovation for Micro Enterprises) is an Erasmus+ project bringing together partners from the United Kingdom, Spain, Ireland, Denmark and Poland. The overall goal of this programme is to introduce the lean innovation skillset to our education systems, and by extension to our economies.

What is Lean Innovation and how can it help our economies?

Innovation is often positioned as the key for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, but is rarely viable for micro-enterprises on account of the high costs.

Lean innovation offers an alternative route.

Lean innovation is a methodology that works particularly well for micro enterprises because traditional innovation policies and practices are rarely viable for micro-enterprises, on account of the high investment required. By supporting micro enterprises to understand how they can innovate with less uncertainty, the lean innovation methodology enables SMEs to grow in spite of economic conditions. Opportunities and problems are identified earlier, with less pressure. Furthermore, because lean innovation is a knowledge and skills-based approach, vocational training organisations have the opportunity to play a key role in developing these skills.



Why is it important to help micro businesses grow?

While SMEs are often referred to as the backbone of Europe's economy, it is really micro-enterprises - businesses with less than 10 employees - that sustain employment and have the most growth potential.

- **9 out of 10 SMEs** in Europe are micro-enterprises*
- These micro-enterprises **employ 1/3 of the workforce***
- And produce more than **40% of economic value added***

Source: European Commission, Annual Report on European SMEs 2018



What impact will the programme create?

LIME aims to generate an increase in the availability and quality of innovation education. By generating a system-level change, thousands of small businesses will be helped to acquire a lean innovation mindset, and engage in low-tech, practical



Who is the programme for?

Micro-entrepreneurs will be targeted by the programme, along with entrepreneurship education providers.

Programme activities and outcomes

There are three clear deliverables for the programme, which focus on motivating micro-entrepreneurs to engage in lean innovation training, and upskilling entrepreneurship providers to integrate lean innovation knowledge and skills into their classroom teaching.



1. Formative Self Assessment Tool

- an online interactive diagnostic tool enabling users to evaluate their current innovation capacity and "readiness". Trainers would also have back-end access to the results of their group, for greater understanding.

innovation thanks to the improved education they receive.



What is the Lean Innovation model?

The Lean Innovation Model was developed in 2014 with the aim to become a reference for a successful, coherent and integrated implementation of lean thinking in innovation and product development. Organisations following the model can ensure a consistent and organised way to achieve business success, quick wins where needed, and a continuous deployment of the different practices that can be implemented under each of the enablers. [Learn more about the model](#)



2. Lean Innovation Curriculum and OERs

- a complete set of learning objectives, training materials and case studies for entrepreneurship trainers and lecturers.



3. Lean Innovation Online Course

- based on the OERs and adapted for digital delivery, enabling micro-enterprises to undertake self-led learning at their convenience.

Get involved

Look out for further information about the programme, including ways in which you can get involved. To register your interest now, please email us

at carol.daniels@nationalenterprisenetwork.org

Visit the [LIME website](#) and connect with us through our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) profiles.



This programme has been funded with support from the European Commission. The author is solely responsible for this publication (communication) and the Commission accepts no responsibility for any use that may be made of the information contained there.