

OPENMAKER

FACTSHEET

Full title: Harnessing the power of Digital Social Platforms to shake up makers and manufacturing entrepreneurs towards a European Open Manufacturing ecosystem

Call: ICT 10 - 2015 Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation -Digital Social Platforms

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Duration: 24 months

INTRODUCTION

The European manufacturing landscape is in urgent need of change. In 2014, manufacturing represented about 16% of the EU GDP, more than 80% of EU total exports, 80% of private Research & Development expenditure, and employed 30 million people. However, the financial crisis has heavily hit the sector, combining its negative effect with ongoing globalisation and technological innovation negative externalities. Together these factors have culminated in the loss of over 3.8 million jobs.

Reinvigorating the manufacturing sector is a complex task that requires transformation at the heart of production processes and models upon which our industrial society has been built. Inroads in generating this scale of shift in manufacturing have been made in areas conducive to open technologies in the fields of digital fabrication and craftsmanship – where the manufacturing sector has come into contact with the emerging social-technology based **Maker movement**, innovation and growth emerges. This drives the *democratisation of production*, turning manufacturing into a participatory, collaborative, and open process in which all agents share risks and benefits and, ultimately, increase the value of production.

OBJECTIVES

The OpenMaker project aims to create a transformational and collaborative ecosystem that fosters collective innovations within the European manufacturing sector and drives it towards more sustainable business models, production processes, products, and governance systems.

Building on the paradigm of Open Manufacturing, the project will achieve this goal by bringing together traditional manufacturers and digital-savvy makers, and engaging in the process all the relevant stakeholders such as citizens, universities, local authorities, civil society organisations and policy-makers.

Leveraging on ICT-powered processes, OpenMaker will enable the creation of an environment where trust in business partners and engagement in common values drive the innovation process towards more sustainable products.

ACTIVITIES

1. The OpenMaker consortium will run an **accelerator programme** in four European cities (Florence, Birmingham, Bratislava and Bilbao) by establishing a '**Local Enabling Space**' (LES) in each city. Within each LES, the **Enablers** are dedicated human resources with sound community management skills. Enablers will deploy active methods for community building and engagement, primarily targeting traditional manufacturers and makers, as well as

citizens and stakeholders. The **Enabling Programme** will ensure the successful establishment of partnerships and cooperation between traditional manufactures and makers. The Enabling Programme will consist of a set of well-planned incentives and opportunities, including seminars, matching events, and a prize competition. The Enabling Programme will implement a range of actions for community and partnership building, including:

- Mapping of target groups
 - Establishment of Local Enabling Spaces (LES) where makers, innovators, traditional manufacturing entrepreneurs as well as citizens and stakeholders are encouraged to work locally
 - Delivering in each LES an enabling programme dedicated to boosting relations
 - Launching a Piloting Support Scheme in the form of an Open Call which will make €400,000 available to fund 20 projects that bring together traditional manufacturers and makers in the LES.
2. The **OpenMaker Digital Social Platform (SM-DSP)** will provide OpenMaker participants with a digital environment to stay engaged (online), thereby supporting participants to better develop their social capital and increase their social impact in terms of innovation, knowledge transfer, and business success. The SM-DSP will build on members' concrete needs and values and bring them together in a community-building process, multiplying the innovation potential of each accelerator programme thanks to a novel approach to social platforms based on notions of shared values and trust-based networks. The platform will:
 - Enhance the quantity and quality of social interactions and trust relations among members across different accelerator programmes and with the wider global community of makers and manufacturers.
 - Monitor the evolution of the communities and feed back the network metrics of social impact and innovation success to their members.
 3. The Consortium will make policy recommendations that promote open manufacturing across geographical and socio-economic borders
 4. Institutional and political interest in the potential for open manufacturing will be raised by communicating and extrapolating more general conclusions to define successful strategies and digital tools to scale-up communities oriented towards social innovation in the manufacturing sector and replicating it.

PARTNERS

1. The Young Foundation (Team Leader) (UK)
2. Bogazici University (TR)
3. Centire (SK)
4. Scuola Imt (Istituzioni, Mercati, Tecnologie) Alti Studi Di Lucca (IT)
5. LAMA (IT)
6. Tecnalía (ES)
7. Top-ix (IT)
8. University of Zurich (CH)
9. Accord (UK)
10. PlusValue (UK)



We also count endorsements from a network of 18 partners across Europe