

ACTIVATING INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN RAILWAY SMEs BY WORKPLACE INNOVATION



This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 861887.

The content of this Newsletter represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

The Project

The main objective of RailActivation Project is to create and pilot a rail business and organisational mechanism for the uptake of workplace innovation by SMEs from the railway sector as part of an Open Innovation ecosystem.

To this end, the RailActivation project will work on the development of new mechanisms and tools based on proven principles to anticipate the effects of the digitalisation on the railway sector and designing innovation process transformation for the EU Railway Industry from the inside-out by actively reimagining the entire business around the customer and enabling employees to be the catalysts for change.

The Partners

Project Leader

MAFEX - Spanish Railway Association (Spain)

Project Members

BTS - Railway Saxony (Germany)

DITECFER - District for Rail Technologies, High Speed, Safety & Security S.c.ar.l. (Italy)

QUINN - University Consortium in Engineering for Quality and Innovation (Italy)

TECNALIA - Foundation Tecnalia Research & Innovation (Spain)



Upcoming Events

Open Call for pilot SMEs

In May 2020 the Call for SMEs wishing to benefit from the "RailActivation" pilot scheme for empowering Workplace Innovation will be launched.

Deadline: 2 months after opening date

RailActivation Brunch

During RailLive! 2020 - taking place in Madrid from November 30th to December 2nd - we will organise the "RailActivation Brunch". We will confirm the final date soon. Stay tuned!

The "RailActivation" project is one of the only three projects the European Commission has approved at European level to develop new pilot-schemes to support Workplace Innovation in SMEs. The Kick-off meeting in Brussels with the European Commission was a great moment also for meeting with the Partners of the other two projects.



**KICK-OFF MEETING WITH EASME
BRUXELLES, JUNE 26TH 2019**

Expected impacts

Through the "RailActivation" project we aim to reach these impacts:

Impact 1: New Context based mechanisms supporting uptake of Workplace Innovation by SMEs

Impact 2: More SMEs take advantage of the opportunities offered by Workplace Innovation

Impact 3: New, context-based forms of Workplace Innovation are created

Impact 4: Improved framework conditions for the uptake of new technologies

Impact 5: Better skilled workforce and more resilient companies



Looking at existing tools, identify and exchange best practices

Between 3rd December 2019 and 25th January 2020 we run a Survey among both SMEs and Large companies in order to gather information and describe the existing workplace innovation mechanisms and tools applicable to the railway SMEs, thus establishing a foundation to identify, suggest and exchange best practices.



The results have shown that in recent years, companies have developed a greater understanding of the value that people-centred design brings. In fact, many managers could define multiple cases in which the design has effectively solved the problems with customers, for example. Furthermore, people-centred design has contributed decisively in the development of competitive advantages in many organisations.

Besides that, certain differences between involvement of various groups of employees into the development of all kind of innovation were proved.

During the development of new product/solution or a new process, all types of sources of new ideas are really used more frequently (in comparison with the development of new marketing innovation or new product innovation).

The inspirational tip

HELP! WHY DOES A CULTURE OF INNOVATION MATTER?

Conceptually, a culture of innovation should provide two benefits.

First, it should boost employee engagement, with employees inspired and energized by the ability to work on interesting innovation problems. That boost in engagement brings predictable benefits, such as lower absenteeism, greater retention and improved day-to-day productivity.

Second, such a culture should improve the ability to develop and launch innovative ideas to boost revenue and to improve operations. The latter points to a challenge a senior HR IT leader gave us.

“When I am outside work, I click a button on my phone and a car arrives. It takes a minute to order a meal. And I can easily videoconference with my daughter anywhere in the world,” she said. “Why isn’t my life inside my company as easy as my life outside of it? We need to apply innovation to our internal processes as much as we do to our external ones.”

Research by Adobe shows that questioning the status quo and fostering creativity makes a company 3.5 times more likely to outperform peers in terms of revenue growth. A Forbes article reported that companies promoting collaborative working are five times more likely to be high performing.

Scott Anthony, Harvard Business Review - Idea Lab

Open Call for SMEs Guidelines

This Open Call is aimed at providing innovation support of €225.000 through specific services and travel vouchers. Direct innovation support is intended to foster collaboration and help the winners with their Open culture transformation process, including organizational and production processes, as well as to encourage business models that are sustainable and deliver social impact.

RailActivation Project scheme will be tested in at least 20 SMEs, selected by the interregional network created under the project, by using at least 75% of the grant for this purpose.

The SMEs selected through the Open Call will benefit from the project in different ways, directly and indirectly.

More details about the scope and the application for the Open Call may be found on our website.

Dissemination events

Madrid (Spain) - RailLive! 2020 - 1st December 2020

RailActivation Breakfast will take place during RailLive! fair, running in Madrid from 30th November to 1st December 2020

Berlin (Germany) - InnoTrans 2021 - April 2021

RailActivation INNOVATION WAY WORKSHOP will be organized during InnoTrans, the International Trade Fair for Transport Technology running in Berlin from 27th to 30th April 2021.



RailActivation



ActivationRail



www.railactivation.eu

Project Coordinator:

Garazi Carranza garazi@mafex.es