

Urban M
Interreg Europe



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

URBAN MANUFACTURING



DESIGNING POLICIES TO SUPPORT
COLLABORATIVE MAKERSPACES

URBAN MANUFACTURING

We are a partnership funded by the Interreg Europe Programme, led by the Institute of Creative Innovation at Birmingham City University (UK). Our work explores how innovation policies can be used to help create and amplify collaborative makerspaces. Our primary focus is European Structural and Investment Fund policies, but we are also investigating innovation approaches at a city level.



PARTNERS

Birmingham City University (lead partner)

Birmingham City Council

BSC, Business Support Centre Ltd, Kranj

City of Bratislava

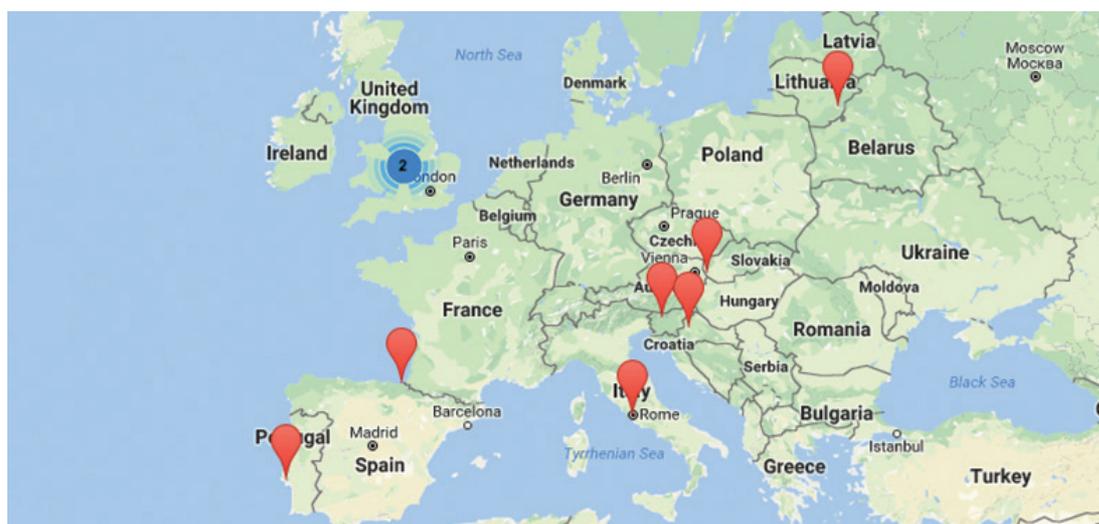
City of Zagreb

Fomento San Sebastian, Economic Development Agency

Lazio Region

Lisbon City Council

Vilnius City Administration



Lead Partner Partner

THE PROJECT

The objective of the Urban Manufacturing Project is to ensure that collaborative makerspaces thrive.

We achieve this through identifying best practice, testing policy approaches and supporting our cities/regions in creating receptive conditions.

Our hope is that we will demonstrate the impact that cooperative facilities can have on innovation and establish a European network of advocates.



WHAT ARE COLLABORATIVE MAKERSPACES?

Collaborative makerspaces take many forms, but common to all is the idea of producing physical objects through cooperation. This sharing can occur during ideas generation or fabrication and is most profound when different sectors come together.

The benefits of working in this way are numerous and include: new and improved products; an enhanced sense of community; increased mutual knowledge; quicker and more comprehensive solutions; and the tapping of latent potential. This leads to more effective and far-reaching innovation.

Examples of collaborative makerspaces include Fab Labs, Open Innovation Centres, Living Labs and Cross-Sector Incubators.

Collaborative makerspaces are typically located within urban environments, so understanding the ecosystem – for example the interdependencies between educators, policy makers and manufacturers – is of fundamental importance. Through nourishing these connected elements, cooperative facilities can flourish.

THEMES

Through our partnership, we are analysing the effect of policies across seven related themes:

- STEAM
- COMMUNITIES
- ECOSYSTEMS
- FUNDING TO SUPPORT MAKERSPACES
- RESULTS OF INVESTMENT IN MAKERSPACES
- ROUTES TO MARKET
- ENTERPRISE

We develop our understanding through a process of knowledge sharing.



OUTPUTS

THE PROJECT WILL PRODUCE:

- A good practice brochure with 24 case studies of makerspaces from across the partnership.
- A city or regional action plan for each partner to track and support the implementation of policy changes.

WE WILL DO THIS THROUGH:

- Policy clinics, where exchange of experience in policy development will take place between cities across shared themes.
- Peer review sessions, to analyze the relevance and transferability of policies.
- Study visits, to show to the partnership and our stakeholders the range of makerspace models that already exist.

THE BENEFICIARIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Policy makers, innovators, entrepreneurs, cluster managers and the maker community.

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