



D5.3 Idea Bank for Partnership Activities

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* **R**=Document, report; **DEM**=Demonstrator, pilot, prototype; **DEC**=website, patent filings, videos, etc.; **OTHER**=other
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Executive Summary

The present document presents the final version of the NOBALIS Idea Bank that is part of WP5. Communication and Dissemination activities that focused on supporting the creation of partnerships with innovation ecosystem stakeholders and long term transferability and dissemination of project results.

In NOBALIS project the Idea Bank refers to a publicly available resource consisting of structured summaries describing NOBALIS partners' various partnership activities related to teaching innovation and entrepreneurship, research and support activities. The partnership activities are defined as formal and informal collaboration activities, events, platforms with external innovation ecosystem stakeholders that facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship activities in partner higher education institutions (HEIs). Good practices refer to practices that have been proven to provide good results in the real-life context.

The overall aim of NOBALIS Idea Bank is to share good practices on innovation and entrepreneurship related partnership activities and provide it in a format in which this knowledge is easily transferred and implemented in other HEIs. The Idea Bank supports institutionalization of good practices, incl. long term transferability of practices following the end of the project and achieving wider impact through sharing practices with different HEIs and innovation ecosystem stakeholders such as academic staff, non-academic staff, enterprises, entrepreneurship and innovation support structures, European Institute of Innovation and Technology and Knowledge and Innovation Communities (EIT-KIC).

The Idea Bank is published on the NOBALIS web site at <https://nobalis.eu/index.php/idea-bank/> . The Idea Bank contains 14 ideas from the 5 HEIs (Annex 1).

The Idea Bank will be on NOBALIS project web site that will be kept running at least for 2 years after the official end of the project by NOBALIS partner EMU. But it will be also submitted to the HEI Initiative Resource Hub in order to support wider transfer of knowledge on collaboration and partnership practices.

About the EIT HEI Initiative

The EIT HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education has been designed with the aim of increasing the innovation and entrepreneurial capacity in higher education by bringing together HEIs in innovation value chains and ecosystems across Europe. A central philosophy of the EIT is the integration of the EIT Knowledge Triangle Model into all its activities. HEIs selected to participate in the HEI Initiative will also leverage and use the Knowledge Triangle Model as an enabler, facilitating the creation of systemic, institutional change. Additionally, HEIs selected to participate in the HEI Initiative will contribute to and leverage Smart Specialisation Strategies, the Regional Innovation Impact Assessment (RIIA) Framework, as well as align to the goals of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS). This will strengthen the links between HEIs and their local and regional ecosystems and provide an impetus to leverage additional funding sources beyond the HEI project funding period of the selected HEI projects.

HEIs are encouraged to prepare applications which will support the development and implementation of six Actions in their institutions, cumulatively leading to institutional transformation, an increase in entrepreneurial and innovation capacity, and integration with innovation ecosystems.

1 Introduction

The NOBALIS Idea Bank is part of WP5. Communication and Dissemination that aimed to ensure communication activities for the implementation of the project, and to maximize the impact of the project with optimal dissemination of good practices and with long-term exploitation and transfer of knowledge and learning experiences. The Idea Bank was one of the tasks of WP5 and it is directed at supporting the creation of partnerships with innovation ecosystem stakeholders and long term transferability and dissemination of project results by sharing good practices on activities supporting building partnerships with innovation ecosystem stakeholders. Thus, **the aim of the Idea Bank** is to share good practices on innovation and entrepreneurship related partnership activities and provide it in a format in which this knowledge is easily transferred and implemented in other HEIs.

The creation of the Idea Bank started with the specification of its concept and main definitions:

- The NOBALIS Idea Bank refers to a publicly available resource consisting of structured summaries describing NOBALIS partners' various partnership activities related to teaching innovation and entrepreneurship, research and support activities.
- The partnership activities are the formal and informal collaboration activities, events, platforms with external innovation ecosystem stakeholders that facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship activities in HEIs.
- Good practices are practices that have been implemented and have proven to provide good results in the real-life context.
- The Idea Bank is implemented as a web based resource. At first, it is presented in the web site of project NOBALIS <https://nobalis.eu/index.php/idea-bank/>, and later submitted to the HEI Initiative Resource Hub in order to support its long term availability and the transfer of knowledge on collaboration and partnership practices after the end of NOBALIS project.

The partnership ideas and activities presented in the Idea Bank provide a source of inspiration for NOBALIS partners as well as other HEIs and innovation ecosystem stakeholders looking into facilitating new partnerships, knowledge transfer between different stakeholders and long term collaboration in innovation ecosystem. In the NOBALIS project, the Idea Bank received input from the other work packages, incl. from innovation ecosystem assessment in WP2, and from examples on engaging external practitioners into teaching innovation and entrepreneurship curricula discussed in the WP3.

The D5.3. introduces the approach for the creation of Idea Bank, summarises the ideas collected and lessons learned.

2 Data collection

The development of the Idea Bank was implemented by the following steps.

Phase 1:

- Creation of preliminary concept for the idea bank (Sept. 2022)
- First mapping of practices of NOBALIS partners (Oct. 2022)
- Analysis of practices and selection of good practices for publication (Nov. 2022)
- Creation of preliminary idea bank on nobalis.eu website (Nov. 2022)
- Publication of interim report on the idea bank (Dec. 2022)

Phase 2a:

- New data collection to update of good practices with partners' input (March – May 2024)
- Final version of idea bank (June 2024)
- Final report on the idea bank (June 2024)

The creation of concept for Idea Bank included specification of definitions, types of activities for Idea Bank, data collection plans and format for publishing the Idea Bank. The team members created the template for the ideas and the data collection (Table 1). The template was adopted from the HEI Initiatives Resource Hub's (<https://ie-aitdigital.univ-cotedazur.fr/>) template on Good Practices and it was modified to collect some additional information to better fit the goals of NOBALIS Idea Bank.

Table 1. Template for the data collection on good practices for the NOBALIS Idea Bank

Name of activity/title	
Domain/action	
Goal of activity/short summary	
Type of stakeholders involved	
Description	
Resources required	
Lessons learned/success factors	
Time period	
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	
Keywords	

The key considerations for the selection of ideas were:

- The activity suggested to the Idea Bank must have been already successfully implemented and not just in a planning stage.
- The partnership activities can be connected with innovation and entrepreneurship teaching, research collaboration, commercialization, networking with ecosystem stakeholders, knowledge transfer and dissemination and related support activities.
- The idea of the partnership activity and its goals must be easy to understand and it should clearly support building institutional innovation capacity and stronger integration with innovation ecosystem stakeholders.
- Informal collaboration activities in this context refer various networking activities, events, engagement of external stakeholders that are not based on a formal contract between the parties or on specific project and financing. This kind of collaboration ideas are very welcome.

The mapping of potential ideas was done by the WP5 team members in their own institution by desk research, inquiries to different stakeholders in their HEI on good examples. A document explaining the concept of idea bank and its aims were attached to information requests circulating in the NOBALIS partner institutions.

12 ideas were selected for the Idea Bank based on the first round of data collection in the Phase 1 in the fall of 2022. The first version of Idea Bank was published on NOBALIS web page in December 2022.

The second round of data collection was conducted in the spring of 2024. This provided two additional ideas for the Idea Bank bringing the number of ideas published at the NOBALIS Idea Bank to 14 (Fig. 1)

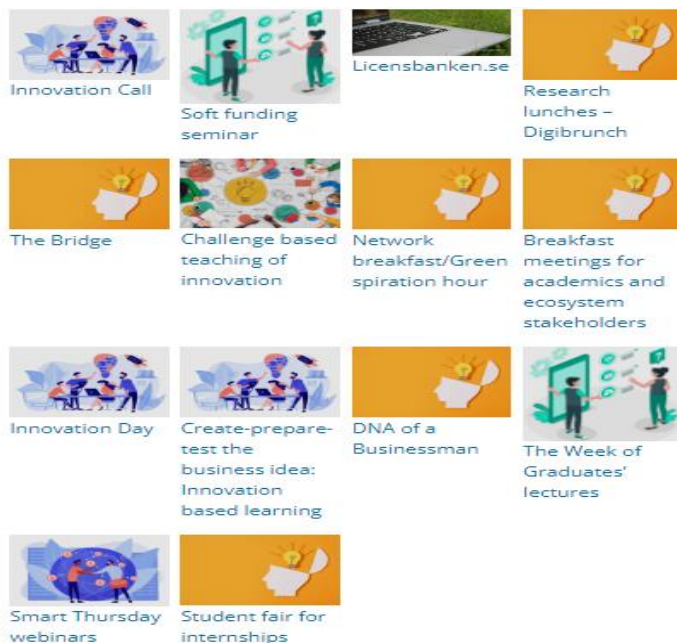


Figure 1. Updated Idea Bank on NOBALIS web site

3 Results from Idea Collection

Estonian University of Life Sciences and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences submitted both 2 ideas, Norwegian University of Life Sciences and Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies provided 3 ideas and Linnaeus University provided 4 ideas (Table 2). A more detailed description of ideas are provided in Appendix 1.

Table 2. Ideas at the Idea Bank

Name of activity/title	Short description	Partner
Student fair	An annual event bringing together students, enterprises, and university with the goal of fostering contacts, internship offers, presentations on industry.	Estonian University of Life Sciences
Smart Thursday- series of seminars/webinars bringing together enterprises and scientists for R&D collaboration	Seminars/webinars that aim to facilitate access to R&D services by combining presentations from enterprises and industry on their product development, presentations from the university on their research and from support structures on financing options.	Estonian University of Life Sciences
The Week of Graduates' Lectures	Annual event which aims to strengthen the cooperation and exchange of ideas between students and entrepreneurs, who graduated from the same study programs.	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies
The DNA of a Businessman- A Master Class with Entrepreneurs	An annual Master Class with entrepreneurs combining meeting with entrepreneurs from different sectors, their experience sharing and working together for creating new business ideas and/or innovations	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies
Create-prepare-test the business idea	Development of students' competencies through innovative idea development, prototyping and testing.	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies
Innovation Day	Annual event for showcasing innovative projects, TTO cases, and spin-outs with the aim of connecting knowledge triangle stakeholders and for the presentation of early-stage research-driven innovation projects in a commercial setting.	Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Name of activity/title	Short description	Partner
"From Idea to Success" – breakfast meetings showcasing successful/promising research driven innovations	Regular meetings for showcasing research results and their use by knowledge triangle stakeholders. The meetings combine presentations from research and innovation projects, and from stakeholders interested in the results with the goal to raise interest/awareness for innovation among HEI employees and to increase the interest/awareness on cooperation possibilities.	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Network breakfast/Greenspiration hour	Regular informal networking meetings bringing together researchers, innovators and representatives from the industry to share their experiences and facilitate innovation and collaboration.	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Challenge based teaching in an innovation course	Students work with an innovation project connected with a real-life challenge from an enterprise	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
The Bridge	A long-term and strategic partnership agreement between university and industry combining research collaboration, course development, the lectures, thesis opportunities, projects to provide students with practical experience, industry specific knowledge and skills development.	Linnaeus University
Research lunches - Digibrunch	Regular lunches with industry and university representatives for networking, fostering collaboration, and knowledge exchange combining presentations and discussions on specific topics, speakers from industry and university sharing their current projects, practices, and research results.	Linnaeus University
Licensbanken.se- A Web Bank for Research Licesning	A web based database of innovations available for licensing	Linnaeus University
Soft funding seminar	Seminar for students for preparing applications for soft funding with the help of knowledgeable mentors	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Innovation call	Competition for innovation grants for researchers and doctoral students to develop	Linnaeus University

Name of activity/title	Short description	Partner
	commercial or non-commercial applications outside the academia	

6 ideas (Student fair; the Week of Graduates' Lectures; the DNA of Businessman; Create-prepare-test the business idea; Challenge based teaching in an innovation course; Soft funding seminar) were focused on students and collaborations for educations and idea developments. 7 activities were directed at research commercialization, dissemination and networking activities. One collaboration (the Bridge) was a strategic partnership with industry that contained various research and educational collaborations.

4 Lessons learned

The Idea Bank contains good examples of activities and those have already been communicated to partners during the project and will be further introduced in the partner institutions following the project. The transfer to wider audiences besides the NOBALIS partners will be ensured with the Idea Bank running on the NOBALIS web site for at least for 2 years after the official end of the project and by sharing to through HEI Initiative Resource Hub.

The NOBALIS partners' reflections from the idea collection are:

- A great deal of networking activities for supporting industry collaboration can be successfully organised with relatively limited resources and informal settings through breakfast and lunch meetings bringing together researchers, industry and support structures. Examples of this were provided by all three Scandinavian partners in NOBALIS project that had regular, informal meetings with industry players ("From Idea to Success" –breakfast meetings, Research lunches – Digibrunch; Network breakfast/Greenspiration hour) for networking and showcasing. This kind of networking events are particularly vital for small universities with limited resources. However, the key to success is consistency through holding those meeting regularly, systematic planning and face to face meetings.
- All partners had interesting cases on how to support partnership with external innovation ecosystem stakeholders for research and teaching activities and the partners had same goals. Example of this is the integration of real-life problem based learning, collaboration with entrepreneurs for ensuring the quality and timeliness of the studies etc. The value of the idea bank lies in the demonstration of different ways how to work towards those goals and which formats the collaboration activities can take.
- The ideas submitted to the idea bank address different levels of the institutions and how those can support stronger ties and collaboration with external partners. Some activities such problem based tasks from the industry can be integrated at the course level and by individual academics as well as they should be a part of wider study program and university based approach for ensuring the quality of the programs and development of relevant competences to ensure that students will succeed in the job market. Activities such as informal networking events can be easily initiated on a department level, while more formal collaboration and activities such as strategic partnerships are decided on the top levels. However, the success of those will depend on the inputs from individual academics, who will be the ones who are actually collaborating and

communicating with the external stakeholders in their research projects and teaching activities. Institutional innovation capacity building requires an organization-wide engagement with a good balance between the top-down and bottom-up information flows, processes and management practices.

- The main goal of the Idea Bank was to demonstrate activities for facilitating research and teaching collaboration with external partners. Only a limited number of ideas were collected during the NOBALIS project. A wider institutionalization of good practices requires systematic approach and commitment on how to make use of the lessons learned, how to update the information on the good practices while working in parallel on motivating various actors to implement those practices and share their experience.

Appendix 1: Ideas submitted to the Idea Bank

Student fair for internship

Name of activity/title	Student fair
Domain/action	Domain 4: Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education Action: - Internship in businesses
Goal of activity/short summary	An annual event, the aim of which is to create direct contacts between students, enterprises, and university, and offer opportunities for enterprises to introduce themselves, their activity and their industry to the students. Each year on average 40- 50 enterprises participate. The fair combines enterprises' information boards, workshops, and presentations by enterprises.
Type of stakeholders involved	Enterprises, department of academic affairs, student council, internship supervisors, students.
Description	It is organized once a year in the facilities of the university. The fair is scheduled for March to provide students and graduating students opportunities for finding internship places and jobs starting in the summer.
Resources required	Facilities to organize fair. Contact networks for different industries. Student volunteers.
Lessons learned/success factors	Successful implementation requires active communication with the industry. Students and student council should have active role in organizing the fair, inviting the industry, planning the workshop and events to make the fair relevant for them, and providing learning opportunities.
Time period	Annual since 2014
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Estonian University of Life Sciences
Keywords	Internship, students, industry partnership, education

Smart Thursday webinars

Name of activity/title	Smart Thursday- series of seminars/webinars bringing together enterprises and scientists for R&D collaboration
Domain/action	Domain 2: Strengthening partnerships Actions: – New collaborations – Exchange of good practices
Goal of activity/short summary	Seminars/webinars organized by Estonian R&D network Adapter that includes all universities and other R&D organizations with the aim to facilitate access to R&D services. Smart Thursday seminar combines presentations from enterprises and industry on their product development, presentations from the university side, and support structures on financing options.
Type of stakeholders involved	Enterprises, universities, R&D institutions, and research support organizations.
Description	Smart Thursday seminars/webinars are planned and organized by the different parties throughout the year and organization, information dissemination on the event etc. is supported by the R&D network Adapter.
Resources required	Facilities for a physical event or a virtual seminar.
Lessons learned/success factors	Successful implementation requires active communication with industry and universities to raise interest and information dissemination through a variety of networks on the event taking place.
Time period	Since 2016
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Estonian University of Life Sciences
Keywords	Product development, R&D services, innovation networks, industry partnerships.

The Week of Graduates' Lectures

Name of activity/title	The Week of Graduates' Lectures
Domain/action	Domain 2: Strengthening partnerships Action: – Exchange of good practice Domain 4: Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education Action: – Innovation and entrepreneurial curricula
Goal of activity/short summary	Annual event which aims to strengthen the cooperation and exchange of ideas between students and entrepreneurs, who are graduates of the same study programs.
Type of stakeholders involved	Universities, entrepreneurs-graduates, students
Description	It is organized once a year in the faculties of the university. The week is scheduled in October, during the first part of the semester and in the period when students, especially 1st year, establish an understanding of their program's profile and research identity. The organizers of the week of graduates in the faculty rotate each year to ensure different focuses and cooperation with graduates from different study programs.
Resources required	Scheduling of time and place in faculties, easy accessibility for students. Contact network with graduates. Interest and interaction from students and teachers.
Lessons learned/success factors	For successful implementation networking with graduates and cooperation with teachers are needed. The most successful way to provide students interaction is to organize the meetings with graduates during the scheduled lectures as a part of study courses.
Time period	Annual
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies
Keywords	Graduates, networking, exchange of experience

The DNA of a Businessman

Name of activity/title	The DNA of a Businessman- A Master Class with Entrepreneurs
Domain/action	Domain 2: Strengthening partnerships Action: – Exchange of good practice Domain 4: Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education Action: – Innovation and entrepreneurial curricula
Goal of activity/short summary	An annual event in which students meet entrepreneurs from different sectors, get to know their experience in business, and work together in creating new business ideas and/or innovations.
Type of stakeholders involved	Universities, enterprises, students
Description	It is organized once a year during a Spring semester. It is a one-day event, but the students pre-apply for participation in the event. The event has three parts: 1) meeting and discussion with entrepreneurs about their experience in business, success conditions, and difficulties; 2) master classes in groups with entrepreneurs in creating a business, planning its development, and solving problem-based cases; 3) group presentations of the result from master classes.
Resources required	Meeting rooms for discussions, presentations and parallel master classes. Contact network with entrepreneurs from different sectors.
Lessons learned/success factors	A strong network with enterprises is needed for selecting both lecturers and sponsors for the event. Successful implementation requires long-term communication with students and preparing their interaction and participation in the event
Time period	Annual
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies
Keywords	Experience exchange, problem-solving, master classes

Create-prepare-test the business idea

Name of activity/title	Create-prepare-test the business idea: Prototyping for Students
Domain/action	Domain 3: contribution to developing innovations and businesses Action: – Testbeds and platforms Domain 4: Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education Action: – Innovation and entrepreneurial curricula
Goal of activity/short summary	The activity aims to develop students' competencies in just not only creating a business idea but also preparing its prototype and testing it, to get to know the process of making innovation in a practical way.
Type of stakeholders involved	Universities, lecturers, students.
Description	Each semester as a part of the study course "Innovations in a business" students work in groups and prepare a business idea, by developing the idea of a new product, making its prototype, and also providing its testing process in a part of the target audience.
Resources required	Communication and interaction between students, lecturers and study program directors.
Lessons learned/success factors	The create-prepare-test process of a new product is included as a part of requirements in the study course, that way ensuring the participation of all students.
Time period	Ongoing, each semester
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies
Keywords	Innovative product, idea testing

Innovation Day

Name of activity/title	Innovation Day
Domain/action	Domain 2: Strengthening partnerships Actions: – New collaborations Domain 3: Contribution to developing innovations and businesses Actions: – Structures for creating start-ups – Structures for innovation- driven research
Goal of activity/short summary	Annual event to showcase innovative projects, TTO-cases, and spin-outs from Campus Ås. The aim of the event is to i) connect stakeholders from all sides of the knowledge triangle, and to ii) offer an arena for early-stage research-driven innovation projects to present their ideas in a commercial setting. Each year between 10-20 cases has been presented. All presenters are offered pitch training before the event.
Type of stakeholders involved	Students, academics, non-academics, external audiences such as enterprises, entrepreneurship and innovation support structures, public sector, investors.
Description	The Innovation Day is organized in cooperation with the Stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem at Campus Ås (Student Innovation Labs at NMBU, the TTO-office Ard Innovation, Aggregator Incubator Ås, and the NMBU Research Support Office). The event is normally organized in October.
Resources required	Cooperation between people in the I&E ecosystem. A lead resource that coordinates the event. Network to invite stakeholders. Venue/auditorium to host the event.
Lessons learned/success factors	Successful implementation requires active and targeted recruitment of both presenters and the audience. Individual pitch training for each presenter has been successful both in respect of clear communication, but also to open the academic presenters' mindset towards a more commercial way of presenting their projects.
Time period	Annually since 2021
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Keywords	Investor presentation, pitch training, innovation networks, industry partnerships, research driven innovation

Breakfast meeting

Name of activity/title	"From Idea to Success" –breakfast meetings showcasing successful/promising research driven innovations from Campus Ås.
Domain/action	Domain 2: Strengthening partnerships Action: – Exchange of good practices Domain 3: Contribution to developing innovations and businesses Action: – Structures for innovation- driven research
Goal of activity/short summary	The meetings aim to showcase how research results can be/have been taken into use by relevant stakeholders. The program contains one or two presentations from research and innovation projects, and one or two presentations from stakeholders interested in the results/that have taken results into use. Each meeting has a different thematic focus (e.g. forestry, antibiotic resistance, drone technology etc.), targeting different audience. The goal is to sided; i) to raise interest/awareness for innovation among HEI employees, and ii) increase the interest/awareness for cooperation with the HEI among all stakeholders.
Type of stakeholders involved	Students, academics, non-academics, external audiences such as enterprises, entrepreneurship, and innovation support structures, public sector, media
Description	The program is put together once per semester by the innovation support system at Campus Ås (TTO office Ard Innovation, Aggrator Incubator Ås, NMBU Research Support Office). Communication of the event is supported by the Communication Department at NMBU and the Norwegian Life Science Cluster. Normally 2-3 meetings per semester. It is possible to attend the meetings through streaming.
Resources required	Meeting room and budget for simple breakfast. Network and overview of relevant speakers.Channels to communicate the event.
Lessons learned/success factors	Successful implementation requires that the program is well designed, preferably showing how a specific project will/can make/have made an impact in society. Effectful and targeted communication of the event is also important to attract the right audience for good discussions and networking.
Time period	From 2018
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Keywords	Innovation network, Industry partnership,

Network breakfast/Greenspiration hour

Name of activity/title	Network breakfast/Greenspiration hour
Domain/action	Domain 2: Strengthening partnerships Actions: – New collaborations – Exchange of good practices
Goal of activity/short summary	Regular networking meetings with the goal of stimulating innovation environment. These events are based on the needs and wants of the members of the Green Innovation Park network.
Type of stakeholders involved	Enterprises, university staff (primarily researchers), students.
Description	The Greenspiration hour is arranged regularly (weekly meeting). Prominent researchers, innovators and representatives from the industry are invited to inspire and share their experiences in an informal way in this regular morning meeting.
Resources required	Facilities to organize the meetings (physical or digital), breakfast and contact networks for different industries.
Lessons learned/success factors	Successful implementation requires active communication with industry and network members. Students should have the possibility to participate.
Time period	From 2019 every week
Link (if relevant)	https://www.greeninnovationpark.se/event/ (only in Swedish)
The partner who submitted the practice	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Keywords	Networking, inspiration, industry partnership

Challenge based teaching in an innovation course

Name of activity/title	Innovation challenges in education
Domain/action	Domain 4: Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education Actions: – Innovation and entrepreneurial curricula – Training programs and mentoring schemes
Goal of activity/short summary	Students work with an innovation project connected with a challenge stated by a food sector enterprise
Type of stakeholders involved	Students, enterprises, university
Description	An innovation project is integrated into specific courses. Enterprises are contacted to provide a reality-based innovation challenge for the students to work with in a larger project. The process includes supervision by a firm representative and comprises the whole innovation process from searching opportunities-selecting- implementing and capturing value.
Resources required	Contacts with enterprises that are willing to contribute their time, course time
Lessons learned/success factors	The enterprises need to give a challenge that is not too vague. Also, the representatives from the firms need to be available on at least a couple of occasions to make the task possible to solve for the students. Both firms and students have appreciated the interaction and mutual learning that has evolved from the collaborations. The "real life" setting inspires students to make a really good work.
Time period	From 2019 ongoing
Link (if relevant)	Podcast (only in Swedish): SLU Future Food 21. Om innovation och utbildning som game changer för hållbar livsmedelsproduktion
The partner who submitted the practice	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Keywords	Teaching innovation and entrepreneurship , industry collaboration, problem based learning

The Bridge

Name of activity/title	The Bridge
Domain/action	<p>Domain 3: Contribution to developing innovations and businesses Action: – Structures for innovation- driven research</p> <p>Domain 4: Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education Actions: – Innovation and entrepreneurial curricula – Internship in businesses</p>
Goal of activity/short summary	<p>The Bridge is a unique long-term and strategic partnership agreement between Linnaeus University and Södra and IKEA. The focus is on research and education in forestry, innovation, and sustainability through a partnership between university and industry. The aim is to bridge the academic and entrepreneurial world by dynamic exchange and the creation of new knowledge. The ambition is to bring new perspectives, breakthrough innovations, and mutual benefit and thereby strengthening regional competitiveness and increasing international visibility.</p>
Type of stakeholders involved	University, industry
Description	<p>Industry partners contribute to program and course development, lectures, thesis opportunities, and projects to provide students with practical experience, industry-specific knowledge and skills. Industry funding and collaboration with the university for multidisciplinary and cutting-edge research</p>
Resources required	Funding from industry and university. Industry input and expertise to the education.
Lessons learned/success factors	<p>High-quality education can be provided with a close relationship between students and industry. Cooperation supports innovations and research for new applications of wood in order to reduce the use of virgin, fossil materials and replace them with renewable bio-based alternatives. Development of innovative technologies in order to utilize wood in sustainable ways. Broad perspectives that combine social, economic, and environmental aspects to bring solutions to mitigate climate change and build resilience.</p>
Time period	Long term collaboration.

Name of activity/title	The Bridge
Link (if relevant)	https://lnu.se/en/research/searchresearch/the-bridge/
The partner who submitted the practice	Linnaeus University
Keywords	Forestry industry, strategic partnerships, innovation education, employment opportunities, real-life challenges

Research lunches - Digibrunch

Name of activity/title	Research lunches - Digibrunch
Domain/action	Domain 1: Fostering institutional engagement and change Action: – Multi-disciplinary support structures Domain 3: Contribution to developing innovations and businesses Action: – Structures for creating start-ups – Structures for innovation- driven research
Goal of activity/short summary	A meeting place for contacts and cooperation between Videum Science Park and Linnaeus University
Type of stakeholders involved	University, industry, support structures. Open invitation to companies and researchers at the university.
Description	Regular lunches with industry and university representatives for networking, fostering collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Lunches are organized for presentations and discussion on current topics, including speakers from industry and university sharing their current projects, practices, and research results.
Resources required	Meeting spaces and costs for lunches
Lessons learned/success factors	Regular meetings (5-10 meetings a year). Exciting speakers and open invitation ensure good attendance
Time period	Ongoing
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Linnaeus University
Keywords	Networking, innovation brokers

Licensbanken.se- A Web Bank for Research Licensing

Name of activity/title	Licensbanken.se- A Web Bank for Research Licensing
Domain/action	Domain 3: Contribution to developing innovations and businesses Actions: – Structures for creating start-ups – Structures for innovation- driven research
Goal of activity/short summary	Database of innovations available for licensing. Combines research and utility as provides the link between the ideas and results from academia to the market. Companies can search and find the innovations developed by academia.
Type of stakeholders involved	Innovators, start-ups, universities (Karlstad University, Linnaeus University, Mid Sweden University, Örebro University)
Description	Innovators, researchers submit their ideas to a data base. The database is searchable for potential entrepreneurs to look for ideas to turn in to start ups
Resources required	A web site
Lessons learned/success factors	N/A
Time period	Ongoing
Link (if relevant)	Licensbanken.se
The partner who submitted the practice	Linnaeus University
Keywords	Innovation, licensing, startups, support structures

Soft funding seminar

Name of activity/title	Soft funding seminar
Domain/action	Domain 4: Enhancing the quality of innovation and entrepreneurial education Actions: – Training programs and mentoring schemes
Goal of activity/short summary	Seminar for students to receive help to apply for soft funding (i.e. non-equity investment from institutions such as Innovation Norway) with the help of knowledgeable mentors
Type of stakeholders involved	Students, entrepreneurship and innovation support structures, mentors
Description	It is organized once per year after Innovation Norway has announced its grant for student entrepreneurs. The students start preparing their application beforehand and receive questions they need to answer together with all the required material they need to prepare the application. On the seminar day, the students and experienced mentors use the day to discuss the business concept, market, budgeting, and forecasting and write the funding application.
Resources required	Facilities of the meeting, cost for lunch, network of entrepreneurs for mentorship
Lessons learned/success factors	Successful implementation requires the students to be prepared beforehand so that they do not show up empty-handed and can utilize the expertise of mentors. Important aspects are that the mentors and organizers include persons with experience in applying for these types of grants to give good feedback and expert advice. The mentors should also have experience or knowledge of the market in the areas the students want to start a business in.
Time period	Annual
Link (if relevant)	
The partner who submitted the practice	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Keywords	Innovation, entrepreneurship, startups, support structure, mentorship, funding

Innovation call

Name of activity/title	Innovation call- grants for innovative applications outside academia
Domain/action	Domain 3: contribution to developing innovations and businesses - Testbeds and platforms
Goal of activity/short summary	Competition for innovation grants for researchers and doctoral students to develop commercial or non-commercial applications outside the academia. The ideas are pitched to a jury consisting of university and industry representatives. The selection is based on the innovation level of the idea, potential impact, and potential feasibility. In 2024, the grant was for 250 000 SEK.
Type of stakeholders involved	Academic staff (researcher), doctoral students, industry, support structures,
Description	The Innovation call is open once a year. Researcher and doctoral students submit their idea descriptions. An initial selection will be done by innovation advisers and selected applicants will get the opportunity to pitch their ideas in front of the jury. The funds can be used for paying salaries for part of the year in order to spend time on the innovation and development of applications. The successful applicant will work with LNU Innovation to establish the plan and receive support for the development.
Resources required	Funding, R&D support services
Lessons learned/success factors	Innovation call has been very popular with a lot of applications and interest. Successful projects should clearly outline the benefits to people, society outside academia.
Time period	Annual
Link (if relevant)	https://lnu.se/en/medarbetare/researcher/researcher5/LNU-Innovation/Innovation-call/
The partner who submitted the practice	Linnaeus University
Keywords	Innovation, idea testing, prototyping, industry, funding, commercialization

