

A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

XPLOIT - COMMUNITY INNOVATION

Innovation Union is the ambitious title of one of the Commission's 2014-20 strategic initiatives.

This does not mean innovation at transnational or national level only, but foremost innovation in the everyday practice of local communities and institutions.

In fact, the Commission in the upcoming Erasmus for All encourages entrepreneurship competences (the practical activity leading to innovation) at all educational levels, including non-formal and informal learning scenarios.

This approach includes at least two major inter-linked challenges: the development of entrepreneurial cultures, also locally, and the valorization of the results of the entrepreneurial initiatives.

The Xploit project found, through 3 years of community work across Europe, that both challenges point to the same kind of initiatives in our communities: a *dynamic learning community*.



Why is that?

First of all entrepreneurial cultures cannot be developed and unfolded successfully in isolated environments, as it requires the collaboration of a variety of stakeholders in the community. If infrastructures of collaboration and communication are not in place in the community, governed by a mutual platform of entrepreneurial mentality, few entrepreneurial initiatives will see the daylight.

Furthermore, the very same infrastructures are needed to uptake, capture, cultivate and exploit innovation produced in other communities across Europe.

This is why Xploit offers a variety of guidance material to help develop such community infrastructures: public authorities, educations, private enterprises, cultural institutions and NGO's joining forces to create what might rightfully be called a learning community.

Explore www.learningcommunities.eu

[Graphics from learning community centers in Wales UK]

