European FabLabs have launched pilot education events for young innovators. Brno University of Technology concentrates on student teams

Towards new innovations – this could be the motto of the FabLabNet project, which brought together workshops focused on 3D printing and related technologies from nine European countries. Together they have launched pilot events across Central Europe to extend the skills and knowledge of 3D printing and related technologies among both non-professional and professional public. The Czech Republic is represented by strojLab, the only university FabLab in the Czech Republic, which is based at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of Brno University of Technology. The first pilot project of the university educates future engineers working in student teams building Formulas, pneumobiles (compressed air cars) or small remote-controlled planes.

FabLabNet, a networking project funded by the European Union, has entered its practical stage. In the ensuing six months, the goal of the project is to launch pilot events in selected FabLabs to extend skills and knowledge of 3D printing of craftsmen and students who can become future innovators. Practically based workshops will take place in nine FabLabs in Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia and also in the Czech Republic.

The first part of the pilot activities is targeted at local communities composed of enthusiasts, creators, students and future innovators. The second part of the pilot activities aims at creators who already have specific ideas or even prototypes and want some help with marketing them. The third part is based on education in such a way that students can acquire a positive attitude towards technologies related to 3D printing.

Brno University of Technology is involved in the project with its strojLab and educational activities for students. The first pilot event attracted students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering who are working in one of the faculty teams. In total, there are three teams focusing on the development and construction of a student Formula, a pneumobile or small remote-controlled planes.

“For these talented students, we have prepared training and mentoring programs tailored to the needs of their teams. The result of our collaboration is not only sharing our know-how and equipment but also development of prototypes that teams use for building their vehicles or planes,” said David Paloušek, Head of Department of Reverse Engineering and Additive Manufacturing.

The pilot program for selected student teams of Brno University of Technology will run until May 2018, when three student teams – TU Brno Racing, Pneumobil Racing Team Brno and BUT Chicken Wings – start a racing season and the developed prototypes will be tested in real operation.

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FabLabNet

StrojLab opened thanks to the involvement of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of Brno University of Technology in the European project FabLabNet. Since 2016, the project has brought together nine European FabLabs in order to promote shared know-how in this dynamically growing field. Brno University of Technology is the only representative of the Czech Republic and also the only university in Europe involved in the project. Other partners are workshops focused on both current and new innovators such as high-tech craftsmen, designers or primary and secondary school students.

The aim of the project is to create tools and activities for building a community in the fields of 3D printing, business development and sharing advanced know-how as well as training. The long-term goal of the project is to increase the competitiveness of Central Europe by supporting digital transformation.

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http://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/FabLabNet.html

http://www.facebook.com/fablabnet.net/

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