



Urban M  
Interreg Europe



**BSC**  
Poslovno podporni center Kranj  
Regionalna razvojna agencija Gorenjske

# UrbanM Project

## Action Plan

»Challenges and Opportunities for the development of the MAKER SPACES in region Gorenjska«

**BSC**  
Poslovno podporni center Kranj  
Regionalna razvojna agencija Gorenjske

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### **What is an Action Plan according to the Interreg?**

Produced by a region, the **action plan** is a document providing details on **how** the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be exploited in order to improve the policy instrument tackled within that region. It specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs (if any) and funding sources (if any). If the same policy instrument is addressed by several partners, only one action plan is required.

Title of the project: Urban Manufacturing Stimulating Innovation through Collaborative Maker Spaces – Urban M (further referred to as Project)

Lead applicant: Birmingham City University

Project partners: Birmingham City Council, Lisbon City Council, Fomento San Sebastian (Economic Development Agency), Lazio Region, Municipality of the City Bratislava, Vilnius City Administration, BSC-Business support centre Ltd., Kranj

Projekt partner from Slovenia: BSC Business support centre Ltd., Kranj

NUTS Area: NUTS 3 Gorenjska

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Project duration: 2017 - 2021

Overall Project budget: 1.831.204,00 €

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# 1 Summary

An action plan is a working document in progress. Its goal is to present and summarize the starting points of the European UrbanM project shortly and to describe the practical examples of five workshops conducted in five Gorenjska municipalities, including feasibility studies. The wider purpose of the document is to provide guidelines and suggestions for strategy and operation, ie. manufacturers in the region and potentially also at the national level.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 The Concept of Urban Manufacturing

The concept of Urban Manufacturing is part of a wider cross-European shift in policy towards industrial development, in a recognition that ‘manufacturing and production segments are returning home’. The shift towards advanced manufacturing, supported by the introduction of new technologies and process, sees production and manufacturing linked very closely to product development and R&D; it is no longer possible for small, agile companies to separate their R&D and production operations.

Collaborative production methods such as 3D printing, Fablabs, and community-based networks are changing the relation with services and R&D.

Linked to this is the growth of the so-called “maker movement” and the general recognition of the benefits of “making things” on small scale collaborative basis. This is very often reflected in collaborative maker spaces such as TechShops, Fab- Labs, and other types of co-working Spaces where small companies and self-employed individuals can use sophisticated equipment and, at the same time, share knowledge and find opportunities to collaborate.

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.

With respect to the Slovene region Gorenjska there are further some specifics in terms of general idea of Urban Manufacturing.

In the first place, the »manufacturing« is not limited to creating and producing physical (hardware) products only, but also products as services

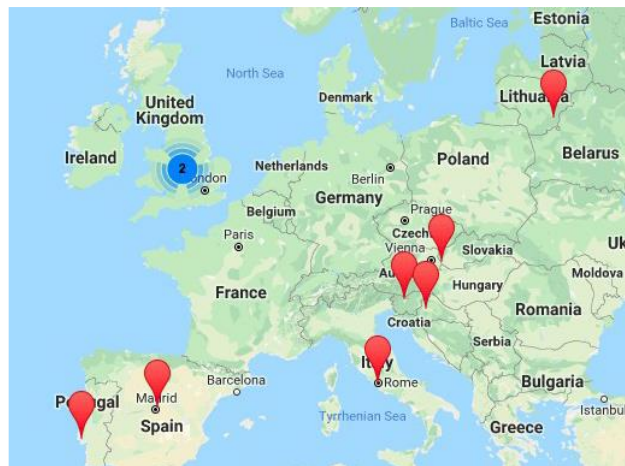
On the other side, there is no one single big town or city, which would represent the major environment or even the only one, where the activities would take place. There are actually 18 communities with a little bit more than 200.000 inhabitants with smaller cities and settlements,

which represent potential environments for innovation workshops as a stand alone or well connected places within the region. There are several smaller industrial centres: e.g the biggest one Kranj followed by Škofja Loka, Tržič, Jesenice. There are also smaller settlements, where craft and industry has a vivid mark.

## 2.2 About the Project UrbanM

The UrbanM project, financed by the EU's Interreg Europe programme, brings together 9 partners from 8 EU countries, to work together to shift regional policies towards the growth of manufacturing in urban areas, through the development of innovation infrastructure, and in particular collaborative maker spaces. The project runs from May 2017 to December 2021.

The objective of the Urban Manufacturing Project is to ensure that collaborative makerspaces thrive. The project will achieve this through identifying best practice, testing policy approaches and supporting the cities and regions in creating receptive conditions. The project will demonstrate the impact that cooperative facilities can have on innovation and establish a European network of advocates.



This Action Plan sets out some initial and also advanced thinking of how to apply the learning from the project within the Gorenjska region, based on discussions with stakeholders.

## 3 Collaborative manufacturing

### 3.1 The UrbanM project goals

### 3.2 As a Consortium

The common challenge of Urban Manufacturing is to better support and develop a particular type of innovation infrastructure – collaborative maker spaces – places where people from different disciplines work together to produce new products and services.

### 3.3 For the Slovenia partner and Gorenjska region

The challenge for Gorenjska region is how to upgrade existing support measures that does not reflect the needs of the modern approach to innovative thinking and entrepreneurship – especially how to connect creativity with upgrading/empowering the inhabitants/potential creative makers to develop their potentials towards innovative/creative prototypes, products,.... The additional goal is to use the support measures – existing knowledge and

potentials for the future possible development of the maker spaces (now not existing in Gorenjska/Slovenia).

### **3.4 UrbanM project members / partners best practices**

Not all URBAN M project best practices are listed and briefly described, but only those relevant and with potentials to be at least partly transferred to Gorenjska region/Slovenia

- ✚ STEAMhouse Birmingham: [www.steamhouse.org.uk](http://www.steamhouse.org.uk)
- Fab LAB Bratislava: [www.fablab.sk/en/](http://www.fablab.sk/en/)
- FABLAB Lisboa: [www.fablablisboa.pt](http://www.fablablisboa.pt)
- ✚ DONOSTIA Innovation League, San Sebastian: [www.fomenosanSebastian.ues/en](http://www.fomenosanSebastian.ues/en)
- ✚ POP UP COMMERCE (PUC), San Sebastian
- ✚ TECHNICAL EMPOWERMENT IN LIBRARIES, Vilnius
- ✚ UŽUPIS ART INCUBATOR, Vilnius
- ✚ RADIONA, Zagreb; [www.radiona.org](http://www.radiona.org)

### **3.5 Policy levels and politics in Slovenia**

So far the following possible policy levels and politics, that should/might be used/upgraded were found:

### **3.6 National level**

The Operational program for cohesion policy 2014-2020: in the priority 2.1. International competitiveness of research innovation and technology development in cooperation with smart specialisation and bigger competitiveness of the green economy with the focus on the sub priority 2.1.3: Improvement of the infrastructure and partnership including maker communities will be used to foster the research base and economy, in line with smart specialisation. Within this creative/cultural industries, different areas of science and economy play a vital role (listed in AF URBAN M). Priority 2.1.3. is mostly been contracted already.

The Operational program for cohesion policy 2014-2020: the point 9.7 supports investment under CLLD strategies with specific objective to improved economic and social inclusion in areas of local action groups (LAGs). Priority 9.7. with CLLD approach can be (by managing LAG with 14 local communities) directly addressed by BSC Kranj itself.

The topic of URBAN M tackle several additional measures within OP 2014-2020 due to the broadness of the concept and approaches (manufacturing, creative industry, production, counselling/support,....) there fore the National ministries responsible for several specific

measures within OP 2014-2020 were and will be additionally tackled (e.g. National ministry of economy and technology development, National ministry of culture, National ministry for education and sport). Most of the priorities in OP 2014-2020 has been contracted already.

### **3.7 Local level**

So far such policies does not exist – local communities support mainly the individual support to SME-s and start ups, based on their local development plans.

### **3.8 Regional level**

In Slovenia we do not have the regional level (no regional policy, no regional authority). BSC Kranj is responsible for preparation of the regional strategic document: Regional development plan which is latter feeding in the EU cohesion and other policy documents (e.g. Erasmus, Horison,...)/national policy documents. Regional development program byitself is not supported by regional budget (since there is no regional level of authority).

### **3.9 The status of the innovation ecosystem(s) in Gorenjska**

#### **3.10 Gorenjska region**

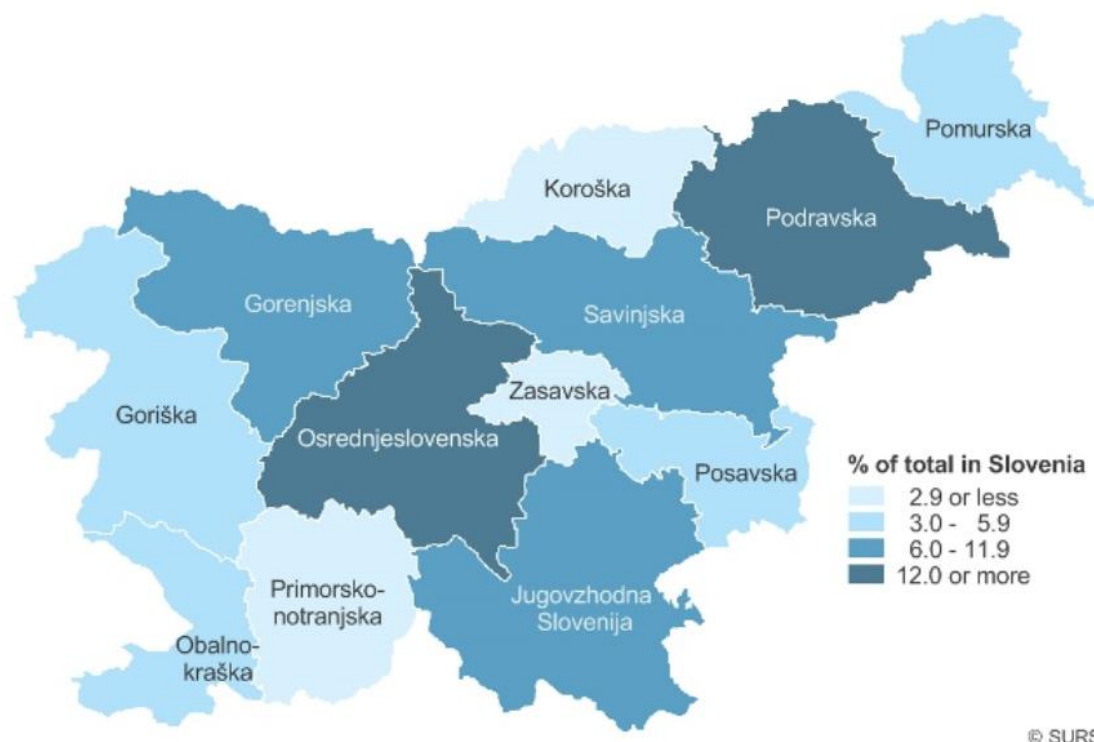
Upper Carniola (Slovene: Gorenjska; Italian: Alta Carniola; German: Oberkrain) is a traditional region of Slovenia, the northern mountainous part of the larger Carniola region. The centre of the region is Kranj,[1] while other urban centers include Jesenice, Tržič, Škofja Loka. It has around 200,000 inhabitants or 10% of the population of Slovenia<sup>1</sup>.

Based on the traditonal industry ( wood, textile, leather, metal,...),in the 20th century many new industries were developed (electro, ICT, automotive, ...) and the region was/is intensively developing the tourism (Bled, Bohinj, Kranjska Gora, ...) with a strong focus on local food production and sustainable green living. Sustainable green development represent the heart of the regional development (including innovative green economy (including innovative solutions in circular economy), greening the environment with reduction of CO2 (including green innovative solutions), developing approaches that would contribute to lowering the climate change), where inhabitants, experts, vulnerable goal groups and other stakeholders are involved in diverse development activities. Sustainable green development is the area where in the future we see possibilities to develop cooperation of creative industries with private, public and NGO sector

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper\\_Carniola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Carniola)

## Gross value added, statistical regions, Slovenia, 2016



Sources: SURS, GURS

### 3.11 The cities/communities observed in the UrbanM project

There are five major communities address by the project in terms of UrbanM project, which are the most appropriate and relevant for consideration. They are Kranj (as the capital of Gorenjska region and city with of 40.000 population), Jesenice (14.000), Škofja Loka (13.000), Tržič (4.000) and Bohinj<sup>2</sup> (5.000 population in municipality).

Most of the cities were founded hundreds of years ago (13. century), some evidences of settlements are even from aintent civilisations (e.g. Celtics, Roman,...), which give these cities and communitites a historical background on the way they operate, how people have been living and what was and is industry today.

The industry in those five cities/municipalities is also pretty much representative for the Gorenjska region. Primarily the industry is related to primary and secondary level (materials: wood, metal, textile) and manufacturing with the craftsmanship.

Today we can find not only well developed and export oriented industry, especially in Kranj and Škofja Loka (Iskratel, Iskra Emeco, LTH, ...), but alsogood public education system. Though there is no University in the region, people mostly target the University in Ljubljana (capital city). For UrbanM project it is even more iportant to note, there is a very well developed

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<sup>2</sup> [https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seznam\\_mest\\_v\\_Sloveniji](https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seznam_mest_v_Sloveniji)

network of secondary and high schools, which serves as a source of young talents and potential future entrepreneurs.

Most important secondary, higher, high schools and faculties in the Gorenjska region (listed below<sup>3</sup>) confirm the idea of manufacturing and craft to be traditional industries and materials like wood, metal and textile, ICT as well:

- Secondary schools (technical studies (robotics, ICT, mechatronics, machinery, tourism) in Jesenice, Kranj, Skofja Loka, Naklo, Bled), studies connected to wood (Skofja Loka),...
- Higher schools with technical studies (robotics, ICT, mechatronics, machinery, biotechnology Kranj, Skofja Loka, Naklo,) tourism in Bled with interentrepreneurial centres (link between economy and schools)  
Faculty for organisational science, University of Maribor, Kranj  
Faculty of health care in Jesenice

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<sup>3</sup> [https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seznam\\_srednjih\\_%C5%A1ol\\_v\\_Sloveniji](https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seznam_srednjih_%C5%A1ol_v_Sloveniji)

## SWOT of the region Gorenjska

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Very good geostrategic position, attractive business location (near national airport on the border with Austria and Italy) there fore the transfer of knowledge/ideas cross border and wider (markets in EU, Balkan, Russia,.....)</li> <li>✚ Good educational system (if not in the region, then near by in capital city Ljubljana)</li> <li>✚ Rather well educated population (specific skills/knowledge in the field of ICT ,robotics, ....manufacturing) can be obtained</li> <li>✚ Some existing cooperation (manufacturing, creativity) in SME-s</li> <li>✚ Some existing support measures trying to work towards the creativity (at least working with possibilities to include young and/or potential start ups, small creative start ups)</li> <li>✚ Industrial region (rather high concentration of SMEs working in automotive industry, ICT, with specialized productions...)</li> <li>✚ Readiness to improve the support measures (manufacturing, creativity) within stakeholder community</li> <li>✚ Flexibility of the SMEs in the region, quick reaction to changes on the market (most SMEs sell their goods and services in EU and also in other world)</li> <li>✚ Flexibility in terms that innovative SME.s are settled not only in bigger towns but also in countryside (innovativeness spread in the area, collaborative spirit in the countryside based on the identity and traditional values)</li> <li>✚ Interest of the stakeholders in the region to start up with establishment of maker spaces initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Slow recovery of the economy after crisis (more innovation needed- especially in connection with new products/services/creative industry)</li> <li>✚ Too low added value of products and services</li> <li>✚ Support mechanisms exist but are not tailored made to the needs of the nowadays manufacturing – in connection with creativity and innovation</li> <li>✚ Some support mechanisms are missing – laboratories, technology parks, test fields, specific formal education in the fields of manufacturing, special support measures for individuals and young interested in the technical skills</li> <li>✚ No existing maker spaces (in the region/Slovenia)</li> <li>✚ Small numbers of SMEs invest in cooperation with creativity and innovative solutions</li> <li>✚ SMEs are in need for skilled personnel with working experiences (link between manufacturing and creativity) (school system does not provide certain knowledge and expertise )</li> <li>✚ Rather low entrepreneurial culture</li> <li>✚ Hight unemployment rate among young people (also well educated)</li> <li>✚ Brain drain of young (especially with faculty degree,....)</li> <li>✚ Lack of understanding that countryside centers can be the hub of innovation (with maker spaces)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Working force is ageing/some expertise (from the field of manufacturing) is not easy to find</li> <li>✚ Young or individuals looking for new manufacturing carrer do not have the opportunity to obtain knowledge (regular school programs do not exist, there is no possibility to obtain specific knowledge)</li> <li>✚ No cohesion/national funds available for development of the maker spaces</li> </ul>
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OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<b>In the short term</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Readiness of the regional stakeholders to create maker spaces and upgrade so far unformal cooperation with knowledge exchange, building the joint community of maker spaces thinking</li> <li>✚ Readiness of regional stakeholders to find the human and financial means within their regular activity (and to upgrade it with possible donation funds)</li> <li>✚ Support from public funds for innovation, creativity, start up of maker spaces,...</li> <li>✚ Engaging private initiatives/donors to start building up maker spaces for specific areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Further loosing of the competitive position (due to low added value of the products/services)</li> <li>✚ Brain drain of young and educated skilled experts and daily migration of young to larger urban centres for work</li> <li>✚ Ageing of population (no workers with specific manufacturing knowledge)</li> <li>✚ Further loosing of the manufacturing education</li> <li>✚ No interest for including creativity/innovation in the support measures</li> <li>✚ No interest for development of the support environment (maker spaces) that would</li> </ul>

<p>of expertise (manufacturing in cooperation with creativity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Innovative understanding of maker spaces (pave the way to specific new markets)</li> </ul>	<p>enable empowerment of the young, inhabitants and would contribute to better manufacturing skills for products/services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ No interest of local communities/state to invest into the support of start up/development of the maker spaces</li> </ul>
<b>In the medium - long term</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Better cooperation between support organisations (building up the maker space support community)</li> <li>✚ Maintaining the flexibility of the maker spaces in the region (possibility to adapt to needs of customers)</li> <li>✚ Using private initiatives as the possibility to create up to date flexible maker spaces</li> <li>✚ Using maker spaces to attract innovativeness from near by countries Austria, Italy,....</li> </ul>	

### 3.12 Forms of the innovations initiatives

We can look at manufacturing centers as a completely new form of innovation in a broad sense, but at the same time in the EU as well as in Slovenia, a lot of different initiatives have been presented in the last period, which represent the form of innovation environment, which can be the foundation for the further development of the maker spaces.

- **LivingLab (supported via Faculty for organisation science, University of Maribor)**
- **OpenLab (1 in Kranj supporting young in developing of the innovative ideas (also in connection with creativity); [www.openlab.si](http://www.openlab.si))**
- **Coworking (3 in the region Kovačnica (Kranj) (<http://kovacnica.si/>), Lokomotiva (Škofja Loka), Coworking Jesenice))** (giving the start up support info, workshops and working places (favourable price) to micro SME-s and start ups (mainly from the field of free lancers, specific services and in some cases creative individuals)
- **MIC – Medpodjetniški izobraževalni center at secondary and higher schools in the region ( Technical school centre Kranj, Biotehnični center Naklo, Higher school for catering Bled, School centre Škofja Loka) (interentrepreneurial centers) (working as link between the schools and economy** (mainly supporting the cooperation between the pupils, students, teachers and companies (also in working together or providing certain services/support to SME-s and vice versa )

**Centres connecting the craftsmen and creativity** (DUO center in Škofja Loka, Virtual centre in Bohinj (connected to the Brand Bohinjsko)

**Layer house, Kranj with cooperation between creatives including art projects;**  
<http://www.layer.si/en/layer-house/layer-house>

## 4 Action plan

### 4.1 The UrbanM Project Goals

The Action Plan aims to impact:

x **Investment for Growth and Jobs programme;** (difficult to influence since most of available resources were contracted and OP 2014-2020 by information give, is fixed until the end of programming period).

x **Other regional development policy instrument** (e.g. CLLD)

BSC Kranj as project partner intends to improve the policy instrument through projects across at least one of the themes within Urban Manufacturing.

- Collaborative Innovation, How the Arts can intersect with Science, Technology Engineering and Maths;
- Collaborative Innovation, Maker communities;
- Collaborative Innovation, Ecosystem (including location of facilities and diversity of users/goal groups);
- Commercialisation of Collaborative Innovation, Enterprise (including startups and entrepreneurship).

The particular focus of the projects is the improvement in the cooperation between cultural/creative industries and innovative spirit for entrepreneurship/possible supporting also cooperation with science. Support measures will tackle the specific needs of both areas and, relatedly, the surrounding environment where there is currently very little infrastructure to underpin territorial development and collaboration between sectors. Therefore, new innovation infrastructure, like Maker spaces, needs to be developed.

BSC Kranj and local stakeholders design the projects based on learning from exchange of experience with partner cities/regions. This will create engagement and improve the situation for cultural/creative industries and innovative spirit for entrepreneurship/science, with and emphasis on economic impact the specific fields of smart specialisation. The expectation is that by sharing the outcomes of the project, transfer of knowledge between creative industry, the R&D base, companies and individuals will be enhanced; facilities and human expertise, research and innovation infrastructure will be better used; and innovation and competitiveness will be improved.

## **4.2 Background**

### **4.3 The state of policy measures in the Gorenjska region**

To date, in Kranj and its wider policy region, only the first steps have been made towards establishing collaborative maker spaces. A growing need is in evidence for both public stakeholders, including local communities and secondary/higher schools with entrepreneurial centres, and SMEs, to better understand the benefits of urban manufacturing. The policy region has identified connecting types of 'making' with the expertise of the creative industries and coworking initiatives, as a priority step that need to be taken. In addition, a further priority is to find ways of assisting more 'formal' or 'traditional' industries in uncovering innovations, especially where individuals/ inhabitants, potential start ups, startups and and SMEs are looking for efficient and current support in urban manufacturing methodologies. Broadly, this work will take the form of developing strategic approaches and promoting methods for exchanging knowhow.

It should be noted that, currently, there is support available for, and ongoing measures of cooperation between, R&D organisations and private companies. These aspects are partly embedded in existing policy schemes. However, work needs to be completed to identify the specific obstacles that hinder effective collaboration, to remove blockages and amplify current activity. As such, coordinated action is required to increase awareness for the need to bring about systemic change in supporting policies.

In terms of physical infrastructure, the statistical region has four interentrepreneurial centres (MIC), three coworking centres, Open lab, which require strong policy support in order for their facilities to be upgraded, against a background of previously limited policy interventions.

### **4.4 Specific contribution**

BSC as partner contributes with key practices, including Coworking initiatives and One stop initiative (national program), MIC approaches, DUO and Bohinjsko approaches,.....

BSC and the stakeholders group benefit from policy learning from the partner regions linked to support to specific parts of the project.

BSC has a very strong network of schools for robotics, ICT, materials which have good cooperation with SMEs and expects that new approaches, including STEAM will be developed in close cooperation with regional schools and chambers.

### **4.5 Major Stakeholders involved and their roles**

#### **List of major stakeholders:**

- Chambers of crafts
- Chamber of commerce
- Support organisations: MIC.s, coworking spaces, DUO, Bohinjsko...

- Schools in the region, public universities
- Municipalities of the region
- Government office for Development and European Cohesion Policy
- Ministry of economic development and technology
- Ministry of education, science and sport
- Ministry of culture
- Spirit Slovenia, public agency

#### **Specific roles of the major stakeholders:**

- Chambers of crafts: Sharing experiences about the possibility to implement support mechanisms Benefiting from the practices of the partners to develop services, facilities and activities connected to services for R&D and SMEs in the region Outreach to entrepreneurs.
- Chamber of Commerce and Technology park: Sharing experiences about possibility the to implement support mechanisms Benefiting from the practices of the partners to develop services, facilities and activities connected to services for R&D and SMEs in the region Outreach to entrepreneurs and R&D facilities
- Support organisations: MIC.s, coworking spaces,...giving support to the development of the innovative thinking, providing starting up infrastructure, human resources,...
- Schools in the region, public universities: providing good knowledge and expertise in the field of the specific manufacturing and creative challenges
- Municipalities of the region are responsible for development of the economy in the area of local community Engagement of local communities to raise awareness about the specific issues connected to the support for empowerment of inhabitants, young in connection (Manufacturing, creativity,...) SMEs and R&D in the region.
- The Government office for Development and European Cohesion Policy is the Managing Authority of the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Period 2014- 2020, supporting and promoting projects and activities related to the support for SMEs and R&D in the region.
- The Ministry of economic development and technology, the Ministry of education and science and sport, as well as the public agency Spirit Slovenia support and promote projects and activities related to boost R&D for SMEs in the region.
- The Ministry of culture supports projects and activities targeting the cultural sector and creative industry and its connection with the SME-s.

## **4.6 Survey and workshops**

### **Survey**

The aim of the survey is to gain a wider insight into the specific needs of municipalities, its stakeholders in the field of innovation, which will be based on factories (industrial branches/industrial knowledge) and will involve solving specific operational challenges of the local environment, transferring good practices and knowledge, and involving a wider range of stakeholders who can constructively contribute to strengthening the innovation mentality, entrepreneurship and solving challenges.

The survey was sent to the municipalities and stakeholders (schools, support organisations, interentrepreneurial centres,...) for fulfillment and its results will be one of the bases for the preparation of the concept of actions in the action plan.

### **Workshops**

So far individual discussions and several workshops with stakeholders were organized with the stakeholders in the cities / municipalities of Kranj, Škofja Loka, Jesenice, Tržič,...with the aim to present and discuss ideas and concept of manufacturing creative centres (Maker Spaces).

The workshops and individual discussions showed at least 5 topics of possible maker spaces in the region:

- Wood
- Robotics
- Machinery
- ICT
- Textil
- Biotechnology ( in connection with agriculture)
- Craft (diverse smaller inovattive products)

and brought vivid discussions of participants: where we are weak, what is lacking, where are we strong, what is missing,with which SME-s and other actors the cooperation should be developed/upgraded, what kind of knowledge/expertise cities/region have and what kind of services/support the maker spaces can offer and who might be the customers of the maker spaces (children, young, inhabitants, potential SME-s, maybe SME-s, other possible users (specific goal groups with specific interests).

Based on the workshops/individual meetings the action plan was prepared, and include one action connected to CLLD funds.

Also the meetings with national stakeholders (to discuss the maker spaces initiative) were implemented (one to one meeting) being implemented during summer and autumn this year.

## **Role and Importance of the Creative industry**

The creative industry is being considered as one of the important game changers in the concept of Urban Manufacturing and modern concepts of entrepreneurship, including learning, education, knowledge transfer, cooperation, co-working and co-creation and interaction between industry, education, government and society.

One of the interesting working and running creative spaces in Slovenia is Poligon (<http://www.poligon.si/en/>) and can be used also as a baseline for similar spaces organized in the future in the Gorenjska region. Poligon Creative Centre, established in 2014, has been established in Ljubljana as the first Slovenian creative centre, operating as an autonomous platform for empowerment of freelancers, creative startups and communities. Poligon has also produced numerous conferences and other events to introduce new concepts and educate key stakeholders, organized exhibitions promoting Slovenian creatives internationally and produced several research and policy papers commissioned by government and municipality stakeholders. Recognized as one of the best practices in Europe, Poligon and its know how are regularly shared at numerous conferences and workshops around Europe and wider region.

In terms of governmental and national support there are following initiatives to be considered related to the creative industry:

- The wood industry, [http://www.mgrt.gov.si/en/areas\\_of\\_work/wood\\_industry/](http://www.mgrt.gov.si/en/areas_of_work/wood_industry/);
- Ministry of culture, which is also responsible in terms of governing the creative industry together with other ministries, [https://www.culture.si/en/Ministry\\_of\\_Culture](https://www.culture.si/en/Ministry_of_Culture)
- Creative industries and employment in Slovenia, a project, <http://www.zetko.si/work/creative-industries-and-employment-potential-in-slovenia/>
- Centre for Creativity, <https://www.czk.si/>
- Fab lab network in Slovenia; <https://fablab.si/>

### **4.7 Specific Actions for Gorenjska region**

In the process of discovering opportunities which could result in specific actions, the final focus resulted in three areas, specific challenges:

#### **1) Challenge: Collaboration**

Boost collaboration between existing innovation spaces, open labs, co-working, MICs (Interentrepreneurial Education Centres) and others in order to create and improve shared knowledge and interdisciplinary innovation. Most appropriate action envisioned is a proposed project.

## 2) Challenge: Skills

It was discovered that there is big challenge to identify, properly support and efficiently connect skilled mentors from different innovation ecosystems / initiatives (open lab, co-working, maker spaces, MICs, innovation centres, incubators, etc.) to creative community in order to grow the economy and make creative entrepreneurs more resilient through transferable skills. Most appropriate action envisioned is a strategic action.

## 3) Challenge: Proximity

Through the discussions during workshops organized in the four cities / communities it was discovered there is not only high interest, but inherent urgency to improve access to knowledge infrastructure, making facilities and markets to boost regional and local economy.

With this respect better communication and a common knowledge / infrastructure sharing between regionally dispersed innovation initiatives / ecosystems is crucial. Most appropriate action envisioned is a project – most likely to create knowledge sharing, connected innovation community through an incubator designed in Kranj as an upgrade co-working

These three major challenges detected result and action suggested as a result of the UrbanM project, which relate to Gorenjska region and prepared by the BSC Kranj partner.

The following “regional” challenges are the priority (which might be embedded at least partly in the proposed changes in the policy (at least via CLLD funds)(below) and will upgrade the existing support environment (so far no maker spaces in the region/or Slovenia):

Regional challenge	Description
Boost collaboration between existing innovation spaces (open labs, co-working, MICs (Interentrepreneurial Education Centres) and others.	This challenge addresses the need to upgrade the knowledge about the specific support measures and connect them to the »creative maker space« network, which would be able to give the needed customized support to the users .

<p>Connect skilled mentors from different innovation ecosystems / initiatives with the creative community (industry), with a policy change</p>	<p>This challenge addresses the most typical users (creative freelancers, potential entrepreneurs, mentors and staff at the business support organisations in the region) in order to connect them to work together and cooperate.</p> <p>The user gets 1-on-1 support with a business support adviser and would then be connected to a specific mentor, to give them the advice which they require. There is a process which businesses would go through the get the right support. They would report back to the business support adviser afterwards and then receive a voucher and a development plan.</p>
<p>Improve communication, cooperation and sharing common knowledge and / infrastructure between regionally dispersed innovation initiatives / ecosystems with at least one vivid maker space – upgrading the existing support offer into maker space.</p>	<p>There is no maker spaces in Slovenia, but there are typically support measures for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship: incubators and interentrepreneurial centres, craft centres,... With the established support measure trying to form the maker space, which would be placed as an upgrade of innovation ecosystem (so far at least several locations/initiatives were found as possible pilot options (e.g.Kranj; Co-working = Kovačnica being in cooperation with interpreneurial centre in Kranj,Škofja Loka: interentrepreneurial centre in Škofja Loka together with DUO in Škofja Loka, Trzic; Museum together with local NGO creative initiative, Jesenice; school centre; Bohinj; Trade mark cooperation Bohinjsko...)).At least for one of the locations: there will be set up an open innovation space for one/different types and areas of industries to innovate in a practical way. In addition it will offer the facilities to those, who would like to learn and develop entrepreneurial idea further, no matter from which part of the Gorenjska region they</p>

	come or have started. It will also be a space where researchers, students, entrepreneurs, mentors ... meet and take advantage of the creativity, production, testing and other equipment (infrastructure).
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Based on the challenges of the region and knowledge learned within the URBAN M project the following action to upgrade the policy is proposed:

<i>Action 1: Promote the maker space creativity</i>	
<i>Policy context</i>	<p>Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme/ Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 (CLLD funds)</p> <p>We are going to influence the Local development strategy of LAG (local action group) Gorenjska košarica especially in the field of the call for proposal where specific measure for start ups and SMEs are planed, where innovative approaches are expected.</p>
<i>Background and relevance to the project</i>	<p>The idea behind the action stems from the needs of the region, which are evident from the SWOT analysis and good practices that we have studied within the project Urban M and other knowledge</p> <p>The idea behind the STEAM house (Birmingham) is to enable vivid cooperation between manufacturing innovative ideas and creativity (creative sector) in close cooperation with team work, gaining the knowledge and expertise needed for development of joint innovative ideas from different manufacturing fields.</p> <p>The idea behind the EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG WITH TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE IN LIBRARIES (Vilnius) is to empower young to start to develop technical skills and combine them with creativity and new knowledge.</p> <p>The combination of both cases and strategic objectives of the Gorenjska region to establish and develop the maker space and</p>

	<p>providing support to young, individuals, potential start ups, start ups,... area is basis for the presented action.</p>
<p><i>Nature of the action</i></p>	<p>The municipalities in Gorenjska region so far recognised the opportunities for development of innovative spirit/connected to manufacturing/creative sector but the opportunities were not further exploited, although the awareness of the potentials of maker spaces for further development/prevention of brain drain/acquiring innovative knowledge needed for the industries in the region is quite high.</p> <p>Due to further expected loss of innovative production, loss of structural funds, loss of innovative creative people, local communities together with support organizations in the region must start with joint alliances for the future (in the way to negotiate with the state and to join forces for joint programs and subsidies) to gain additional fund for development of maker spaces culture in our region will be needed</p> <p>Within the maker space we will work towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Raising awareness among stakeholders for added value of the maker spaces</li> <li>✚ Raising the knowledge in the support network of the support organisations experts</li> <li>✚ Developing the model, approaches, trainings,...</li> <li>✚ Starting up the support measures (maker space) for individuals, young (1. Step), potential start ups, start ups (2. Step)</li> <li>✚ Evaluation and upgrading of the approach/model</li> </ul> <p>The activity will be financed on the basis of the prepared project idea.</p> <p>The following task will be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Development and preparation of a call for the organisation “being ready to be first maker space” in the region</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Selection of the maker space “pilot area”for which project idea will be prepared /to apply for CLLD funds</li> <li>+ Development of a project: a model, trainings, organisational approaches,...</li> <li>+ Implementation of the model</li> <li>+ Evaluation and upgrading, preparation of recommendations for the sustainability of the model</li> </ul>
<i>Players involved</i>	<p>Lead partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Regional development agency (BSC Kranj) within the programme area (namely Gorenjska development region),</li> </ul> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Municipalities,</li> <li>+ Chambers of Craft,</li> <li>+ Chamber of commerce,</li> <li>+ Support organisations: coworking, interentrepreneurial centres, DUO, Bohinjsko...</li> </ul>
<i>Timeframe</i>	<p>2017-2020: Development of project idea  2020-2023: Implementation of project idea</p>
<i>Indicative costs</i>	<p>Salaries of employees in beneficiary institutions, external expertise for development of first maker space in the region  Indicative of the project budget is € 200.000</p>
<i>Indicative funding sources</i>	<p>The project idea will be prepared and the funding will be requested within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Decree on the Implementation of Community Led Local Development - CLLD 2014-2020 which named the BSC Kranj the lead partner for CLLD funds for LAG Gorenjska košarica covering 14 local communities of the development region Gorenjska</li> </ul>

	<p>✚ Call for proposals for LAG Gorenjska košarica (ERDF funds)</p> <p>The proposed action will indirectly influence the OP for implementation of Cohesion policy, because the point 9.7 supports investment under CLLD strategies with specific objective to improved economic and social inclusion in areas of local action groups (LAGs).</p> <p>Program founding scheme (ERDF), private and public contribution of project partners will be required for implementation of the action.</p>
<i>Expected impact</i>	<p>For preparation of application form in the field of maker spaces the call for proposal will be elaborated, adding on specifics regarding maker spaces, while strategy basics for the call will not be changed since the measures for potential SME-s and SME-s are part of the strategy already.</p>
<i>Indicators*</i>	<p>✚ No. of individuals/young being supported via maker space programs</p>

\*Indicator reflect the Strategy LAG Gorenjska košarica

The mentioned action is realistic, since BSC Kranj is the lead partner of LAG Gorenjska košarica and manage CLLD funds for 14 local communities. It is BSC responsibility to prepare and implement the calls for CLLD in the LAG area and therefore it can directly influence the content of calls/upgrading the strategy for CLLD in the area. The implemented measure can be/might play the leading role in transferring the opportunities that maker spaces offer to other LAG areas in Slovenia (33 of them in Slovenia).

Unfortunately measures from Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 were already mostly contracted in full (mentioned measure in AF Urban M) as well as other measures connected to entrepreneurship that might be used for starting up the maker spaces initiatives in Slovenia. In the process of preparation of the action plan further discussion with national ministries responsible for the measures within Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 will take place to elaborate options to use good practices of URBAN M to influence the measure/s within Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.

## 5 Monitoring the implementation and impact of the Action Plan

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A periodic review of the implementation of the Action Plan will be carried out annually and will be implemented by Regional agency of Gorenjska region, which, as part of its tasks and on the basis of its findings, may also propose amendments to the Action Plan. Update of the Action Plan will be made in 2020 for the next period from 2021 onward.

Table: Table to monitor the implementation of the action plan

Action	Activity /Indicator	Measurement	Category of region	Target value 2023	Data source
Action 1	No. of users of the newly established maker space	Number	West cohesion region (part Gorenjska)	min 10/yearly	Monitoring
	No of new approaches, prototypes, products, services	Number	West cohesion region (part Gorenjska)	min 1/yearly	Monitoring

**Date:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stamp of the organisation (if available):** \_\_\_\_\_

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