

# NIRVANA

## OPEN & SMART INNOVATION

### JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER

#### INDEX

1) Editorial "NIR-VANA Launch"	1
2) Detailed Project-Information	2
3) Past Activities	3
4) Upcoming Events	4
5) NIR-VANA Team	5

#### Editorial "NIR-VANA Launch"

Welcome to the first edition of the information sharing newsletter of the Networking Innovation Room for Added Value Networking Alliances (NIR-VANA) Project. This newsletter has the purpose of keeping you updated with our ongoing activities, encouraging you to get involved in our work, sharing project information and progress between the Consortium Partners.

On May 1st 2016, the EU Horizon 2020-funded Networking Innovation for Added Value Networking Alliances (NIR-VANA) Project was kicked off. The EU Horizon 2020, which is the biggest EU research and innovation programme, aims to achieve economic growth with its emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges.

The aim of the NIR-VANA Project is to promote the online collaboration of SMEs during the entire

The NIR-VANA Project will work to overcome the aforementioned challenges through the design of a new service that will be provided by innovation agents. This service will promote the online collaboration for SME during the entire innovation process using an innovative approach based on ICT solutions, training and novel methods to support SMEs.

innovation process through the design and implementation of a new service that will be provided by innovation advisors. NIR-VANA provides a novel approach based on ICT solutions, training and novel methods to support SMEs.

We welcome any feedback and we hope you will consider sharing this newsletter with your network.



This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the grant agreement 681787.

## Detailed Project-Information

NIR-VANA is an EU project with the objective to develop online services that will **help small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) to innovate** together with external partners, often referred to as open or collaborative innovation. Innovation advisors will provide services during the entire innovation process through an online platform where SMEs can **collaborate, co-create and co-participate in innovation projects** with other SMEs, experts and researchers from all over Europe.

Several innovation support services are available today. However, many services do not provide enough support, particularly after collaborations have been set up, mainly due to the lack of ongoing monitoring, efficient support methods and innovation management capacity. Likewise, there are many online collaboration tools available spanning from social networks to more advanced tools for innovation management. However, many tools are either unknown or not user-friendly enough for SMEs.

Consequently, **NIR-VANA will develop an online solution** based on training that will not only consider new and existing technologies and platforms but also the innovation culture in SMEs and their ICT readiness.

### Target groups

- SMEs
- Innovation support advisors
- Researchers



### Activities

- Analyse the existing online-collaboration support services for SMEs and to **understand SME's** behaviours, needs and barriers when going online.
- **Design an innovation model** and a workflow builder to construct bespoke SME innovation workflows
- Design, develop, integrate and test different ICT tools that will be part of an **online collaboration platform**
- Develop a **training programme** aimed at innovation advisors, giving them the skills they need to support the clients in this new innovation environment.
- **Validate** the services, the training programme and the ICT-based tools
- **Disseminate and promote** project results



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## Past Activities

### Open Innovation Workshop

“Open innovation” was the topic of the first workshop of the NIR-VANA which was held in Girona on 13th of June. After the opening speech, partners from the consortium made their presentations and engaged in a panel discussion with other EENs such as ACCIO(EEN node in Catalunya) in a panel discussion.

Denisa Gibovic, Miquel Montaner and Victor Torres from Blue Room Innovation presented some trends and state of the market regarding open innovation platforms and supporting tools, which were grouped into 7 main categories, for which some non-exhaustive examples were given:1)Innovation



Management Platforms, 2)Challenge Platforms, 3)Experts and Connections, 4)Trends for Inspiration,5)Matching Offer and Demand. 6)Designing the Business Model, 7)Finding Knowledge 8)Open Innovation platforms and tools. Moreover, the main challenges being identified for innovation management platforms in the workshop.



### Anaysis

A literature review and survey of innovation agencies and SMEs have been conducted as a first activity of the Project. The goal of this activity is to analyse the state of the art and the problems of existing experiences about online-collaboration support services for SMEs and to understand SMEs behaviors, needs and barriers when going online.

This activity also aims to define the services and tools of the NIR-VANA Project. The literature review has been done in order to define the specification of the NIR feature set and the list of innovation platforms that will be linked to NIR.

<b>Survey for SMEs</b>	<b>Innovation Advisors Interview</b>
Remote survey	One to one interviews
400 viewpoints from <b>10 countries</b>	At least 30 interviews



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## Upcoming Activities

### 1. The third annual World Open Innovation Conference (WOIC), 15-16 December 2016, Barcelona/SPAIN

The 3rd Annual World Open Innovation Conference co-hosted with ESADE in Barcelona, Spain, brings together renowned academic scholars, leading companies and innovators in the Open Innovation space. R&D Management has agreed to provide a Special Issue comprised of the best papers submitted to the conference.

To help identify and develop the best new theoretical and applied research in open innovation, the 3rd Annual World Open Innovation Conference (WOIC 2016) has been organized. While the first two WOICs were held in Napa Valley in 2014 and in Silicon Valley in 2015, respectively; it is now moving to Europe for this year and will be held at ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain.



R&D Management has agreed to devote a Special Issue on “Open Innovation in the Digital Age” with the best papers submitted to the conference. See call for Papers at <http://woic.corporateinnovation.berkeley.edu/call-for-papers/> for more information.

### 2. The Turkey Innovation Week, 8-10 December 2016, İstanbul/TURKEY

Moving on from the prediction of the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM) that the world's and export's future depends on development based on innovation, Turkey Innovation Week that TIM has been organized on **8-10 December in İstanbul** for the fourth time this year, the owners of the projects that revealed innovation as a driving force within the fields of science, technology, marketing, design, urban, business and industrial world, marketing energy and medicine and that had a significant influence will be brought together.

For further information:

<http://www.turkiyeinovasyonhaftasi.com/tr/>



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## What did they say regarding NIR-VANA?

*“NIR-VANA represents an important business opportunity for Easy Innova. The artificial intelligence techniques and algorithms have never impacted business the way it happens now. These combined with open and smart platforms and entities like EEN (and similar networks) is opening numerous business opportunities right now. We are working on different business concepts and ideas with relevant consulting and technological companies related to smart services as a next step after NIR-VANA”*

**EASY INNOVA (COORDINATOR)**

*“As member of the Enterprise Europe Network, impulse.brussels has a double interest in the project: the NIRVANA project responds to the current and growing need for the Network to deliver more qualitative, indepth support to top-notch European SMEs engaged in collaborative innovation. Advising SMEs on setting up smart collaborations for their innovations, is our daily work. With the NIRVANA project, we hope on one hand to be able to boost the growth of the top-notch European SMEs, and on the other hand, to give innovation advisors the opportunity to enhance the quality of the current innovation support provided to SMEs.”*

**IMPULSE BRUSSELS**

*“As the Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy is Fraunhofer’s unit specialized in internationalization processes, we are particularly interested in the design and development of an online collaboration service for innovation with the goals of enhancing international access to knowledge and supporting SMEs and innovation advisors throughout Europe. By taking part in NIR-VANA we will understand collaborative innovation processes better and thus build capacities in designing the tools to support them.”*

**FRAUNHOFER MOEZ**

*“Nowadays many ideas and technologies which generate new successful products are developed thanks to the collaboration of SMEs with different other players along the value chain. As innovation agency of the regional government and reference of Enterprise Europe Network, Veneto Innovazione is constantly monitoring the networking readiness of regional SMEs and the best way to foster their collaborative innovation capabilities. With NIR-VANA project we are interested to identify and address the cultural and mind-set gaps and to develop online collaboration tools able to foster open innovation at regional and international level. We are sure this will definitely increase the competitiveness of our enterprises on international markets with a positive impact in terms of economic growth and new employees.”*

**VENETO INNOVAZIONE**

*“In these days, it has been generally approved by everyone that innovative actions add quality and more value to business life. While most of the countries try to preserve their competitive leadership in several industries with high added value, Turkey further carries its accomplishments forward in obtaining a higher added value day by day. As İKMİB, which represent over 7.000 exporters, we attach special importance on innovation as the way to 500 billion dollars export target set for 2023. On the other hand, information flow is very fast and online tools are everywhere currently. That is why we aim to deliver the most accurate information to our members in the shortest route. Moreover, online services that NIR-VANA Project will provide help our members innovate together with external partners.”*

**ISTANBUL CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION (İKMİB)**



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## Project Partners

EASY INNOVA (COORDINATOR)		SPAIN
FRAUNHOFER MOEZ		GERMANY
IMPULSE BRUSSELS		BELGIUM
SWEREA IVF		SWEDEN
VENETO INNOVAZIONE		ITALY
ISTANBUL CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION (İKMİB)		TURKEY
LA SALLE (FUNDACIO PRIVADA UNIVERSITAT I TECNOLOGIA)		SPAIN

*" What is now proved was once only imagined." - William Blake*

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