

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transforming Manufacturing in Europe

Enabling Industry 4.0 by uniting the skills of Makers and Manufacturers

The OpenMaker initiative is a pan-European project aiming to seed and accelerate the 4th Industrial Revolution – driving the radical distribution, decentralization and mass collaboration between manufacturers and makers.

We recognise manufacturing as one of the key sectors in Europe: in 2014, manufacturing represented around 16% of the EU GDP, more than 80% of EU total exports, 80% of private Research and Development expenditure, and employed 30 million people¹. However, the sector has suffered in the wake of an economic crisis and globalisation², and in 2014 a goal was announced to increase manufacturing's share of GDP to 20% by 2020³. Such aspirations require radical innovation in the face of economic decline.

This initiative seeks to catalyse the ideation, discovery, design and prototyping of business models, production processes, products, and governance systems.

Enabling mass collaboration between manufacturers and makers and transforming linear vertical supply chains into supply meshes, democratizing and decentralising innovation and supporting mass customisation is seen as a strategic opportunity for ushering forth a new era of manufacturing.

The herald of the 4th industrial revolution is not only the nature of the physical device we make and how and where we make it but also how we reimagine elements like citizens rights, quality assurance, insurance warranties and provenance in a zero margin cost society. It is ultimately a fusing of scalable industrial processes with state-of-the-art technology to bring about the new “smart factory⁴” city. It will ultimately be through these new processes, ideas and institutions that this revolution comes about.

The programme will initially support makers and manufacturers with 4 accelerator hubs across Europe (UK, Italy, Slovakia and Spain) offering seminars, matching events and training sessions to facilitate partnerships. the initiative will also engage with citizens, universities, local authorities, civil society organisations and policy-makers. Each hub will award prizes of up to €20,000 to the 5 most successful partnerships, and all partners will be supported by a dedicated digital platform to widen the opportunity for businesses to grow.

Imagine a future where manufacturing companies become the open platform for young innovators to try inventions and take their next step to making an impact on society. Then, imagine a future in which brilliant innovators are able to transform industrial processes, making them more efficient and effective, resulting in more user-friendly products for society. OpenMaker unites these two dreams.

¹ See EC Task Force on Advanced Manufacturing for Clean Production (2014)

² While Frey-Osborne, (2013) identifies that 47% of current jobs – including accountancy, legal work and technical writing - risk being completely automated in twenty years, it is already apparent that the “sharing economy” and the “on-demand economy” are facilitating nonstandard employment and subcontracting, reducing substantially workers' protection. On this topic, and on the impact of globalisation on the manufacturing sector, see also Center for American Progress, 2015.

³ <http://europe.autonews.com/article/20140604/ANE/140609928/eu-aims-to-have-20-percent-of-gdp-come-from-manufacturing-official>

⁴ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2016/06/20/what-everyone-must-know-about-industry-4-0/#604392c34e3b>

MORE FOLLOWS...

CONTINUED

– Filippo Addarii, Co-Founder and CEO, PlusValue

The industrial revolution was born at the crucible of a reimagining of our institutions and our means of making, and we are again at a similar moment where the remaking of our literal future is contingent on us reimagining our institutional infrastructure for a new age of Democratized making. OpenMaker initiatives recognise the 4th industrial revolution will not be made by merely focusing on new products or the localized remaking of existing products, but on this symbiotic relationship between our institutions and our means of making. The OpenMaker initiative is an open opportunity for cities to systematically reimagine and start recasting their manufacturing ecosystem for a 21st Century.

-Indy Johar, Senior Innovation Associate Young Foundation, Co-Founder OO, Co-Founder Dark Matter Laboratories, Chair - Wikihouse Foundation.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

[PlusValue](#) is an innovative venture, with the mission to design and test new financial and delivery models for common goods through the alignment of public and private interests. We work to embed social impact in every business through experimental research, policy, and hard-nosed consultancy. Our work is knowledge-driven and built on our team's experience and network of over 8000 experts across the public, private, and third sectors.

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1. The Young Foundation (UK)
2. Bogazici University (Turkey)
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10. PlusValue (UK)



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