

When the Future is in the Present

OpenMaker selects 20 brokers of Industry 4.0

Urban cultivation on water and without soil; flexible and inexpensive 3D-printed prostheses made of cardboard; an innovative bodysuit that allows anyone of any age and ability to swim in deep waters. These are just 3 of the [20 winning projects](#) of the [OpenMaker](#) open call, a pan-European contest aimed at awarding successful partnerships between makers and manufacturers that hold the pioneering potential to break through the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Take an old problem, add a new technology, generously sprinkle with creativity and mix. This is the simple recipe used by the makers and manufacturers involved in the project to improve different aspects of our society, from education and health to waste disposal and urban planning. In this regard, Advisory Board member and judge of the Call, Dr. Dariusz Jemielniak, has commented: *“I am humbled and amazed by the quality of the proposals that I had a chance to look at. Mature business models and great innovations that combine insights from creators and producers are really rare and they are well represented in the competition.”*

OpenMaker aims to strengthen a transformational and collaborative ecosystem and to foster tech-driven and socially-oriented innovation by bringing together manufacturers and makers. To this end, the [Pilot Support Scheme \(PSS\)](#) is now awarding a commission of €400,000 to 20 innovative projects and assigning a special Coordinator’s Prize (€20,000 for each project) to help them kick-off their ideas, ultimately reinventing the way we think about traditional manufacturing and projecting us into a more sustainable future. On top of the financial support, the winners will follow a 9 month acceleration process in 4 local hubs (in Italy, Slovakia, Spain and UK), where they will be comprehensively mentored to test, prototype and finally launch their innovations.

The call attracted 137 proposals (30 from Italy, 51 from Slovakia, 30 from Spain and 26 from the UK) from which 40 impressive [semi-finalists](#) were selected and announced last month. Overall, the initiative encouraged the collaboration of a diverse range of stakeholders, 310 between makers and manufacturers, from a wide range of European countries and from China and the United States outside the EU. Altogether, these new partnerships hold the potential not only to add great social value by relaunching the European manufacturing sector and proposing new sustainable business models and production systems, but they also envisage the direct engagement of more than 7,000 individuals, whereby creating new job opportunities in key sectors that are guaranteed to remain central in the smart-city context. And that’s our future (literally) in the ‘making’.

MORE FOLLOWS ...

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Filippo Addarii, Co-Founder and CEO at PlusValue

“We are very pleased about how innovators from across Europe responded to the call and excited about the next stages of the project. This initiative represents a great opportunity to provide support to the pioneers of open manufacturing and to signal the shift of the sector towards the making of a more sustainable future.”

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Notes to Editor

OpenMaker is an EU-funded project that offers a unique opportunity for manufacturers and makers to test and scale new partnerships, with the aims to seed and accelerate the 4th Industrial Revolution (more on www.openmaker.eu).

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1. The Young Foundation (United Kingdom)
2. Bogazici University (Turkey)
3. Centire (Slovakia)
4. IMT Lucca (Italy)
5. LAMA (Italy)
6. Tecnalía (Spain)
7. Top-ix (Italy)
8. University of Zurich (Switzerland)
9. Accord Group (United Kingdom)
10. PlusValue (United Kingdom)

