Project Number: **517752-LLP-1-2011-1-ES-LEONARDO-LNW**

Project acronym: **Rainova**

Project title: **Regional Approach to Innovation for VET and Learning Communities**

Work package: **W11**

Deliverable title: **D18 Regional Innovation Networks**

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| Dissemination Level |
| PU | Public  |  |
| PP | Restricted to other programme participants (including the EC services) |  |
| RE | Restricted to a group specified by the Consortium (including the EC services) |  |
| CO | Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including EACEA and Commission Services and project reviewers) | X |

**Summary**

This paper deals about a plan for creating Regional Innovation Networks. Starting from the initial description of the project and some further ideas discussed at regular meetings (Tuscany), we produce a plan for designing and launching the Regional Innovation Networks, based on the creation of an *online* platform that will facilitate us the management of the networks and of the working groups within each network. It also will enable the creation of an International Network, thereby fulfilling planned ideas to exploit the other two relevant products of the Rainova project, the Innovation Management Model and Rainova Innovation Observatory.

**Introduction**

This plan has been drawn from the remarks made in the project description, specifically those described in work package 11, which is the package dedicated to reflecting the intentions of the partners in relation to the design of Regional Innovation Networks.

We have also taken into account a previous proposal for organizing the Regional Innovation Networks based on the Rainova website. To carry out this idea was not possible due to the complex management it demanded.

**Objectives**

* To create effective Regional Innovation Networks in partner region, linked together to form an International Network.
* To support the sustainability and exploitation of the Rainova Model after the project end:
	+ Regional points of reference to create groups from members to manage the Regional Innovation Network
	+ Regional points of reference to maintain the Innovation Observatory for their region – ensure entries are “live”, update LMI and other skills needs information
* To structure the system of regional innovation networks,
* To bring together key players in the regions
* To act as a meeting point for organizations interested in innovation wishing to exchange experiences,
* To obtain resources and promote new initiatives and projects.

**Methodology**

We have decided to make an *open source* platform based on Wordpress and Buddypress and, as in other applications, let’s say Yammer or Wiggio, it will allow us to create several working groups and subgroups included in the corresponding networks or communities.

Thus, on one hand, we can create some **Regional Innovation Networks**, divided into several **working groups** each, according to the main elements of the Rainova Innovation Management Model. Communication may be done in the different national or regional languages ​​of the registered members.

On the other hand, we will produce a separate network, the **Rainova International Network**, whose communication language will be English, and will be a meeting point for networks and working groups operating at regional level.

The platform will have a **general menu** consisting of the following tabs or sections:

* Home: For knowing the structure of the platform.
* Rainova: With information about the services offered by the platform and its origin: the Rainova Project.
* Networks: Updated list of current networks and work groups.
* Events: List of events generated by members of the regional networks *(Events of interest for the project generated by other entities will be registered in the Regional Innovation Observatory)*
* Documents: Most relevant files generated by Rainova partners, such as the interactive pdf and the Application Guide.
* Blog: A window to upload references on the activities of the networks and working groups.
* Contacts: To get in touch with the platform managers.

There will also be a **specific menu** for each working group which will contain the following sections:

* Home
* Forum
* Docs
* Events
* Members and Group Members

Other options provided by the platform will be:

* Working groups
* Who's online
* Active members

To work in these networks and working groups you need to be previously registered. There will be a general manager as responsible for this platform.

This **platform administrator** will have several tasks: to invite new members, to update the platform according to feedback, to review documentations and comments, and so on.

To promote the use of the platform and, in that way, to make the working groups and networks operative, current Rainova partners will be registered and invited as friends to take part in the networks and working groups.

These members will play the role of **facilitators** in their regions, and through exploitation and dissemination activities, the number of network members will grow.

Step by step, we will obtain feedback from active members, the platform will be improved and the Model and the Observatory will be updated.

**Action Plans**

**During the project**

During the lifetime of the project we will have to take steps and decisions to implement the Rainova platform, so that it is ready to serve as a tool to support the Rainova model and the Innovation Observatory once the project is completed.

* To analyze other communication platforms
* To design the platform that will underpin the regional networks, the working groups and the International Network.
* To subcontract the design of the platform to providers
* To review and approve its implementation
* To register Rainova partners as members of the regional networks and working groups
* To start using the platform
* To promote the platform

**After the project**

After the project, the commitment will be to use the platform and, firstly, to keep improving its performance, and secondly, to go spreading their existence through dissemination activities which simultaneously involve support to meet the real objectives: To improve and implement the Rainova model with the support of the Innovation Observatory and this platform.

* To serve as point of contact for people working on innovation.
* Develop activities for exploitation and sustainability of Rainova model
* Support and monitor the progress and development of each of the regions, regarding the application of the innovation management model.
* Monitor the execution of intervention plans.
* Guarantee the systematic improvement of the designed innovation management model
* Encourage cooperation between the different regional innovation systems.
* Facilitate future studies regarding the regional innovation systems
* Be a source of guidance and inspiration, for all agents participating in the regional innovation systems

**Work package organization**

**Management structure**

The WP Leader is partner CSCS in Tuscany, Italy. They worked together with the Coordinator partner, Ikaslan Gipuzkoa to elaborate this plan.