

REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

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Country: Slovakia

Version 1
Date
06.09.2021





Summary of the events and meetings with stakeholders (date and type(s) of event)

Type of consultation (individual meeting, web meeting, round table discussion, ...)	Round table discussion (as part of Company visit to U.S.Steel Košice)
Date	7.7.2021
No. of participants	6

Type of consultation (individual meeting, web meeting, round table discussion, ...)	Round table discussion (as part of Technology workshop for CCI)
Date	13.7.2021
No. of participants	17

Type of consultation (individual meeting, web meeting, round table discussion, ...)	Web meeting with Lifbee Academy
Date	22.7.2021
No. of participants	4

Type of consultation (individual meeting, web meeting, round table discussion, ...)	Round table discussion (as part of Idea Development Shop)
Date	23.7.2021
No. of participants	6

Type of consultation (individual meeting, web meeting, round table discussion, ...)	Individual meeting with Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Date	30.7.2021
No. of participants	1

Type of consultation (individual meeting, web meeting, round table discussion, ...)	Web meeting with Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
Date	9.8.2021
No. of participants	4



Type of consultation (individual meeting, web meeting, round table discussion, ...)	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Date	17.8.2021
No. of participants	2

Total number of stakeholders consulted: 40

Description of the stakeholders consulted

Stakeholders or key partners are important to integrate the cross-sectoral collaboration in the business support environment for CCIs and AVM. Please describe the stakeholders that were consulted (COCO4CCI's advisory board members, other business support organisations, other CCI hubs and actors, policy makers, companies or organisations from other sectors, academia representatives etc. You might even find important stakeholders in your own organisation).

Other Business support organizations and CCI hubs:

- [Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency \(SIEA\)](#) is a contributory organization established by the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. Their task is to raise awareness about energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and innovations in all fields of economy and provide expert consulting in those areas. SIEA is implementing the national project "Support of the Development of the Creative Industry in Slovakia" enabling small and medium-sized enterprises based in the Slovak Republic to obtain financial support provided to increase their competitiveness and innovation potential through the use of outputs from cooperation with entities from designated sectors of the creative industry.
- [Lifbee Academy](#) - is an 8-month online training program for young people in science, business, IT, or design. Participants learn how biotech projects are born and experience cooperation in a team of innovators. Lifbee focuses on finding solutions to environmental and human health problems. The program enables interdisciplinary cooperation of university students and young professionals from all types of universities.

COCO4CCI's advisory board members:

- Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Policy maker:

- Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic - responsible for innovation agenda

CCI representatives involved in the COCO4CCI project

- 23 CCI representatives involved in the COCO4CCI project either via our matchmaking or education activities were consulted

Academy

- Slovak Academy Of Science



Description of the outcome of the consultation

Please describe the feedback from the stakeholders on your action plan to make COCO4CCIs results sustainable. How can they support the integration of cross-sectoral collaboration into the business support environment? What other insights did you have from the consultation process?

Action plan and sustainability of the project after the piloting

Sustainability is matter of support, both financial and demanding on expertise. Role of the umbrella organisations is indisputable.

Thus, both partners of the COCO4CCI project in Slovakia decided to incorporate action plan and further mainstreaming of the project into the curriculum of planned national strategic plan under the topic Circular Economy for coming years 2023-2029.

Plan is to implement best practise and knowledge gathered during the COCO4CCI project lifetime into the easy-to-understand online platform. This will serve as a single point of contact for AVMs, CCI and external experts - project managers if you will. On one place, all important information will be available with the administration (curation) of SBA/CIKE to:

- Present challenges and awards in structured and understandable manner
- Open Calls for experts on both sides AVM and CCI
- Open Calls for project managers and facilitators
- Application for financial support and grants (SBA - 2x year national competition for the creative vouchers, Expert advisory programme, Microloans,)
- Online communication tools
- Online already developed tools during the COCO4CCI piloting process and workshops for education purposes
- Dedicated mentoring sessions and workshops under the umbrella of SBA / CIKE

This initiative has been formulated and submitted for the evaluation of competent Ministries with the expected time frame and cost structure. Final decision was unknown for us at the time when exact workshop took place. Despite the fact, full concept was presented and criticized.

Stakeholder consultations outcomes

Stakeholders were participative and all workshop was interactive lead in friendly atmosphere. Since Kosice region is strong representative of creative industry, feedback from present representatives might be considered very relevant.

Roadmap of the project COCO4CCI

All participants consider the activities to be well structured, categorized, and chronologically organized. One of the critiques took part in the programme as a service provider though.

Among most discussed topics belonged

Problem statement and the role of the facilitator (project manager), needs of CCIs and General comments on action plan and further project mainstreaming

Pros:

- Networking opportunity
- Vaguely defined topics and challenges (not strictly boxed helps creative ideas)
- Suitable also for junior CCI members



- Best practice and support from the “community”
- Role of the facilitator in the early phase of the challenge formulation

Threats:

- Very ambitious goals set by AVMs (lacking competence and expertise)
- Financial award missing
- Scope of the solution is unknown
- Complexity is a barrier for sole traders as such
- Need for the advisor / expert advice during the project lifetime
- Mismatch of expectations and delivered results

Opportunities

- Trust building platform
- Open, transparent and address communication with the decision makers on both sides
- External financial support
- Expert advise external / internal as a project manager
- Common communication language
- Guide book on prototyping, supportive tools and education materials available

General assessment

Demand for cross sectoral integration of knowledge gathered from the project COCO4CCI is vital. **Creative industry representatives and idea developers welcomed this initiative and were happy with the opportunities it brought up.** Namely the potential of lasting cooperation and participating in resolving critical issues with feasible results makes all interested parties happy.

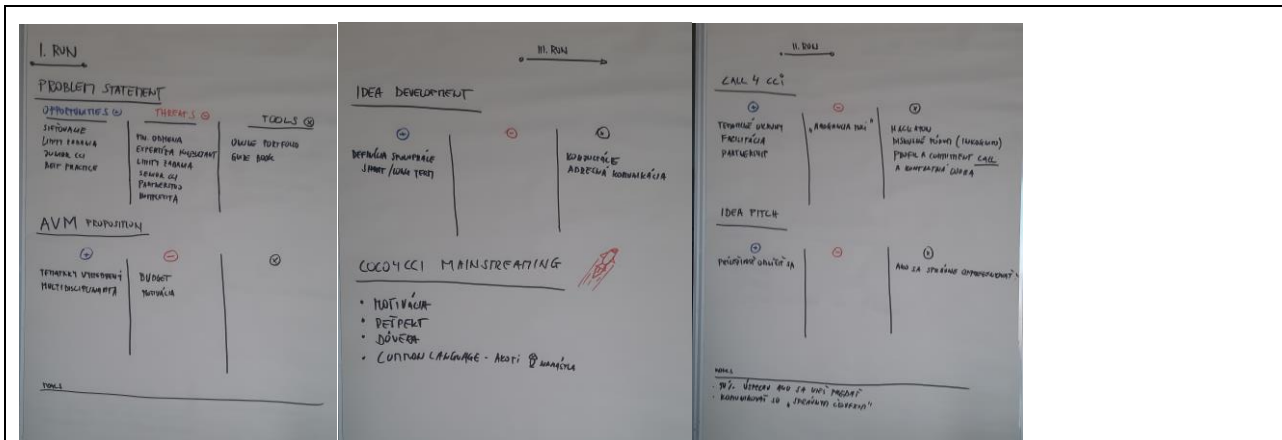
Yet, **mainstreaming of the pilot project COCO4CCI remains very challenging.** Interconnecting its narrative with the ecology and sustainability makes it more potent and circular economy topic should be considered as a smart move, since all mentioned areas are of great importance and well-funded in coming years too.

Implementation and technical scope of the creative solution as such is still not clearly defined and will be the factor of financial subvention poured into the technical realization. In this regards it is worth to mention similar programme named “vytvor.me” under the umbrella of Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

The national project **vytvor.me** supports the development of the creative industry in Slovakia and enables small and medium-sized enterprises to access the professional services of the creative industry, thanks to which they can increase their competitiveness and innovation potential. Creation opportunities will be expanded for creators and opportunities will be opened for partnerships, in order to network small and medium-sized enterprises from the creative industry.

CEO of the vytvor.me, Mrs. Petronela Kolevská with more than 3 years of experience with the implementation provided us valuable insights, named key differentiators and goals of both project COCO4CCI and vytvor.me and stressed out the importance of educating SME representatives in questions like what actually Creative industry is and how beneficial the mutual cooperation could be. Matchmaking process AVM - CCI is fully automated, that is also a goal of the mainstreaming of COCO4CCI platform.

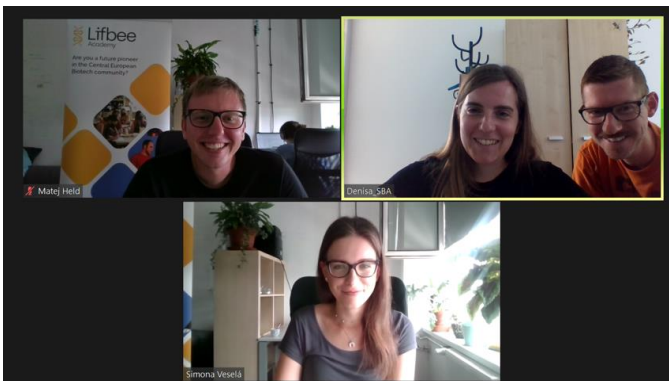
The role of facilitator (project manager) was also mentioned as critically important.



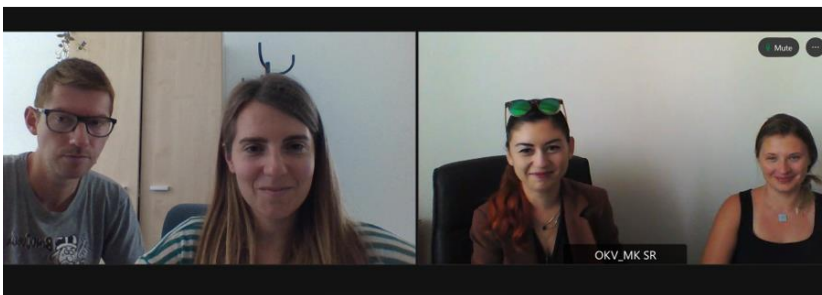
Stakeholder consultation, Technology workshop for CCI, 13.7.2021



Stakeholder consultation, Company visit to U.S.Steel Košice, 7.7.2021



Stakeholder consultation with Lifbee Academy, 22.7.2021



Stakeholder consultation, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, 17.8.2021