Practice-based knowledge on system innovation and climate change. 
A learning approach for practitioners through active-blended format.

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The practitioner context

System innovation and Climate Change address practitioners’ demand of adaptable and flexible tools easy to transfer to their challenges and problems.

Practitioners are targeted as users of practice-based knowledge who carry on activities in SMEs, applied research, NGOs as well as local and regional governments.

The learning approach is based on modular elements and blended format which, in practice, facilitates more horizontal interactions to work on challenges related to problem owner’s competence.

The tailored content and the flexible combination of online and classroom activities (flipped) as well as project based activities (seamless) are based in practitioner’s context.

Action plans are essential elements of the learning experience as a practical application which is framed in the field of innovation, climate change and sustainable transitions.

The modular approach

The learning material support the development of a competence kit to enable better management of multi-functional teams and complex stakeholder environments. Both classroom and online activities are rooted in the same modular structure built upon four modules that account for the main steps in the system innovation process. That is:

- Stakeholder management,
- Multi-level perspective,
- Shaping and backcasting and
- Niche management.

This structure is meant to facilitate the problem-solving process by setting out a pathway in the always blurry, uncertain and fuzzy process for system innovation. The four modules hold the tools feeding into a multidisciplinary setting, including transitions management but also practical elements from innovation management, systemic thinking, design thinking and project management.

The Implementation

Three main learning elements have been introduced:
- The toolkits (to be applied on face to face context)
- The e-learning platform (to enable practitioners to get acquainted with the tool and the approach in an autonomous way, at any time)
- The Real-time boards (tested to allow a real and remote interaction between practitioners).

Active-blended

Active blended means that practice-based knowledge is introduced by the application of tools on the users’ cases as part of a problem-solving process. The tools are introduced by practitioner-oriented explanations through a multi-format learning platform.

The booklet & Canvases

“Visual toolbox for system innovation” is a booklet-format collection of ready-to-implement tools to structure and manage the challenges and explicit opportunities of sustainability innovations and transitions.

The tools are present in a simple and visual approach with the purpose of supporting practitioners’ every-day work on climate change, transition and system innovation.

eLearning portal and Multimedia

The e-learning material is based in the booklet and combined applications of learning nuggets and regions examples through video animations of the booklets.

It was designed to facilitate alternative learning pathways through multidisciplinary content and regional elements as well as a coaching approach based in co-operative learning.

User feedback


Realtime boards

One of the drawbacks of learning programs for practitioners is that they are usually placed in locations, or even countries, given the international context of the Climate-KIC. To overcome this problem, the commercial platform realtimeboard (https://realtimeboard.com) has been used to work in a collaborative way with teams remotely placed.

Online applications


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