

Innovative wood product and furniture prototypes arises in Garage48 hackathon



The Garage48 Wood hackathon took place at the Võru County Vocational Centre, Estonia, when on 48 hours working marathon participants were creating real product prototypes for the wood product and furniture industry. The event had a large number of applied ideas - 36, half of which had an opportunity to build prototypes using the vocational training centre's woodworking equipment as well as practical support and advice from industry experts about essentials in business plan writing, marketing, team leading and other important questions.



The winner - BIKE BOX

A folding basket for a bike for user daily urban needs.

Exciting ideas realized amongst other participants as well, most of them devoted to multifunctional and compact solutions for everyday needs, such as folding wooden boat, reinvented wooden garbage container as a design element, easily transportable and fitting voting booths, smart furniture for dogs and shopping cart with integrated children's car.

Main prize - the opportunity to strengthen business ideas

The three winners - team members of BIKE BOX, a TIM BIN (design garbage container) and Hund Dog Station (smart furniture for dogs) took part in an additional event to further develop their ideas, using the machinery and know-how of Võru County Vocational Centre and TSENER. While ones focused mainly on the technical development of their initial designs to move closer to production readiness, then others were actively reinventing their concept.

From prototype to further business ideas



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Voting Booth – transformable voting cabin.

Successfully presented the idea to the Central Election Commission of Latvia and are preparing for next steps - other prototype manufacturing and exhibition in Election Commission, as well as strengthening the business plan.



Developers: Rūdis Rubenis, Ritvars Krastiņš

Dynamic Structures - a wooden x-capsule or one flexible joint that can accommodate different needs for structure elements.

In cooperation with Riga Technical University continues to work on the development of new product versions. For research purposes, and to improve the premises for students, the first finished products are planned to place at the university. At the moment, developers are encouraged to collaborate and looking for sponsorship for further product development.

Read more about “Wood and Furniture” hackathon >> [here](#)

The study provides recommendations for raising export capacity for business in regions

The researchers have completed the survey that is made within the framework of the project "Wood and Furniture". It evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the wood processing and furniture industry enterprises in Vidzeme region and Võru, as well as the needs of companies for acquiring export markets. The study aims to assess the potential of the regions and identify those steps that are needed, to increase export capacity among the wood processing and furniture industries in the both regions.

The conclusions of the first part of the study confirm that exports are essential for companies from both regions, as well as provide recommendations for improving the export capacity in the regions. The second part of the study pays attention to the evaluation of practical examples by analysing the experience of wood processing industry in regions in wood processing and exporting its products, developing a set of good practices and recommendations for increasing the added value of the product.

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Highlighting the importance of the wood and furniture

The experts and professionals of the project "Wood and Furniture" took part in the popular Latvian talk festival LAMPA, raising the discussion on high added value wood products as one of the areas of smart specialisation in the Vidzeme region.

In public discussions with researchers, scientists and entrepreneurs discussed opportunities for the wood and furniture industry to develop cooperation between researchers and business people for product and service development in Vidzeme region.

EVENTS FOR YOUR COMPANY

We invite those who produce wood products, furniture, wooden houses and wooden building products, as well as industry enthusiasts to look at the year 2018 event calendar and already register for specific events to receive the latest news in the e-mail.

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EVENT	AUDIENCE AND EVENT DESCRIPTION	TIME
Design workshop in the field of wood products and furniture	Wood products and furniture industry entrepreneurs. Provides knowledge of world trends in design, and together with experts will conduct a company design audit.	January 18, Valmiera, Latvia
Design workshop in the field of wood buildings and construction products	Wood building and wood construction product manufacturing companies. Provides knowledge of world trends in design, together with experts will conduct a company design audit.	January 19, Väimela, Estonia
Export workshop	Companies that produce wood products, furniture, houses and construction products. Provides information on the use of practical tools to reach foreign markets without a high cost.	February, Estonia
Export workshop	Companies that produce wood products, furniture, houses and construction products. Provides information on the use of practical tools to reach foreign markets without a high cost.	February, Latvia
Experience exchange trips to companies of wood and furniture production	SMEs that produce wood products, furniture, houses and construction products. Exchange between Latvian and Estonian enterprises.	February / March

Trade missions from export markets identified (Germany, Norway)	SMEs that produce wood products, furniture, houses and wooden construction products, as well as organisations representing timber companies in Latvia and Estonia.	March till September
Visit to the International wood industry exhibition	SMEs that produce wood products, furniture, houses and wooden construction products, to get acquainted with world trends in the industry and to attend educational events during the exhibition. To participate we will invite companies that have actively involved in other project activities and supported the implementation of project activities with their involvement.	September/ October

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