MOVECO

Mobilising Institutional Learning for Better Exploitation of
Research and Innovation for the Circular Economy

Mapping Report on Collaboration Tools

Best practices on virtual and face to face collaboration tools within the Danube region

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Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
MOVECO

A stream of cooperation

Introduction

Best practices on virtual and face to face collaboration tools within the MOVECO-countries

The following mapping shows examples of best practice collaboration tools designed to support the transition from a linear to a circular economy. During the mapping process, the MOVECO partners were asked to provide examples of best practices in their regions. The mapping process was conducted using a questionnaire that was distributed to all project partners.

In order to ensure a good overview of the inputs from the mapping process, the tools transmitted by the partners were structured according to their application areas. The collaboration tools were subdivided according to various criteria. A distinction was made between virtual and face to face tools, different regions and branches, suppliers and users. The following report tries to give a brief overview of the fields of application for each tool submitted by the MOVECO partners.

The levels on which the various collaboration tools operate are very different: While some tools are designed for specific target groups and special processes or sectors, other tools are more likely to be classified on a superordinate, general meta-level. To promote the transition from a linear to a circular economy, the use of different, variously designed tools is recommended. Simple, general tools can also help to expand cooperation between companies or between companies and research, as well as detailed tools tailored to specific processes.

The tools are listed by country in the report below. The order of countries is based on the project application (see MOVECO project partner list).

The following report was created on the basis of the questionnaires sent to the MOVECO countries. The individual participating organisations of the MOVECO project are listed in the table below with their acronyms.

MOVECO Project Partners

Official Name in English	Acronym	Country
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia	CCIS	SLOVENIA
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bistrita-Nasaud	CCIBN	ROMANIA
Europa Consortium Regional Development Non-profit Ltd.	ECN	HUNGARY
Bavarian Research Alliance GmbH	BayFOR	GERMANY
Business Upper Austria	Biz-up	AUSTRIA
Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra	SUA	SLOVAKIA
Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia	MESP	SLOVENIA
Cluster of Environmental Technology Bavaria	UCB	GERMANY
Tera Tehnopolis Ltd.	TERA	CROATIA
Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	BCCI	BULGARIA
Slovak Busines Agency	SBA	SLOVAKIA
Institute Mihajlo Pupin	PUPIN	SERBIA
Science and Technology Park Belgrade	STPB	SERBIA
Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic	MoE	SLOVAKIA
Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer	AITT	MOLDOVA
City of Osijek	Osijek	CROATIA

Content

1. SLOVENIA

1.1. Value Chain Development Workshops

Face to face tool	
Supplier	Experts from Chambers
Branch	Any sector
Target group	Companies, research organisations

This tool is ideally used in the process of building new research/development. The aims of the tool are:

- introducing the competences from and interest in specific topic (i.e. sector specific development trend) from industry and from research organisations
- identifying mutual interest and developing joint projects, focused on market needs
- building trust and partnerships for specific projects
- identifying potential financial resources and supporting partnerships to implement projects

The tool is concrete and focused on building trust and partnerships with market driven requirements. The Slovenian MOVECO partners have already had numerous positive experiences with Value Chain Development Workshops: from 7 large workshops, more than 20 smaller projects and a few larger ones were generated, in which industry and research work closely together and develop new market-ready products.

1.2.   B2B Workshops

Face to face tool	
Supplier	Experts from Chambers
Branch	Any sector
Target group	Companies, research organisations

B2B Workshops are a tool that is ideally used in the process of building new research/development partnerships. The aims of B2B Workshops are:

- introducing the trends in specific sector
- introducing interest in specific topic (i.e. sector specific development trend) from industry and from research organisations.
- identifying mutual interest
- building networks and partnerships for specific projects

The tool is focused on building networks and partnerships and has been successfully carried many workshops in Slovenia. More than 30 new business relations and partnerships were the direct output of those workshops.

1.3.   B2B Meetings

Face to face tool	
Supplier	GZS
Branch	All branches
Target group	SMEs

B2B meetings are organised upon the interest of the participant of the event who wants to meet potential business partner face to face. Most of the SMEs still want to meet potential partner in person. Firstly participants have to register for the event, full fill company's profile which is published on event's website and then book meetings with other participants. Upon the SME's interest for meeting the schedule of the meetings for each SME is send to the participant. The meetings are organised mostly parallel with or after the event. Depends on the nature of the event the tool is used for both national and regional level. With the B2B tool GZS is able to organise events with efficient and goal-oriented networking.

More information is provided under https://id-2017-matchmaking.b2match.io/.

1.4.   BORZA – Business Opportunities Exchange System

Virtual tool	
Supplier	Subcontractor, platform borza
Branch	All branches
Target group	SMEs

BORZA is a virtual business to business meeting point where you can find new business contacts who are either looking for co-operation partners or wanting to sell or buy products and services. is intended for domestic and foreign enterprises seeking business opportunities. Although large companies also use the database, it is intended primarily for small and medium-sized enterprises that are only just entering the market. The database contains several thousand relevant Slovene and foreign business announcements (offers and enquiries for products, services, technology, business premises, etc.). BORZA is free of charge.

CCIS promotes the system via its communication channels and cooperates with foreign chambers and other institutions to contribute the business opportunities offers and/or requests of their clients. Due to long time of existing the SMEs are using and following new opportunities in BORZA on a daily basis.

More information on BORZA can be found under www.borza.org.

BORZA is recognised as a successful tool for looking for potential business partner between SMEs. The most important advantage for success is cooperation with foreign chambers and other institutions. Weekly newsletter to subscribed clients is the best way to measure the SME's feedback and to see what kind of cooperation is requested from SMEs.

1.5.   B2R

Face to face tool	
Supplier	GZS
Branch	All branches
Target group	Research organisations and SMEs

B2R meetings are organised upon the interest of the participant of the event who wants to meet potential business or research partner face to face. Most of the SMEs and researchers still want to meet potential partner in person to get the whole picture of the potential mostly research cooperation. Firstly participants have to register for the event, full fill company's or research profile which is published on event's website and then book meetings with other participants. Upon the SME's and researcher's interest for meeting the schedule of the meetings for each SME and researcher is send to the participant. The meetings are organised mostly parallel with or after the event. Depending on the nature of the event, the tool is used both on a national and regional level.

With the B2R tool GZS is able to organise events with efficient and goal-oriented networking. More information on the B2R tool of GZS is available under https://id-2017-matchmaking.b2match.io/   .

2. HUNGARY

2.1. Mini CRM

Virtual tool	
Supplier	MiniCRM Zrt.
Branch	All branches
Target group	Businesses

Mini CRM primarily support sales of a given business. It works well with Android, Dropbox, Facebook, Onedrive, Outlook, Excel, etc.

It supports:

- Managing directors with assigning tasks.
- Sales managers with organising sales activities
- Sales people with following the processes of offers, sales
- Marketing staff with reports on DM campaigns

Mini CRM can be integrated into mobile applications and Gmail. For more information see www.minicrm.hu.

3. GERMANY

3.1. Projektron BCS

Virtual tool	
Supplier	Projektron GmbH
Branch	Any project and company
Target group	Project partners (from private industry, research), clients, costumers, companies

Projektron BCS is a web-based project management software that enables the user to prepare, plan, execute, evaluate and invoice projects. Classic project work tasks are complemented by further tools in the end-to-end solution. More than 29,000 users rely on the Projektron BCS project management software.

The tool can be used on a regional, national and international level. Every user gets a user account and access to share documents, plan and execute projects. Moreover, different functionalities of the tool can be adjusted, according to the need of the user.

The web-based project management software has a modular structure: The users decide which modules they need for their project work and which not. Each view in the software can be customized individually and is thus highly ergonomic

https://www.projektron.de/en/bcs

3.2. NMP TeAm

Virtual tool	
Supplier	Projektron GmbH
Branch	Any project and company
Target group	Project partners (from private industry, research), clients, costumers, companies

NMP TeAm 4 is a Horizon 2020 project which supports and coordinates activities of the network of National Contact Points in the Key Enabling Technologies (nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing - NMP, but also biotechnology, micro- and nanoelectronics and photonics) of HORIZON 2020.

The project aims at facilitating trans-national co-operation between NCPs within the Industrial Leadership Part of FP HORIZON 2020 with a view to identifying and sharing good practices and raising the general standard of support by the NMP NCPs to programme applicants.

The project provides an online tool for partner search that supports potential applicants for NMBP Work Program 2018-2020 in finding partners and building a consortium for a project proposal. It provides the possibility to

- Search list of partner offers & publish own offer
- Search list of partner requests & publish own search

The database can be searched according to phrase, call topics and other key words/information.

3.3. Circle Economy Knowledge Hub

Virtual tool	
Supplier	Circle Economy
Branch	All sectors
Target group	Businesses, institutions, innovators

The Circle Economy Knowledge Hub is a platform that provides access to over 750 inspiring and innovative case studies, articles and reports that highlight the circular economy in practice. An additional forum section is for discussion of features and additional content users wish to see included. Moreover, a search bar is available to search for specific content or use the pre-determined filters including industry, circular strategy, impact area, or material, to browse by topic. Inputs from the users are being included in order to tailor the future needs.

The Circle Economy Knowledge Hub presents opportunities for cross-industry collaboration, explains circular strategies, impact areas and materials of circular economy. Moreover, the knowledge hub includes a collection of case studies for the users, articles and reports. There is the possibility to ask questions and contribute content across the community and the forum.

INDUSTRIES
Learn more about how the circular economy is transforming specific industries and creating opportunities for cross-industry collaboration.

CIRCULAR STRATEGIES
Seven key elements comprehensively define the strategies necessary to achieve a circular economy. Discover the ways in which they are being adopted worldwide.

ASK A QUESTION
Can't find what you are looking for? Ask the community!

IMPACT AREAS
Explore the impact areas the circular economy can influence in order to achieve inclusive economic, social, and environmental prosperity.

MATERIALS
Learn how circular strategies have been utilised so that certain materials can be used to their fullest potential while being continuously reused.

CONTRIBUTE CONTENT
Is there a case study, article, or report related to the circular economy that we don't have? Contribute your content here

ALL CASE STUDIES
Discover practical examples of companies and cities that are implementing circularity using innovative design, technology, and new business models.

ALL ARTICLES & REPORTS
Stay up to date with the latest news articles and research reports that are paving the way for a circular future.

OTHER CIRCULAR ECONOMY KNOWLEDGE HUBS
Check out the knowledge resources of other organisations

Table 1: The Circle Economy Knowledge Hub. Starting page.
https://circleknowledge.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CS/overview?mode=global. 2018

For further information about the Circular Economy Hub see the websites below:

https://www.circle-economy.com/

https://circleknowledge.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CS/overview?mode=global

3.4. b2match

Virtual tool	
Supplier	B2Match GmbH, Vienna
Branch	All sectors
Target group	Businesses, institutions, innovators

b2match is a platform and matchmaking tool that is designed to connect people at events with efficient and goal-oriented networking. It is used by the Enterprise Europe Network (and other organisations working in technology transfer) to organise brokerage events. Although usually used for face-to-face meetings, it is also possible to use it to bring together people virtually via the platform.

For Enterprise Europe Network Partners there is a discount, other organizations can use it at the regular price (individual arrangements possible related to the needs). The tool is particularly useful for **start-up events**, as investors get the chance to meet a selection of start-ups face-to-face and get to know the entrepreneurs behind the business. Start-ups on the other hand can pitch to potential investors in a more personal and efficient manner through pre-arranged matchmaking meetings. In addition to that, it is useful for **research and innovation events** as it connects people from different institutions through face-to-face meetings at events. Furthermore, b2match are a suitable solution for **buyer-seller events**, as you can define the optimum environment for buyers needs and suppliers offer.

More information: https://www.b2match.com/

3.5. UT meets

Face to face tool	
Supplier	UCB
Branch	Environmental Technology plus e.g. energy technology or chemistry Target group Businesses, institutions, innovators
Target group	Members of the Clusters

UT meets arranges the exchange of the members of different clusters.

The aims of the tool are to support the collaboration in R&D projects, to initiate feasibility studies or environmental projects, to unite joint marketing/distribution activities and/or to develop a mutual business. Joint events and communities of property or purchasing groups are also a form of cooperation which can be attained.

UT meets is used on a regional level.

UT meets is a speed networking event. After some kind of introduction (welcome speeches, presentations,…) the speed networking starts. Like the commonly known speed dating the conversation partners sit opposite each other and have 5-10 minutes to talk to each other about e.g. mutual topics, potentials or interfaces. When the gong rings one partner remains seated and the other moves on to the next table. At first the conversations take place between the members of the different clusters/branches and then between members of the same cluster/branch.

http://www.umweltcluster.net/de/erfolge/erfolge-2016/239-veranstaltungsformat-ut-meets.html

http://www.umweltcluster.net/de/erfolge/erfolge-2017/303-erfolgreich-vernetzt-umwelttechnologie-meets-chemieindustrie.html

3.6. Cross-Cluster-Project

Face to face tool	
Supplier	Clusters
Branch	variable, depending on partners
Target group	PPs and their members

The aim of this tool is the exchange between at least two collaborating clusters. The project partners work together on a specific topic which affects all of them or rather on a challenge which all of them are facing in one way or another. The members of all participating clusters are incorporated. The goal is to generate an added value for all parties by finding a common solution for this problem/challenge. The main focus is on the exchange of all participants.

Examples for Cross-Cluster-Project:

http://www.umweltcluster.net/de/projekte/mai-ucb.html

https://www.umweltcluster.net/de/projekte/startups.html

https://www.umweltcluster.net/de/projekte/kreislaufwirtschaft-bau.html

3.7. Request for solution

Face to face / virtual tool	
Supplier	UCB
Branch	Environmental technology
Target group	Users who see an environmental problem and want it to be solved

The aim of *Request of Solutions* is to solve environmental problems. It's an international tool according to the people who request, and a regional tool according the "problem solvers". UCB provides a questionnaire (after request) which asks for detailed information about an environmental problem. Everyone can fill in the chart and send it back to the UCB. The UCB then checks its member list in order to find one (or more) who are able to solve the problem. If there's a match, the UCB establishes the contact and the two (or more) parties can find a mutual solution.

More information: http://www.umweltcluster.net/de/leistungen/internationalisierung.html

3.8.   IHK Recyclingbörse

Face to face tool	
Supplier	Chamber of Commerce and Industry Germany
Branch	many different (producers/ recyclers of waste/residual material e.g. wood, metal, plastic,…)
Target group	producers/ recyclers of waste/ residual material

The aim of the *IHK Recyclingbörse* is to close loops. The platform strives to achieve a match-making of someone who provides waste or residual material and someone who needs it as a raw material/resource. This tool operates on a national level. The user can select the product he is looking for or which he likes to offer. The region can also be searched/offered. Afterwards, the user is contacted directly.

More information: http://www.ihk-recyclingboerse.de/

4. AUSTRIA

4.1. Circular Economy Field Trip

Face to face tool	
Supplier	-
Branch	all branches
Target group	people that are interested in circular economy

The aim of the Circular Field Trip is to show participants various aspects of the value chain within a few hours. On the basis of a tour to a company that operates in the sense of the circular economy, the participants should learn which economic possibilities such an approach can offer. The purpose of this field trip is to make the circular economy tangible and understandable for the participants. Basically, the Circular Field Trip is organised to visit two companies: one company that produces products with recycled material or that are specially designed to be recycled, and one company that disposes of or recycled materials and waste. Both "ends" of the product life cycle are visited in one day to get an impression of the complete product life cycle, with all its challenges, and sometimes differing points-of-view.

For further information see the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats".*

4.2. Business Contact Fair

Face to face tool	
Supplier	Chamber of Commerce Austria
Branch	all branches
Target group	entrepreneurs, start-ups

The Business Contact Fair is designed as a moderated networking event of various branches and regions. The aim of the event is to generate directed match-making between the participants. At this event, the participants are always divided into groups of two for discussion. The business contact fair is an event concept aimed at achieving targeted match-making.

For further information see the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats".*

4.3.   Round Table on Circular Economy

Face to face tool	
Supplier	-
Branch	all branches
Target group	people that are interested in circular economy, entrepreneurs, Representatives from business and politics, environmental professionals

The Round Table is a good opportunity to discuss and debate important aspects of circular economy in an organised discussion round. Normally, a core topic is defined before the event, to be discussed by the committee. It is important in a round table that all discussion partners have equal rights. In the area of circular economy, several round table discussions on various aspects have already been held in various countries worldwide. The topics ranged from very general questions to detailed aspects and discussions in order to find concrete solutions.

Find further information in the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats".*

4.4.   Circular Design Guide

Face to face / virtual tool	
Supplier	Ellen MacArthur Foundation / IDEO
Branch	all branches
Target group	people that are interested in circular economy, entrepreneurs, Representatives from business and politics, environmental professionals

The Circular Design Guide helps businesses get started with circular innovation. The new tool includes 24 methods and a resource bank enabling change makers, entrepreneurial innovators and students to get to grips with the circular economy. The resource will help embed circular design thinking, enabling businesses to re-think value creation to develop more circular products, services and resilient, feedback-rich organisations.

More information: www.circulardesignguide.com

See also the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats".*

4.5. Disrupt Design Approach

Face to face tool

Supplier	Disrupt Design
Branch	all branches
Target group	people that are interested in circular economy, entrepreneurs, Representatives from business and politics, environmental professionals

The Disrupt Design Method is an approach to exploring, understanding, and evolving complex problems into sustainable solutions. It combines systems thinking, sustainability sciences, and design methodologies to create problem-loving creative changemakers who are capable of diving deep into complex problem sets, developing strong social innovation outcomes, and reconfiguring business toward the Circular Economy. There are three distinct parts to the applied Disruptive Design Method — Mining, Landscaping, and Building (MLB) — each is enacted and cycled through in order to gain a granulated, refined outcome through iterative feedback loops.

Find out more: www.disruptdesign.co

For further information see the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats"*.

4.6. Partnership Canvas

Face to face tool

Supplier	Bart Doorneweert
Branch	all branches
Target group	entrepreneurs, representatives from business and politics, environmental professionals, start-ups, etc.

The partnership canvas is designed in such a way that it accommodates the comparison of a partnership from both partners' perspectives. By laying the foundation of the partnership canvas against each other, you will be able to compare whether the desired value is what the partner is willing to offer, whether the offer is the value that a partner desires from the user and whether there is the same framing of the transfer activities, required to connect the values.

Find out more: www.partnershipcanvas.com

For further information see the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats"*.

4.7. Value Chain Collaboration Workshops for Solutions

Face to face tool	
Supplier	-
Branch	all branches
Target group	people that are interested in circular economy, entrepreneurs, Representatives from business and politics, environmental professionals

For a functioning circular economy, there is one simple, effective and unbeaten strategy: to share knowledge. Not just within the company, but within the entire value chain. Companies at one point of the value chain often do not know that other companies and people are dealing with their product at another life-phase of the product.

In fact, communication is key to improve corporate sustainability, which can reveal potential synergy effects which offer additional value for the companies. This notion is called "Value Chain Collaboration". Companies will get to know the challenges along the entire life-cycle and therefore be able to adapt their materials, products, and processes accordingly. One easy strategy is to host value-chain workshops with as few participants as possible.

For further information see the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats"*.

4.8. Cluster and Cluster Cooperation Projects

Face to face / virtual tool	
Supplier	governments, local authorities, BSOs
Branch	all branches
Target group	entrepreneurs, Representatives from business and politics, environmental professionals

Companies have the opportunity to participate in industry clusters as partners. This strengthens the innovative strength, competitiveness and visibility of the partner companies. Together, innovative, ecologically and economically meaningful solutions for the present and the future are developed and implemented. The cluster forms the interface between companies, research and educational institutions, decision-makers and users. The clusters initiate, promote and coordinate the cooperation of the partner companies.

In cluster cooperation projects, several companies work together, sometimes together with an R&D or qualification institution. This strengthens the competitiveness of the partners in the areas of technology and organization.

The aim is to promote innovative cooperation projects between companies and R&D institutions that contribute to strengthening the innovative strength and international competitiveness of the sector (s) concerned.

For further information see the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats".*

4.9.   Special Interest Group (SIG)

Face to face tool	
Supplier	BSOs
Branch	all branches
Target group	entrepreneurs, Representatives from business and politics, environmental professionals

The aim of a SIG platform is project initiation into a guiding theme. Increasing the visibility of the individual topics as well as conducting specialist events on relevant topics are also tasks of a SIG platform. The focus is on cooperation between individual companies and research institutions. Some platforms have control groups that specify topics.

For further information see the MOVECO *"Description of cooperation formats".*

5. SLOVAKIA

5.1. National Technology Transfer Portal – NPTT SK

Virtual tool	
Supplier	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
Branch	Research & innvation
Target group	academic sphere, researchers, commercial sphere

The NPTT is the place where all important information about the state of technology transfer in the Slovak Republic is collected. It is also a place for access to external support services provided to academia in the technology transfer process. Content and technology is provided by the Technology Transfer Center at the Center for Scientific and Technical Information of the Slovak Republic (CTT at CVTI SR) according to the CTT CVTI SR status.

The Portal provides an active access to technology transfer by the requirement for some expert consulting services. It provides search services (e. g. state of the art searches) and expert consulting services allowing to ensure the implementation of separate steps in the technology transfer process (e.g. patent application drafting, technology marketing, partner searching in the process of licensing, licence agreements drafting, monitoring of licence conditions retention policies).

Further information: http://nptt.cvtisr.sk

5.2. The Office for Technology and Knowledge transfer and the Protection of Intellectual Property of Slovak Academy of Sciences (TTO SAS)

Virtual / face to face tool	
Supplier	Slovak Academy of Sciences
Branch	Research & innvation
Target group	academic sphere, researchers, commercial sphere

The main added value of technology transfer offices for research institutions is the creation of relationships with the private sector. Examples include direct financial benefits by means of sale and licensing of inventions and technologies from scientific research institutions.

Further information: http://www.ktt.sav.sk/?_langCode=en

5.3. The Transfer Centre of the Slovak University of Agriculture Nitra

Face to face tool	
Supplier	Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra
Branch	Research & innvation
Target group	academic sphere, researchers, commercial sphere

The Transfer Centre is focused on evaluation, promotion, support, utilization, and transfer of knowledge and innovation potential from academia to the commercial sphere and has several functions such as the cooperation with the agrifood sector, popularisation and commercialisation of science and research results, the protection of intellectual property, the support of start-ups and the establishment of spin-offs, international cooperation. The Transfer Centre focuses on several main activities, e.g. the support of cooperation between the university and the business sector, the establishment of a food incubator, the focus on a demand driven research and expertise and legal support in patenting and licencing. 8 other universities in Slovakia have similar transfer centres.

Further information: www.agrobiotech.sk/en/transfer-centre

5.4. University Technology Incubator - InQb

Face to face / virtual tool	
Supplier	Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava
Branch	Engineering, technology, innovation
Target group	founders, potential founders

University Technological Incubator (InQb) is a workplace of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, which focuses its activities on the support of starting entrepreneurs. The Incubator provides more advantageous rental at lower prices than current market prices and a package of support services. The support is intended for all candidates who have not yet established business, as well as entrepreneurs who have founded their company only recently. The InQb provides several business supporting programmes.

For more information see: www.inqb.sk

5.5. Solved

Face to face / virtual tool	
Supplier	Solved – Cleantech Company Ltd.
Branch	Cleantech
Target group	Industrial companies, real estate developers, municipalities, nations, investors

Solved is a cleantech advisory service and collaboration platform. The aim of the platform is to connect global experts with the world's sustainability challenges to create solutions in an innovative way.

The Solved team cocreates the concept of solution by design thinking (conceptual design). Its online expert community currently consists of a team with up to 2000 experts from 350 organizations in 70 countries. In dozens of projects, experts have solved environmental, energy and industrial challenges and, for instance, cocreated sustainable ski resorts and smart cities.

The tool is used on a national and international level. It has offices in Bratislava, Helsinki and Oulu.

Further information: https://solved.fi/projects.

5.6. Centres of competence (CoCs)

Face to face / virtual tool	
Supplier	Universities, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Branch	several branches
Target group	private and public (academic) sector

The Slovak Organization for Research and Development Activities (SOVVA) has successful engaged in building several Centres of Competence. The potential of centres of competence is to contribute to regional development, to education, to preparation of young researchers or high-tech experts, to increase Slovak science credit and the Slovak republic in the frame of different partnerships and to a higher level of participation in R&D activities.

Goals of CoCs:

- to support and improve long-term strategic cooperation between the academic sector and the business sector
- to stimulate competitiveness and applied industrial research
- to support more efficient exchange of knowledge and technology transfer
- to create a sufficient quantity of excellent scientific outputs
- to introduce well-proven and effective management procedures in the field of research and education

The centres operate on a national and regional level. Further information: http://www.sovva.eu/r-d-funding/2010/centres-of-competence.html