



INNOVATION FACTORY (IF) STRATEGY

2022 - 2025

POLIS University

IF FabLab Strategy and Action Plan

2022-2025

This strategy has been prepared with the technical assistance of EU for Innovation project in Albania.

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IF FabLAB is a ‘living-lab’ that supports start-ups and research in materials-oriented design. We target entrepreneurs that intend to enter the market of innovation through the development of products that take advantage of newly tested materials that offer (more) sustainable, eco-friendly and not-obsolescent solutions.

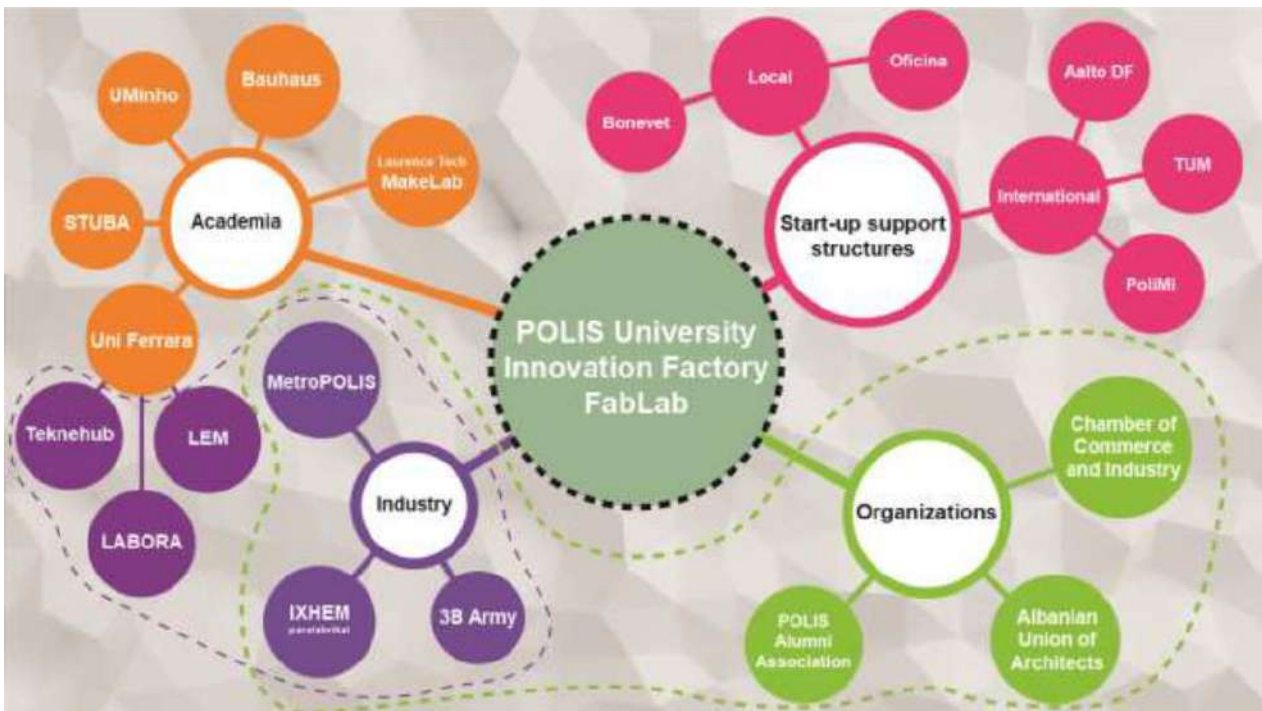
FabLab provides complete and comprehensive support to start-ups via consultancy through the different stages of the development of the project and the business model starting from the ideation up to entering the market, including the digital fabrication process.

In a nutshell, the lab is structured on four main principles:

- o **Building Expertise** by creating research capabilities and attracting talent in strategic areas to activate innovation-transfer processes;
- o **Facilitating Interaction** by collaboration among other incubators, start-up entrepreneurs, and businesses, cultivating networks, sharing research facilities;
- o **Linking different knowledge fields and industry sectors** together by multidisciplinary institutions, well-designed mixed-use research facilities to ensure that creative “sparks fly”;
- o **Pushing commercialization of innovative researches** by experimenting with industry partnerships, pioneering open IP policies and place-based dynamics.

Since the FabLab activity will focus on the fields of design, engineering, smart innovations, and ICT - which is cross-cutting for various sectors – it will be of benefit not only to the start-ups, but also to the professionals that will be engaged as consultants, to the international and local partners involved in the process, to academia through the skills academics will deliver and, eventually, to policymaking, thereby making an impact for the entire Albanian Innovation Ecosystem.

In the short run the primary target group is the start-uppers (not only POLIS Alumni, but rather all young creatives). In the long run, our aim is to inject dynamism to the entire innovation system in Albania considering that the supported start-ups will also act as catalysts of future change.



OBJECTIVES

There are three main objectives for the IF FabLab for a 5-year period:

- I) Establish itself as a “state of the art” FabLab serving the WB region**
- II) Act as a center of research in design and innovation**
- III) Actively engage in the international network of related actors**

PLANNED OF ACTIVITIES FOR EACH OBJECTIVE

I. Establish itself as a “state of the art” FabLab serving the WB region

- I. Establishment of the laboratory and its equipment
- II. Support the first 10 start ups
- III. Devise an “acceleration” plan to help further start-ups that have been passing the “incubation” phase;
- IV. Test the business model
- V. Evaluation and critical reflections regarding the real and expected results from this first year of implementation – Include the feedback loop results into the business model

II. Act as a center of research on design and innovation

- I. Additive manufacturing;
- II. Sustainability and circular economy
- III. Material research
- IV. Reverse engineering in the field of heritage and restoration
- V. IoT solutions and Smart Systems;
- VI. KILAB. 3DMaking school for children

III. Networking and partnerships

- I. Capacity building;
- II. Cooperation with other stakeholders and actors in the market (Preneurz (NL), 3dmakerzone (NL))
- III. Participate in research projects (i.e. Green Lab);
- IV. Joining the FABLAB International Networks;
- V. Engage in global value chains;
- VI. Tech Transfer

ACTION PLAN

| Activity | Timeline | KPI |
|---|-------------|---|
| Establishment of the laboratory and its equipment | 2022 | Lab up and running Equipment installed and operational |
| Support the first 10 start ups | 2022 | No and Quality of Applications Beneficiary satisfaction Gender balance |
| “acceleration” plan to help further start-ups that have been passing the “incubation” phase | 2022-2024 | Established pipeline with other actors (Tirana Inc.; Uplift, etc) No of start-ups registered in acceleration programs Advisory board initiated & established |
| Business model developed and active | 2022-2024 | Validate financial forecast (profit / loss ratio); Willingness to pay for services Proven impact model |
| Evaluation and critical reflections regarding the real and expected results from short term period | 2023-2024 | Active Users Survival metrics Burning rate (proportion of supported businesses that are still operational after a certain period since receiving support) |
| Additive manufacturing | 2022-2025 | Production Volume; Total Effective Equipment Performance |
| Host and support research in Sustainability and circular economy; Material research; Reverse engineering in the field of heritage and restoration; IoT solutions and Smart Systems; virtual/augmented reality | 2022 - 2025 | No of Users No of Projects No of Papers Research Impact |
| Capacity building | 2022-2025 | No of Trained Staff |
| Cooperation with other ecosystem actors | 2022-2025 | No of MoUs Joint activities |
| Participate in research projects | 2022 - 2025 | No of Applications No of Winning Projects Amount of funds generated |
| Joining the FABLAB International Network | 2022-2024 | Acceptance Interest rate |
| Engage in global value chains; | 2023-2025 | No of contractors Amount of funds generated |
| Tech Transfer | 2025 | Attract and retain primary actors in the field, Secure private and public funding. |



INNOVATION FACTORY

FabLab

UNIVERSITETI POLIS

Rr. Bylis, 12

1051

Tirane

www.universitetipolis.edu.al