

COVID-DISRUPTED REGIONAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS (CODIL)

AN INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT FOR IMPROVING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITY POLICIES

About

CODIL aims to **enhance regional innovation policies to better support the emerging distributed-team model and mobile, highly skilled knowledge workers.**

We explore how disruptive technology transforms collaboration and regional innovation patterns, emphasizing the importance of policies that attract and develop knowledge workers.

Ultimately, we aim to create an **enabling environment for distributed-team innovation across European regions.**



Current Status

The CODIL Project is making excellent progress, reaching key milestones in our efforts to foster an enabling environment for the distributed-team innovation model. As we move into the next phase, here's a snapshot of our achievements during the fourth semester.

- A successful event to exchange best practices and explore innovative approaches for developing sustainable hubs in Laval, France.
- Dissemination and awareness-raising events organized by project partners to promote the project's objectives.
- Ongoing peer reviews, to encourage regional collaboration and improvement of policy instruments.
- Participation in the largest virtual reality event in Europe, showcasing innovative applications and regional initiatives.
- Continued monitoring and assessment of policy instrument improvements to support the project's goals.

Thanks to the commitment of all partners and stakeholders, the project remains well on track, laying a strong foundation for upcoming achievements.

"Building on our previous achievements, we remain committed to continued collaboration and further advancing CODIL's progress."



PAST EVENTS

Day of Exchange: Learning and Sharing Best Practices

8 April 2025

On April 8, 2025, in Laval, France, hosted by Laval Mayenne Technopole, partners and stakeholders from our project came together for a full day dedicated to exchanging experiences and sharing best practices in building and sustaining innovative hubs. The focus was on adaptability, regional relevance, and long-term sustainability.

Throughout the day, we discussed and highlighted successful approaches and innovative business models that can help innovation centers thrive across diverse regional contexts. A key highlight was the presentation of Laval's good practice "Challenge and Competencies," showcasing how collaboration between schools and SMEs fosters skills development, innovation, and inclusive growth, serving as an inspiring example of flexible, partnership-driven strategies.

The exchange also included in-depth discussions on reimagining business models to support sustainability, economic growth, and regional resilience. Ideas on diversifying revenue streams, stakeholder engagement, and leveraging new technologies were actively shared, aiming to build resilient and future-proof ecosystems.

We also had the unique opportunity to learn about Laval's holistic attractiveness strategy, which maintains the city's vibrancy through integrated efforts in economic development, innovation, urban planning, and social initiatives.

Visiting key elements of Laval's vibrant innovation landscape—including a co-working space, the northern business zone, and FabLab Crealab—provided valuable insights into the region's dynamic ecosystem.

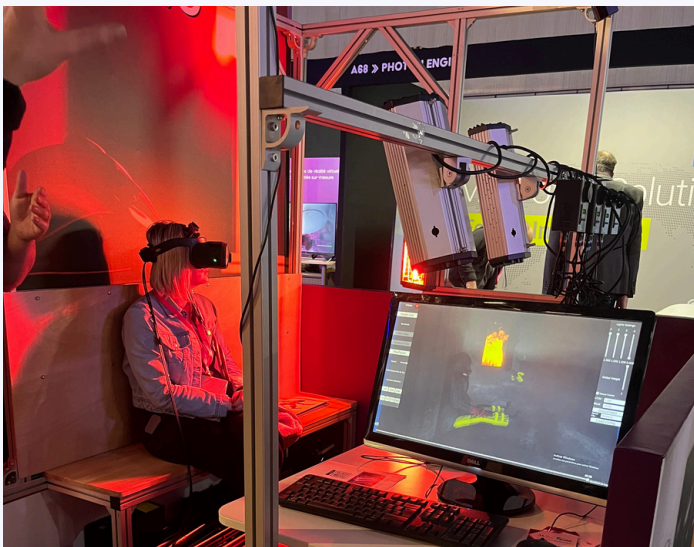


Visit to Laval Virtual: Exploring the Future of XR Technology

10 April 2025, Laval, France

As part of our ongoing efforts to stay at the forefront of innovation, on 10 April 2025, the CODIL team attended Laval Virtual, Europe's leading exhibition and conference dedicated to Extended Reality (XR) technologies. The event showcased the latest immersive solutions, featuring cutting-edge demonstrations, expert-led conferences, and a dedicated CODIL workshop titled "New Business Models for Sustainable Innovation Hubs." This workshop provided an engaging platform for partners and stakeholders to explore how XR can be integrated into industry, education, and workplace environments.

Keynote speakers included Grégory Duvalet from Clarté, Diego Monteiro from ESIEA, and Madeth May alongside Corentin Coupry from LIUM and the University of Le Mans. They shared valuable insights into practical applications of XR across various sectors, highlighting its potential to revolutionize industry workflows, learning environments, and collaborative workspaces.



Iztok Renčelj, CEO of EDGETECH d.o.o., reflected on the event: *"Laval Virtual was an excellent opportunity to learn about emerging XR trends. The event brought together industry experts from different countries, facilitating valuable knowledge exchange and networking. I look forward to future European projects that enable us to connect and collaborate further."*

Similarly, Teodor Stimec, CEO of OPTICS Trade, shared his experience: *"Laval Virtual 2025 was an excellent platform to explore the latest XR technologies, connect with potential partners, and test equipment that's often unavailable in our region. The insights gained will support our future growth and innovation strategies."*



Attending Laval Virtual reaffirmed our commitment to integrating next-generation technologies into our projects and exploring new opportunities for sustainable innovation. We are excited to leverage these insights to strengthen our impact within the European innovation ecosystem.

PODIM Conference 2025: Exploring the Future of Work and AI

13 May 2025, Maribor, Slovenia



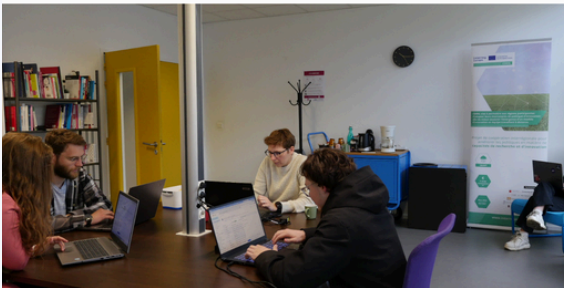
The CODIL Lead Partner, ULFE (University of Ljubljana Faculty of Electrical Engineering), participated in this year's PODIM Conference 2025 — Slovenia's premier event for startups, investors, industry leaders, and innovation enthusiasts. The conference provided a vital platform to showcase the latest developments in digital transformation, facilitate valuable networking, and explore future opportunities.

As part of its engagement, ULFE organized a dynamic panel titled "Disrupt or Die: How AI Is Transforming the Business Scene," bringing together experts, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to discuss the profound impact of artificial intelligence on the way we work, innovate, and compete in the global economy.

The panel focused on key questions around AI-driven changes in workplaces, such as remote work, digital skills development, and regional innovation ecosystems. Attendees explored how businesses and regions can better adapt to AI advancements—supporting flexible, distributed teams and highly skilled, mobile workers—an approach aligned with the CODIL strategy. The session offered valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges of AI, emphasizing the importance of supportive policies and best practices for building resilient, innovative ecosystems that promote sustainable regional growth and workforce development.

New Coworking Space Inaugurated at Laval Mayenne Technopole

23 May 2025



Laval Mayenne Technopole celebrated the official opening of its brand-new coworking space, a key achievement within the framework of CODIL. This innovative space is the result of extensive reflection and fruitful exchanges carried out throughout the project, inspired notably by study visits to Ireland. There, a gteic network of local coworking hubs has proven to be a strong catalyst for regional attractiveness and innovation. This model heavily influenced our approach, aiming to better serve the needs of entrepreneurs, freelancers, and remote workers.

The inauguration was part of a vibrant day filled with inspiring moments, including engaging networking sessions. The new, colorful, and welcoming space was fully booked throughout the day — a clear sign of its relevance and appeal among the local community. Designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and creativity, this coworking space offers professionals an ideal environment to work, connect, and explore new opportunities within the local innovation ecosystem.

This milestone was made possible thanks to the support of Laval Agglomération, the Pays de la Loire Region, and the Interreg Europe program.

CODIL Workshop Explores Digital Innovation in South Ostrobothnia

9 June 2025

The CODIL and CDR EUROPE project in Seinäjoki, Finland, co-hosted a workshop on enhancing digital competence and innovation ecosystems in South Ostrobothnia. Regional stakeholders collaborated to generate ideas for the Regional Programme of South Ostrobothnia, the targeted policy instrument for RCSO within the CODIL project.

The workshop highlighted strengthening collaboration between education and business, improving digital readiness in communities, and supporting small-scale rural innovation.



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Participants addressed digital skill gaps, the necessity for robust connections between education and industry, and the importance of inclusive digital services.

South Ostrobothnia aims to become digitally resilient and competitive through investments in digital talent, collaboration, and forward-thinking strategies. The Regional Programme of South Ostrobothnia acts as a practical guide for regional development, updated every four years, with the next program covering 2026-2029 to be finalized by the end of 2025.

Sharing knowledge, building capacities. Empowering regions for the future.

PEER REVIEWS

Discussing Good Practices between Laval and South Ostrobothnia

In October, partners from Laval Mayenne Technopole and the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia had a Peer Review meeting concerning their GPs SeAMK Innovation week and Challenge Competencies from Laval. The discussion aimed to evaluate the transfer potential of these successful initiatives and identify opportunities for further collaboration and regional development.

Exploring Good Practice Transfer in South Ostrobothnia

In February, CODIL partners from the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia in Finland, and Údarás na Gaeltachta in Ireland, conducted a peer review focused on transferring the gteic network and Connectedhubs.ie Good Practices to South Ostrobothnia.

Transferring Good Practices to Mayenne Technopole

During the peer review in February, partners from Laval Mayenne Technopole and Údarás na Gaeltachta discussed the potential transfer of the gteic network and Connectedhubs.ie Good Practices to the Mayenne Technopole region. The meeting centered on preparing a Pilot Action plan to support this transfer process.

Exploring the potential transfer of the Challenge & Competencies Programme to Crew Digital in Ireland

In May, LMT, Údarás na Gaeltachta and CREW Digital, explored the potential transfer of Laval Mayenne Technopole's Challenge & Competencies program to Crew Digital in Ireland. The discussion highlighted previous successful replicates of the program in France and proposed visits and pilot sessions in Donegal to support knowledge exchange and development. Further coordination is planned to refine the transfer process and outline upcoming activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Interregional event in South Ostrobothnia**
30 September - 2 October 2025, Seinajoki, Finland
- **Peer Reviews**
- **Monitoring policy instruments' improvement**
- ***Implementation of a pilot action if approved***



Join us in strengthening regional capacities to accelerate innovation!

Our project partnership

- **University of Ljubljana** (SI) (Lead Partner)
- **Údarás na Gaeltachta** (IE)
- **Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia** (FI)
- **West Romania Regional Development Agency** (RO)
- **Regional Government of Cantabria** (ES)
- **Laval Mayenne Technopole** (FR)

Associated partners

- **Ministry of Digital Transformation, Slovenia**
- **Laval Agglomeration, France**

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Future Newsletters

Make sure to stay tuned on our project webpage and social media accounts for the release of more information on CODIL. Our project newsletters are expected to be released every six months and will focus on project updates and interesting aspects of the project.

<http://www.interregeurope.eu-codil/>

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2023-2024