

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Contamination Laboratory of University of Salento or CLab@Unisalento
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Italy
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
University of Salento
<b>Brief description</b>
<p>The Contamination Lab of the University of Salento, CLab@Salento, is a "widespread" laboratory of contamination of ideas and knowledge, intended as a physical and virtual place of continuous training ('technological gym') for innovation and entrepreneurial culture through the use of innovative learning models with strong interdisciplinary connotation. Coherently with its vision and mission, CLab@Salento aims to: develop creativity, innovation and business culture; develop a spirit of initiative and entrepreneurship, understood as the ability to translate ideas into actions; develop team building skills and a profitable contamination between different scientific areas; integrate managerial and scientific skills for the analysis of business opportunities.</p> <p>The learning and experimentation activities of CLab@Salento mainly concern three Strategic Areas that represent the interdisciplinary challenges on which the University of Salento is committed: Smart technologies (nanotechnologies, robotics, innovative materials, digital economy &amp; banking, new digital tools); Bio economy (bio-based industries, biotechnologies, blue growth, green chemistry, food safety); Creative cultural industries (tourism, storytelling, empowerment, enhancement of cultural heritage). CLab@ Salento is part of a wider network called Contamination Lab Network to share innovation and experimentation practices.</p>
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research methodology</li> <li>○ Research management</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
<p>The CLab@Unisalento experience is considered an inspiring practice due to the use of an innovative learning model, with strong interdisciplinary connotation. CLab@Unisalento promotes creativity and entrepreneurial culture and encourages the translation of the ideas into synergic actions. It allows researchers and young entrepreneurs to meet, exchange and develop innovative ideas together. Moreover, it encourages practitioners from different fields to meet, create teams and benefit from each other. The integration of scientific domains and the multidisciplinary nature of the lab are essential elements to boost innovation and innovative skills development.</p>

<p><b>Relevance of the initiative in its specific context</b> (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)</p>
<p>The CLab@Salento is a permanent point of reference in the area for students and young talents of all disciplines (starting from human and social sciences to engineering and physics, passing through biology and the arts) allowing the University of Salento to widen its relevance in the region and boost its social responsibility.</p>
<p><b>Target Group of the practice</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Academic staff</li> </ul>
<p><b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond</p>
<p>CLab@Salento is a laboratory in which virtuous contamination processes are developed, in order to increase the spirit of initiative, the creativity and the entrepreneurial culture of students, researchers, academics, entrepreneurs. It gives the possibility to innovators to learn how to translate ideas into actions, to carry out projects with a social and entrepreneurial vocation, and to contribute to the needs of the territory in which the University of Salento is. Moreover it encourages synergies and complementarity of research and ideas, and facilitates partnerships with local companies, public agencies, funders, promoters, national organizations (for industry and research), etc.</p>
<p><b>Transferability of the initiative</b> Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields</p>
<p>The idea of creating opportunities for contamination (whether they are physical spaces, virtual spaces, a teaching approach) is transferable beyond the specificities of institutions and national contexts, with the potential of generating a noteworthy impact for the overall national research agenda and the society.</p> <p>Getting inspired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspiring &amp; Engaging: <a href="https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-1-inspiringengaging/">https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-1-inspiringengaging/</a></li> <li>- Experimenting &amp; Developing: <a href="https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-2-clab-experimenting-developing/">https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-2-clab-experimenting-developing/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainability of the initiative</b> The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time</p>
<p>Higher Education Institutions shall invest in dedicating space and facilities in the creation of the Contamination lab, and in disseminating the existence and relevance of such a space within the institution but also outside the institution. Over the long-run, this laboratory of ideas and knowledge has the potential of becoming a point of reference of innovators and researchers, as well as local stakeholders and funders, promoting an entrepreneurial culture and attracting talents and grants.</p>
<p><b>Contact and references</b></p>
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