# Pilot project application template

## Contact details of the facilitator

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## Summary of the pilot project (Max. 1600 characters)

(Including stakeholders, problem/challenge, approach, relevant links)

Innovations and co-creation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry are often underestimated. Promoting the understanding that today, it is impossible to fully compete in one's industry without innovations, and co-creation, we started to organize makeathon[[1]](#footnote-1) last year. To do so LRATC together with Latvia University of Life Science and Technologies (here and forward - LULST) had joined forces to bring together enthusiasts from various fields who would be ready to share their creativity and promote innovation to meet the needs of the stakeholders of the agriculture, fishery, and forestry sectors. For this event LULST is important partner because they have all the necessary technologies and tools which are important while making prototypes.

The idea of the makeathon is to bring together different people to create new solutions for existing problem. What does it mean? It means that agricultural sector gives real challenges which are addressed during the makeathon by team consisting of different type of actors – practitioners, students, engineers, programmers, etc. LRATC and LULST enables environment for the tems to cocreate and find solution for the challenge team have selected to address. LRATC and LULST offer premises, materials, coordinators, mentors (bank representatives, financists, entrepreneurs, business advisors, farmers, etc.) and all possible support teams need to do their work as efficient as possible in the given time. Teams are asked not only to create solution but to calculate the costs of the solution and present their idea at the end of the event.

Our makeathon is an event for the development of innovative projects, services, or products (creative workshop) in the sectors of agriculture, fishery and forestry. Last year (2022) LLKC has organized one makeathon and the main concept of it is that during the event (48 hours without stopping), the participants look for creative solutions to specific issues related to the agricultural, fishery and forestry sector, by creating projects, products, and prototypes. LULST and LRATC organized short lectures (about communication, and presentation) and asked teams to provide short reports during the action – how far they are in prototyping solutions etc. Each team had a LRATC assigned coordinator who helped each team to not to forget about the things they have to prepare, to remind about the lectures and organized meeting with mentors, etc. In general theses coordinators were silent facilitators of the process.

Last year we had 10 teams which developed 3 apps, one food product, a safety drone, a strawberry picking machine, new fertilizer, a prototype for the aeration of ponds, and 2 household articles. Two of the teams from makeathon keep working with LRATC in the incubation program and are on the road to success, an innovative company in a rural area.

This year we are planning to organize makeathon 2023. There are lessons learned from the previous makeathon and new ideas on how to improve the experience of the participants and involved employees of the LRATC. With the help of the pilot project LRATC would like to attract to the makeathon Latvian participants of the nation i2connect trainings about the co-creation. The idea would be to ask them to act as facilitators of the teams. From the list of participants of the national trainings around 15 participants would be interested in testing their i2c methods knowledge by facilitating makeathon participants. Depending on the number of the teams, it will be decided if all 15 coordinators should be involved in the makeathon. It is planned that on the first evening, LRATC most experienced trainers will provide lecture about the spiral of initiatives, and the triangle of co-creation. The whole event will be evaluated with the energy timeline method.

Before the face-to-face event, there will be an online event on April 12th for all the makeathon participants. Like last year this was more like team building where all the participants will be introduced with the event rules, criteria’s and documentation (work sheets) which need to be filled during the events (financial assumptions, descriptions, potential market, etc.). The worksheets are based on steps and requirements of spiral of initiatives and business model canvas. Also, we are planning to use network analysis so that the teams completely understand the situation before they plan how they will go further with their idea. As our coordinators will be facilitators they will consult the participants about co-creation and the use of methods during the process. We are planning to focus not only on prototypes but also more on the planning process, teamwork and pitch presentation for the jury.

After the makeathon we are planning to make a qualitative report about the difference between makeathon in 2022 and this year.

Before the makeathon 2023 LRATC is planning to have *refresh meeting* with all the coordinators who will agree to facilitate teams. The purpose of the refresh meeting will be to make sure that all of the coordinators still remember the i2connect methods and will be able to facilitate the explanation process to the makeathon teams.

To summarize all what was mention above: makeathon 2023 will still focus on bringing together different actors where some are creating environment for other to create and thus helping to address real challenges in agriculture, fishery, forestry and food sector. This year makethon participants will be facilitated by the coordinators who have participated in national trainings of the i2connect methods. During the whole event and facilitation process from the i2connect toolbox the Spiral of Initiatives, the Triangle of Co-creation, Network Analysis, Energy Timeline, possibly peer-to-peer consultation will be used to give makeathon new dimension.

More information about makeathon can find here: <https://www.meikatons.lv/>; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Meikatons.AgriTech

## Motivation for this proposal to be selected as a pilot project (Max. 1000 characters)

Our goal with this event is to promote innovations and co-creation in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector. We are trying to show the stakeholders that it is important to bring together stakeholders from various fields and to find a way to interact with each other and make creative, innovative solutions for real issues in the sector.

As a trainer, Aiva has participated in i2connect TTT in France and organized national training as a trainer. The idea for makeathon 2023 is to organize it again together with the LULST by using i2connect interactive innovation methods and a multi-actor approach to get more creative and more involved participants who can create sustainable solutions. The event will have two parts, the first one will be online - for introduction, team building and get-to-know mentors, and the second part will be 48 hours at LULST already working with solutions and prototypes. We expect around 10 teams. The possible involvement from the i2connect side could be some trainers as mentors or lecturers and of course, we will use methods as a base for work by that increasing the number of persons who can work with interactive innovation methods.

The whole event is closely connected with innovativeness, sectoral involvement and real problem-solving which could be as a good example for the i2connect project and our side as well.

1. A brief but intensive experience where people gather together to hack/build/tinker and create something new. Sometimes with an attached theme (i.e., designing for good). (Nice explanation here: https://ideeenlab.nl/makeathondefinition/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)