

Name of the Case

1 TUDO: PIKSL

Abstract

PIKSL is an organization that reduces digital barriers and decreases complexity of everyday life by using competences of people with and without disabilities. PIKSL aims at creating collaborative learning and working spaces and also at making digital participation accessible for everyone.

The first PIKSL Lab opened in 2011 in Düsseldorf and the second in 2015 in Bielefeld. More PIKSL Labs are about to open soon.

People with disabilities are working as experts in matters that affect them personally. The PIKSL Team is interdisciplinary, inclusive and focuses on the “user’s viewpoint”.

Website

<http://www.piksl.net/>

Contacts (SIKE team)

TU Dortmund University:

Dmitri Domanski (domanski@sfs-dortmund.de)

Sabrina Janz (janz@sfs-dortmund.de)

Objectives

Targets of the organization PIKSL:

- Supporting people with disabilities to an independent way of living through modern information technology and communication technology
- Orientation towards the needs of people with disabilities
- Creating a place for social contact and communication and co-operative learning
- Interdisciplinary exchange of expert know-how: People with disabilities are experts in the reduction of complexity and the development of solutions. They use these competences and work with professionals to find universal solutions.
- Reduction of dependency on professional support
- Avoidance of stigmatization by aesthetically and demanding design
- Participation of people with disabilities on all stages to secure the highest achievement and usability of products
- Development of accessible products and services

Clients, audience

- People with disabilities are working as experts in matters that affect them personally.
- Everybody, but especially people with disabilities can participate in (computer) courses and other projects.
- Students: Almost every project has a connection to HEIs and to students.

Position along the SI Spiral

- **Growing & scaling** – the project is located on this position, because it passed through all other positions and is now growing and scaling (Lab opening, more projects, more partners).

Relationship with HEI(s) (High Education Institutions)

PIKSL has several projects running now and nine of them have a relationship to HEIs.

- Students from universities in the area create a project with the laboratory experts of PIKSL
- A holistic approach generates benefits for the HEIs, for PIKSL and the society.
 - Students learn something very practical and a new view on inclusion
 - New products can potentially be developed within the scope of PIKSL
 - Society gets a benefit through these new products
- PIKSL existed before the relationship with HEIs but there are many initiatives developed throughout the cooperation with HEIs.

Examples for cooperation with HEIs:

- Cooperation with TU Dortmund University: PhD Student develops a Glossary in “easy language”
- Cooperation with the “Projektstudium”, a two-semester seminar in the bachelor degree rehabilitation sciences of TU Dortmund University: Students developed an innovation biography of PIKSL.
- Folkwang University Essen: Audio Guides for Museums
- University Bielefeld: Virtual Assistance “Billie”

Finance model and resources

PIKSL belongs to the organization „In der Gemeinde leben gGmbH – Hilfen für Menschen mit Behinderungen“ and was initially funded by the foundation „Stiftung Wohlfahrtspflege“.

SKala is a funding program that invests into social entrepreneurships with a proven record of social impact in Germany and helps them to develop their ideas and organizations. PIKSL was chosen as one of the first ten organizations to receive funding. In the first phase (until May 2017), PIKSL received about 127.000 Euros to do a feasibility study that will help to decide about its scalability. Since 2018 a PIKSL Management Team was set up. This interdisciplinary and inclusive team advises future PIKSL Labs around Germany in terms of a Social Franchising model.

Methodology

PIKSL has two labs (in Düsseldorf and Bielefeld) where people with and without disabilities work as experts. They offer computer and further educational trainings within the PIKSL Laboratories. They have many projects (mostly for 6 months) with different HEIs and other organizations.

Products, results

PIKSL offers inclusive computer-classes in their labs.

Consultation offers for people with disabilities and their relatives to find necessary support services.

PIKSL offers inclusive company training for a further development of the employee's social skills, empathy, tolerance, responsibility, self-confidence, and communication as well as cooperation skills. Now there are several different projects to reduce digital barriers: <http://piksl.net/bildungsangebote>.

Impact and results

To find out which challenges PIKSL is facing and which initiatives they developed, a group of students of TU Dortmund University analyzed the organization, interviewed 13 experts and generated an innovation biography of PIKSL: http://www.sfs.tu-dortmund.de/sfs-Reihe/Band_197.pdf.

TU Dortmund's (TUDO's) Social Research Centre (sfs) will evaluate the PIKSL scaling-process.

Overall impact

The project contributes to making inclusion possible and to reduce digital barriers (People with disabilities as experts, computer courses for non-liners, virtual assistance, easy language).

Images





social innovation
through knowledge
exchange

Other resources



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union