



Euroopan unioni
Euroopan aluekehitysrahasto

Innovation project course

Demola Academy project courses



TAMPEREEN TEKNILLINEN YLIOPISTO

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TAMPEREEN
YLIOPISTO



TAMPEREEN
AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU



PIRKANMAAN LIITTO

DEMOLA[®]

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Course content

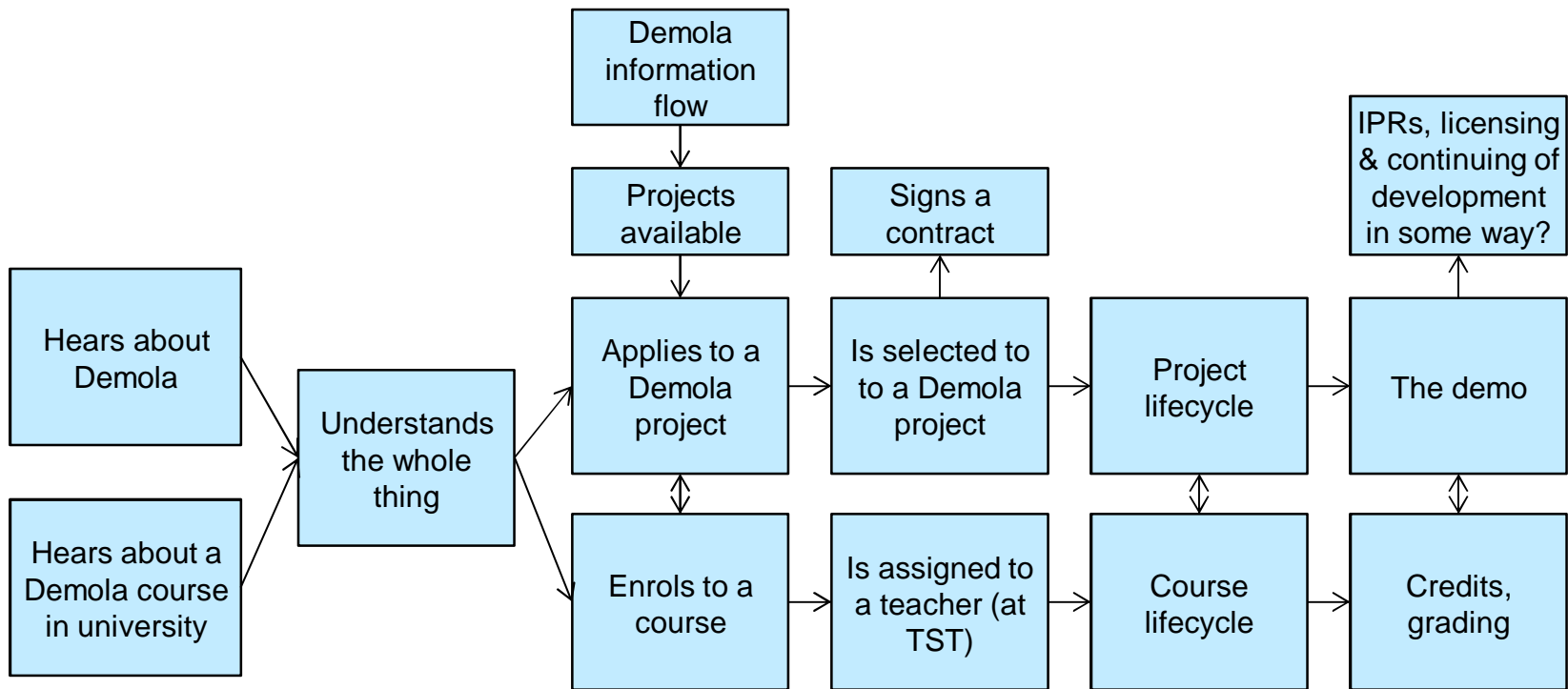


- Students work in a project team to produce a "demo".
- Project topics are usually related to new technology or services (new mobile phones, innovative www/mobile applications, games, etc.).
- The course is organised with Demola and teams work daily in the Demola premises.
- All project teams are multidisciplinary: there are students from different universities with different skills.
- Working language is English.
- All teams have a real client (called "partner"), project supervisor from a university and a Demola facilitator.

Course schedule – Spring / Fall

- January / September
 - Create a Demola profile and apply for interesting projects.
 - Course registration.
 - **Note! You need to apply to a project AND sign in a course. To be able to participate in a course, you need to be selected in a project.**
 - **Note! There may be several Demola courses in your institute so check that you select the right one.**
- February / October
 - Groups are formed, projects start.
 - Courses start – you need to at early contact your institute's contact person so you get assigned a responsible teacher.
 - Project plan.
- February-April / October-December
 - Active participation in your project.
 - Training sessions on agile methods, user experience, presentation skills (including NABC) and concept design / early prototyping.
 - Reviews with team, client, supervisor and facilitator.
- May / January
 - Demo/prototype/product is ready. Final report. Project finishing and final meeting with all stakeholders.
 - Passing & possible grading from course.

Process lifecycle for a student



Discussion with teacher may be required beforehand

Credits and grading



- There are different courses in participating universities, but the basic idea is the same: students participate actively in their project, and they get credits from their home university.
- Amount of credits varies (usually) from 5 to 10 depending on the amount of work.
- Most courses have a pass/fail grading, but there are exceptions to this.

Teacher's role

- Each student has a responsible teacher assigned to him/her from the course.
 - Find out who he/she is.
- Teachers are there to support your learning and to help you
 - Checking how you are doing
 - To give help and support when you need it
 - To watch the amount and quality of your work to verify that you can pass the course
- They may require from you such documentation of your work that is not the same for all participants in your team.
- They can also arrange some extra classes if they see that it is needed.
- Teachers participate in main reviews (project plan etc.) and meetings and give feedback based on those. (They don't have time to participate in all of meetings.)
 - Make sure that the teacher knows about all reviews and can participate.

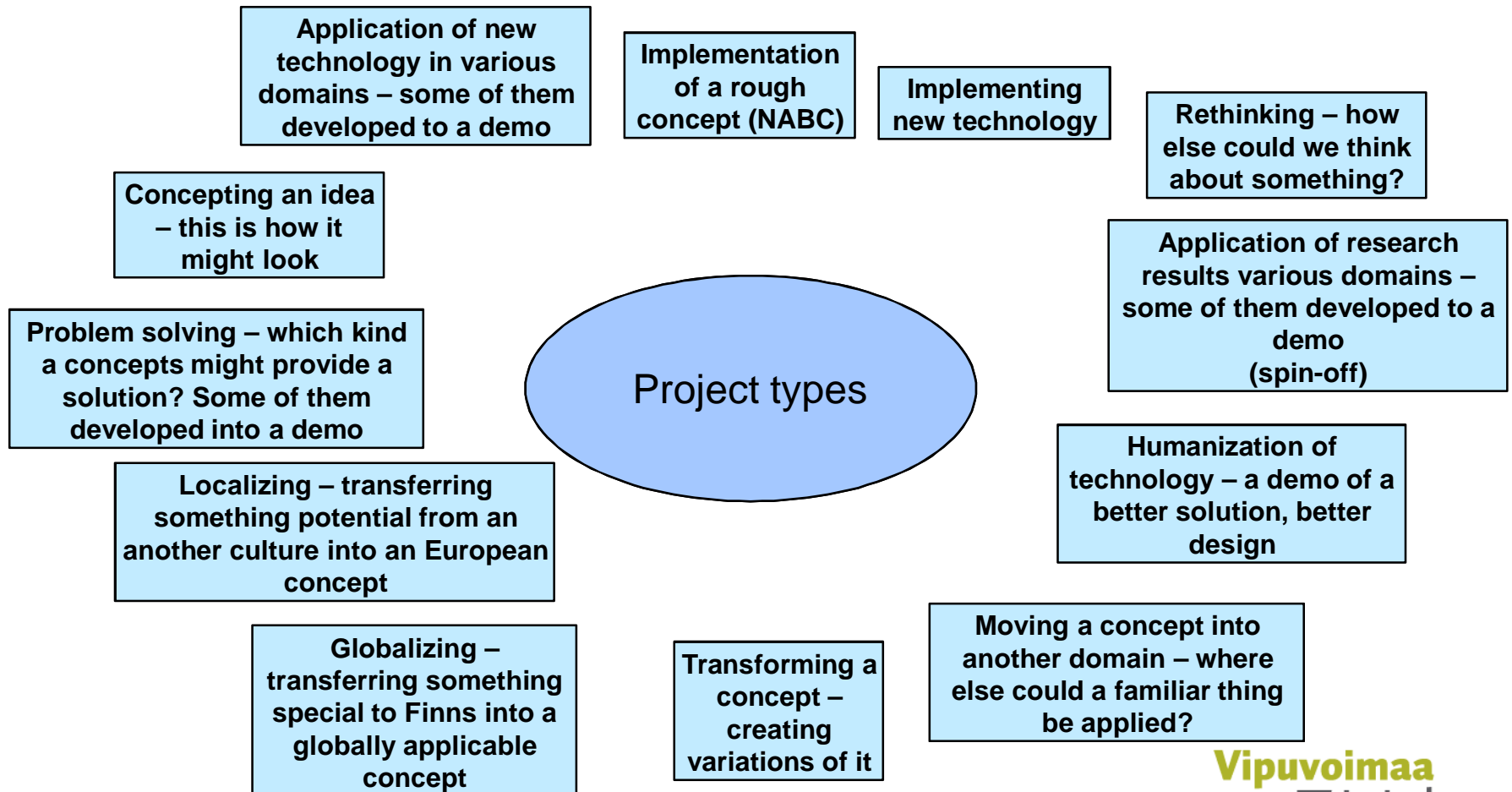
Get selected to a project

- **Not everyone will be selected to a project!**
 - You may be required to have a number of credits before the course
 - There may not be enough projects for all
- **So everyone can not pass the course.**
- Therefore:
 - "Market" yourself so that you will get selected
 - Demonstrate that you would be a valuable member in a team
 - Skills AND motivation are important
 - Show your motivation in your application. Do your application carefully
 - Apply to more than one project
- If you are not selected to a project?
 - Try again next time!

Commitment and effort

- Demola project takes time and effort
- For the duration of the project, be prepared to spend at least 15 hours per week for the project in its active times
- If you are studying and working at the same time, this may be impossible
- Demola is a team effort – you commit your input to your team and the partner

Possible project types



Project success criteria from various viewpoints

Team

- A good demo
- Satisfied team
- Satisfied partner
- Well-executed project
- Showed (and learned) the essential skills for the task
- Other learning experiences
- Possibility to continue development
- Passed course
- Good element in CV
- Supports studies
- Reasonable workload

Educational institute

- Students learn essential skills
-> better graduates
- Satisfied students
- Synergy with other courses
- Dialogue with companies
- Good integration with courses and teaching goals
- Gives new inputs and ideas

Demo

- Matches the goals
- Verifies the questions -- may show that the idea is not implementable – such failure is not a flaw in innovation
- Is innovative
- Provides ground for further development

Project partner

- A good demo that can be licensed and turned into a product
- New inputs and ideas
- Showcase on new talents to continue working with
- Easy to participate, routines work
- Inexpensive

Project success criteria

Society

- Potential for new enterprise
- A potential solution to a general problem
- New richness to culture
- Innovations for national competitiveness

Demola

- All parties satisfied
- No problems in facilitation, arrangements
- Public funders and interest groups satisfied
- Showcase of the Demola experience and possible results
- New flow into the innovation system

Learning lifecycle for a student

