

PhD Course: Participatory Product Innovation

Background and goal

Product development in industry is getting leaner and leaner. Fewer large industries know more about a lot of things. The foreseen way out of the effectiveness race is innovation. Innovation in products, services and processes will through Participatory Product Innovation be targeted in this course.

The goal in this course is for the participant to be able to:

Develop product innovation processes that are more attentive to prospective user needs and that consider users as active participants in the development of innovative products.

This by means of theory in lectures and by practice in a live project.

Project

The core of the course is the application of theories and methodologies to a live project. The project task will be presented at the first lecture and all participants work on the same project. If the class is big there will be several competitive teams rather than one single team. The project task shall be taken from its infant stage all the way to actual commercialisation.

Course literature

- *The Art of Innovation*, Tom Kelley with Jonathan Littman, foreword by Tom Peters. URL:

<http://theartofinnovation.com/>

- A compendium with related readings will be handed out during each course part.

Course knowledge profile

Although the general focus of the course is on product development of physical artefacts, the course contents are highly suitable also for PhD students outside of the engineering disciplines that have an interest in studies of product development.

Prerequisites

In order to receive course credits the participant need to be accepted as a PhD student. The course is however open for industrial professionals and researchers.

Examination

Participating students are required to attend all theory classes as well as provide individual, and group wise, documentation after each of the 5 stages in the P²1 process.

Grades: Fail/Pass.

Credits: 5 credits / 7.5 ECTS

Lecturers

Lectures and project work supervision is carried out by Div. of Functional Product Development together with invited guest lecturers

Organizer and Examiner

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Location

All lectures and the project work is carried out in Luleå at the Division of Functional Product Development.

The Participatory Product Innovation Process

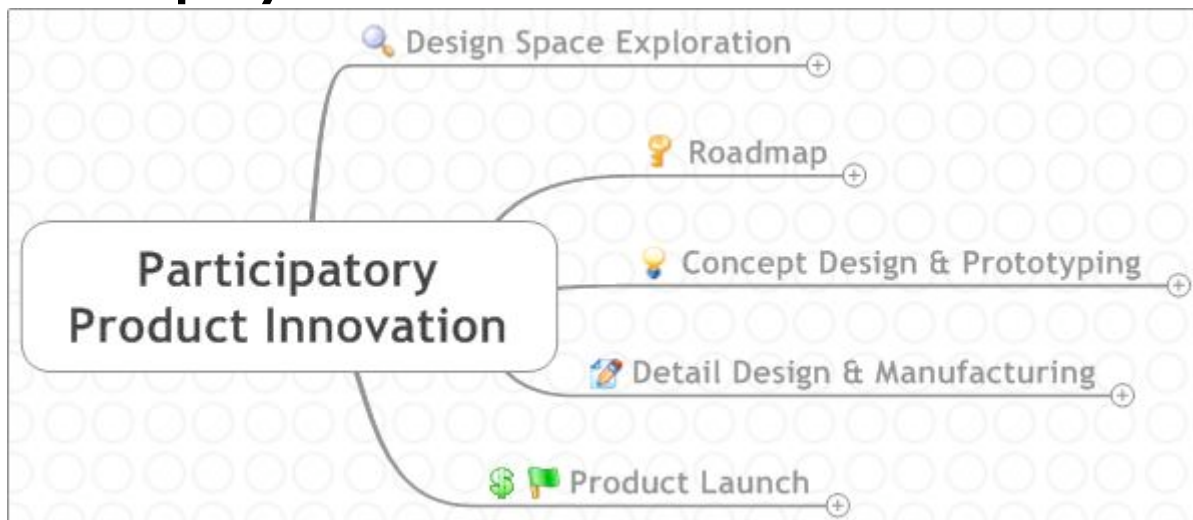


Figure 1. P²I process