

# Islands - Testbeds for Innovation?

Anna-Lena Groos Senior lecturer Program Director Project Manager Åland University of Applied Sciences



# Åland University of Applied Sciences

500 students80 employees10 development projects

#### **INNOVATION LAB**

and

#### **BUSINESS LAB**



Medfinansieras av Europeiska unionen HÅ





## **INNOVATION LAB**

- 3 years 2024 2026 European Regional Fund. One project manager, half time.
- a special room is devoted to innovative work. The design and the interior of the room are supporting innovative and creative work
- groups of people, companies, associations, everybody can come to the InnovationLab and get help to think outside the box, new ways to think. Free of Charge.







## **INNOVATION LAB**

- problems or ideas or development
- work with different innovative methods: Loop, Tookig, Brainstorming, DesignThinking, Sprint etc.
- InnovationLab facilitates and works together with the participants for a few hours, a day, several times over a longer period of time. Depending on the participant's needs.
- involve students and lecturers of the University





#### **BUSINESS LAB**



- 3 years 2024 2026 European Regional Fund. One full time project manager
- helps new and/or old companies to develop, free of charge
- can co-operate with InnovationLab
- companies apply to BusinessLab and an admission board evaluates and accepts them - or not





## **BUSINESS LAB**



- today about 20 companies, micro companies or SMEs
- work with 9 modules, one theme at a time
  - how to reach the customer, increase your business, why does the company exist, cooperation, ideas and innovation, new products and markets, ownership value, networking, basic knowledge
- companies choose 1 9 modules
- the participating companies have a vote on the content
- supporting companies, give free advice on financing, laws etc.







# **Thank You for listening!**

Anna-Lena Groos Senior lecturer Program Director Project Manager Åland University of Applied Sciences