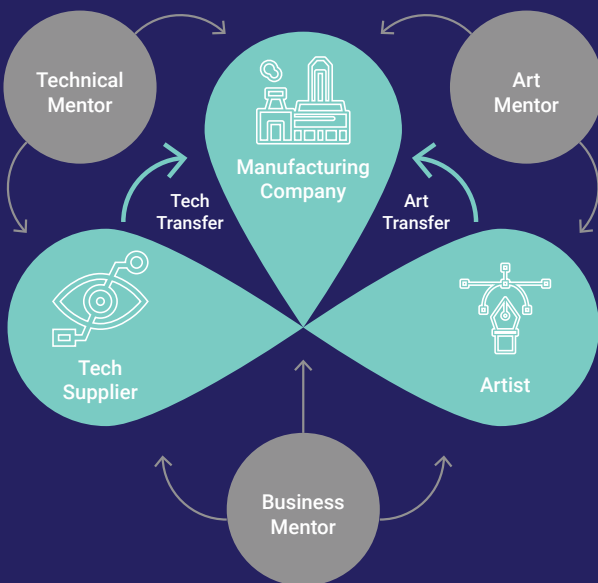


The Better Factory Method

Bringing art-driven innovation to Europe's SMEs

A powerful approach to stimulate creativity, innovation, and employment in your region

Better Factory is a four-year EU-funded research and innovation project aiming to inspire European manufacturing SMEs to adopt digital technologies and create or change their products and production. Running from October 2020 to October 2024, the project brings together manufacturing SMEs, technology providers and artists in 16 joint experiments to solve challenges related to the digitalization of production and products.



Why?

Digitization journey boost
New product development
Responsible innovation

How?

1. Industrial Challenge
2. Matchmaking
3. Core Team Composition
4. Iteration Cycles
5. Demonstrators
6. Business Modelling

Key Project Data

**Total budget of
€8 580 000**

€3 580 000
for open calls
€1 300 000
for mentoring

**Technical development
spanning:**

12 digital tools
IoT platform
Marketplace developed
and tested in KTEs

**48 companies taking
part in 16 Knowledge
Transfer Experiments
(KTEs)**

**Over 35 experiment
results tested in KTEs**

The Better Factory project has developed the **“Better Factory Method”** to mentor the three parties during the experiments to cooperate efficiently towards joint objectives. Our Mentors have supported the experiments from a technical, artistic, and business perspective. During the project, we developed a wide set of mentoring tools and practices to make sure the experiments are implemented successfully. Each experiment has created useful, inspiring, and innovative results. Many of the solutions are already in operational use in the SME, on the market as new products for the SMEs or technology providers and implemented as artwork by the artists.

As our project is approaching the end, we would like to offer the Better Factory Method **for use in regional and national environments** led by local clusters or other innovation-driven networks.

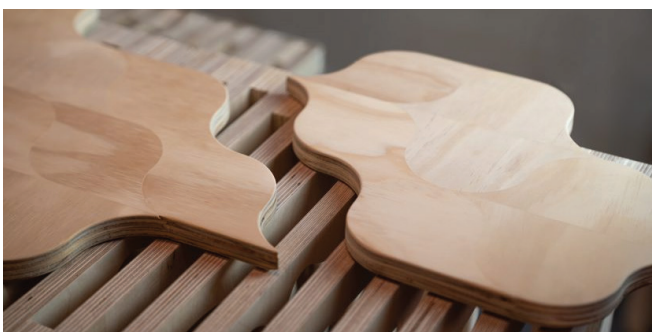
The Better Factory Method and Toolkit

The upcoming Toolkit supports your region with guidance on how to set up, manage and interpret collaborative art-driven industry innovation projects. It can support you in identifying goals and objectives, conducting matchmaking to build the teams, as well as finding a common ground and language for the diverse participants of art-driven innovation projects who all come from different backgrounds.

Results of the Better Factory Experiments

Looking at some of the outcomes of the Better Factory project can give an idea of what to expect when implementing The Better Factory Method in your region. Here we show just two examples below:

Found Objects: A tool for intelligent and responsible nesting



An open-source Grasshopper tool that parametrically creates shapes out of the leftover sheet material from CNC frasing. It demonstrated a 70% + reduction of material waste & CO2 emissions compared to standard CNC nesting solutions, 20% less sheets needed for equal output and created an open workflow allowing collaborating with external designers. Hence, contributing to creativity and sustainability.

LOOP: A new way to print large-scale 3D objects



An algorithm allowing the creation of large-scale 3D printed objects mimicking crochet or willow weaving. It reduces printing time by 50% due to open woven structures, opens up a new area of 3D printing possibilities using less material than solid structures and makes it possible to use 3rd life (or 3x recycled) waste. Hence, contributing to efficiency and sustainability for the company and region.

Find out more about the 16 experiments, working in different sectors from wood to steel, at <https://betterfactory.eu/knowledge-transfer-experiments>. Scroll down on the page to download our Factsheets on some of the outcomes that are ready for commercial uptake.

Implementing the Better Factory Method on a regional/national level

From the project side, we can help in adapting the Better Factory Method to your needs. We offer the Better Factory Method so that you can make a similar programme and make the SME companies in your region more innovative and competitive. To set up a similar programme locally or regionally, you need at least a coordinator, funding and mentors. In addition to this, you'll need to select the manufacturing SMEs, artists and technology suppliers to carry out the innovative work.

The clusters involved in the Better Factory project are eager to support you with exploring this process. To learn more about the Better Factory Method, get access to our upcoming publications (Toolkit and Catalogue) and schedule a call with our team, please contact your local representative: <https://betterfactory.eu/contact-us/>

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