

Developing a Culture of Innovation in Family Owned Enterprises



ERDF Funding
£78,013

Total Project Costs
£156,025



Background

Family businesses make up a staggering 69% of all Scotland's SMEs. Innovation is essential for businesses to grow but for many of Scotland's family run businesses there isn't a culture to make the little changes which can make all the difference. There are particular challenges of working with other family members, employees are often not encouraged to contribute in the way they are in other similar sized businesses and in some cases there is a lack of basic planning which threatens their future long term survival.

The Project

This project, delivered by the Caledonian Family Business Centre, within Glasgow Caledonian University, was designed to create a community of best practice for family owned SMEs. Its aim was to assess the current state of innovation amongst family owned businesses, increase participation in innovative activity and investment and to encourage SMEs to participate in collaborative projects.

The project looked to establish a greater understanding of the barriers to good new ideas within a family business and to identify ways in which these businesses can be helped to be more flexible, creative and innovative. It was delivered through workshops, small group meetings and best practice visits.

Impact

The project which involved 12 family owned SMEs from across Scotland identified the need to nurture and support innovation in this sector. The focus was on what works well in a business and what can be applied either within that company or indeed to other family run businesses. As a result participating businesses clearly recognised that innovation is not just about product development but that there are real opportunities for family run businesses to embrace innovation in developing their people, business processes, management and marketing.

A book providing an overview of this project is available from the Caledonian Family Business Centre.

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