Innovation Pilot – to Improve Innovation Competences of Engineering Students

In the future, there will be increasing demands for skilled and well-educated engineers who are capable of developing new solutions through innovation and can work in multidisciplinary teams. Therefore the universities are developing innovation and entrepreneurship programs to improve the innovation competences of the engineering students to meet this demand. In this paper, we will discuss how to improve innovation competences of engineering students and describe how it is done in a newly developed course at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). The aim of the course is to strengthened innovation skills in addition to personal and interpersonal skills. This is done in close collaboration with companies. The outline for the course is that the students work in multidisciplinary teams with specific challenges offered by the companies. The main findings so far show the importance of the use of a simple model for structuring the process which the students can easily adapt to. For the company the course can give access to students and give a lot of inspiration and new ideas from the students. Furthermore participating in the course is a good occasion to get new ideas tested.

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