

Connecting to the Innovation Ecosystem: Business Support Services

Innovation has become a major driver for economic growth and global competition. Countries are increasingly investing in an infrastructure to assist innovation.

There are numerous workshops offering training in innovation and creating networks of mutual or peer to peer support. There are mentors and consultancies that will offer support either on a paid basis or often on free or subsidised basis because they have some form of statutory funding.

Within the UK there is a government agency that assists with coordinating innovation support www.innovate.org.uk.

Universities are increasingly engaging with social enterprises to support innovation and often this may be the first step towards obtaining the support required. Within the UK major libraries are offering enterprise support and innovation is a high priority. Again some of these services may be free or are available at a subsidised rate.

 Dig Deeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium, Funds and Support for Small Businesses, https://www.angloinfo.com/how-to/belgium/working/starting-a-business/funds-support • France, business support focused on foreign markets (outside of France), http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/supporting-french-businesses-abroad/ • Netherlands Business Support Offices (NBSO), http://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/internationaal-ondernemen/wegwijzer-internationaal-zakendoen/buitenlandnetwerk/nbso • UK, www.innovate.org.uk
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