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## Creating Together: ATHENA's 'Co-Creation Hub' moves forward with its second meeting in Porto

ATHENA Alliance, which includes Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH) as one of its members, introduced the "Co-Creation Hub" initiative this year. This initiative allows FabLabs, Design Factories, and creative centers from ATHENA Alliance members to open their creative workshops for joint projects and international collaboration. To further strengthen this collaboration, the ATHENA "Co-Creation Hub" team participated in intensive workshops in Porto, Portugal, on June 29-30, organized by Porto Design Factory. Representatives from VILNIUS TECH's Creativity and Innovation Centre, "LinkMenu fabrikas," also participated in the workshops, sharing their experiences and organizing joint study activities for students.

### Bringing Ideas to Life

As agreed during the first on-site meeting in "FabLab Siegen", Germany, which took place in November, the collaboration between FabLabs, makerspaces, and Design Factories is highly valuable for ATHENA students, the industry, and society as a whole. The meeting in Porto helped to align the activities of the initiative and begin building the pilot program for ATHENA students, which is set to launch in the spring semester of 2024. The pilot program will utilize a problem-based methodology and will be tailored for interdisciplinary and international teams. Its primary objective is to assist students in solving real-world problems by leveraging the advantages offered by FabLabs and makerspaces, such as 3D printing and CNC machines.

### The ATHENA "Co-Creation Hub"

This innovative platform aims to foster collaboration among various stakeholders in the ATHENA ecosystem, including university students, staff, industry, and society at large. The "Co-Creation Hub" provides a unique space for these diverse groups to come together and collaborate on new ideas, products, and solutions.

During the meeting at the Porto Design Factory, representatives from the "Co-Creation Hub" had the opportunity to draw inspiration from each other's projects and activities, discuss common challenges faced by partners, and share best practices and knowledge.

Stay tuned for more updates on the launch of the pilot "Co-Creation Hub" program!

