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BUILDING BLOCKS FOR INNOVATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

INNOVATION ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK	CENTRAL INNOVATION TEAM	GROWTH BOARD	CORPORATE INNOVATION NETWORK	EXTERNAL ECOSYSTEMS	INTERNAL INNOVATION HUBS
Rationale	 An innovation team can drive the innovation process without the burden of day-to-day business responsibilities They can focus on changing the business rather than running the business 	 » If leadership isn't behind innovation, then it's already failed, you just don't know it yet » A growth board can accelerate the innovation process to a level that it resembles a start-up 	 » Successful innovators democratize innovation and delegate this to the people working in the frontline » A strong internal innovation network enables an organization to innovate effectively and it safeguards the adoption and scale up of innovations 	 The pace and complexity of technological developments has increased and you can no longer innovate in splendid isolation An external ecosystem can accelerate innovations, enable more fundamental innovations and de-risk your portfolio 	 Many organizations find it hard to innovation successfully in combination with regular operational responsibilities Internal innovation hubs (e.g. labs, incubator, accelerator) can initiate and manage new projects more rapidly than the regular organization will ever do
Typical role	 » Professionalize innovation » Support innovation projects » Report on the innovation funnel to the growth board » Scout innovation opportunities » Initiate Horizon 2 and 3 projects » Manage mission critical projects 	 » Develop the innovation strategy » Promote the importance of innovation » Foster a DARE mindset » Monitor the portfolio development » Set priorities between projects » Approve stage gate passing » Sponsor key innovation projects 	 » Participate in the innovation projects » Support innovation on business unit or functional level » Promote innovation initiatives » Share market insights » Provide access to customers » Take on the role of innovation coach » Share inspirational content 	 » Develop disruptive innovations » Add additional innovation capacity » Tapp in to complementary know how and technology » Develop standards » Provide inspiration for innovation 	 » Accelerate projects by taking them out of the day-to-day business » Nurture disruptive ideas (incubators) » Expedite the scale up (accelerators) » Create focus around innovation themes » Establish a true innovation mindset and approach
Success lessons	 » Be close to the business, but not part of it » Bring in an outside perspective » Measure on the ability to explore and learn » Create a multi-disciplinary innovation team » Make sure team members have different mindsets and a healthy mix of DARE » Give a clear mandate » Provide air cover by senior management 	 » Articulate the innovation agenda » Ensure diversity of the members » Ensure budgets and resources needed to act as an internal VC board » Avoid bias and take decisions on innovations based on data » Stick to clear decision-making processes » Inspire, challenge and motivate » Lead by example 	 » Invest in a common language » Start small and make sure the innovation virus contaminates the rest » Create a coalition of the willing and focus on the people who are truly motivated » Organize inspirational events for the innovation community » Empower innovation professionals to initiate and drive innovation » Share insights and updates frequently to fuel innovation efforts 	 » Align on vision and ambition with partners » Focus on creating win-win situations » Take a strategic perspective when selecting the partners » Manage competitive conflicts within the ecosystem proactively » Appoint a dedicated alliance manager » Communicate results and celebrate successes 	 » Establish a clear purpose and scope » Secure funding and be willing to spent it » Establish clear leadership and a decision-making process » Ensure close alignment between the operational business and innovation hubs » Define how successful innovations will be adopted by the regular organization for scale up » Allocate your resources wisely