

Innovation and development in the Danish construction sector by use of digital technologies, open platforms and crowdsourcing

Introduction to the research

I, Andreas Kamtrup, am a PhD student at the Department of Organisation of Copenhagen Business School (CBS) where I study the innovation culture in the Danish construction sector. I do this by focusing on different IT-based modes of innovation and cooperation under the umbrella concept called *open innovation*. Briefly, the construction sector is regarded as a line of business focusing on *efficient* and already known co-operative relations instead of focusing on development and *new* co-operative ways of working. I study whether new innovative methods involving external players (such as users, other companies or public institutions) can make the Danish construction sector more innovative and development-oriented.

Stanford and Silicon Valley

COWIfonden has supported my four-month research stay at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California from 1 September to 31 December 2015. I will be attached to SCANCOR, the cooperation between Nordic universities and Stanford. At Stanford, I am especially interested in the research carried out at the H-star centre in the span between technology, innovation and digital communication. Moreover, I will pay a visit to selected companies in the Silicon Valley area. Silicon Valley is a region in California housing many large high-tech companies such as Apple, Google and IDEO. The latter is a very experienced developer and operator of platforms similar to those selected for my research in Denmark.

Purpose of the research visit, contributions and perspective

The purpose of my research visit is to learn both from Stanford's theoretical expertise and to collect and study the practical knowledge available in the area. Stanford has always prioritized close cooperation with the industry and this approach is fully consistent with my conviction. I wish to study the innovation methods used by IT-intensive companies when inviting external players to take part in their development. I would like to compare this knowledge with practice among companies in the Danish construction sector.

My perspective is twofold: I wish to produce relevant knowledge, which will be useful in the work of both researchers and practitioners. It is likely that my digital cooperation technologies will gain more influence in all lines of business, and I therefore hope that my research will give the construction sector a useful tool when preparing for the future. In a wider perspective, the Danish companies will be forced to develop an adoptive culture learning from global trailblazers (such as Silicon Valley) and translating the most valuable insight gained into Danish conditions. In my opinion, this is where research and the dissemination of research results will play an important role.