€150 billion spent every year in EU supporting business to start, innovate and grow. Yet we know little about what works, and what doesn’t.

There is also too little innovation within policy itself and when there is, be it incremental or radical, we cannot tell whether it is for better or worse. How can an organisation develop and test new ideas systematically?

A really effective way is using a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT). While currently underused and not always feasible, these are often seen as the most robust approach to demonstrating causality.

RCTs can be used as part of a broader experimental approach to test anything from small tweaks to programmes to the overall impact of business or innovation schemes.

IGL partners

IGL is a global partnership bringing together governments, foundations and researchers to scope, develop and test different approaches to increase innovation, support high-growth entrepreneurship and accelerate business growth.

Over the last few years we are seeing a growing number of RCTs. Many of these are (co)funded by the IGL Grants programme, which has supported over 30 trials with close to $3 million from the Kauffman Foundation, Nestlé and the Argidius Foundation. We are assisting a number of government agencies in their own journey to experimentation.

We are starting to learn valuable lessons about how we can encourage innovative ideas and support businesses, and many more lessons will emerge as the trials now in the field start to deliver results.

Creating a global community around experimentation

Our three annual conferences have been attended by over 80 senior policymakers, practitioners and researchers from 15-25 countries.

Our bi-annual workshops have been attended by over 80 senior policymakers, practitioners and researchers from 15-25 countries.

Some IGL outputs and resources

1. A guide on how to conduct RCTs in the field of innovation, entrepreneurship and growth
2. An online directory of trials from across the world, ongoing and completed
3. An online toolkit to help organisations to conduct RCTs
4. A policy brief on why we need more experimental policies and how to become more experimental
5. A regular series of blogs covering innovation, entrepreneurship and growth

Visit our website or get in touch with us to find out more.