

TEFCE presentation and consultation at the EURASHE Roundtable “Regional Engagement of Universities of Applied Sciences: Concept and Impact”

Date: 13 February 2020

Type of event and name of the event: Roundtable; “Regional Engagement of Universities of Applied Sciences: Concept and Impact”

Organizer: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE)

Venue: Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU, Avenue de Cortenbergh 12, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Type of the TEFCE activity: presentation and consultation with higher education stakeholders

Presenter: Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt

Title of the presentation: Could We Create a European Framework for Community Engagement in Higher Education?

Report from the event: available at the EURASHE web site <https://www.eurashe.eu/eurashe-community-discussed-the-impact-of-universities-of-applied-sciences-on-the-regions/>

Video from the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcNuTwnjZSY&t=4s>

Goal of the presentation and consultation:

1. The goal of the above presentation was to present the project “TEFCE: Towards a European Framework for Community Engagement in Higher Education” and its goals, as well as the main outcome of the TEFCE project – the TEFCE Toolbox. The TEFCE Toolbox should help universities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) structuring and developing their cooperation with wider communities in a mutually beneficial way.
2. Since more than 25 policy makers, researchers and practitioners from the European Commission, OECD, EURASHE, universities of applied sciences from the EU countries and other stakeholders in higher education attended the roundtable, the second goal of the participation at the roundtable was to advocate that the community engagement in higher education becomes one of the strategic goals for the future development of higher education institutions and higher education systems in the EHEA.

Background related to the decision to attend the roundtable:

The objective of this roundtable was to bring together experts and professionals from the European and international institutions, projects, networks and higher education institutions with an interest in the “Third Mission of University”, in order to learn from their experience and develop a clear understanding of the concept and impact of the regional engagement of universities of applied sciences (UAS). The discussion between participants has benefited from the concrete experience of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the OECD, and representatives of the European funded HEInnovate project. EURASHE-lead project UASiMAP and the TEFCE project have also provided valuable inputs, while benefiting, at the same time, from the

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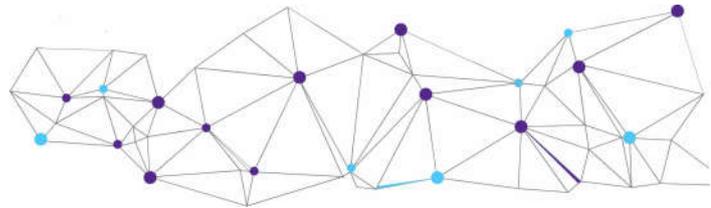


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findings of the debate to further carry out their work in monitoring and supporting the regional engagement of higher education institutions.

The roundtable addressed two main issues:

- The entire concept and scope of the regional and community engagement of UAS, what type of activities do we include within the concept of regional engagement.
- Impact of regional and community engagement and relevant indicators; approaches to presenting and promoting the role and results of such activities at institutional and sector levels.

Main conclusions and outcomes:

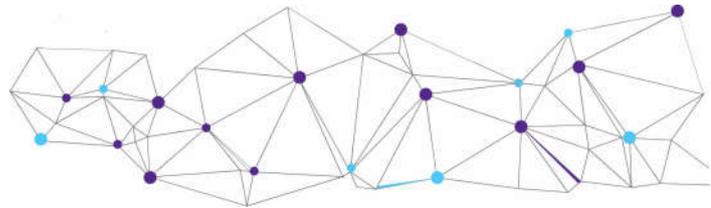
- The TEFCE presentation was part of the session “Assessing the impact of regional engagement” on Thursday 13 February 2020 (13.30-14.30 hours) and was chaired by Michal Karpisek, General Secretary of the EURASHE. The program of the roundtable is attached to this minutes.
- Schmidt delivered a very successful presentation, which was followed by the discussion. The discussion and the questions of the audience stressed the importance of the community engagement for UAS. Main conclusions from the discussion are - the TEFCE project should **examine potential for making synergies between the TEFCE Toolbox and the following initiatives and projects:**
 - **HEInnovate** – it already includes the self-assessment tools related to the engagement between universities and their wider communities (under the area ‘Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration’). The European Commission and the OECD representatives stressed the possibility to further enlarge the HEInnovate with additional elements related to the community engagement. The HEInnovate might organize seminars with particular focus on community engagement in the EU member states.
 - **EUA and their work related to regional engagement in higher education** – it may be useful to compare the TEFCE Toolbox and the EUA’s publication “The Role of Universities in Regional Innovation Ecosystems” (available at <https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/eua%20innovation%20ecosystem%20report%202019-3-12.pdf>)
 - **EURASHE’s project UASiMAP** – this Erasmus+ funded project started in January 2020 (3 years project) and aims to systematically collect data at the EU level on the impact that UAS have on their surrounding communities, their economic and social development. The project will try to develop a framework to assess such impact by identifying indicators that could cover the richness of all the activities carried out by UAS, which include, among other, innovation, development, lifelong learning, systemic cooperation and relations with the world of work, and community engagement.
 - **Joint Research Centre (European Commission)** – JRC’s ongoing project “Higher Education for Smart Specialisation” (HESS project) focuses on how higher education and higher education institutions can contribute to the successful implementation of smart specialization strategies. The TEFCE project could explore links with the HESS project. Also,

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- the TEFCE project should explore links between the TEFCE Toolbox and the JRC's report on "Regional Innovation Impact Assessment Framework" for universities (2018).
- Participants of the roundtable expressed the opinion that the development of the TEFCE Toolbox follows the 'supply driven approach' to community engagement of universities. They recommended that the TEFCE project should take 'demand driven approach' to community engagement, because it could secure more authentic engagement of universities.
 - The future generation of the EU's European Regional Development Fund will finance skills development, which represents an opportunity for further funding for the TEFCE Toolbox or similar initiatives.
 - Participants of the roundtable proposed that the IDE presents the TEFCE Toolbox at the rectors' conferences in different EU member states.
- The report with the main conclusions from the roundtable is published at the EURASHE's web site: <https://www.eurashe.eu/eurashe-community-discussed-the-impact-of-universities-of-applied-sciences-on-the-regions/>
 - Video from the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcNuTwnjZSY&t=4s>
 - The EURASHE's has posted a message on the LinkedIn on the roundtable at <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6635144219101134848/>
 - The EURASHE's has posted a message on the Facebook on the roundtable at <https://www.facebook.com/EURASHE/>
 - The photo gallery of the roundtable shows the networking activities with different stakeholders: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eurashe/albums/72157713119866987/with/49538916386/>
 - Schmidt held a business meeting with Michal Karpisek, General Secretary of the EURASHE, and his team in order to explore potential for cooperation in the development of community engagement in higher education on the EU level. The conclusions of the meeting are:
 - IDE and EURASHE will explore the opportunity to organize jointly the TEFCE conference in Brussels in October or November 2020 (in parallel with the EURASHE annual conference in Brussels). Schmidt will send the concept of the conference to the EURASHE team by February 26, 2020.
 - EURASHE will explore opportunities to include the IDE in the new project applications related to student and regional engagement that EURASHE will prepare for the upcoming Erasmus+ calls for proposals.

Annex 1: Program of the roundtable

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Regional engagement of Universities of Applied Sciences: concept and impact

Roundtable

10.00 a.m. – 16.00 p.m. | Thursday 13 February 2020 | [Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU, Avenue de Cortenbergh 12, 1040 Brussels, Belgium](#)

Background and objectives

Universities of Applied Sciences – hereafter UAS – play an important role in fostering European competitiveness and innovation capacity. This is particularly true at the local level, where UAS and other institutions of professional higher education (PHE) often act as a hub between local SMEs, administrative bodies and civil society, and have a crucial role in developing students' entrepreneurship skills, contributing to further economic growth and job creation in their geographical context.

Despite the proven benefits that the presence of UAS brings to the regional environment there has still remain an issue of a systematic collection of data at the EU level on the impact that single UAS or the sector have on their surrounding communities, their economic and social development, nor on their cooperation patterns and knowledge transfer activities within their local dimensions. Many projects have tried to develop a framework to assess such impact, but encountered challenges in identifying indicators that could cover the richness of all the activities carried out by UAS, which include, among other innovation, development, lifelong learning, systemic cooperation and relations with the world of work, and community engagement.

The objective of this roundtable is therefore to bring together experts and professionals from the European and international institutions, projects, networks and higher education institutions with an interest in the “Third Mission of University”, in order to learn from their experience and develop a clear understanding of the concept and impact of the regional engagement of UAS. The discussion between participants will benefit from the concrete experience of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the OECD, and representatives of the European funded HEInnovate project. EURASHE-lead project UASiMAP and the TEFCE project will also provide valuable inputs, while benefiting, at the same time, from the findings of the debate to further carry out their work in monitoring and supporting the regional engagement of higher education institutions.

The roundtable will attempt to address two main issues:

- The entire concept and scope of the regional and community engagement of UAS, what type of activities do we include within the concept of regional engagement.
- Impact of regional and community engagement and relevant indicators; approaches to presenting and promoting the role and results of such activities at institutional and sector levels.

The roundtable outcomes will serve both the UASiMAP project on this topic, coordinated by EURASHE, and may feed into the larger conference which is likely to be organized in Brussels in October 2020.

Programme

<u>Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU Avenue de Cortenbergh 12, 1040 Brussels, Belgium</u> Thursday 13 February 2020, Brussels	
10:00 – 10:30	Registration and coffee
10:30 – 11:00	Welcome and context setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armando Pires, EURASHE Vice President • Ambassador Pedro Lourtie, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU • Michal Karpíšek, EURASHE Secretary General
11:00 – 11:40	Presenting the concept and scope of regional engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Edwards, Joint Research Centre, European Commission • Andrea-Rosalinde Hofer, Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD
11:40 – 11:50	Coffee break
11:50 – 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Assessing the impact of regional engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt, Executive Director, Institute for the Development of Education, Croatia • Peter Baur, European Commission, DG EAC
14:30 – 15:20	Discussion
15:20 – 15:30	Wrap up and conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Tuffs, Independent
15:30 – 16:00	Networking reception