



CONSULTATION WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION (DG EAC, HIGHER EDUCATION UNIT)

Event date and venue: 11 March 2021, Microsoft teams meeting

Participants

- TEFCE project: Thomas Farnell (IDE), Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt
- European Commission, DG EAC, Higher Education Unit:
 - Julie Anderson
 - David Crosier
 - Klara Engels-Perenyi
 - Nadia Manzoni
 - Sumathi Subramaniam
 - Kinga Szuly

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

TEFCE team members Thomas Farnell and Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt (IDE) held a presentation of the TEFCE Toolbox and a presentation of TEFCE recommendations on how community engagement might become a central part of the higher education policy landscape in Europe in the next decade. The meeting then consisted of an open discussion on synergies with DG EAC priorities, programmes and initiatives. The conclusions of the meeting were the following:

- Positive feedback was provided by participants to the TEFCE project and in particular to TEFCE Toolbox and its piloting results.
- The topic of community engagement is currently of high relevance to the European Commission, since one of the priority areas in the document *Achieving a European Education Area by 2025* is to support the university mission of 'service to society'.
- The timing of the presentation of TEFCE is relevant since the European Commission is currently working on a proposal of a new strategic policy document on the transformation of higher education and the question of universities' societal engagement and impact will certainly feature. There is therefore a possible synergy with the TEFCE project and Toolbox in this regard – although this potential will become clearer once a draft of the document is produced in the following months.
- There are also possible synergies with the European Universities Initiative, as well as a possibility to further explore the topic of community engagement within U-Multirank and within the work of Eurydice (in terms of defining indicators for the Bologna Process guidelines relating to the social dimension, which now includes community engagement).

The meeting ended with both sides open for further consultations on how the TEFCE Toolbox and policy recommendations could connect to newly-emerging DG EAC initiatives.

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