

SCIENCE FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

ANNUAL PLAN 2021

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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OBJECTIVES

The Science & Education for Society Working Group addresses topics related to the concept of place-based universities and engagement with society and citizens while also working on the role of education in S3 as well as education and skills for research and innovation. The Working Group facilitates information sharing, knowledge development, and aims to strengthen existing and build new relationships with the EU institutions. Facilitating project development is also part of the Working Group's scope.

CONTEXT

- Following the continued development of the European Education Area (EEA), the European Research Area (ERA) and ERA Hubs
- Connecting members to information and opportunities related to the upcoming Erasmus+ calls
- Digital transition – following the Digital Education Action Plan and Digital Europe Programme
- Improving understanding of the next actionable steps for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into research and education.

ACTIVITIES

Digital Education Action Plan – part 1

February

A speaker from the Commission will present the Digital Education Action Plan to offer insights into the actions and how they might take into account the regional perspective. Followed by a discussion with WG members on where they see the plan in future WG initiatives.

SDGs: How to move forward for sustainable higher education?

April

The urgency for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be met is understood but less is known about the next steps for higher education, this meeting will try to provide some answers to the 'how' question. A two-hour event with three speakers from regional universities and education institutions presenting how their institution has implemented the SDGs into their sustainability strategies. Possible contribution from Ghent University who are working on this Cardiff Met or Swansea University who include the SDGs in their sustainability strategies and the Dutch national action plan for the SDGs.

How university alliances see the regions in the ERA

June

A follow up on the Policy WG's January meeting on the European Research Area asking how university alliances see the regional dimension in the ERA and exploring the opportunities the initiative holds for universities apart from alliances. Potential to revisit past speakers for an update on steps they have taken since.

Digital Education Action Plan – part 2

September

A continuation on the event in February, presenting examples of regional digital education success stories and challenges both pre and post-COVID-19.

Exploring the ERA in a thematic context

October

Continuing from the two meetings on the ERA earlier in 2021, this meeting will take a thematic focus on the ERA by considering a specific Horizon Europe Mission and/or funding programme.

Project Development Workshop

November

Following on from the success of the 2020 Erasmus+ project development workshop, the WG will organise a PDW with the theme to be decided depending on future calls.