

SCIENCE FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

ANNUAL PLAN 2021

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

Berwyn Davies, Welsh Higher Education Brussels, abd@aber.ac.uk

Eelko Steenhuis, Universities of Applied Sciences Netherlands, eelko.steenhuis@ groningen.nl

Maarten Libeer, VLEVA, maarten.libeer@vleva.eu

Martina Hilger, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, martina.hilger@europa.bremen.de

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

SDGs: How to move forward for sustainable higher education?

March

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 speakers from regional universities and education institutions presenting how their institution has implemented the SDGs into their sustainability strategies, taking into account the SDGs' anticipated research contributions from universities. 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.

Barriers and opportunities for future EU collaboration with British universities

April

Following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, this meeting will explore potential opportunities for collaboration between European and British Universities in the post-Brexit context. This activity may involve reflecting on examples set by the Swiss Programme for Erasmus, before offering an opportunity for European universities to reflect on the UK's Turing Programme in regards to the challenges it may pose to post-Brexit collaboration between education institutions. Possibility to invite an MEP to speak following an open [letter](#) from 144 MEPs calling on the Commission to explore ways for Scotland and Wales to remain part of the Erasmus programme.

Digital Education Action Plan

September

A presentation of the Digital Education Action Plan offering insights into the actions and how they might take into account the regional perspective. Followed by examples of regional digital education success stories and challenges from before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Followed by a discussion with WG members on where they see the plan in future WG initiatives.

How university alliances see the regions in the ERA

Late 2021

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. Opportunity to collaborate with the S3 Working Group by exploring the university alliances in regional innovation ecosystems.

Exploring the ERA in a thematic context

Late 2021

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

Late 2021

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.