

SCIENCE & EDUCATION FOR SOCIETY WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2022

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

- Key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2022:
 - Erasmus turning 35
 - Higher education package – European Strategy for Universities and Council recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation
 - European Year of Youth
 - European Universities initiative
 - Innovation and skills agenda – Q3
 - Micro credentials & learning accounts
 - [Council Recommendation](#) on learning for environmental sustainability
 - Bologna Follow Up Group's Advisory Groups and Working Groups, in particular the WG on Social Dimension
- Important funding programmes for the Working Group and how the WG aims to facilitate project development:
 - Erasmus+ - centralised actions – a new edition of the Erasmus+ PDW
 - Horizon Europe – exploring links with Erasmus+ and Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships

- COST – a stepping stone for a clearer role of Social Sciences and Humanities in Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe
- Digital Europe programme (Advanced Digital Skills)– explore with ICT WG
- How the group supports partnership building and collaboration with other European organisations or networks:
 - UnLiON network – collaborate on micro credentials – explore possibilities for collaboration around their event on 8 March 2022
 - COST and European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH)
 - Erasmus coalition
 - Explore opportunities with the CHARTER project
- Topics and tailored activities for less active regions and widening countries:
 - Consult with Management Board task force on potential education and skills opportunities
 - Continue to engage these and more regions in the Erasmus+ PDW task force overseen by the SEFS WG. Engage smaller scale project ideas in the workshop and therefore make the workshop more accessible to smaller and less active regions.

ACTIVITIES

European Strategy for Universities: how to reinforce links with regions

24 February – online

The European Commission has published in January 2022 the long-awaited Strategy for European Universities. It builds on several consultations and the results of the Erasmus+ pilot calls on European universities launched in 2019 and 2020. ERRIN has been promoting an ecosystem approach involving all stakeholders from the quadruple helix including universities. DG EAC will be invited to present the main features of this new strategy and its links with existing tools to support universities, mainly Horizon Europe. This meeting will be organised together with the Policy WG.

Responsible leader: shared

Why are S3 strategies relevant for the European Universities initiative?

April – online

In the call for European Universities, applicants are tasked to describe within the frame of ‘the European Added value’ how their proposal ‘demonstrates contribution to regional development, for example through the engagement of the alliance's members in their regional ecosystems and with their local communities, including in the context of the Smart Specialisation Strategies’. The link between the European Universities and regions is further elaborated in the European Commission's communication ‘The European Strategy for Universities’. This meeting will ask why S3 is relevant and how European Universities is relevant for the S3s? The executive agency (EACEA) will be invited to provide more information and we will hear from European Universities who have placed regional development at the heart of their alliances and regional stakeholders who have an active associated role in a European University. This meeting will be organised together with the S3 WG.



Audience: Brussels-based people, regional stakeholders and European University alliances

Responsible leader: Caroline Sundberg

Erasmus+ PDW

June

The 2022 edition of the Erasmus+ PDW will aim to be an in-person event, bringing together institutions, civil society organisations and providers in the field of higher education and training, to build consortia for the next centralised action Erasmus+ calls. The workshop will be overseen by a leader of the SEFS WG and managed by a task force of volunteers taking on specific roles. The role of WG and task force members will be clearly defined with collaboration between the WG initiating the work of the TF. The 2022 workshop will aim to explore links between Erasmus+ & Horizon Europe, ensuring that the workshop's focus is on research and innovation actions.

Audience: interested ERRIN Members

Responsible leader: Elena Nielsen

Social sciences: Exploring its current role with COST & EASSH

September - in person if possible

Continuing the Working Group's collaboration with COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) and developing a new collaboration with the EASSH network, this session will explore the role of social sciences in Horizon Europe and Erasmus+.

Project development opportunities could also be explored.

Audience: interested ERRIN Member

Responsible leader: Martina Hilger

Erasmus at 35 – what's next?

November – in person if possible

As Erasmus turns 35 years during 2022, this meeting will explore the future of the programme, expectations and wishes. Partners from the Erasmus coalition will be invited to reflect and share their thoughts of what the future of the programme could be. Followed by a discussion on how the regional dimension can be enhanced hearing from successful projects.

Audience: experts, Brussels-based people

Responsible leader: shared

What happened to the Bologna Process?

December – in person if possible

With the European Commission's Communication on the Strategy for Universities and proposal for Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation the Bologna Process has been described as something from the past which enabled the development of the European Education Area. During this meeting we will ask if and what future there is for the Bologna process by drawing the Working Group leaders' (Wales & Universities in South Sweden) experience zooming in on the Bologna Process policy agenda within social dimension. A policy area which only recently was added to the list of Bologna Reforms, how can a process of the past deliver for the future, and what is the status for non-EU countries without the Bologna process?

Audience: Brussels-based people

Responsible leader: Caroline Sundberg and Berwyn Davies