

Accelerate_FutureHEI – Entrepreneurial & Innovative Universities Acceleration Programme

Summary

In 2022, the European Commission and EU countries agreed on the European Strategy for Universities, empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe. The European Strategy for Universities aims at supporting and enabling universities to adapt to changing conditions, to thrive and to contribute to Europe's resilience and recovery. It is a call to EU countries and higher education institutions across Europe to join forces.

This strategy recognizes that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can positively impact regional and Europe-wide social and economic development through education, research and engagement. However, it also recognizes that they require targeted support to enhance their capability to fully realise their potential.

Accelerate Future HEI will develop and test acceleration services, to equip HEIs with the skills and capacity to drive their institutional transformation towards becoming more entrepreneurial and innovative institutions over the next four years. This new research and innovation project, which focuses on supporting and enhancing the capability of higher education institutions (HEIs), was launched in Amsterdam on 18th January 2023 (Figure 1).

Hosted by the lead partner, University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN), the ambitious project brings together twelve European partners to

develop and implement acceleration services. The consortia includes two existing HEI consortia as part of the EIT HEI Innovation Capacity Building initiatives, namely the INCORE Project which was coordinated by IST (CERIS). UIIN leads this journey to collaboratively gain an understanding of the higher education status quo and desired future state, develop a roadmap and subsequently implement and support programs of change for HEIs through expert coaching, training and peer learning in a network that will sustain far beyond the scope of the project. Not only will the project directly benefit the acceleration of the involved HEIs, but it will also further provide key learnings and policy recommendations to support the acceleration of entrepreneurial and innovative HEIs across Europe.

Accelerate Future HEI is funded under the HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-51 call Horizon Europe programme, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation. The Horizon Europe programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. Moreover, it supports the creation and better diffusion of excellent knowledge and technologies.



Figure 1. Kick-off meeting in Amsterdam (2023).



Project Reference

Grant agreement ID: 101095083

Leading Institution

UIIN – University Industry Innovation Network (Netherlands)

Partners

TUMint – Technical University of Munich International (Germany), Momentum Marketing Services Limited (Ireland), IST – Instituto Superior Técnico (Portugal), UR – Université de La Réunion (Department of Réunion), Universidad Europea de Canarias (Spain), UMA – Universidade da Madeira (Portugal), UAS St. Pölten – St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences (Austria), UCLL – University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (Belgium), MATE – Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (Hungary), UPT – Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara (Romania), ViA – Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)

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Funding

EU Horizon Europe Framework Programme

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3 197 191.00€

CERIS

231 250.00€

Project Website

acceleratefuturehei.eu