

ANNUAL PLAN 2024 SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SOCIETY

STRATEGIC CLUSTER

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 (both VET and Higher Education) in the Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) 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. For this purpose, the Working Group assesses the interest of the membership for specific calls under Erasmus+ and support in the most efficient way the members in building consortia, primarily with the ERRIN online tool for project development.

CONTEXT

The key EU-level priorities, strategies, events, as well as work programmes and priority calls for proposals that the WG aims to follow up in 2024:

- 2023-2024 European Year of Skills (ends 8/5/2024)
- EU Skills Agenda - [Pact for Skills](#)
 - Large scale Skills cooperations and Regional Skills Partnership
 - [Harnessing Talent in Europe: a new boost for EU Regions](#)
 - Skills ecosystems
- Outcomes Mid-term evaluation of Horizon Europe and Erasmus +
- Preparation of FP10 and the next Erasmus+ programme
- European Education Area (EEA) in relation to ERA and European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- Evidence based to evidence informed policymaking and the impact on science for society
- Societal impact of research, Societal Innovation
- ERA Action 11, An ERA For the Green transition, Sub-Action 11.3 Research & Innovation for the Future of Work (ERA4FutureWork)

- A blueprint for a future joint European degree, accompanied by recommendations on quality assurance and on attractive academic careers in higher education.
 - Council Recommendation on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education (non-legislative, Articles 165 and 166 TFEU, Q2 2024)
 - Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system (non-legislative, Articles 165 and 166 TFEU, Q2 2024)

OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTPUTS IN ERRIN PROJECTS

Projects of strategic interest to the Working Group:

- ERRIN projects:
 - CHARTER – European Skills Alliance for Cultural Heritage
 - Topic: Skills Alliance for Cultural Heritage
 - Benefits for members Policy influencing opportunities:
 - CHARTER Paris conference targeting Regional and National stakeholders from the sector: 19-20 March 2024
 - CHARTER Policy round table with EU institutions and other key stakeholders (Brussels, 18 April 2024)
 - CHARTER Workshop Drafting policy recommendations (Rotterdam, June 2024)
 - Exploring the establishment of an interregional Skills partnership for Cultural Heritage (Q1-Q3 2024)
- Other relevant and member-driven projects:
 - UIREKA, European University Alliance linked to green transition and Cities mission;
 - Community of Practice of the European Universities Alliances (follow up of the approved project after call results): For-EU4All – Forum of European Universities for all consortium

Partnerships:

- JRC – Science meet regions initiative
- Cooperation or joint events with UAS4 Europe, OECD (Entrepreneurial skills)
- EARLALL, European Association of Regional and local authorities for Lifelong learning
- IGLO – Working Group on Higher Education, UnLiON - Working Group on Higher Education: collaborate on sessions where a regional dimension could be added
- VANGUARD
- Lifelong learning platform
- EURASHE and UAS4Europe

Tailored activities for less active regions, e.g. tackling topics directed to widening countries:

- When organising exchange of regional examples, the SEFS Working Group will take an inclusive approach.

ACTIVITIES

Evaluating the societal innovation impact of R&I: learnings from Horizon 2020 and looking forward to the 10th Framework Programme

Date: 18 March

Horizon Europe shall deliver societal impact by contributing to address, through R&I, the EU policy priorities and global challenges, including UN Sustainable Development Goals. Progress towards societal impact is monitored across the whole programme, through three impact pathways and related indicators in the short, medium and longer terms. This information meeting will be dedicated to the outcomes of the Ex post evaluation of Horizon 2020, the EU framework programme for research and innovation, which was published on 29 January 2024. It will discuss the impact of Horizon 2020 funding for social innovation and exchange about the next steps in HEU and FP10. The aim of the meeting is to foster a better understanding of what worked well and what are the remaining challenges. Furthermore, the meeting will provide an opportunity for ERRIN members to learn from regional and European good practices in this field (like e.g. the European platform for social innovation the Social Innovation Matrix, SRL, Policy Framework for an Economy of Wellbeing....)

Capitalising the legacy of the EU Year of Skills in the ERRIN Network

Date: April TBC

This meeting will take stock of the Pact for Skills and the outcomes of the EU Year of Skills in the ERRIN Network. This networking meeting will provide an overview of the work conducted in Working Groups, ERRIN projects and member-driven initiatives. We will exchange with the European Commission about the next steps for the Pact for Skills flagship initiatives, particular interest in the Harnessing Talent For Europe's Regions Initiative. We will also share the learnings from the CHARTER project and explore how Individual Learning Accounts can help to address regional skills shortages. We will also explore the interest among the members for project facilitation under Erasmus+ support for the establishment of Regional Skills Partnerships (deadline 24 June 2024).

Evidence-informed policy-making: learning from good regional practices

Date: September/October

As the JRC's Science meets Regions pilot reached its end date, the Working Group wants to explore how the learnings of the Pilot scheme will be capitalised to boost regional policies. In this meeting, we will learn from initiatives sprung from the Science meets regions and like to explore if some have inspired Regional Innovation Valley applications or practices that have been embedded in the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI). Alternatively and/or additionally, the session can provide more information about the [Knowledge Exchange Platform](#).