Supporting Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Higher Education in Romania

Key findings of the country review by OECD&EC, 2019

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Workshop Strengthening UIG Cooperation in Romania
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Why do we need entrepreneurial HEIs?

Higher education and research institutions are changing:

• New funding models
• Focus on students' employability, 21st century skills, value creation via intra-/entrepreneurship
• Internationalisation / globalisation / digitalisation
• New modes of engagement with stakeholders and local/regional environments, PPP
• Pressure of measuring and showing impact, active in solving the grand challenges/SDGs
• Contributions to economic growth
• Pressure on academic careers
Introduction to HEInnovate

**Theme:** Engines of Innovation - entrepreneurial universities

**Questions:**

- What does it mean to be an entrepreneurial / innovative higher education institution?
- What are the defining characteristics?
- Are there already entrepreneurial higher education institutions from which lessons can be learnt?

**Forum conclusions and recommendations:**

- To come forward with a ‘guiding framework’ that would be available to HEIs as a tool for learning and inspiration
HEInnovate - Eight areas of the self-assessment

- Leadership and Governance
- Organisational Capacity: Funding, People and Incentives
- Measuring Impact
- Entrepreneurial Teaching and Learning
- The Internationalised Institution
- Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs
- Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration
- Digital Transformation and Capability
HEInnovate today

- Number of SAs completed: almost 20,000
- Number of HEIs with SA completion: over 1,300 from 75+ countries
- Number of users: more than 19,000 registered users
- Number of groups on the site: almost 1,400
- Over 100 different supporting materials, reports, case studies and videos available, EPIC
- Expert group to support the work on developing the key concepts of an “entrepreneurial HEI”
- More than 50 workshops, webinars

Website visits from all over the world
Forward Looking Cooperation Projects
- stakeholder involvement -

THEI2.0

Beyond Scale

http://www.thei2.eu/

http://www.beyonscale.eu/
Forward Looking Cooperation Projects
- regional development -

RE-ACT - http://ris3heinnovate.eu/

SELF-REFLECTION TOOLS FOR SMART UNIVERSITIES ACTING REGIONALLY
RE-ACT will develop, test and scale-up an innovative tool, using an interactive methodological approach and producing a useful set of resources - HEINNOVATE for RIS3- that will support HEIs

UASiMAP - https://uasimap.eu/

Mapping regional engagement of Universities of Applied Sciences
Systemic Support by HEInnovate
HEInnovate: Romania country review

2016-2017:
Junior Achievement Romania exercise for Entrepreneurial Universities
• 26 Romanian HEIs
• 4,098 respondents
• 50% students

Results capitalized to develop entrepreneurship courses and programmes in collaboration with businesses
HEInnovate Romania: country review

**2018** self-assessment exercises and international team of experts

**2019** Launch of the report “Supporting Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Higher Education in Romania” in Bucharest
Entrepreneurial teaching and learning

- traditional disciplinary approach in defining curricula
- regulatory definitions of who can teach at universities
- modest co-design of the content and learning methods of entrepreneurship educational programmes
- faculty-centred teaching and evaluation methods in entrepreneurship education
- low level of research-based entrepreneurship educational content and train-the-teachers opportunities
- informal and non-formal learning in developing entrepreneurial skills to be increased
- need for KPIs for evaluating the effectiveness of entrepreneurship education
Preparing and supporting entrepreneurs

- talented staff, committed mentors and interested students
- Student Entrepreneurial Societies (SES)
- Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) platforms for sectoral partnerships
- entrepreneurial sectoral alignment and engaging HEI staff
- SME support programmes to focus more on innovation
- significant investment opportunities available to HEIs
- weak links to business, lack of ecosystem awareness
Knowledge exchange and collaboration

- size and place matter
- comprehensive universities less engaged in knowledge exchange
- no clear (national) legislative framework for working with businesses
- need to build longer-term relationships of trust and confidence with external stakeholders
- a-spatial and centralised design of a single Operational Programme for Regional Development for all the regions of Romania
- opportunity of boundary spanners
Key challenges

• migration and cultural barriers
• overregulation - central system of control
• weak links to business, lack of ecosystem awareness
• large economic imbalances among regions
• incoherent policies for innovation
• fragmentation of design and delivery of publicly funded programmes

Key opportunities

• human resource
• European programmes for science and innovation
• already existing national programmes
• allocating a “space” to innovate within university
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC POLICY ACTION

• joint review of Romanian and EU policy documents
• build awareness and understanding of national strategies
• wider government policies impact the performance of both universities and their local places
• spatially blind policies to be revisited
• functional interconnectedness and collaboration across different bodies
• networks of best practice in “boundary spanning”, technology transfer offices, procurement and state aids
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEIs

- **Entrepreneurial behaviour and mind-sets** in staff and students
- new incentives, motivations and rewards to **build institutional capacities and partnerships**
- Develop TTOs as critical HEI gateway to local ecosystem
- significantly **expand entrepreneurship and research commercialisation** activities
- commitment of senior leaders to knowledge exchange is pivotal in **inward investment**
- Contribute to the **regional ecosystem**
- Understand and measure impact by qualitative KPIs
HEInnovate OECD-EC Romania report

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