TEFCE
Towards a European Framework for Community Engagement in Higher Education

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PILOTTING THE TEFCE TOOLBOX

Experiential Learning Journey at the University of Rijeka

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UNIRi founded in 1973
UNIRi has matured into a modern European university and center of excellence whose impact extends beyond the region
research and education-oriented university that supports social and economic development in the City of Rijeka and the wider region

- 17 500 students
- 1 300 academics
- 11 faculties and 4 departments
- 162 accredited study programs
PILOTING THE TOOLBOX

- piloted at universities in Dresden, Twente, Rijeka, and Dublin
- involved focus groups for university management, staff, students, and communities
- quality of the Toolbox framework confirmed!
Achieving a new balance in recognizing and rewarding universities and academics:

- Diversifying university outcomes and promoting flexible academic career paths

- Quality and balance in individual and team performance in teaching/research/innovation/serving the society
THE PILOTING PROCESS

➔ Piloting Report 17/07/2019 – 12/9/2019

◆ 45 practices analysed within the framework of 7 dimensions and 21 sub-dimensions on 50+ pages

➔ We created a heatmap for each sub-dimension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of engagement</th>
<th>Heatmap level</th>
<th>Heatmap criterion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authenticity of engagement</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>(See sub-dimensions levels above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Societal needs addressed</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>From business needs to needs of vulnerable groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities engaged with</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>From businesses and highly-structured organisations to hard-to-reach groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional spread</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>From one department to university-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional sustainability</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>From short-term projects to embedded/continual activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➔ Piloting Visit: 24-25 Sept, 2019

(Rijeka piloting team and peer reviewers - 4 external experts // focus groups with students, academic and non-academic staff and external communities)
EXAMPLES OF UNIRI PRACTICES

R&D CENTRES

- Centre for Industrial Heritage
- Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
- Centre for Advanced Studies – Southeast Europe
- Centre for Logic and Decision Theory
- Centre for Micro and Nano Sciences and Technologies
- Centre for Advanced Computing and Modelling
- Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity
- Centre for Urban Transition, Architecture and Urbanism
- Centre for Support to Smart and Sustainable Cities
EXAMPLES OF UNIRI PRACTICES

Work Placements in Culture
→ students’ personalized curricula
→ UNIRI organizes and recognizes 86 hours of practice at a cultural institution in Rijeka (theatres, museums, NGO’s, libraries, art galleries, internet news portals, etc.)

Citizen Portal (YUFE)
→ direct contact with citizens
→ citizens can provide higher education institutions with information about what challenges the community is facing (a reality check for UNIRI)

University for the Third Age
→ Educational programs for the ‘silver’ generation
→ aiming to cultivate social inclusion, improve general levels of motivation and mental health, and foster community wellbeing
EXAMPLES OF UNIRI PRACTICES

**Students & Community**
- community-based teaching and learning course
- platform for students engaged in various community-based projects

**StepRi Education Center**
- various educational and consulting activities
- improving entrepreneurial and managerial competences in existing and wannabe entrepreneurs
- students, scientists, the unemployed, managers, and employees already working in companies

**Magical Science Day**
- collaborative project between Creative Team Campus and kindergartens
- short, creative and innovative science workshops run by UNIRi professors and students
- specially designed and tailored for preschool children
Piloting Process - SLIPDOT Analysis

The „SLIPDOT” analysis is a framework developed by the TEFCE project, that works as a SWOT analysis of community engagement at the university, but with a key difference:

**SWOT**
- **S**trengths
- **W**eaknesses
- **O**pportunities
- **T**hreats

**SLIPDOT**
- **S**trengths
- **L**ow **I**ntensity
- **P**otential for **D**evelopment
- **O**pportunities
- **T**hreats
UNIRI - SLIPDOT ANALYSIS

AREAS OF STRENGTH

- UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP
- ENGAGEMENT CULTURE
- UNIVERSITY CENTERS

- STUDENTS
- ACADEMICS
SLIPDOT ANALYSIS

AREAS OF LOWER INTENSITY AND POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP & POLICY

CENTER & PERIPHERY

RESEARCH

MAINSTREAM

UNIVERSITY CENTERS
PILOTING THE TEFCE TOOLBOX - KEY MESSAGES

➔ The Toolbox is **comprehensive** – institution learns a lot in the process about the **wealth of engagement activities** that already take place

➔ The Toolbox **allows for context-specific application** – it is not framed as ‘one size fits all’

➔ The process is **participative** and allows for participants (uni management, professors, students, communities) to have a meaningful say in the process

➔ The **participants appreciate** the process and are **empowered**

➔ The process is **holistic and developmental** - it does not result in a narrow scoring exercise

➔ The institution learns a lot in the process about **potential for improvement** - where and how to go from here...?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS...?
COMMENTS...?
SUGGESTIONS...?