

Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions

# 5.1 Progress Report E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> Open Innovation Hubs

A Roadmap to Effective Innovation Hubs

## Work Package 5

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## **Overview**

Deliverable nr.	Deliverable name	Person responsible	Corresponding HEI
D 5.1	E³UDRES² Open Innovation Hubs – Progress Report  Report is completed and approved by the Executive Board, including a review and considerations on the progress so far as well as strategy and recommendations for the future.	Henny Oude Maatman	Saxion



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#### **Brief summary**

This report (Work Package 5 – WP5) provides insight into the progress of the Open Innovation Hubs within the E³UDRES² network. It describes strategies, successes, challenges and future plans for these hubs as drivers of regional and international innovation.

E³UDRES² 2.0 builds on version 1.0 and aims to strengthen the impact and collaboration between nine European universities for applied sciences through Innovation Hubs. The hubs combine education, research and entrepreneurship to develop solutions for regional and cross-border challenges. Through the themes of Health & Wellbeing, Deep Tech & Digitalisation, Creative Industries and a Resilient Economy. The dynamics in the innovation hubs support E³UDRES² activities such as Bootcamps, start-up guidance like the YOSHI program, regional and international stakeholder meetings, with a clear regional focus and corresponding contact persons, the international network officers.

The innovation hubs are promising drivers of innovation both within and outside universities. Despite challenges, the network is growing, concrete results are being achieved, and strategic planning is underway to realise a future-proof European higher education model.

#### 1. Introduction E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup>

#### Building on E³UDRES² 1.0 towards E³UDRES² 2.0

The European Universities Network initiative has made significant progress in promoting innovation and cooperation within European higher education. With E³UDRES² 2.0, we aim to build on the foundations laid by E³UDRES² 1.0, focusing on expanding and deepening our impact as well as networking between the nine Innovation Hubs.

An Innovation Hub within E³UDRES² 2.0 functions as a central hub for knowledge, creativity, research, expertise, problem solving capacity and entrepreneurship. These hubs aim to create a collaborative environment where students, academics, and external partners work together on innovative solutions that address both regional and European challenges. To do so the network becomes also a social network and connect regional ecosystems and their various actors. The hubs combine education, research and practice-based innovation in a dynamic setting aimed at producing concrete results and stimulating economic growth (Lean-A3- WP5-26072023).

Europe is changing rapidly, it is therefore crucial to take into account societal trends such as digitalisation, sustainability, social inclusion and further ongoing globalisation that shows itself in the region as glocalisation. These trends not only influence the direction of technological and social innovations, but thus also the strategic priorities of educational institutions. E³UDRES² 2.0 aims to integrate these trends into the core of all innovation activities, allowing our hubs to offer not only current but also future-oriented solutions.

#### **Objectives of Innovation Hubs**

In E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 2.0. Innovation Hubs will focus on:

- Promoting Entrepreneurship: By providing programmes and support that develop entrepreneurship skills among students and staff.
- Stimulating Regional Development: By strengthening cooperation among higher (and vocational) education, science, industry and governmental (local/regional) authorities; the hubs contribute to the economic, smart and social development of their regions
- Support International Cooperation: By engaging in cross-border projects and partnerships, the hubs broaden their impact and innovation capacity.

These objectives are designed to establish a robust network of innovation hubs that harnesses the power of international cooperation to tackle challenges that know no borders. Building on the successes of E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 1.0, E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 2.0 will provide a deeper and more integrated approach to developing future-proof innovation hubs with a focus on international collaborations and the focus areas of E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 2.0:

- 1. Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion for Regions
- 2. Digital Solutions and Applied Deep Tech for Regions
- 3. Resilient Economy and Innovation for Regions
- 4. Creative Industries for Regions Identity



#### 2. Introduction Innovation Hubs

#### E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> Project Application and Focus on Work Package 5 (WP5)

Under E³UDRES² 2.0, Work Package 5 (WP5) focuses on strengthening links between higher education institutions and the wider community, with a specific focus on creating dynamic Innovation Hubs. The aim is to bring the European dimension and facilitate exchange between different regions and their ecosystems in Europe. These hubs are designed to strengthen the innovative power and entrepreneurial spirit within higher education, thus directly contributing to regional development. In Work Package 5, we aim to provide a platform where academics, students and business can come together to jointly develop educational programmes and research, while sharing knowledge and expertise.

#### Importance of Innovation Hubs

Innovation Hubs are essential for stimulating innovation within higher education. They act as crucial links between educational institutions and the economic and social structures of their regions. By bridging theory and practice, these hubs not only help improve the quality of teaching and research, but also promote the application of new knowledge in practical settings. This dual benefit strengthens both the academic offer and the regional economy.

One of the core components of E³UDRES² 2.0 is the promotion of international cooperation. By working with partners across borders, hubs can address cross-border challenges more effectively and strengthen regions. International cooperation leads to an exchange of subject knowledge, joint development of curricula, research and shared expertise, all helping to broaden horizons for both students and academic staff. In which we can also work together on international glocal issues in the economic and social domain, thinking for example of energy transition, climate change, the international market, etc.

As so Innovation Hubs play a vital role in regional development by supporting the local economy and improving the quality of life in their communities. They provide practical solutions to regional problems, support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups/scale-ups, and contribute to the cultural and social enrichment of the region. The interaction between universities and local businesses through these hubs creates a dynamic environment where innovation can flourish.

#### 3. Innovation Hubs in E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 1.0: A state of the art

#### General State of the art

In E³UDRES² 1.0. innovation hubs at participating universities have made significant contributions to the integration of research, education and entrepreneurship. These hubs have acted as crucial catalysts in stimulating local and regional economic development, through their focus on interdisciplinary collaboration and practice-based innovation (E³UDRES² Blueprint 2030).



#### Specific Insights by University

- St Pölten University of Applied Sciences, Austria Has taken a leading role in digital innovation and media projects, with a strong emphasis on involving the community and regional businesses in their initiatives.
- Fulda University, Germany (New partner in E³UDRES² 2.0) Focuses on applied research and has contributed to food technology and sustainability projects, supporting local and regional agribusinesses.
- Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal, Portugal Has focused on maritime and industrial technologies, forming strong links with local industries and port authorities that contribute to economic development.
- JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland (New partner in E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 2.0) Known for its strong emphasis on health technologies and innovative teaching methods that improve healthcare in Finland.
- Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Hungary Focuses on agricultural innovations and sustainable land management, with projects supporting local farmers and promoting sustainable practices.
- Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands (New partner in E³UDRES² 2.0) Has developed innovation hubs specialising in new materials and technologies, with a strong focus on sustainability and entrepreneurship.
- UCLL, Belgium Has been involved in social innovation projects aimed at improving community services and healthcare, through collaborations with local authorities and organisations.
- Polytechnical University of Timisoara, Romania Is actively involved in engineering and technology, and has made significant contributions to the development of smart city projects and sustainable technologies.
- Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Latvia focus on supporting the implementation of the regional smart specialization strategy and strengthening the role of VIA at the regional and international innovation ecosystem, positioning Vidzeme's innovativeness internationally.

#### **Integration and synergy**

Each hub, each partner UAS has developed specific strengths tailored to regional needs and opportunities. E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 1.0 has shown that the key to success lies in the ability of hubs to adapt to changing circumstances and to foster interdisciplinary collaborations beyond traditional academic boundaries.

#### 4. Innovation Hubs in E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 2.0: A future scenario

#### Project application for E³UDRES² 2.0: Focus on Work Package 5

In E³UDRES² 2.0, Work Package 5 (WP5) focuses on the further expansion, strengthening and cooperation of innovation hubs. The hubs will focus not only on promoting academic and industrial cooperation, but also on integrating social and cultural aspects that contribute to the overall resilience and sustainability of regions. (E³UDRES² Blueprint 2030) The objectives for WP5 include specific outputs and key performance indicators (KPIs) aimed at measuring direct impact on the regional economy by improving graduate employability, and fostering international cooperation and mobility.



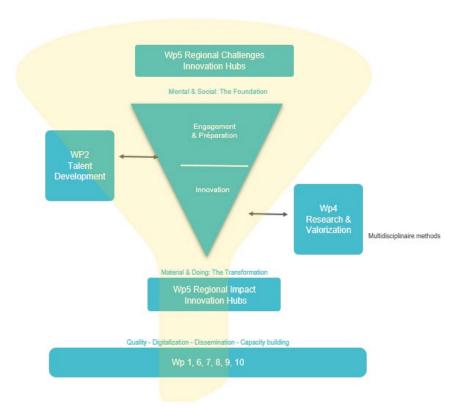
Regional Stakeholders expect from the future universities (top needs):

- New learning experience: hands on approach and relevant content;
- Joint, active cooperation with regional stakeholders: learning as priority;
- Digital literacy improver: usage of new technologies;
- International experience;
- Experimental mindset and flexibility: as learning outcomes and content;
- Experimental mindset and flexibility: as the culture of organisational systems in the university, cloud university;
- University as a venue and an agency: atmosphere, social function, perception, openness (E³UDRES² Blueprint 2030).

It is good to emphasise that we would like to work on education that will give an answer to the top needs of these stakeholders.

#### Objectives and outputs of the Innovation Hub

Each partner university within the E³UDRES² network has developed a clear vision for their local innovation hub, tailored to both their unique capabilities and the specific needs of their region in relation with the priorities of E³UDRES². These hubs operate as multifunctional centres that integrate teaching, research, and community engagement to create a rich, collaborative environment.



## **EUDRES**

To measure the progress and impact of these hubs, specific KPIs have been established creating a network of, and working from open and engaged innovation hubs by all 9 universities taking into account their regional demand, their research centers and competences as well as the possibilities to connect existing (pre) incubators and their programs that are existing at our universities:

- Number of (future) startups/spin-offs associated with E³UDRES²: from 16 to 50. Which
  means that we will need startups at every partner taking in account that we want to
  promote female and social entrepreneurship in every region with a special focus on
  smart and sustainability.
- Number of regionally anchored companies and institutions networking with E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup>: from 30 to 80.
- Number of (co-)hosted E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> labelled open innovation activities: from 8 to 40.
- Number of possible solutions to regional challenges developed in E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> related activities: from 70 to 200.
- Demonstrating our success and impact by publishing 20 success stories at our webpage and organising at least 1 event per year for our stakeholders in collaboration with WP6 and at least 1 event per year for students and staff in line with WP2 and WP3 (Bootcamps).

To establish the network, the startup/spin-offs, the innovation activities and the regional and international stakeholders meetings we installed task groups.

E³UDRES² 2.0 emphasises coherence between different work packages to ensure an integrated approach. Innovation hubs will work closely with other work packages, such as those focused on digitalisation, strategy development, quality assurance, developing talents, research and articulated in the Talent Funnel and formation of the Multi I-Campus and taking in account sustainability and social inclusion. This collaboration will help ensure a holistic approach to innovation, combining technological progress with social and environmental responsibility.

#### Terminology and definition

To ensure effective communication and cooperation within the E³UDRES² network, it is essential to use clear and uniform terminology. The term 'innovation hub' is defined as a physical or virtual space where knowledge, skills and technologies come together to generate new ideas and solutions that add economic, social or cultural value. Every participating University has an innovation hub, although all hubs don't have the same priorities because of the different priorities in every region. The innovation hubs are the place where we promote entrepreneurship (networking Hub), offer education (knowledge Hub) and innovate (guidance Hub).

#### Future vision and strategic planning

The future of innovation hubs within E³UDRES² 2.0 looks promising. Strategic planning for these hubs includes expanding their activities and influence, both locally and internationally. By consistently applying new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data, and maintaining a strong focus on sustainability, the hubs aim to make a lasting impact on the regions they serve.

Through this strategic approach, the innovation hubs are positioned to play a crucial role in the future growth and development of the European higher education landscape, contributing to the overall objectives of the E³UDRES² 2.0 initiatives.



#### 5. Definitions and European Vision for Innovation Hubs

#### What is a stakeholder?

E³UDRES² stakeholders are individuals and organizations actively shaping and influenced by the evolution of a European Future University. As committed partners, they drive sustainable innovations and foster a network of educational and research excellence. Within this collaborative ecosystem, stakeholders leverage their diverse expertise to catalyze action-oriented progress, aligning local and academic resources to address regional challenges and foster global educational advancements. This holistic approach ensures that all voices are included, from local businesses and policymakers to educators and researchers, creating a dynamic network that is responsive to both current needs and future opportunities.

#### Stakeholders can be

- private and public companies (large and micro, small, medium enterprises);
  - social partners (e.g. trade unions, employers' organisations) or their umbrella organisations and networks relevant to skills;
  - public authorities at national, regional and local level;
  - training providers or education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions or their umbrella organisations
  - Continuing Vocational Education and Training, adult education institutions and lifelong learning institutions and their umbrella organisations
  - higher education institutions and their umbrella organisations;
  - sectoral organisations or their associations;
  - business and SMEs' associations;
  - chambers of commerce, trade and crafts and other relevant similar organisations;
  - industrial and regional clusters or their networks and associations;
  - NGOs, CSOs or their networks and associations;
  - research institutions (including universities);
  - public or private employment services.

#### Our aim is

- creating the opportunity for member organisations to articulate their commitment to deliver upskilling and reskilling opportunities in line with key sectoral or regional economic or skills needs:
- enabling member organisations to achieve relevant upskilling and reskilling goals, including through pooling of resources and building synergies between respective activities;
- creating communities of practice and networks that can foster new collaborations and partnerships to share practice and create collaboration opportunities;
- tracking and demonstrating the impact of partnerships and member organisations on skills needs and economic growth, and over time as part of a Europe-wide initiative.
- Support start-ups especially supporting women entrepreneurship

#### What is an Innovation Lab

Within the innovation hub we see many labs. An innovation lab is a more specific place/platform where students, professors, researchers, and field of work come together to innovate and aim to find relevant solutions.

#### What is a Start-up?

In the context of E³UDRES² 2.0, a start-up is a (future) company associated to develop a product or service. Start-ups and Spin-offs are E³UDRES² labelled when benefitting university services from the Talent- Funnel like research, network, talents, international exchange, mentoring, makers-spaces, education aiming to commercialise technological innovations and solutions for regional and international markets.

#### **European Vision of University Networks and International Cooperation**

The European Union sees university networks as crucial players in strengthening the European education and research area. E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> 2.0 responds to this vision by emphasising the role of innovation hubs as centres for international cooperation and knowledge exchange. These hubs are aimed not only at promoting economic growth, but also at addressing societal challenges such as sustainability, healthcare and digital transformation.

The comparison with healthcare is apt: just as health systems work together - from local GP practices to regional hospitals and academic medical centres - innovation hubs need to collaborate within and across regions. These collaborations strengthen the capacity to address wide-ranging challenges and ensure rapid adaptation and implementation of innovations.

#### **Future scenario for European Innovation Hubs**

In the future, European innovation hubs will increasingly be seen as ecosystems that not only rely on academic input, but are also driven by active collaborations with industries, governments and communities. This holistic model exploits the full potential of Europe's diversity and creativity, promoting an inclusive approach to innovation that takes into account different perspectives and expertise.

This final explanation and vision for innovation hubs underlines the importance of clear understanding and collaboration between all stakeholders, and shows how E³UDRES² 2.0 positions itself as a leader in the evolution of European university networks and their role in the global knowledge and innovation economy.

A role we for instance see in the United States at Arizona State University with its New Educational Workforce programme.

## 6. What is an ideal innovation hub, what does it offer and what does it contribute to European University Network E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup>

#### An ideal Innovation Hub

An ideal innovation hub within the framework of E³UDRES² 2.0 functions as a dynamic and interactive ecosystem where education, research, institutions and industry come together to address shared challenges. These hubs are designed to serve not only as centres of academic excellence, but also as engines of economic and social innovation. They facilitate the transition from knowledge to practical applications, encourage entrepreneurship, and contribute to the formation of a well-informed and technically skilled workforce.



#### Offerings of an ideal Innovation Hub

- Interdisciplinary Research Programmes: The hub provides a platform for developing research programmes that transcend different disciplines, leading to innovative solutions that address broad societal issues.
- Entrepreneurship and Start-up Support: The hub facilitates the development of new ventures through incubators and accelerators, provides mentorship, access to investors, and networking opportunities.
- Lifelong Learning and Professional Development: By offering a range of training courses and workshops, the hub supports lifelong learning and helps professionals keep their skills up-to-date in a rapidly changing world and stimulates working together on challenges.
- Cooperation with Industry and Government: The hub works closely with local and international companies and governments to link research and education to the practical needs of society and share responsibility.

#### Contribution of the European University Network E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup>

- Strengthening European Innovation Capacity: The hubs act as catalysts for technological and social innovations, strengthening Europe's position as a leader in global innovation.
- Promotion of International and Interregional Cooperation: Through partnerships and collaborations, the hubs encourage greater integration within the European education and research landscape, leading to a more united and competitive Europe.
- Impact on Regional Development: The hubs have a direct impact on local economies by stimulating job creation, attracting investment, and promoting technological and social infrastructure.

#### Realisation of the objectives within WP5

To realise the vision of an ideal innovation hub, a detailed roadmap has been developed within E³UDRES² in a so called Lean A3 that takes into account the strategic visions of individual universities and plans the outputs of the work package. This A3 includes regular reviews of progress and continuous engagement with all stakeholders to achieve WP5 objectives. This roadmap serves to ensure clear communication and common understanding of terminology and objectives across the board.

This structured approach ensures that innovation hubs serve not only as centres of academic activity but also as vibrant community resources contributing to Europe's social and economic development.



## 7. Project Details in Progress:

WP 5 Priority (Deliverables/ SharedTasks)	Suppot required from institution	Task/Responsability/Role	Which Expertise/ Mindset is required?
Task R1.1 Enhanced E³UDRES² Multi-i- Campus for flexible learning offering joint lectures, modules, projects and internships, micro-credentials and joint degrees. (see task R3.2)	Bringing Institutional programs and drafting these to a common E³UDRES² strategy and offering these programs Bootcamps	<ul> <li>Team members of the task-group Open innovation activities</li> <li>Develop and Execute programs</li> <li>Organising program: UCLL 2024, St. Pölten 2025, Fulda 2026, Saxion 2027</li> <li>Train the trainer sessions on coaching.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Forward looking entrepreneurial mindset</li> <li>Organisation skills</li> <li>Commitment</li> <li>Coaching skills</li> </ul>
Task R3.1 Enhanced E³UDRES² Entrepreneurship and Innovation Network for S² Regions (EINS) connecting regionally-anchored Open Innovation Hubs	Hub officer at every institution to connect the Open Innovation Hubs	<ul> <li>Team members of the Task-group International network officers</li> <li>All network officers should be participating in WP5 task-group of International officers</li> <li>Connect stakeholders and researchers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Knowledge of the own and partner institutes</li> <li>Management skills</li> <li>Communication skills</li> <li>Consulting Skills</li> <li>Networking skills</li> </ul>
Task R3.2 Interconnected E³UDRES² (pre- )incubators for student and staff driven startups and enhanced entrepreneurial education (See task R1.1)	Drafting a common E³UDRES² strategy and offering these programs  Managers start up center	Team members of the task- group Start-ups/Spin off that realise 16 – 50 Start- ups/Spin off  Sharing ideas on how to install a E³UDRES² Start-up center	<ul> <li>Knowledge about the programs offered and knowledge of the regional developments</li> <li>Necessary is commitment and a forward looking mindset</li> <li>Management and communication skills</li> <li>Networking skills</li> </ul>
Task R4.1 Supportive E³UDRES² driven pan-European ecosystem of regional partners and citizens	Mapping and Connecting stakeholders	Team task-group Regional and international stakeholders. Organising at least once a year a regional stakeholders meeting at every institute and one international stakeholders meeting (8 – 40)	<ul> <li>Management and communication skills.</li> <li>Knowledge about the needs of the stakeholders.</li> <li>Networking skills</li> </ul>

		We will focus within the regional stakeholders meetings on specific themes related to the innovation hub.  Explore new programs that can be offered.	
Task R4.2 Enhanced partnerships supporting Ukraine and Western Balkans	Learning to know each other.	Building relationships, exchange ideas and cooperate in developments and invite them for activities.	<ul><li>Communication skills.</li><li>Networking skills</li></ul>
Task R5.2 E³UDRES² University Model & Strategy 2027 – 2030+	Participating in a group	WP leads and Co leads	Knowledge and overview about the developments
Deliverable 5.1 E³UDRES² Open Innovation Hubs – Progress report and approved strategy for further development	Monthly WP meetings online and F2F  Tasks force meetings	<ul> <li>Reporting</li> <li>Taking in account the KPI's</li> <li>Responsibility Lead and Co-leads</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Management skills</li><li>Communications skills</li><li>Creative</li><li>Writings skills</li></ul>
Deliverable D5.2 Entrepreneurship & Innovation Network – Progress report and approved strategy for further development.	Monthly WP meetings online and F2F  Tasks force meetings	<ul> <li>Reporting</li> <li>Taking in account the KPI's</li> <li>Responsibility Lead and Co-leads</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Management skills</li><li>Communications skills</li><li>Creative</li><li>Writings skills</li></ul>

#### **Activities & Outputs**

For realising the activities and outputs of the tasks and to realise the KPI's that belong to the following Core objectives we installed 4 Task-groups:

The Core Objectives related to Work-package 5:

CO3 Serve as a platform for collaborative innovation to connect entrepreneurial minds (WP 5-3-4)

CO1 Enable Smart Learners to unfold talents (WP 2-3-4-5-8-9)

CO4 Engage in regional communities to co-create services for & with society (WP5-3-4-6-7-10)



## 1. Taskgroup International Network Officers

Status	In progress		
Objective	professionalising and establishing a network of the Hubs (Result 3.1 and 3.2 and KPI 3.4).		
	In order to comply with the WP5 goals, the Task-group "International network officers" focus on enhancing the E³UDRES² Entrepreneurship and Innovation Network for Regions (EINS) connecting regionally-anchored Open Innovation Hubs. For this purpose, each E³UDRES² member indicated an International Network Officer in each Hub, who acts as a liaison across the nine Innovation Hubs. The goal is to help researchers and stakeholders clarify their questions, navigate institutional resources, and connect with the right programs or stakeholders within the institution or across the E³UDRES² alliance. This role requires strong networking skills, familiarity with institutional and alliance-wide capabilities in research and education, and the ability to bridge academia, industry, and international partners.		
Planned	<ul> <li>Every month 2 pitches from the nine Presentations).</li> <li>Identify questions on how hubs will operate with the Task group Open Innovation Activities.</li> <li>A page on the website for people who have que possibilities of the institution's Innovation Hub.</li> </ul>	thin curricul essor collab s). uestions and	a? poration model (together
Progress	Taskgroup: International Network Officers		
	Activities planned	Progress	Outputs created
	Identifying the international officer in each institution to connect with stakeholders and researchers, working closely in the Hubs Network.	Complete	1 Network of E³UDRES² International Officers (table 1)
	Mapping existing capacities, expertise and experience of the E³UDRES² partners related to the identified requirements and support of regional smart specialisation strategies.	Complete	9 Hubs' Posters Posters format IH WP5.pdf  1 Matrix of expertise
	Hub's presentations on task group monthly meetings - Sharing Hubs strategic orientation aligned with main research focus of E3UDRES2, operational procedures, and resources, as well as sharing knowledge and good practices. Ensure that all international officers know each other, being helpful and create synergies.	Ongoing	5 monthly meetings Hubs Pitches (IPS, St. Polten, Saxion, HFD, JAMK and UPT) - best practices outlined; Expertise & resources mapped
	Defining a marketing strategy for the promotion of stakeholders as well as researchers. Connecting with the stakeholders and researchers, building up an international network.	Not Started	
	Define future role of Open Innovation Hubs and how Hubs will operate within curricula, exceling and sharing institutional best practices and exploring a stakeholder—student—researcher—professor collaboration model.	Not Started	

## Outputs created

Output 1:

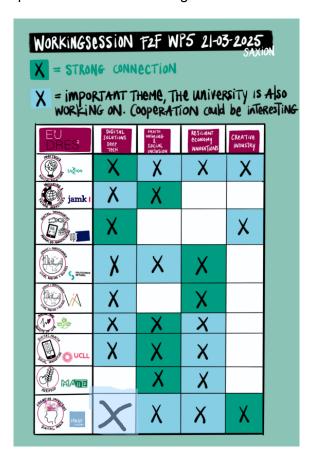
Marketing posters of the nine IH's – Promotion for stakeholders as well as researchers (Posters format IH WP5.pdf).

#### Output 2:

Nine innovation hubs.

In charge	Innovation hub	International Network Officer
MATE, Hungary	Agrifood	Ágnes Sándor
UCLL, Belgium	Digital Health & Social Innovation	Patrick de Mazier
STPUAS, Austria	Creative Industries & Digital Media	Birgit Zimola
UPT, Romania	Digital Technologies & Advanced Manufacturing	Valentin Nita
IPS, Portugal	Smart & Sustainable Cities, Regions & Villages	Elis Ossmane & Sónia Fernandes
VIA, Latvia	Smart & Sustainable Cities, Regions & Villages	Santa Vitola & Liene Golca
Saxion, The Netherlands	Deep Tech & Digital Solutions	Chiel de Nijs
HFD, Germany	Health and Quality of Life	Daniel Ehls
JAMK, Finland	Wellbeing and Future Industries	Juha Hautanen

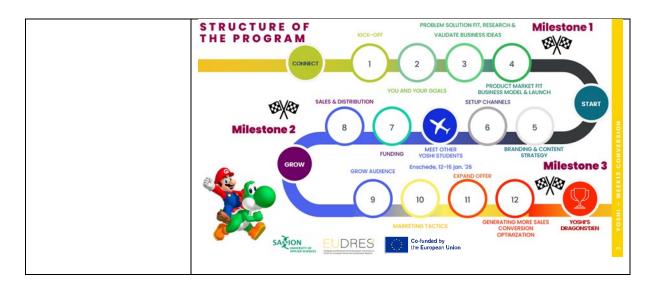
Output 3: Matrix model for cooperation based on the priorities of E³UDRES² and the developments in the different regions.





## 2. Taskgroup Open Innovation Activities

Status	In progress
Objective	Task R1.1 Enhanced E³UDRES² Multi-i-Campus for flexible learning offering joint lectures, modules, projects and internships, micro-credentials and joint degrees (see task R3.2).  Bringing Institutional programs and drafting these to a common E³UDRES² strategy and offering these programs.  Develop and Execute programs as there are the Bootcamps.
Planned	<ul> <li>Yoshi program as per '25/'26 offered by Saxion in close cooperation with JAMK and STPUAS for students from all our partners.</li> <li>As per '25/'26 UPT is willing to offer a workshop on specific entrepreneurial knowledge and Vidzeme will organise a keynote-speaker on being an entrepreneur.</li> <li>Included a BIP onsite meeting at Saxion January 2026. As per October 2025 theory by Saxion, Q&amp;A by Saxion, JAMK and STPUAS coaches, '26/'27, '27/'28 we will change roles.'</li> <li>Year 28/'29 all other partners will join in organising the program.</li> <li>Train the trainer sessions on entrepreneurial coaching in '25/'26. By using the InnoFlash course at JAMK that can also be an appetizer for the Yoshi program. See what interesting programs are offered on entrepreneurship that can be used for more partners (see excel task group start-ups). UPT is willing to offer activities and Vidzeme keynote-speakers</li> </ul>
Progress	<ul> <li>Clear arrangements have been made for BIP constructions for Yoshi 2025 until 2028.</li> <li>InnoFlash will be on the agenda at the start of '25/'26.</li> <li>We have to organise 2 Bootcamps: Germany (2026) and in the Netherlands in 2027.</li> </ul>
Outputs created	<ul> <li>Bootcamps:         <ul> <li>July 2024 Belgium: Revolutionizing Healthcare, 40 participants. The Bootcamp has been prepared in 10 online meetings let by co-lead UCLL where structure, organisation and expected outcomes have been discussed</li> <li>July 2025 Austria: Creative Roots, designing experiences inspired by nature, 47 participants. The Bootcamp has been prepared in 5 online meetings led by co-lead Austria.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Yoshi program by Saxion in '24/'25, started with 100 registrations. Output until now 7 start-ups.</li> </ul>



#### 3. Task group Regional and International Stakeholders

Status	In progress		
Objective	<ul> <li>Task R4. Europear citizens.</li> <li>Mapping</li> <li>Organisir stakehold internatio the task-g</li> <li>Explore n with the task</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Task R4.1 Supportive E³UDRES² driven pan- European ecosystem of regional partners and citizens.</li> <li>Mapping and connecting stakeholders.</li> <li>Organising at least once a year a regional stakeholders meeting at every institute and one international stakeholders meeting. Together with the task-group Open innovation activities.</li> </ul>	
Planned	Inventarisation li	st of engaged stakeholders.	
	Partner university		
		Amount of engaged stakeholders	
	MATE, Hungary	26	
	UCLL, Belgium	15	
	STPUAS, Austria	26	
	UPT, Romania	41	
	IPS, Portugal	49	
	VIA, Latvia	32	
	Saxion, The Netherlands	39	
	HFD, Germany	9	
	JAMK, Finland	20	
	<ul><li>Internatio</li><li>Link the r</li></ul>	Stakeholders meeting every year. nal Stakeholders meeting every year. egional stakeholders meeting with the r at the university.	

	<ul> <li>We have the results of the talks/survey to stakeholders and ask what they expect, needs and commitment of E³UDRES².</li> </ul>
Progress	We made a list of stakeholders although this is a living document we still miss the output of some partners.  Organising a regional stakeholders meeting in this second semester of the academic year 2024-2025 or in the first semester of the academic year 2025-2026.  International Stakeholders meeting linked to the Summit at Saxion March 2025 and JAMK in March 2026.  Establishing a link between the stakeholders and our students. We design a visualisation where we make the connection between the pre-incubators students and stakeholders.  SNACKCOUNTER  MULTI-I CAMPUS EUDRES  SNACKCOUNTER  MULTI-I CAMPUS EUDRES   Outlies SUMMITTAL STANDERS  We started with the talks with WP9 to establish the digital platform for: Stakeholders, researchers, students to meet sharing news, offer internships, ask questions (International network officer).  Focus on the regional priorities as recognized so that we can offer what we promise and build trust and build micro eco systems.  Experimenting with SME's and public stakeholders that have links through the internships of our students.

	VIEW OPPORTUNIT	ES FOR		
	STA	VIEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR  UNIVERSITY STAFF  OPPORTUNITIES  OPPORT		
Outputs created	• Lis	List of stakeholders in Teams.		
	• Am	ount of stakeholders	meetings:	
	Partner			
	_		ernational	
		eholdersmeetings sta	keholdersmeetings	
	MATE,	0		
	Hungary			
	UCLL,	ļ		
	Belgium STPUAS, <b>2</b>	0		
	Austria	U		
	UPT, <b>0</b>	0		
	Romania			
	IPS, Portugal <b>2</b>	0		
	VIA, Latvia <b>2</b>	0		
	Saxion, The 2	1		
	Netherlands			
	HFD,	0		
	Germany			
	JAMK, <b>0</b>	0		
	Finland			

## 4. Taskgroup Start-ups and Spin-offs

Status	In progress	
Objective	<ul> <li>Task R3.2 Interconnected E³UDRES² (pre-) incubators for student and staff driven startups and enhanced entrepreneurial education (see task R1.1).</li> <li>Drafting a common E³UDRES² strategy and offering these programs.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>KPI: 16 – 50 startups/spin-offs.</li> </ul>	
Planned	Based on the overview of entrepreneurship programs per institution (which has been completed in recent	



	months), we will explore in the coming months which programs offer opportunities for collaboration. Through jointly offered programs and a network of coaches within, that can lead to the creation of startups which can genuinely be identified as E³UDRES² startups.  • We are closely aligning with the members of WP8 on the definition of such startups.  • In September 2025, coordinators/managers will have an inperson meeting, where further collaboration will be the main agenda item. Start of a E³UDRES² startup center – network.  • We aim to strengthen collaboration with WP2 and WP4. Specifically, we see opportunities for innovative startups through cooperation with researchers, which can be linked to the thematically driven activities taking place within the Innovation Hub. For adjustments to programs at an institutional level, closer coordination with WP1 may be required in the future.
Progress	<ul> <li>To achieve this KPI, we are working closely with colleagues from the Task Group Open Innovation Activities.</li> <li>Fulda as well as Saxion are also connected in the EYE project.</li> </ul>
Outputs created	<ul> <li>Overview of entrepreneurship programs per institution.</li> <li>Actual numbers of student entrepreneurs and potential E³UDRES² startups.</li> <li>In collaboration with Work Package 4, partners established connections that led to the successful LEAPxr (HEI-Innovative) proposal. The proposal has been granted and recently started. No project funds were used in its preparation; it resulted from collaboration and networking fostered by the E³UDRES² Alliance.</li> </ul>

#### Challenges & Lessons Learned

We organised our WP-tasks in a LEAN - A3 ( $\underline{A3}$ ) where we summarised the output of the activities. The activities are based on the goals tasks, results and KPI's mentioned in the Grant Agreement.

In 2024 we organised with the member of WP5: (01 Meetings)

- 9 online meetings
- 3 Face to Face meetings (Saxion/UPT/HFD)
- 2 Consulting meetings
- 9 online meeting with lead and co-leads

In 2025 we organised with the members of WP5

- 8 online meetings till august 2025
- 1 Face to Face meeting (Saxion)
- 2 consulting meetings
- · 8 online meetings with lead and co-leads
- We installed 4 task-groups with own separate meetings

We learned during the first 24 months of the project:

- That communication and organisation has to be clear between the members of the different partners in this WP5 and with the other WP members.
- That for some partners it is difficult to find colleagues who have the competences to participate in Work package 5.
- That time to realise the outputs is very limited.
- That reporting consumes more time than estimated at the start.
- That the interest of the stakeholders to participate takes more time because they
  do not always see the benefit of an international network and it is hard to show them
  what is in it for them.
- That the political climate in the partner countries is not always helping to realise the outcomes.

#### Conclusion

We have a fantastic task, full of challenges and as members of the participating universities we are honoured that we can contribute to outline the Future European University.

