

CloudEARTHInnovation: Innovation capacity building for the use of Big Data in Environmental Sciences, Sustainability and Circular Economy in HEIs and their entrepreneurial ecosystems

Introduction

The project brings together a consortium of six partners across Europe (five higher education institutions (HEIs) and one business partner) to review, assess and improve institutional innovation and entrepreneurship practices. The project supports and integrates the vision for 2030 of the participated HEIs. The main goal of the project is to develop and build capacity for innovation across HEIs, students and businesses in the area of big data, environmental science, sustainability and circular economy. This area has been assessed as a key strength of the consortium, and is essential to society in order to both understand the changes that will take place in our climate, and react to them by building entrepreneurial and innovation capacity across all actors in society.

The projects execution is based on an Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP) that includes the following six actions:

- (1) Enhancing the scale and scope of student engagement activities, including improving student support offices to advise on entrepreneurship and innovation;
- (2) Infrastructure development
- (3) Establishing new collaborations and enhancing the nature, content and types of collaborations with external partners, including businesses, research organizations, governmental bodies, NGOs and other societal partners;
- (4) Developing structures and conditions for people to create and expand their businesses and start-ups;
- (5) Developing and improving innovation and entrepreneurial curricula;
- (6) Developing innovation and entrepreneurial training programmes and mentoring schemes for staff and students.

This IVAP will be implemented during two phases and will provide a set of Core KPIs in order to measure the progress in the implementation of the project over time. These Core KPIs are:

- (1) Supporting a minimum of 8 start-ups/scale-ups;
- (2) Train of a minimum of 520 students;
- (3) Mentoring of a minimum of 48 students;
- (4) Train of a minimum of 48 academic staff;
- (5) Mentoring of a minimum of 16 academic staff;
- (6) Train of a minimum of 48 non-academic staff;
- (7) Mentoring of a minimum of 16 non-academic staff.



Consortium vision

The central Vision for 2030 of this consortium's Innovation Vision Action Plan (IVAP) is to develop and build capacity for innovation across higher education institutions, students and businesses in the area of big data, environmental science, sustainability and circular economy, which will ultimately benefit society. This vision is supported by 6 actions, which will be delivered through 10 work packages. Its success will be assessed through the achievement of the KPIs listed above. The consortium views the IVAP as a starting point for long-term collaboration between our institutions and business partners, with a vision to be the driving force to increase innovation in this area.

Consortium members

- (1) UiT The Arctic University of Norway (Leader – member of EIT RawMaterials)
- (2) The University of Edinburgh (partner – member of EIT Climate KIC, EIT Digital)
- (3) The University of Applied Sciences Burgenland (partner)
- (4) Technical University of Varna (partner)
- (5) University of Alicante (partner)
- (6) G-Force (Accelerator – Business partner)

For more information on project please visit our website by scanning the QR code

