

Science and Education for Society (SEFS) Working Group Meeting

How can 4th generation universities take up a transformative role for delivering innovation and impact for regions?

Thursday 2 October | 10:00 -11:30
ERRIN Office

Many theoretical frameworks have been developed to measure the regional innovation impact of universities, aiming at analysing the socioeconomic impact that universities in Europe have on their hometowns, metropolitan areas and regions. Several new concepts have emerged over the last decade, subsequently being replaced by others, like civic universities or ERA Hubs. In recent years, the concept of '**4th generation universities**' has gained traction within research and (higher) education policy circles. The 4th generation university model transcends conventional boundaries, championing an integrated approach to education, research, and innovation, with a strong focus on societal impact and regional development. A 4th generation university is actively engaged in co-creation processes with industry, governmental bodies, and civil society through trusted partnerships, fostering vibrant local innovation ecosystems. It's a global university, which embraces open innovation and is embedded in the local innovation ecosystem, aiming to tackle societal challenges and catalyse regional economic growth. At the same time, governments, industries and other stakeholders are increasingly calling upon universities to showcase their societal contributions. These organisations face tangible challenges that necessitate the appropriate talent and knowledge to generate solutions.

During this SEFS Working Group meeting, members will learn from Eindhoven Technical University TU/e, which has published a [report on their 2018-2022 learnings](#) and has been driving this concept for strengthening the place-based dimension of R&I in the region in a very promising way. We will bring both academic and regional perspectives in an engaging discussion, offering ERRIN members the opportunity to pitch their regional practices and address questions about this model.

09:30	Welcome coffee and networking
10:00	Welcome and opening remarks Delia Mitcan, co-leader of the SEFS Working Group
10.05	The concept of 4th Generation University , followed by a short Q&A Mr. Renee Westenbrink, Strategy director and Head Research Policy at TU/e - Eindhoven University of Technology
10.25	Bringing the academic and the regional perspectives together: mutual learning and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of regional examples from both universities and regional authorities (exact names tbc)
11:15	Looking ahead at FP10 and final reflections András INOTAI, Head of unit DG RTD Innovation Policy & Access to Finance (RTD.A.5) (tbc)
11:30	End of the meeting