



Entrepreneurship Education Collaboration and Engagement (EECOLE)

An OECD network mainstreaming entrepreneurship education, linking universities with their communities and with business

The OECD Entrepreneurship Education Collaboration and Engagement (EECOLE) operates on the crossroads of entrepreneurship, education, employment, innovation, and regional development. EECOLE connects higher education institutions (HEIs) with business, finance, government at different levels, and civil society. The aim is to promote entrepreneurship education and skills and make HEIs drivers of inclusiveness and sustainability.

EECOLE seeks to harness the power of HEIs to promote entrepreneurship, innovate in collaboration with business, and engage with their own communities to solve societal challenges.

EECOLE generates a neutral space for HEIs and their partners to discuss common challenges, and share what has worked, and what has not, in driving sustainable and inclusive growth.

EECOLE is a global initiative gathering participants from across Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America and Latin America.

The focus of the EECOLE network will evolve based on the ambitions of partner HEIs. Core priorities include

- **Youth** – supporting young people in the post-pandemic. EECOLE will connect HEIs and their students, the business community, and policy makers to identify innovative approaches to internships and career guidance services. EECOLE also focuses on start-ups and spin-offs as means to promote jobs and innovation in all regions.
- **Mainstreaming entrepreneurship education and skills.** EECOLE will promote access to entrepreneurship teaching and learning opportunities, in all HEIs. Entrepreneurship education paves the way to start-ups, spin-offs and innovation in

established companies. It has a positive impact on the mind-set of students, empowering them vis-à-vis the future of work and society.

- **Contributing to the post-COVID recovery.** EECOLE will leverage on HEIs as source of information and intelligence to identify investment opportunities that can make regions and cities greener and more inclusive, reflecting SDGs.
- **Strengthening the link between research and innovation.** EECOLE will promote HEIs' knowledge exchange and collaboration activities with their own ecosystems, to connect research capabilities, innovation needs and business development in all regions.

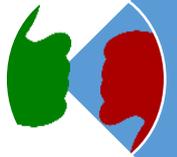
HEIs are core to the innovation and entrepreneurial skills required for Building Back Better.

- HEIs play a crucial role in addressing the social and economic challenges facing our societies, from digitisation, skills deficits, to sustainability and inclusiveness.
- HEIs must work with their communities and networks to have the maximum impact. An approach based on bringing all stakeholders to the table is needed to mobilise resources and tailor action to the specific conditions of regions.



Providing evidence and data about entrepreneurship education, collaboration and engagement

EECOLE is a large and diverse network built around HEIs. It includes national and subnational authorities, business of all size and maturity, banks, venture capital, business angels, NGOs and foundations.



Discussing what works and what does not, in a neutral environment

EECOLE is rooted in **task-and-finish groups**. These agile structures allow the network to focus on the most pressing policy challenges facing participants. Tasks-and-finish groups encompass HEIs and stakeholders that, under the coordination of the OECD, support and generate knowledge products.



Generating consensus and knowledge (OECD reviews)

These OECD **knowledge products** (in the form of case study reviews, analytical reports, and workshops) are based on evidence and solid analytical work. They provide tangible solutions to the benefit of all members in the network.



Influencing policies (conferences, meetings, workshops)

The OECD will organise and coordinate **annual events** to give task-and-finish groups the possibility to present their knowledge products to all EECOLE members.

Becoming a partner of the EECOLE Network means joining a rapidly growing network of HEIs contributing and influencing the international discussion on entrepreneurship education and skills, knowledge exchange and collaboration, innovation, and sustainable regional development.

EECOLE partners have the possibility to join task-and-finish groups, thus benefitting from the interaction with different stakeholders, and influencing international policy dialogues related to higher education, entrepreneurship and collaboration.

EECOLE is the “to go” point for evidence, in-depth analysis, sharing of good practices and policy dialogue on entrepreneurship education, university-business collaboration, and engagement inspired by the SDGs.

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Initiative implemented through the OECD, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities.

For more information on the Geography of Higher Education: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/geo-higher-education.htm>.

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