SMILE Policy Roundtable

Policy Recommendations for a Diverse and Inclusive Higher Education

Wednesday, 20 September 9:00 - 13:00



Smile





Round Table

Wednesday 20 September 2023 Info Hub – European Parliament

Introduction to SMILE Carme ROYO Project coordinator





Erasmus+ KA3 Social inclusion and common values | 621433-EPP-1-2020-1-BE-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN

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eucen in a nutshell



- eucen European university continuing education network, is a not-for-profit Association legally established under Belgium law – founded in 1991 informally and officially registered in 1994
- eucen Secretariat is located in Barcelona (ES) since 2000
- eucen has currently 160 members (institutional membership) from 33 countries including 18 National/Regional ULLL Network (NNs)
- > eucen is policy, research, projects, networking, conferences, consulting...
- > **eucen**'s mission:
 - to promote and advance LLL within HEIs in Europe and elsewhere
 - to foster universities' influence in the development of LLL knowledge and policies throughout Europe

https://www.eucen.eu



Social Meaning Impact through LLL Universities in Europe

- ➤ TOTAL GRANT: € 479 117,60
- ➢ 36 MONTHS (December 2020 − November 2023)
- ERASMUS+ KA3 Social inclusion and common values
- > Consortium:
- European university continuing education network eucen (BE)
- European Students Union ESU (BE)
- Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (DE)
- University of Malta (MT)
- Fundació Solidaritat UB (ES)
- Maynooth University (IE)
- Università degli Studi di Cagliari (IT)
- NOTUS (ES)
- University of Turku (FI)
- Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi (RO)
- SOLIDAR Foundation (ES)

Objectives

GENERAL:

 Developing and implementing innovative methods and practices to foster inclusive education and promote common values.

SPECIFIC:

 Promoting inclusive education and training and fostering the education of disadvantaged learners, including through supporting educational staff in addressing diversity and reinforcing diversity among education staff.

FINAL OBJECTIVE: TO BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE EUROPE https://smile.eucen.eu/



SMILE step by step

Initial research and work with civil society

Audit model on diversity in practice for HEIs

CPD courses for HE staff



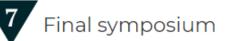
Operational policy recommendation plan

5

6

Translation of all main outputs into 6 other languages

National colloquiums and European round table



Focus areas: the three pillars

Three main areas of inequality and disadvantage in higher education:





Learners with migrant background

- Covers the problem of lower access participation and attainment of 1st or 2nd generation immigrants in HE
- Addresses the need to train university staff (both academic and non-academic) in relation to this dimension

Women in leadership in HE with a focus on diversity management

- Addresses the need to foster equal access to leadership positions
- It focusses on the need to train university staff (both academic and non-academic) but also on the need to address the topic with students and alumni



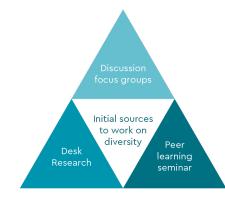
Learners with low socio economic status

- Addresses the problem of lower access participation and attainment of learners with a lower socioeconomic status
- Addresses the need to train university staff (both academic and non-academic) in relation to this dimension

SMILE Tools



Diversity audit tool



4 CPD courses



Policy recommendations and action plan



Research Space

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Focused to support universities' selfreflecting process and self-assessing their commitment to diversity and social inclusion

Addressed to university staff, developed and tested via a bottom up approach

Designed to support universities in fulfilling their commitment to diversity and social inclusion, and encouraging collaboration

Online space with resources, including role models and examples on the three pillars – a way to learn from others

Policy Recommendations

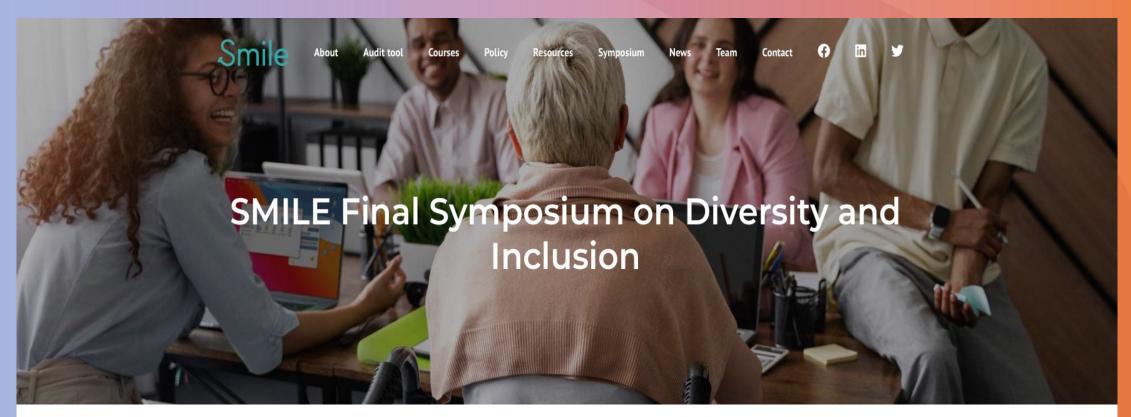


- SMILE has taken into account all the perspectives and experiences collected during the project when developing its Policy Recommendations and Action Plan
- This document has been discussed in an internal and an external consultation, and has been discussed also at different Regional/National Focus Groups.
- \succ The document groups the objectives to achieve in 4 areas:





Interested? Join us in Barcelona in November! https://smile.eucen.eu/symposium/



Barcelona (ES), Thursday 16 November 2023 Diversity in modern society – Making inclusion a central strategy in our universities ✓ SMILE will be promoted via the ´Inclusive Europe´ Social Media Channels.

Inclusive Europe: 'the social media approach for European projects with a common focus on diversity and inclusion that brings together worldwide experts.'



https://www.facebook.com/inclusive.eu



https://twitter.com/EuropeInclusive



https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13929176/



https://mailchi.mp/26b889688d7b/inclusive-europe

- If you believe in what we do, send us your support letter!
- Contact us at <u>smile@eucen.eu</u> and we will send you a template. Thank you!

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THANK YOU!

For more information, please contact us at: smile@eucen.eu

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Round Table

European Parliament 20 September 2023

Social Meaning Impact through LLL Universities in Lurope Understanding Diversity Understanding Diversity Ster Cois Vice-Rector for Gender Equality University of Cagliari (Italy) Department of Political and Social Sciences





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The Issues at Stake

Migrant background Women leadership Low socio-economic status

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- WHY are diversity and inclusion important in Europe?
- WHAT can we do to create a better society where minority groups are understood and supported?
- WHO should be involved in this process?
- **HOW** can we facilitate the implementation of necessary changes to make diversity and inclusion a reality transversally in Europe?

The SMILE project has explored these and other questions and established a set of Principles and Recommended Actions to be implemented at different levels in the short,

medium and long term

The final aim is to encourage stakeholders to work together towards a better society

The ten SMILE principles

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Understanding Diversity

Promotion of diversity and inclusion Intersectionality understanding Active engagement and advocacy

Collaborating towards Diversity

Collaboration between stakeholders Support to stakeholders' actions

Embedding Diversity

Diversity-oriented HE programmes Data collection and monitoring

Facilitating Diversity

Flexible pathways to HE Teacher training Funding to ensure inclusion

Understanding Diversity



• WHAT

Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion as Added Values

• WHY

• This approach enable us to learn from each other and overcome the challenges we face towards achieving a more equitable Europe

Diversity makes us richer culturally, helps us understand societal problems and challenges in a more holistic manner, and points us to more creative and innovative solutions to these problems

HEI top management	Policy makers at National and EU levels	Civil society
Short Design and promote an awareness campaign internally and externally Medium Review the current diversity and inclusion 'idearium' of the institution and embed an institutional diversity strategy plan Long Review all the activities and policies at institutional level to make them diversity and inclusion-oriented	Short Review the current policies and see if they are adequate to achieving equity and inclusion in higher education Medium Implement a policy and funding approach conditioned on diversity-oriented demands of committed entities requesting it Long Make sure that legislation is diversity and inclusion-oriented transversally	Short Inform policy makers about the needs of citizens and their requests in terms of diversity and inclusion Medium Flag diversity and inclusion as a key topic in relevant communications Long Promote diversity and inclusion in activities and involve citizens in shaping the agenda in this area

Understanding Diversity

Understanding Diversity



PERSPECTIVES & CHALLENGES

- **1.** How can we counter the **prejudices and stereotypes** that are at the basis of strong and widespread cultural resistance to any action to promote diversity?
- 2. How can we deconstruct the false assumption that difference, diversity and inequality are synonymous, in the collective imagination and in practices?
- **3.** How to highlight that **encouraging contamination** between different people, backgrounds and experiences is not only a matter of **justice**, but also of **necessity** and **convenience** for investing in a more **creative and innovative** society?

Understanding 02 Diversity



• WHAT

Intersectionality Understanding

• WHY

- Marginalised individuals often belong to multiple traditionally disadvantaged groups, and as a result are discriminated against for different reasons at different levels
- The adoption of an intersectionality analytical framework to inclusion and diversity policymaking promotes equity in education

• WHO, WHEN, HOW

HEI top management	Policy makers at National and EU levels	Civil society
Short Institutionalise an intersectionality analytical framework in the way the HEI refers to diversity and inclusion in all its actions, promoting it as a means to achieve equity and not as an end in itself Medium Train staff to understand and identify intersectionality, and train staff on bias recognition and mediation Long Boost research and monitoring into how the different social and political identities can stack up instances of discrimination	Short Review the current categories of disadvantaged groups referred to by national policies and the way in which their interconnections are approached Medium Set up diversity working groups to evaluate the inclusion of intersectionality in policymaking Long Institutionalise an intersectionality analytical framework for any policymaking process related to inclusion and diversity	Short Give visibility to the term "intersectionality" as an approach to adequately refer to the challenges of disadvantaged people Medium Develop a designated intersectionality approach to the internal inclusion policies Long Streamline intersectionality in the development of advocacy strategies

Understanding 02 Diversity



PERSPECTIVES & CHALLENGES

- **1.** How can we avoid that the actions and policies to combat the various **discrimination factors** are **perceived as competing** (also in terms of **resources** to be dedicated to each), rather than as **synergistic**? (Short Blanket Dilemma)
- 2. How can we prevent the commitment to dismantle the accumulation of vulnerability factors from being dispersed in episodic initiatives (e.g. only on the occasion of the International Day for Women's Rights, or Migrants' Rights, etc.) and instead taking on a continuous and systemic structure?
- **3**. How to include **new and additional factors of discrimination** in inclusion policies, to keep pace with **social changes** (e.g. non-binary perspectives in gender coding, distinction between economic migrants and asylum seekers, etc.)?

Understanding 03 Diversity



• WHAT

Active Engagement & Advocacy

• WHY

The promotion of active engagement and advocacy towards diversity and inclusion in society at multiple scales multiplies the chances to success

Only by involving citizens and giving visibility to the challenges of less privileged groups we can build the empathy, understanding and appreciation of diversity that is necessary to bring about change

• WHO, WHEN, HOW

HEI top management	Policy makers at National and EU levels	Civil society
Short Foster an	Short Identify institutions	Short Support
environment in which	and organisations actively	representatives of
disadvantaged groups are	engaged in diversity and	disadvantaged groups and
empowered in the HEI	inclusion	promote multi-cultural
community	Medium Create awards	participatory activities
Medium Create advisory	or rewards for	Medium Facilitate the
groups which include	organisations actively	exchange of knowledge and
representatives of	engaged in the promotion	research between HEIs and
disadvantaged groups in	and advocacy of diversity	CSOs for improved
your institution to	and inclusion and give	responses to the needs of
guarantee their rights to	them visibility	disadvantaged groups
advocate for inclusion and	Long Allocate one	Long Network and
diversity actions	representative of	collaborate with other civil
Long Allocate one	disadvantaged groups in	society organisations to
representative of	all relevant local	promote bottom-up
disadvantaged groups in	committees as they have a	approaches and
all relevant committees as	right to lead discussions	demonstrate that active
they have a right to lead	and express their needs	participation is not only
discussions	and worries	possible but useful

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Understanding 03 Diversity



PERSPECTIVES & CHALLENGES

- **1.** How can we guarantee that our participation techniques effectively **give voice and representation to everyone**, and especially to the most disadvantaged groups, and do not result in **a search for consensus** on decisions and strategic directions **already taken top-down**?
- 2. How to ensure that the involvement of all voices accompanies all phases of a process of social and cultural change, both ex ante (identification of needs and expectations), ongoing (negotiation of policy actions) and ex-post (monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the policies implemented)?
- **3.** How to combine the **need** for participatory processes with the **tight timing** of the functioning of any **organizational machine** even within the HEI?

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Round Table

European Parliament 20 September 2023

Social Meaning Impact through LLL Universities in Europe **Collaborating towards Diversity** Ester Cois Vice-Rector for Gender Equality University of Cagliari (Italy) Department of Political and Social Sciences

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04 Collaborating towards Diversity



• WHAT

Collaboration between Education Stakeholders

• WHY

- The collaboration between all education stakeholders in the process of promoting diversity and inclusion promotes a stronger participation of regionally and/or locally specific disadvantaged groups
- When all education levels combine their efforts, diversity and inclusion will be transversally addressed and our society can change more cohesively and sustainably

• WHO, WHEN, HOW

Policy makers at **HEI top management Civil society** National and EU levels Short | Promote shared or Short | Involve the entire Short | Promote the idea of co-creation of policies for HE community in the open resources on process of auditing the diversity and inclusion to inclusion Medium | Build up inclusion strategy of give citizens access to education providers knowledge and tools and partnerships with HEIs for Medium | Work iointly share all available the promotion of inclusion. with secondary education research and data with all Deliver additional and community learning other education programmes which aim to providers to recruit and provide advice, information, stakeholders gualify local learners who Medium | Strengthen social or guidance and share own face barriers to accessing and civil **dialogue** to data and research with HEIs HE ensure that matters of Long | Establish long-term Long | Develop co-creation inclusion in HE partnerships or franchises on policymaking can be HE progression routes and actions that would include discussed at these levels learners and professionals outreach programmes in at all levels of education to and promote programmes relation to the needs of the local HEI community provide pre-degree level that enable this type of programmes/access and approach reviewed diversity and Long | Institutionalise inclusion policies in HE processes of inclusion for education professionals, learners and CSOs in education policymaking that go beyond simple consultations, and facilitate co-creation in policymaking with all education stakeholders

04 Collaborating towards Diversity



PERSPECTIVES & CHALLENGES

- **1.** How to combine the principle of **accessibility for all** at the highest levels of HE with that of **permeability and interaction** with respect to the social, political and cultural **context of reference**?
- 2. How can we avoid inclusion measures from translating into strategies of standardization and flattening of the positions and requests of the different stakeholders?
- **3**. How can we avoid the HEI acting and being perceived as a sort of **ivory tower** detached from concrete reality, either because they are **anachronistic** (too far behind) or because they are **utopian** (too far forward)?

05 towards Diversity

• WHAT

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Support to Stakeholders' Actions

• WHY

- The provision of adequate support for all education stakeholders' actions allows them to understand and navigate the complexities of inclusion and diversity
- The collaboration among key actors and an adequate allocation of resources can make the difference between a hostile, and a more committed and caring society

• WHO, WHEN, HOW

Policy makers at **HEI top management Civil society** National and EU levels Short | Offer training to Short | Identify Short | Conduct a study opportunities for senior about the **opportunities** for overcome language individuals and junior staff CPD for education barriers. Network with other professionals and the to be part of inclusive organisations to identify and current environment for approaches where they address the needs of can learn from each other accessing such minority groups in a bi-directional learning opportunities, considering Medium | Take an active role whether the education in the development of CPD process Medium | Create a professionals are prepared courses in partnership with **Champions/ Ambassadors** to adapt to the diverse relevant authorities given programme for inclusion that student body their expertise in working Medium | Develop policies promotes the SMILE Audit with pedagogy in relation to to facilitate the use of the or other comparable audits inclusion and diversity Long | Signal identified in other institutions Audit Model as part of the national accreditation needs to policy makers and Long | Develop an environment conducive to recommend possible ways to services and support a overcome these needs at attending CPD courses bottom-up approach on inclusion, ensuring Long | Promote the Audit local level that courses are offered to Model with **ENQA** and the education similar organisations and professionals during make them champions of working hours and for free these processes

05 Collaborating towards Diversity



PERSPECTIVES & CHALLENGES

- **1.** How to guarantee the consonance between a **real awareness** of the relevance of inclusion and diversity promotion with an **effective institutional commitment**, according to three types of **resources**: **human** (expertise, qualified and paid work), **financial** (adequate and not one-off plans), **logistics** (expressly dedicated physical and virtual spaces)?
- 2. How to avoid that the provision of training, mentoring and continuous professional development programs is reduced to ticking the boxes with respect to obligations, for example required to be accredited for public funding (e.g. the mandatory need of a Gender Equality Plan to access Horizon Europe and ERC funds)?
- 3. How to resolve the dilemma of voluntariness vs obligation so that this type of training effectively reaches everyone?

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Inclusive Europe: 'the social media

approach for European projects

with a common focus on diversity

and inclusion that brings together



https://twitter.com/EuropeInclusive

https://www.facebook.com/inclusive.eu



https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13929176/



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worldwide experts.

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Thanks a lot for your attention!

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SMILE Policy Roundtable

Policy Recommendations for a Diverse and Inclusive Higher Education

Wednesday, 20 September 9:00 - 13:00



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Facilitating diversity

Cati Jerez. Coordinator of UB Refugee Support Programme

Roundtable. Policy Recommendadions for a Diverse and Inclusive Higher Education Brussels, 20th September 2023

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Facilitating Diversity

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To enable flexible pathways in Higher Education for everyone Less privileged groups have special needs, and offering them flexibility can give them a real chance to succeed and build a better life

To offer staff training at different levels

Training individuals (from administration to management) will help them to understand and then communicate better the challenges of diversity and inclusion to their peers and wider communities

To identify and use inclusion and diversity-oriented funding opportunities such as institutional funding and student funding Only by making a proper provision for inclusion will institutions and organisations be able to promote, support and give visibility to diversity effectively

Enabling flexible pathways

HEI top management	Policy makers at National and EU levels	Civil society
Short Offer flexible pathways such as VPL and offer support such as scholarships or accommodation or academic language aid Medium Put the challenges in the centre of your activity for example by facilitating the presentation of role model cases and engaging with representatives from disadvantaged groups Long Promote best practices through study visits or exchanges	Short Facilitate free entry to short HE tester courses to disadvantaged groups that make them believe "HE is possible for me too" Medium Articulate policies that allow HEIs to offer flexible pathways to disadvantaged groups in particular Long Enable an agile VPL system that recognises experiences and deals with possible lack of formal documentation	Short Involve disadvantaged minorities in developing and promoting short courses and activities organised at HE level to disadvantaged groups Medium Inform about VPL to disadvantaged groups Long Become an information point for HEIs so disadvantaged groups learn about possible short courses or ways to continue studying regardless of their situation

Enabling flexible pathways Challenges

- **/Listen** and balancing expectations
- Reach out the target: high schools, associations, communities (including online)
- Find the language and meet the channels to reach out the target
- Recognition of Prior learning and Academic recognition for professional experience and non-university HE studies.
- Micro-credentials??
- Scholarships. At the center!! Budget, requirements, ...
- Holistic support. It's not only about the access.
- How to avoid "targeting"?

Staff training

HEI top management

Short | Creation of awareness and political consciousness amongst staff, so they can advocate for diversity Medium | Embed in the institution's training strategic plan of staff on diversity and inclusion Long | Run mandatory short courses on diversity and inclusion such as the SMILE CPD courses for all HEI staff and train them to become future trainers

Policy makers at National and EU levels Short | Creation of mandatory training for policy makers on diversity and inclusion Medium | Make diversity and inclusion training mandatory for all the staff in public institutions as a requirement for promotion or progression Long | Rewarding institutions that develop better and more effective training approaches on diversity and inclusion for their staff

Civil society Short | Creation of awareness amongst staff on diversity, intersectionality and assessment of state of play through the audits Medium | Encourage diversity and inclusion training for staff in Civil Society Organizations¹ (CSO) as a tool for inclusion Long | Achieve more diversity in staff composition across CSO.

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Staff training Challenges

- Mandatory vs voluntary training at Public HE
- Diversity training: introducing complexity, intersectionality, the debate on inequalities/status quo and their presence at the institutions
- What happens after the training? A change? What type of change? How to deal with the change and the resistance?
- How to measure effectiveness of training on diversity?

Funding opportunities

HEI top management	Policy makers at National and EU levels	Civil society
Short Encourage staff to review and advocate for European and national funding incentives to provide inclusion and diversity-oriented courses or programmes for disadvantaged students Medium Use the SMILE Audit Model Principles of self-reflection to review if current institutional funding possibilities can be related to inclusive actions Long Integrate funding opportunities in the traditional institutional financial budgeting, make student funding subsidies transparent on the Student Centre Service websites	Short Review national HE policies in relation to widening participation / inclusion and diversity and ensure that they include funding performance agreements for institutions supporting disadvantaged students Medium Seek to elaborate better funding strategies with HE policy actors and integrate performance-based institutional funding models to develop inclusion and diversity-oriented curricula, establish loans or grant system for disadvantaged students, etc Long Integrate diversity and inclusion-oriented funding incentives permanently in HE legislation on a national level	Short Explore funding requirements that meet the needs of local disadvantaged students and their life- circumstances, see if national inclusion and diversity funding opportunities match local students' demands and share findings with HEIs Medium Establish and engage with guiding services to inform local disadvantaged students about opportunities in HE Long Contribute to improving the inclusion and diversity-based funding models of national policies while remaining in dialogue with local universities and HE policy makers at the national level

Funding opportunities Challenges

- How to involve and encourage staff to review and advocate for fundings? – Involvement of governing bodies
- How to deal with narratives that support the status quo (homogeneity)/ "we" first?
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Funding opportunities in worst scenarios (economic crisis, far right-wing parties ruling,...)

Thanks for your attention!

Cati Jerez cjerez@ub.edu



Embedding diversity

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Embedding Diversity

09

To establish diversity-oriented study programmes promoting Higher Education access in accordance with the students' needs. If programmes are planned with the needs and challenges of less privileged groups in mind, their situations are taken into account by default, and they are more likely to be given the necessary support

To monitor progress and needs at institutional level but also at national level through data collection and monitoring

Understanding the effects of previous actions taken, and knowing what works well and what does not, will help us to plan better approaches that make a real impact on society

Access to HE

HEI top management	Policy makers at National and EU levels	Civil society	
Short Review institutional strategy to access programmes for disadvantaged students wanting to enter or already studying at HE levels Medium Develop alternative modes of HE access and delivery of programmes and counselling and/or guidance services to better accommodate the diverse needs of disadvantaged students, such as flexible course scheduling, study duration and modality of courses Long Integrate HE access programmes in the institutional curriculum permanently and provide study guidance activities for disadvantaged student groups	Short Review HE policies and legislation in relation to flexible HE access conditions, including prior learning recognition approaches and frameworks, quality assurance and accreditation, credit accumulation and transfer systems or visa renewal support Medium Provide a coherent policy strategy to establish an overarching framework that can support widely across the system the implementation of flexible HE access pathways and programmes to validate prior learning and facilitate entry to HE, involving all relevant educational stakeholders Long Integrate flexible HE access opportunities and prior learning recognition approaches in national HE frameworks and HE legislation as a central objective in HE	Short To stablish the link between academia, students and activist groups to open the dialogue Medium Link access programmes to the wider communities with special attention to underserved groups and promote access to HEIs. Long Establish long term initiatives in collaboration with HEIs, research and civic educational partners on how to develop flexible HE access programmes in accordance with the needs of students within the communities	

Access to HE Challenges

- Sustainability and permanence of access programmes. How to move from pilots to institutionalized access programmes?
- Collaboration/Cooperation among HE, within states, at EU level?
- Participation and involvement of groups in disadvantaged situation (voices)
- Accountability
- Human rights approach

Monitoring

HEI top management	Policy makers at National and EU levels	Civil society
Short Review the existing institutional policies for the collection of data about the impact of diversity management on disadvantaged student groups Medium Ensure that the data collection and monitoring process reflects the access and attainment of disadvantaged student groups, as well as their satisfaction in relation to the whole institutional approach towards inclusion and diversity and their transversal capacities Long Integrate the data collection, monitoring and evaluation into systemic and comprehensive periodical audit processes and reports	Short Review the current policies and processes in terms of data collection and monitoring at national and European level Medium Provide clear guidelines for data collection, monitoring and evaluation of needs, progress and success at national and European level Long Periodically review the systems of data collection, monitoring and evaluation, to ensure coherency and consistency between different institutions and between different countries	Short Raise awareness on the importance of adopting transparent and consistent data collection and monitoring processes of diversity and inclusion in HE Medium Contribute to improving the data collection, monitoring and evaluation processes of diversity and inclusion in HE Long Improve the accountability of the systems of data collection, monitoring and evaluation, as well as their responsible institutions

Monitoring Challenges

- Strike the balance between data collection (needs of the institution) and needs of people. Avoid too much unhelpful and redundant data that may contribute to "re-labelling" students/potential students.
- Data collection and privacy
- Accountability and feedback to the institution, disadvantaged groups, public administrations involved, etc
- Human rights approach/intersectionality and monitoring.

Channels



https://www.facebook.com/inclusive.eu

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Thanks for your attention!

Cati Jerez cjerez@ub.edu

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Svein HULLSTEIN, Policy Officer, DG EAC Helene PETERBAUER, Policy Analyst, EUA MEP Joao ALBUQUERQUE, S&D, European Parliament

Moderator: Iris KIMIZOGLU, Vice-President, European Students' Union

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