

# **Mainstreaming Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship in Higher Education**

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## **Stakeholder Discussion Panel Report**

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## REPORT

### WP2.A3 Stakeholder Discussion Panels

#### 1. General information about the event

1.1	Partner organization(s) hosting the event: VIKO																											
1.2	Date of the event: 2023-06-15																											
1.3	Number of participants: 16																											
1.4	Participants' profiles:																											
	<table><tr><th>Internal stakeholders</th><th>Number</th></tr><tr><td>University's faculty</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Management and administrative staff</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Senior students</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Other, please specify:</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><th>External stakeholders</th><th>Number</th></tr><tr><td>Industry and business</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Non-profits and non-formal community groups</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Public bodies and policy makers</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Grassroots innovators</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Social entrepreneurs</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>External experts in the field of II &amp; SE</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Other, please specify:</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	Internal stakeholders	Number	University's faculty	6	Management and administrative staff	5	Senior students	0	Other, please specify:	0	External stakeholders	Number	Industry and business	1	Non-profits and non-formal community groups	1	Public bodies and policy makers	0	Grassroots innovators	1	Social entrepreneurs	1	External experts in the field of II & SE	1	Other, please specify:	0	
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#### 2. Event results

2.1	In this thought-provoking panel, participants engaged in an active discussion that explores the intersection of innovation, entrepreneurship, and social impact. The panelists shared their experiences, insights and success stories, providing diverse perspectives on how inclusive innovations and social entrepreneurship can drive positive change and create sustainable solutions for the most pressing social and environmental challenges.
2.2	<b>ANSWERS OF DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Do you have experience with Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship? (e.g. teaching these disciplines/ topics, consulting in these fields, running a social enterprise, developing innovations for groups of people that are at risk of exclusion, etc.)</li> </ul>





	<p>In the discussion Panel participated total 16 persons: 11 – internal stakeholders (representatives of the school administration, teachers, trainers and PE managers) and 5 – external stakeholders (business, industry and other organizations representatives).</p> <p>Part of participants (about 70%) have experience with Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship. For example, Klaipeda State University of Applied Sciences have a non-formal course of Social business and Social innovation and representatives were participated in panel discussion.</p> <p>It's important to note that perspectives of this area are general and can vary depending on the specific context, region, and the individuals involved in discussions related to Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship.</p> <p>➤ <b>How relevant is Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship for economic and social development?</b></p> <p>Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship are highly relevant for both economic and social development. During discussions have been identified some key reasons why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Economic Growth and Job Creation:</b> Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship can contribute to economic growth by fostering innovation, creating new markets, and generating employment opportunities. This, in turn, leads to increased economic activity and job creation.</li> <li>○ <b>Poverty Alleviation and Social Inclusion:</b> Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship play a crucial role in addressing social inequalities and reducing poverty. By developing solutions that cater to the needs of marginalized populations, such as affordable healthcare, education, financial services, and basic infrastructure, these approaches help bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots. They provide opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and communities to access essential services and participate in the economy, ultimately promoting social inclusion and reducing poverty rates.</li> <li>○ <b>Sustainable Development:</b> Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship often prioritize environmental sustainability alongside social impact. Many social entrepreneurs focus on developing environmentally friendly and resource-efficient solutions, such as renewable energy technologies, sustainable agriculture practices, waste management systems, and eco-friendly products.</li> <li>○ <b>Innovation and Disruptive Solutions:</b> Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship drive innovation by identifying and addressing unmet social needs. These approaches encourage out-of-the-box thinking, creativity, and problem-solving to develop solutions that are often overlooked by traditional market mechanisms. By bringing together diverse perspectives and leveraging technology, they have the potential to disrupt existing systems and deliver innovative, efficient, and inclusive products, services, and business models.</li> <li>○ <b>Collaborative Partnerships and Civic Engagement:</b> Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship encourage collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments, businesses, nonprofits, and communities. This collaboration strengthens social capital, promotes collective action, and fosters civic engagement. By involving communities in the design and implementation of solutions, these approaches empower</li> </ul>
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	<p>individuals, build trust, and create a sense of ownership, resulting in more sustainable and impactful outcomes.</p> <p>Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship are highly relevant for economic and social development as they foster economic growth, alleviate poverty, promote social inclusion, contribute to sustainable development, drive innovation, and encourage collaborative partnerships. These approaches offer alternative models that prioritize both profit and social impact, creating a more equitable and sustainable future.</p> <p>➤ <b>How could it be embedded in higher education? (e.g. as a mandatory or elective course, as part of existing courses; as a non-formal training in business incubators, innovation hubs, etc.) Which option do you find more feasible and appropriate in our context? [i.e. in the context of partners' countries and partner HEIs]?</b></p> <p>Embedding inclusive innovation and social entrepreneurship into higher education programs is an important step toward fostering social responsibility, equipping students with the necessary skills and mindset to address social challenges, and promoting sustainable development. Here are some ways in which these concepts can be integrated into higher education programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Curricular Integration:</b> Include courses and modules specifically dedicated to inclusive innovation and social entrepreneurship. These courses can cover topics such as social impact assessment, design thinking, ethical leadership, and sustainable business practices. Offer interdisciplinary programs that bring together students from various fields to collaborate on social innovation projects.</li> <li>2. <b>Experiential Learning:</b> Provide opportunities for students to engage in real-world problem-solving through internships, fieldwork, and service-learning programs. Partner with social enterprises, nonprofits, and community organizations to offer practical experiences that allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to address social issues.</li> <li>3. <b>Business Incubators:</b> Establish incubators within the university to support student-led social enterprises. These programs can provide mentoring, funding, networking opportunities, and access to resources to help students develop and launch their social ventures.</li> <li>4. <b>Guest Speakers and Workshops:</b> Organize regular guest speaker sessions and workshops featuring successful social entrepreneurs, industry experts, and thought leaders. These events can expose students to real-life stories, challenges, and innovative solutions, inspiring them to pursue careers in social entrepreneurship.</li> <li>5. <b>Collaborative Research:</b> Encourage faculty and students to conduct research on inclusive innovation and social entrepreneurship. Support interdisciplinary research projects that aim to develop innovative solutions for social challenges. Foster collaboration between academia, industry, and community stakeholders to ensure research has real-world impact.</li> <li>6. <b>Partnerships and Networks:</b> Foster partnerships with social enterprises, nonprofits, and governmental organizations to create opportunities for students to collaborate on projects, internships, and research initiatives. Engage with local communities to address their specific needs and develop sustainable solutions.</li> <li>7. <b>Funding and Awards:</b> Establish funding opportunities and awards specifically for social entrepreneurship and inclusive innovation initiatives.</li> </ol>
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	<p>Encourage students and faculty to apply for grants to develop and implement their social impact projects, providing financial support to turn ideas into reality.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. <b>Alumni Engagement:</b> Create platforms for alumni who are involved in social entrepreneurship and inclusive innovation to share their experiences, mentor current students, and provide networking opportunities. Alumni networks can offer valuable support, guidance, and potential collaborations for students interested in these fields.</li> <li>9. <b>Policy and Advocacy:</b> Engage with policymakers and advocate for policies that support social entrepreneurship and inclusive innovation. Encourage students and faculty to participate in relevant conferences, seminars, and policy dialogues to contribute to the development of an enabling ecosystem for social impact initiatives.</li> <li>10. <b>Measurement and Evaluation:</b> Develop mechanisms to assess and measure the social impact created by student-led initiatives and social enterprises. Incorporate impact measurement frameworks into the curriculum to ensure a focus on outcomes and sustainability.</li> </ol> <p>By incorporating these strategies, higher education programs can play a pivotal role in cultivating the next generation of socially conscious innovators and entrepreneurs who will drive positive change in society.</p> <p>➤ <b>What are the most important elements of content and the most appropriate instructional approach to teaching Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship?</b></p> <p>When teaching Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, it is important to focus on key content elements and adopt an instructional approach that fosters a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter and encourages active learning. Here are the most important elements of content and the most appropriate instructional approaches for teaching Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Content Elements:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Understanding Social Entrepreneurship:</b> Provide a foundation in the principles and concepts of social entrepreneurship, including its definition, historical context, and the role of social entrepreneurs in addressing social and environmental challenges.</li> <li>b. <b>Inclusive Innovation:</b> Explore the concept of inclusive innovation, which emphasizes the development of solutions that benefit marginalized communities and promote social inclusion. Highlight the importance of understanding the needs and aspirations of underserved populations.</li> <li>c. <b>Social Impact Assessment:</b> Teach methodologies for assessing social impact, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, measuring outcomes, and evaluating the effectiveness of social entrepreneurship initiatives.</li> <li>d. <b>Business Models and Funding:</b> Cover different business models that social entrepreneurs can adopt, such as hybrid models or impact investing. Discuss funding strategies, including traditional sources, grants, impact investments, and crowdfunding.</li> <li>e. <b>Ethical Considerations:</b> Explore ethical dilemmas and considerations in social entrepreneurship, such as ensuring transparency, maintaining the social mission, and avoiding unintended negative consequences.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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	<p>f. Collaborations and Partnerships: Emphasize the importance of collaborations with diverse stakeholders, including nonprofits, government agencies, corporations, and local communities, to maximize social impact.</p> <p>2. Instructional Approaches:</p> <p>a. Case Studies and Real-World Examples: Use case studies and real-world examples to illustrate the application of inclusive innovation and social entrepreneurship principles. Analyze successful social enterprises, their strategies, and the challenges they faced.</p> <p>b. Experiential Learning: Engage students in hands-on activities, such as fieldwork, internships, or project-based assignments, to immerse them in the realities of social entrepreneurship and encourage practical problem-solving skills.</p> <p>c. Guest Speakers and Expertise: Invite guest speakers from the social entrepreneurship field, including successful social entrepreneurs, impact investors, or representatives from social innovation incubators, to share their experiences and insights.</p> <p>d. Group Discussions and Debates: Facilitate group discussions and debates to encourage critical thinking and explore different perspectives on social entrepreneurship and inclusive innovation. Encourage students to challenge assumptions and propose innovative solutions.</p> <p>e. Reflection and Self-Assessment: Incorporate reflective practices, such as journals or reflective essays, to encourage students to assess their own values, motivations, and potential as social entrepreneurs. Foster self-awareness and the development of a personal social entrepreneurial mindset.</p> <p>f. Community Engagement: Provide opportunities for students to engage with local communities, NGOs, or social enterprises through volunteering, internships, or collaborative projects. This allows students to gain firsthand experience and develop empathy for social challenges.</p> <p>Remember, teaching Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship should not be limited to theoretical knowledge but should also focus on developing practical skills, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset, and promoting social consciousness among students.</p> <p>➤ <b>How could different stakeholder groups participate in design and delivery of education and training in the field of Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship? What could be a stakeholder engagement strategy?</b></p> <p>Engaging different stakeholder groups in the design and delivery of education and training in the field of Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship is crucial for ensuring relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability. Here is a stakeholder engagement strategy that can involve various stakeholders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Academics and Educators: Collaborate with experienced academics and educators.</li> <li>2. Students: Conduct surveys or focus groups to understand the needs, interests, and aspirations of students regarding Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship education.</li> <li>3. Social Entrepreneurs and Practitioners: Establish partnerships with social entrepreneurs and practitioners working in the field. Invite them as guest speakers, mentors, or adjunct faculty members to share their experiences and insights</li> </ol>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>NGOs and Nonprofits:</b> Collaborate with local and international NGOs and nonprofits that are actively involved in inclusive innovation and social entrepreneurship. Seek their expertise and partnership in curriculum development and program delivery.</li> <li>5. <b>Government Agencies and Policymakers:</b> Establish connections with relevant government agencies and policymakers working in the area of social entrepreneurship and inclusive innovation. Seek their inputs on curriculum design and policy implications.</li> <li>6. <b>Industry and Corporate Sector:</b> Engage industry leaders and corporate social responsibility (CSR) departments in partnerships and collaborations. Encourage their involvement in curriculum design, guest lectures, and mentoring programs.</li> </ol> <p>To implement this stakeholder engagement strategy effectively, it is important to establish communication channels, conduct regular meetings, workshops, and events to foster dialogue and collaboration. Building long-term partnerships and maintaining an ongoing feedback loop with stakeholders will help ensure the continuous improvement and relevance of the education and training programs in Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship.</p> <p>➤ <b>Do you have any further ideas on how to improve the InnoSocial Toolkit for design and delivery of II&amp;SE education / What other aspect of II&amp;SE education could be considered?</b></p> <p>To improve the InnoSocial Toolkit for the design and delivery of Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship (II&amp;SE) education, consider the following ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Experiential Learning Activities:</b> Include <b>experiential learning</b> activities such as field visits, internships, or partnerships with local social enterprises. These activities offer students firsthand experience in working with social entrepreneurs, understanding community needs, and implementing solutions.</li> <li>2. <b>Online Collaboration Platforms:</b> Develop an <b>online collaboration platform</b> within the InnoSocial Toolkit where students, educators, social entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders can connect, share resources, discuss ideas, and collaborate on projects. This platform can facilitate networking and knowledge exchange beyond the confines of the classroom.</li> <li>3. <b>Monitoring and Evaluation Tools:</b> Integrate monitoring and evaluation tools into the InnoSocial Toolkit to assess the effectiveness and impact of II&amp;SE education. These tools can help track student learning outcomes, evaluate the success of educational interventions, and gather <b>feedback from stakeholders</b>.</li> <li>4. <b>Global Perspective:</b> Emphasize the global dimension of II&amp;SE education by incorporating case studies and examples from different regions of the world. Highlight the challenges and opportunities faced by social entrepreneurs in diverse cultural, economic, and social contexts to broaden students' understanding of <b>global social issues</b>.</li> <li>5. <b>Ethical Considerations and Social Justice:</b> Place a strong emphasis on ethics, social justice, and sustainability within II&amp;SE education. Explore topics such as responsible innovation, <b>ethical decision-making</b>, and the social and environmental impacts of social entrepreneurship initiatives.</li> </ol>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. <b>Accessible Learning Materials:</b> Ensure that the InnoSocial Toolkit provides accessible learning materials, including multimedia resources, transcripts, and closed captioning, to cater to diverse learning needs and preferences. Consider the use of inclusive design principles to make the toolkit accessible to <b>students with disabilities</b>.</li><li>7. <b>Alumni Engagement:</b> Foster a strong alumni network of social entrepreneurs and professionals working in the II&amp;SE sector. Encourage alumni to participate in <b>mentoring programs</b>, guest lectures, and networking events to provide guidance and support to current students.</li><li>8. <b>Research and Innovation:</b> Promote research and innovation in II&amp;SE education by supporting faculty members and students in conducting research projects, publishing papers, and participating in conferences. Encourage <b>collaboration between academia and the industry</b> to drive innovation and address emerging challenges in the field.</li><li>9. <b>Continuous Improvement and Iteration:</b> Regularly gather feedback from educators, students, social entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders to refine and update the InnoSocial Toolkit. Embrace a <b>culture of continuous improvement</b> and <b>iterative development</b> to ensure the toolkit remains current, relevant, and responsive to evolving educational needs.</li></ol> <p>By incorporating these ideas into the InnoSocial Toolkit, you can enhance the design and delivery of II&amp;SE education, fostering a more comprehensive and impactful learning experience for students.</p>
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Thank you!





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