A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Shifting Architectures of Knowledge through Community-University Engagement and the Future of Higher Education

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The role of higher education in responding to societal challenges is re-emerging as a policy priority in EU policy:

- **Higher education policy**: “societal challenges”, “civic universities”, “service to society”
- **Research policy**: “societal challenges”, “science with and for society”, “citizen science”

CONNECTING HIGHER EDUCATION AND SOCIETY: A RE-EMERGING PRIORITY?
NEW EUROPEAN INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN HE

www.tefce.eu
2018-2021

www.shefce.eu
2020-2023
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: TEFCE DEFINITION

Community engagement is about how universities address societal needs in partnership with their external communities.

- **Community**: incl. government, business, civil society, from local to global level.
- **Engagement**: mutually beneficial joint activities with external communities
RESULT 1: A NEW FRAMEWORK

- **Qualitative**: no metrics
- **Multifaceted and context-specific**: no comparison or ranking
- **Participative**: no desk-based checklists
- **Innovative**: inspired by, but going beyond, existing tools

www.tefce.eu/toolbox
A EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL NETWORK

7 universities from 7 EU countries have fully applied the TEFCE Toolbox. 22 universities from around the world have expressed interest in the Toolbox.
RESULT 2: POLICY IMPACT

"Our higher education institutions must engage with their communities to undertake mutually beneficial and socially responsible joint activities."

"Higher education institutions should ensure that community engagement in higher education promotes diversity, equity and inclusion"

- EC / NESET study on community engagement in higher education
- EC to recommend TEFCE Toolbox for European universities
- New Eurydice report maps community engagement in Europe
THE ROAD AHEAD

- Working Group for the Social Dimension – includes focus on community engagement
- European Universities Initiative
- New initiative: Local Mission of Higher Education
- Civic engagement among top 3 priorities till 2030
Thank you for your attention!

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