

HEInnovate – The tool and the community of HEInnovate: How to respond to HEIs' needs

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What is HEInnovate?

- Online self-reflection tool to explore the entrepreneurial and innovative potential of HEIs
- A joint initiative of the European Commission and the OECD
- Purpose: helping HEIs assess their current situation and identify potential areas for action, by exploring:
 - The concept of entrepreneurial and innovative HEIs
 - The characteristics of an entrepreneurial HEI across 8 areas
- It is to be used by all types of HEIs

Is your Higher Education Institution prepared for future challenges?

HEInnovate is a self-reflection tool for Higher Education institutions who wish to explore their innovative potential. It guides you through a process of identification, prioritisation and action planning in eight key areas. The self-assessment is available in all EU languages.

HEInnovate is not a benchmarking tool. It diagnoses areas of strengths and weaknesses, opens up discussion and debate on the entrepreneurial / innovative nature of your institution and it allows you to compare and contrast evolution over time. You can have instant access to your results, learning materials and a pool of experts. HEInnovate can be used by all types of higher education institutions.

HEInnovate is an initiative of the European Commission in partnership with the OECD. It is free, confidential and open to anyone to use. [Read more](#)

Being an entrepreneurial higher education institution depends upon individuals, and innovative ways of doing things.

[START YOUR SELF-ASSESSMENT](#)



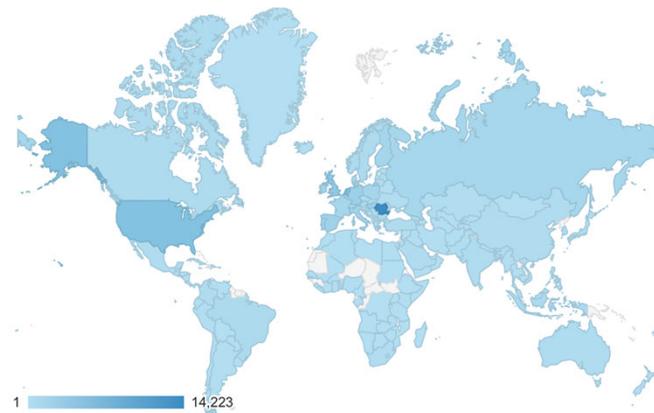
Overview of HEInnovate – still growing

Official launch of HEInnovate

18th November 2013

- **Number of SAs completed:** around **27.6k**
- **Number of HEIs with SA completion:** over 1,500 from 80+ countries
- **Number of users:** 27.9k registered users
- **Number of groups on the site:** over 2,200
- Over 100 different **supporting materials, reports, case studies and videos** available
- More than **50 workshops and training events**

Website visits
from all over the world



HEInnovate – changes over the last two years

- Launched a **webinar series** in 2020 that tackled a broad range of topics from the response of HEIs to Covid through student innovation and sustainable innovation in HE to internationalisation in innovative universities
- More recent webinars include entrepreneurship in innovation in the creative arts sector, a webinar where we brought together the forward looking cooperation projects, including BeyondScale, a “special” on the Conference of Europe and how HEIs can contribute to shaping the future of Europe, and most recently a webinar to help support the next phase of thinking for HEInnovate
- Supporting the HEI capacity building initiative of the EIT
- Carried out **online train the trainer events** tailored to different target audiences
- Revamp of the website – based on user feedback – increased functionality

HEInnovate – responding to needs

- Updated the statements in the **Digital Transformation and Capability** dimension

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND CAPABILITY
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HEIs are already deploying digital technologies, however the uptake and integration varies among and within institutions. HEIs should make the most out of the opportunities presented by digital transformation and consider digital technologies as a key enabler. This section of the self-assessment provides a number of statements to reflect on HEI's digital capability, defined as the ability to integrate, optimise and transform digital technologies to support innovation and entrepreneurship.

Digital Transformation and Capability

1. The HEI fosters a **digital culture** and implements and monitors a **digital strategy** supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.
2. The HEI invests in, manages and continuously improves a **fit-for-purpose digital infrastructure**.
3. The HEI actively supports the use of **digital technologies to enhance quality and equity in teaching, learning and assessment**.
4. The HEI actively uses **open educational resources, open science and open data practices** to improve the performance of the institution and increase its impact on its **ecosystem**.
5. The HEI makes full use of its **digital capacity** to promote **sustainable and inclusive innovation and entrepreneurship**.

Rethinking how HEInnovate can support institutional change

- Feedback received from the **expert group** and **users** more broadly about next steps and need for additional support
- Input from a set of projects working on HEInnovate-related themes e.g. **FLCPs**
- The **changing policy context and drivers** to increase the support for institutional capacity building and development:
 - The development of the **Higher Education Transformation Agenda** – identifying the vision, key priorities and potential support actions for the HE sector
 - The role of HEIs in the **knowledge ecosystems** – further emphasis on the engagement with external stakeholders
 - The **European University Alliances** – the need to align strategic planning and activities of multiple HEIs
- There are other highly relevant initiatives that provide support for HEIs – we are looking at how **to enhance those synergies**

Future outlook



Maintain:

At the core of HEInnovate is the **self-assessment** with the dimensions and statements - the relevance of the **existing** dimensions needs to be maintained

The **expert group** as a sounding board for the developments

A broad range of **supporting materials**, case studies, reports, user stories and guidance notes

The online offer of the **training sessions** and **webinars** (monthly)



Enhance:

Synergies with other relevant initiatives – EPIC and EntreTime, the UB Forum, Higher Education and Smart Specialisation (HESS) project, JRC and Knowledge Alliances

The **use of materials**, especially case studies – help with action planning

Community building – communication incl. monthly newsletter highlighting upcoming events, summaries of the webinars, selected KA projects

Investigate the need for new dimension(s)

Thank you!