



EU-USR
UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN EUROPE

Social Responsibility of Universities in Europe and
development of a Community reference framework



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EU-USR is a two year research project (2012- 2014) co-financed by the European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme, within the priority line of Erasmus multilateral projects (2011-2013): The social dimension of higher education. In particular, it intends to develop an action aimed to raise awareness and development of social responsibility of higher education institutions.

***THE SOCIAL
DIMENSION
OF HIGHER
EDUCATION***



VISION

The EU-USR project is conceived as a response to the need for a common social responsibility strategy for all European universities, and the current imbalance in terms of actions in social responsibilities among universities from different European regions.

*IS CONCEIVED AS
A RESPONSE TO
THE NEED FOR A
COMMON SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY
STRATEGY*

Its main purpose is to jointly design a European framework that allows the development of a European programme and networking between European universities in terms of social responsibility, to enhance university social action at European level and beyond plus the exchange of good practices on:

- » Organizational governance
- » Human rights
- » Labor practices
- » The environment
- » Fair operating practices
- » Consumer issues
- » Community involvement and development
- » ... among others

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

EU-USR aims to create, through a bottom-up approach that starts from some leading EU universities in the field of USR, a European model to enhance social responsibility of universities in a long-term perspective.

The key innovative contribution of the EU-USR project is lined to its holistic approach, its main challenge being to design a comprehensive strategy that meets the needs and problems of each EU region. It will detect good practices and attempt to design and test practical models for the development of local strategies for social action.

The main project objectives are:

- » University social responsibility (USR) definition in the member states.
 - » USR good practices identification and analysis.
 - » Open benchmarking system to map USR competencies and improve the response of HE institutions to the needs of their communities.
 - » European model for the enhancement of USR, development and mainstreaming.
 - » Creation of a European network on USR.
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EXPECTED IMPACT



- » Influence on the plans developed by participating universities fostering common policies through networking, and the impact on regional and national policies.
- » Transfer of a framework for all European universities and national governments.
- » Awareness of the university community as to its social dimension and the importance of a community context.
- » Promote the interest of the university community on the Europe 2020 priorities by making socially active and responsible teachers and students.
- » Develop a system for identifying and evaluating best practices and promote USR policies.

PARTNERS



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