

# NEWSLETTER

2018/1 - 29.3.2018

## TACKLING LOCAL SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

Five higher education institutions (HEI) from Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, Portugal and the Netherlands join their ambition to enhance social responsibility of HEI's students and staff.

Actual problems faced by civil society will be solved by delivering scientific research support to local civil society organizations e.g. associations. Their issues will be brought to a research agenda. Students and researches will find solutions for the problems.

## PROJECT'S KICK OFF MEETING IN BRUSSEL

Altogether nine staff members from five higher education institutions (HEI) met 27-28.2.2018 in Brussels, Belgium. They got to know each other and walked through all the phases of the two years project ENGaged ReseArch coNnecting Community with higher Education - ENtRANCE. It gave a good picture of the project and key terms of the project were discussed and defined.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) as a coordinator of the ENtRANCE project was hosting the kick off meeting. It was great to visit their campus, meet and get to know project team members. We have a great team to work with!



ENtRANCE project team members (from left): Minna (Lahti UAS), Catherine (VUB), Ulla (Lahti UAS), Grazina (VTDK), Jozefien (VUB), Ana (VTDK), Leneke (WU), Claudia (ISMAI) and Joao (ISMAI).

## OVERALL AIM OF THE PROJECT

The goal of the ENtRANCE project is to enhance social responsibility of and social engagement in HEIs more specifically of higher education students, staff and governance, through delivering scientific research support to their local communities. This engaged research will increase competences of both students and staff, increase the position of issues of Civil Society Organizations on the research agenda and contribute to knowledge transfer. In this way research and education work in a mutually reinforcing way, all the while contributing to finding solutions for local societal challenges.

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*Delivering scientific research support to their local communities*

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## PARTICIPATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

### Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium

Vrije Universiteit Brussel is a medium-sized university with some 14.000 students and 3.300 staff on 3 green campuses in the capital of Europe, has a long-standing reputation of academic excellence and is a player of major importance in Brussels, Flanders and beyond. The 3.300 staff members include around 2.200 academic staff members and 770 professors. VUB has been a pioneer in public engagement and science outreach for over 25 years.



### Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Netherlands

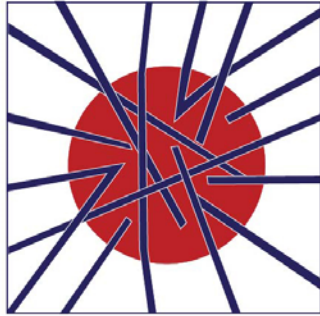
Wageningen University is a part of Wageningen University & Research, which is a leading international knowledge institute in the fields of nutrition health, sustainable agricultural systems and environmental quality. Wageningen University & Research has locations throughout the Netherlands. Wageningen University has 6 500 employees and over 10 000 students. Wageningen University & Research Science Shop has empowered many civil society organizations in the past 32 years.



### Vilnius College of Technologies and Design (VTDK), Lithuania

Vilnius College of Technologies and Design offers 16 full-time study programs in design, civil engineering, technical sciences, and transportation to approximately 3000 students. Studies focus on practical activities and enable students to acquire a specialized background and achieve a professional bachelor's degree. The strategy of the College identifies its contribution to sustainable development of society, embracing its economic, social and environmental dimensions. In order to better respond to civil society's needs for expertise and knowledge VTDK has set up a Science Shop in fall semester 2015.





**MAIÊUTICA**

Cooperativa de Ensino Superior, C.R.L.

### Maieutica (ISMAI), Portugal

Maieutica is a founding body of University Institute of Maia (ISMAI) and Polytechnic Institute of Maia, a private non-profit HEI located in Maia, near Porto. The university campus occupies an area of 70 000 m<sup>2</sup> and provides students and with excellent infrastructures and leading-edge technological equipment. ISMAI is a 2<sup>nd</sup> largest private HEI in Portugal. It has more than 250 academic staff members and 4 000 students. It offers programmes in the field of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Business Sciences, Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Communication Sciences and Information Technologies.

**LAMK** Lahden ammattikorkeakoulu  
Lahti University of Applied Sciences

### Lahti University of Applied Sciences (Lahti UAS) Finland

Lahti University of Applied Sciences is a multidisciplinary HEI located in the city of Lahti in southern part of Finland. Lahti UAS is the largest HEI in the region. There are around 5 300 students aiming at BSc and MSc level and the number of the full time teaching staff is about 390. Lahti UAS offers the following Bachelor's degrees: Physiotherapy, Engineering, Media, Culture and Arts, Hospitality Managements, Nursing, Social Services, Business Administration and Hospitality management. The research, development and innovation activities have been profiled to four multidisciplinary strategic focus areas: Design, Smart Business, Clean and dynamic environment and Welfare and reformative growth.

### Contact information

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