



THE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC MISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Social Dimension WG, February 17, 2022

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BACKGROUND

- Longstanding work on the Democratic Mission of Higher Education
 - Council of Europe
 - International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy
 - International Association of Universities
 - Organization of American States

THE LOCAL MISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Anchor Institutions Task Force part of the International Consortium
- Three CoE/AITF conferences on the local mission of Higher Education (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Book on *The Local Mission of Higher Education* (2019)
- The local mission is a European issue
- We need a more permanent European cooperation

THE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC MISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Place

- Mostly a specific city
- Sometimes a part of a city
- Sometimes a region

With the community

- *With*, not just *in*
- *Community*, not just economic actors

Values based

- Democracy, human rights and the rule of law
- Local *Democratic* Mission of Higher Education

Mission or engagement?

SCOPE AND FOCUS

- Universal issues in a local context
 - Democracy
 - Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture
 - Democratic Mission of HE
 - Ethics
 - ETINED Platform
 - The social dimension
 - Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA
- Impact of COVID-19
 - *Higher Education's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic - Building a More Sustainable and Democratic Future* (CoE HE Series No; 25)

PLATFORM FOR THE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC MISSION: FOCI

- advocacy
- policy development
- providing overviews of activities of relevance to the local democratic mission carried out in various contexts and identifying examples of promising practices
- conducting studies or other work on specific issues

TARGET GROUPS

- Academic community (institutions, faculty, students)
- Public authorities (especially local)
- Local civil society
 - Schools
 - Community centers
 - Associations

PLATFORM FOR THE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC MISSION

- Start small
 - Representative organizations (IAU, EUA, EURASHE)
 - Intercultural Cities Network
 - AITF
 - Institute for the Development of Education
 - Some HEIs
- Start soon
 - Launch Platform fall 2022
- Platform Advisory Group

THE PLATFORM IN BRIEF

- “local”: the institution’s proximate geographic community
- work *with* and *for*, not just *in*, local communities
- commitment to democratic values
- European scope
- focus on advocacy and policy guidelines and on developing suggestions of practice



HIGHER
EDUCATION:
NOT LIKE
THIS...



... MORE LIKE
THIS?

WHAT EDUCATION?

The answer to the question: “what kind of education do we need?” lies in the answer to another question: “What kind of society do we want”?

- Eugenio Tironi: *El sueño chileno*