

The 19th of February 2024

Multi-disciplinary innovation for social change (SHINE) COST Action CA18236 final conference

On the 6th of March 2024, COST Action CA18236 members and other stakeholders will meet at the final conference of the Action, which will take place from 09:30-17:00 at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU, Rue Guimard 11/13, 1040 Brussels.

<https://socialchangelab.eu/final-conference/>

This Cost Action focuses on multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral innovation for societal change. The action has been working for the past four years to enhance the Knowledge Alliances between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and enterprises that aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange, and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning. Also, it has been analyzing HEIs' role in addressing societal challenges and driving societal impact.

The final conference aims to present the results achieved with the network and discuss the policy recommendations in the field of higher education institutions and the advancement of social innovation in cooperation with the private sector actors and communities.



The History of the Project

Cost Action CA18236 was established in October 2019 to demonstrate, through the adoption of Multi-Disciplinary Innovation (MDI) methods, how to respond to social problems with a design-led approach that supports positive social change and develops public policy discourse.

Cost Action 18236 has four working groups (WG) that focus on different aspects of multi-disciplinary innovation for social change.

WG1 developed a critical understanding of how design-led approaches morph in practice to enable and encourage social change. The group aims to identify practical tools, platforms and programmes, particularly within higher-educational contexts.

WG2 analysed the role of HEIs in creating social change, transformation and impact. Activities included an analysis of the social entrepreneurship eco-systems and how they relate to HEIs as well as an analysis of innovative approaches adopted by the voluntary and community sector in supporting social change.

WG3 analysed different elements of Pan-European Public-Sector Innovation Lab (ePSI) responding to and developing public policy.

WG4 developed a roadmap for various quadruple-helix innovation ecosystem partners to maximize the impact, in terms of developing a shared vision, sharing practices, transferred knowledge and fostered learning of responsible entrepreneurship among regional and pan-European stakeholders.

Partners

The SHIINE—Multi-disciplinary innovation for social change (CA18236) is supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

The Action is carried out by a high-quality network of participants from 38 COST countries in Europe (incl. 23 Inclusiveness Target Countries). The Action is led by Tallinn University, Estonia. <https://www.tlu.ee/en>



The main results

COST Action members have produced a collection of outcomes to highlight some of the dynamics of social change.

- The seminar series - Design Matters - was created with aims to promote understanding of design-led approaches to social innovation and social entrepreneurship. You can find the seminars on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4FT8d2tQTW&list=UUUnSKx_5bnmpPwI6SeSbJqw&index=2.
- The book Social Innovation in Higher Education: Landscape, Practices, and Opportunities was produced which analyses how higher education innovation assists societal challenges and investigates the benefits of effective social innovation engagement by HEIs (Păunescu, Lepik & Spencer, 2022). It offers interesting insights on how the HEIs can further develop their third mission and enhance their role as a driver of social change towards the paradigm of a purpose-driven university. It also gives insights about how HEIs promote social innovation and suggests how the present system can be improved. You can find the Open Access book here: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-84044-0>.
- The special issue entitled “Higher Education, Social Change and Impact” of Management & Marketing. Challenges for the Knowledge Society was published. It includes a themed article collection, developed in the framework of the COST programme SHIINE, exploring how higher education institutions contribute to creation of social change, transformation and impact. The ideas presented in the papers are from various lenses reflecting an international perspective. There are significant and important insights on how higher education institutions contribute to social change, which may be gained from this issue. Open Access is available here: <https://sciendo.com/es/issue/MMCKS/17/s1>.

- Two training schools for PhD students were organized:
- The first one was organised in Limerick, Ireland by the Technological University of the Shannon. More information here: <https://socialchangelab.eu/1st-training-school-may-2022/>
- The 2nd took place in Novi Sad, Serbia and was organised by the University of Novi Sad. More information here: <https://socialchangelab.eu/training-school-in-novi-sad-july-2023/>

More information about other COST SHINE events and conferences you can find here:

<https://socialchangelab.eu/outcomes/>

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