



Press Release

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New paths for innovation and sustainability

Successful conclusion of the HEI4S3-RM project: THGA strengthens knowledge transfer and international innovation networks

The **HEI4S3-RM** project, funded by the European Union (EU), has succeeded in establishing an innovative and sustainable university network in Europe. The project vision was to enable universities to think entrepreneurially and at the same time drive forward applied research and development. The conclusion of the project shows that **HEI4S3-RM** has provided an important impetus for successfully integrating regional and local innovation ecosystems into European networks. It contributed to the sustainable expansion of local innovative strength.

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‘By exchanging ideas with international partners, we have significantly expanded our network,’ summarises project manager Julia Haske. ‘We have gained valuable examples of best practice for improving our own structures. These collaborations also offer long-term potential for new projects that extend beyond **HEI4S3-RM**.’

Operationalisation through ecosystem integration laboratories (EIL)

Ecosystem Integration Laboratories (EIL) were developed as part of the project. These laboratories, which now exist at every participating university, utilise existing infrastructures such as research funding offices and chairs to further promote collaboration between research, teaching and industry. The THGA benefits from its many years of expertise in interdisciplinary research. It has succeeded in linking the activities of its own StartING start-up initiative with laboratories such as Geolab and experimental spaces such as the MakerSpace as well as the research activities of the Post-Mining Research Centre, thus creating structures to promote innovation and further development.

Sharing knowledge and strengthening networks



In addition, further training, information events and webinars on the topics of start-ups, innovation and sustainability were another important component of project implementation. These formats were aimed not only at students and employees of the THGA, but also at participants from the partner countries.

Shaping the future: Putting research into practice

The THGA will continue to work closely with its European partners in the future in order to put the knowledge gained into practice and provide new impetus for the future.

With the ecosystem integration laboratories at the heart of the project, the university is well positioned to further improve the transfer of knowledge to industry and strengthen its role as a driver of innovation in the region.

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Background information: The HEI4S3-RM project: A European model for sustainable resource management

The aim of the now completed project was to strengthen the interfaces between research, education and entrepreneurship in order to develop forward-looking solutions for the regional and global challenges facing the EU. The Georg Agricola University of Applied Sciences (THGA) not only collaborated with six universities from Finland, Germany, Greece, Romania and Spain, but also with other research and corporate partners.

*The acronym **HEI4S3-RM** stands for 'Higher Education Initiative for Smart Specialisation and Sustainable Resource Management'. The project therefore focussed on artificial intelligence and sustainable resource management. The aim was to accelerate innovation and quickly put research findings into practice. The aim was to develop new ways for universities to combine their applied research with an entrepreneurial mindset.*