

# EU advocacy alignments

University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University, Turku University of Applied Sciences and Novia University of Applied Sciences encourages university community to participate in EU-advocacy activities



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# General aims and actions

- With EU advocacy, we are increasing the possibilities for the higher education institutions in Turku to be a significant and recognised actors in the research, development and innovation sector of the EU.
- Our aim is to be a sought-after partner in EU-funded research projects and an active and influential member in EU networks.

# Working with stakeholders and EU advocacy in collaboration networks

- The goal of working with stakeholders is to increase international funding and the recognition and impact of the higher education institutions in Turku in the EU.
- We identify the essential EU networks, such as the European partnership networks in Horizon Europe and other initiatives, including experts groups in the European Commission, and deliver researchers and experts information about the roles of the networks and how to utilise them.
- We collaborate regionally in the Turku Region University EU Network (TRUEnet). We strengthen and maintain collaboration with the Turku-Southwest Finland European Office.
- We are a member of the national Finnish Universities in Brussels (FUNIBRU) network, where we strengthen the EU advocacy of Finnish universities and promote proactive knowledge sharing. In addition, we collaborate with other stakeholders, such as national research and expert organisations and ministries, e.g. the EU-20.
- We encourage the management of the higher education institutions as well as the research and expert personnel to participate in stakeholder events, to expand their collaboration networks, and to follow the EU communications in their field.
- We encourage the members of the university community to be available as evaluators in different kinds of funding calls.
- We develop advocacy by utilising the university models of that are known in the EU, e.g. the UniLiON network.

# National and EU-level consultations and hearings

- The faculties and departments are informed of thematic hearings. The key statements on EU funding and policies are prepared and coordinated centrally if needed and approved in the steering group.

# Advocacy meetings, increasing recognition, and participation in EU events

- We organise thematic advocacy meetings with EU institutions. The goal of these meetings is to influence the research and innovation policy of the EU and the contents of the funding programmes. In addition, we promote the research and strengths of the higher education institutions in Turku, maintain relationships with the EU networks and other stakeholders, and strengthen the preparedness for advocacy within organisations.
- We strengthen visibility by participating actively in key events on EU funding and themes organised in Finland and Brussels as well as elsewhere in Europe. We encourage the higher education community to react to personal invitations and to communicate them forward.

# Training and sharing information about EU advocacy

- We expand internal capacity with regular training, events and workshops which aim to increase the higher education community's preparedness to participate in EU advocacy and to increase information about topical EU matters.
- We will share information mainly by email by contacting the interested parties directly and use the organisations' intranets. We inform the steering group about the most important developments in advocacy that can impact the planning of EU advocacy or otherwise require approval from the steering group.

# Thematic topics in EU advocacy

- We promote thematic topics when there is a clear aim shared by the higher education institutions and the promotion of the topic in the EU is considered important.
- We take in to account the current themes and topics in the EU, especially the five-year plans of the European Commission, annual action plans, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda, to which the EU is committed.



# Internal practices

- The EU advocacy steering group decides on the strategic actions and policies related to EU advocacy. The Head of EU Affairs develops and implements the practices and actions in EU advocacy according to the policies outlined by the steering group. Advocacy applies to the entire higher education community and it can be implemented on both the organisational level and the faculty- and department-level.
- The Head of EU Affairs will be increasingly present in Brussels starting from 1 September 2023.
- The policies and annual plan for EU advocacy are valid until further notice and will be updated when necessary.

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