Call for Experts
Alignment of PHE with Regional and Local Economic Development Strategies

The PROCSEE project aims at strengthening Professional Higher Education (PHE) in Central and South-Eastern Europe, through a collaborative evidence- and stakeholder-based approach.

Within its thematic scope, the project will:

- Engage in policy dialogue with stakeholders, to understand the main policy challenges which need to be addressed to accelerate change & innovation in the area
- Locate best-practice examples of policy-interventions, which have been shown to be effective in addressing the identified challenges
- Analyse the best-practice examples, with the help of thematic peer-learning expert groups, and identify those which are best suited to implementation in the CSEE region
- Work with stakeholders in each country, to design interventions at institutional level which will address the policy challenges, based on the project conclusions
- Communicate the need and methodology for the interventions to relevant policy & decision-makers, and provide a monitoring framework for measuring the progress and impact of interventions

Theme

Theme 1 of the project will focus on Alignment of PHE with regional and local and economic development strategies. It will consider:

- Modalities of cooperation with the region
- Interaction of PHE with regional bodies and/or non-education/employment ministries (making space for PHE in overall policies)
- Informal connections with environment and regional development funding as a driver for PHE development
- Availability of regional development policies, relevant issues for PHE development and their reflections within PHE institutions’ policies and strategies
- Interaction with external, regional partners and their engagement in governance and development of PHE institutions and their activities

Tasks

1 Theme 1 is Alignment of PHE with regional and local and economic development strategies.
The selected expert will help identify national policy challenges related to the Theme 1 and to propose solutions to these challenges based on best practice in the field. Specifically, the expert will be expected to:

- Participate in three annual 4-day policy forums on Professional Higher Excellence, which will be the main forum for discussion and exchange with other experts from across the continent
- Contribute towards the authoring of briefing papers for the policy-forums, and of conclusions from the same forums
- Participate in annual (half day) workshops at national level, aimed at connecting the work of the policy forums with national stakeholders
- Prepare three detailed case-studies (c. 1200 words each) of best-practice in the topic-area, for inclusion in the PROCSEE practice database, with the assistance of project coordinators and templates developed within the project.

**Expert’s Profile**

The selected expert must be able to demonstrate:

- practical experiences with analysis, development or implementation of regional policies or PHE-focused policies with regional aspects, most preferably:
  - research of regional policies and their reflection in HE institutional policies and strategies;
  - development and/or implementation of regional policies or relevant instruments which provide space for HE engagement and response (e.g. educational, training and HR agenda, regional development, SME support and development in collaboration with HE institutions, innovation support…);
  - development and/or implementation of tertiary education institution’s policy and strategy closely reflecting regional aspects and developments
- strong cooperation with PHE stakeholders and the ability to strengthen regional cooperation (including with the world of work, chambers of commerce and other employers’ bodies)
- experiences in publishing and research activities on EU and/or national level of expertise, engagement with at least 3 conferences, those focused on the relevant topics would be preferred
- significant engagement in the international environment, demonstrated through participation in international conferences, projects, associations etc.
- good English language skills

**Conditions & Application Process**

Experts will be selected through an open call for applications. Selected experts will receive a gross honorarium of €2500 as well as travel expenses to the three PHE Excellence Forums, attendance to which is a key part of the contract.