TRANSFORM4EUROPE:
THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOR KNOWLEDGE ENTREPRENEURS

MILESTONE 36
FRAMEWORK FOR VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Prepared by:
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Work Package 8
Dr Desislava Karaasenova
Contact: dkaraasenova@phls.uni–sofia.bg
10/05/2024

Table of Contents

1. Approval

Approved by:

☑ **USAAR**

☑ UA

☑ **EKA**

☑ **UCP**

☑ **UP**

☑ **JMU**

☑ **USil**

☑ **SU**

☑ **UNITS**

☑ **VMU**

2. The Visiting Professorship

The Transform4Europe European University has set itself the goal to educate and train knowledge–entrepreneurs as drivers of transformation for the benefit of sustainable and resilient European societies that can embrace and solve the most important civilisation challenges. To that end, T4EU has concentrated joint collaboration efforts to foster knowledge entrepreneurialism for:

- Digital transformation and smart regions;

- Environmental transformation and sustainability;

- Societal transformation, community building and inclusion.

These efforts of T4EU are complemented by an additional focus on essential transversal components such as digital literacy, green skills, multilingualism and intercultural competencies; common European values and inclusiveness; entrepreneurial culture and mindset.

One of the main Transform4Europe objectives aims to link the T4EU European University with the broader European and global context through an ambitious Outreach Programme. It involves active engagement with academic, economic, and societal stakeholders, with the vision of positioning the T4EU University as a beacon representing the European way of life. The purpose of the Outreach is to promote the Alliance's international visibility, enhance the societal and global impact of T4EU and identify modes and procedures for T4EU to exchange and collaborate with external stakeholders at regional, European, and global level.

This will be pursued through, among other initiatives, the Visiting Professorship as a tool for knowledge transfer and service to society. The Visiting Professorship addresses the T4EU specific objective to connect the Alliance with external academic ecosystems at European and global level. This initiative seeks to attract academics from outside the Alliance for both teaching and research purposes who can provide expertise complementary to the expertise available within the Alliance. It is planned that at least five open calls will be published during the project lifetime. The visiting professors will be hosted by at least two T4EU partner universities. Candidates addressing one or more of the three focus areas or the topic of knowledge entrepreneurialism will be prioritised.

Visiting professors make a tangible impact in the area of knowledge exchange and research by bringing new perspectives, specific expertise and research insights from their home institutions. Their diverse backgrounds enhance interdisciplinary research collaboration and strengthen the innovation power of the host university. Visiting professors play a significant role in academic teaching excellence by exposing students to their, often, very specialised expertise, fostering global awareness in

students, as well as providing them with international networking opportunities and intercultural interaction. In particular, we expect the Visiting Professorship initiative of Transform4Europe to:

- enhance study processes through high-quality teaching and innovative instructional methods;

- expand the opportunities for engaging in research networks;

- benefit the internationalisation of the Alliance through "internationalisation at home";

- strengthen the Alliance internal cohesion (via the joint execution of the visiting professorship);

- contribute to the enhanced visibility of the Alliance among the international academic community (via subsequent joint research and teaching initiatives);

- promote the Alliance by drawing attention to the opportunities for collaboration it offers (via the call for applications).

3.   Framework for the Visiting Professorship

The current framework provides a description of the methodology, criteria and procedures involved in attracting, selecting, and supporting teaching professors who are not part of the Transform4Europe alliance.

Transform4Europe commits to welcoming a minimum of five visiting professors, each of them hosted by two universities of the T4EU alliance. A visiting professor position at the T4EU alliance will be announced in a dedicated open call. The Visiting Professorship initiative will enrich the Alliance by providing exposure to and engagement with opportunities beyond the thematic scope, the teaching and research pool of the partners in T4EU.

3.1 Eligibility

The Visiting Professorship is open to distinguished academics holding the position of professor and/or researcher (Emeritus Professor, Professor, Associate Professor, or a high-level researcher) at their home educational and/or research institution. The candidates for the Visiting Professorship are expected to exemplify academic excellence demonstrated by their scholarly expertise and impactful publication output; effective teaching that nurtures intellectual curiosity and fosters

critical thinking; integrity and high academic standards; leadership and a genuine passion for advancing knowledge and transforming lives.

More specifically, the candidates have to be able to demonstrate academic excellence in one, or more, of the three priority areas of the Alliance: Digital transformation and smart regions; Ecological transformation and sustainability; Societal transformation, community building and inclusion; or in any other area identified by the hosting universities and considered as relevant to the Alliance. They are expected to have proficiency in English and other language(s) as included in the detailed terms of the respective host university published in the Call. Affiliation to T4EU values, intercultural competence and a knowledge entrepreneurial mindset will be considered an asset. The Visiting Professorship welcomes candidates affiliated to educational and/or research institutions outside of the Transform4Europe Alliance regardless of the country of origin.

3.2. Scope of responsibility

The Visiting Professorship award envisages teaching and extracurricular activities, which will be specified by each, or jointly, by the two hosting universities. The selected visiting professor will be required to engage in teaching or research activity according to the planned program of the mobility at the host universities. They will conduct lectures/seminars in their field of expertise and employ innovative interactive approaches to engage their audience. In addition to the teaching activities, the visiting professors are expected to actively engage in networking and explore potential collaborative research opportunities in areas of mutual interest to the sending and the host institutions as well as to the Alliance as a whole. They are encouraged to engage with and/or reach out to the broader community by giving public talks, participating in conferences, organising workshops, etc. To enhance the value brought by the visiting professors and the visibility of the Alliance, the host universities are encouraged to actively involve them in Transform4Europe activities such as Science Cafés, bootcamps, podcasts, etc. Where feasible, visiting professors will commit to communicate and enhance the visibility of the Alliance universities internationally.

3.3. Duration of visit

The duration of the Visiting Professorship will be specified in each Call by the host institutions but should be at least four working days excluding the days for travel.

3.4. Application documents

The candidates are expected to submit the following set of application documents in English:

- CV (max 2 pages);

- teaching and/or research working plan (demonstrating relevance to one/more of the priority areas of T4EU) and a brief proposal for future collaboration with the Alliance;

- invitation letter/email from both hosting institutions that confirms the visit and the planned activities;

- other (specified in the Call by the respective host institutions).

3.5. Eligible costs

The project budget covers eligible costs which will be specified in each Call. The eligible costs shall be in accordance with the regulations of the host institutions as well as the regulations of other mobility programs.

3.6. Budget

Each partner university in the Transform4Europe Alliance commits to allocate up to EUR 15.000 to cover eligible costs related to the Visiting Professorship at the respective university. The cost of the visit is shared by the two hosting universities, which will agree on the co-financing procedure. To optimise expenses, the suggestion is to pair up host universities on a geographic proximity basis. Potential pairings may include the following, but are not restricted to these:

SU/USilesia; UP/UNITS; EKA/VMU; UCP/UA; USAAR/UJM

In case of thematic specifics and preferences of the visiting professors, other pairing arrangements may be considered on an ad hoc basis.

Other instruments/funding opportunities may be used to complement the existing project budget as long as the rules on double funding are not violated.

3.7. Award procedure

The Visiting Professorship is awarded on the basis of a competitive independent application process. The selection committee should comprise at least one representative of the Steering Committee, one member of the Task 2.6 joint Selection Committee, one representative of each host university and one representative of Task 8.3. The Selection Committee should be an odd number. Each representative will have equal voting rights. The selection process timeframe will be outlined in the Call.

3.8. Evaluation criteria

The Selection Committee awards the Transform4Europe Visiting Professorship on a competitive basis. The application with the highest number of points will receive the grant.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration in the evaluation of applications:

Quality (40 points)

- Thematic relevance and quality of the working plan

- Added value of the proposed mobility plan

- Innovative and interdisciplinary approach

Contribution to Transform4Europe goals (30 points)

- Capacity to expand and strengthen collaboration between Transform4Europe universities and the international community as part of the Alliance's academic and research growth

- Capacity to promote and enhance the visibility of the Alliance

Impact (30 points)

- Capacity to reach out to a variety of target audiences (i.e. students, fellow-academics, external stakeholders, etc.)

- Ability to engage in collaborative research within the priority areas of the Transform4Europe alliance

- Ability to establish and maintain academic networks for knowledge transfer and scholarly collaboration in the long run

3.9. The Visiting Professorship Call

The Calls will be published on the T4EU website after consultations with all partners from the Alliance. In addition, the Call shall be communicated to, external for the T4EU alliance, distinguished scholars in the specific Call thematic area and/or institutions with whom the host universities have engaged in academic collaboration and networks.

The Call shall contain the following information:

- the duration of the visit

- the workload envisaged (teaching/research and extra-curricular activities)

- funding

- the deadlines for submission of applications

- the application form and required accompanying documents

- other relevant terms and specific conditions applicable to the award.

The main Call will be announced in the month of August 2024 on the Transform4Europe website.

3.10.   Application procedure

The Visiting Professorship applications will be submitted via a link published on the Transform4Europe website for each Call. Host universities will designate a person from their team to monitor the application procedure and forward the applications to the Selection Committee.

3.11. Formal aspects

The host universities will execute jointly, based on mutual agreement and allocation of the responsibility, the activities regarding:

- contracting (each host university signs a contract with the visiting professor or with her/his sending institution)

- issuance of visa (where applicable)

- health insurance (health insurance will be arranged by the visiting professors and reimbursed by the host institution for the days of the visit within its scope of responsibility)

- other formal matters