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TRANSFORM4EUROPE: THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOR KNOWLEDGE ENTREPRENEURS

Work Package 2 **T4E student and staff profile strategy paper** (D2.5)

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1. KEY QUALIFICATION PROFILE OF TRANSFORM4EUROPE STUDENTS

The Transform4Europe alliance is driven by a common vision for the future of European higher education. Educating a new generation of transformation agents that will help tackle the challenges Europe is facing is at the centre of our mission. We are convinced that successful transformation to face future challenges, such as digital, environmental, and societal transformation processes, needs individuals who are capable and prepared to act as smart agents of change and as true and committed European citizens.

In accordance with its mission statement and vision¹, the alliance has defined the **key qualification profile of Transform4Europe students** as the basis of the joint activities in curricula design. It describes the mind-set and competences needed to become active agents in the European transformation process now and in the future. The key principle is the idea of transformative knowledge-entrepreneurialism.

The Transform4Europe partners join forces to educate a new generation of highly motivated and highly skilled **European knowledge-entrepreneurs**: agents of change with the interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial, digital, multilingual and intercultural competences needed to actively contribute to and shape upcoming challenge-related transformation processes in Europe.

Knowledge-entrepreneurialism differs from the traditional economic concept of entrepreneurship in that it does not aim at producing or maximizing monetary profit, but rather the enhancement of knowledge production and the development of knowledge and expertise through an applied approach. The Transform4Europe alliance complements this concept of knowledge-entrepreneurship with a more social, value-based dimension towards comprehensive social responsibility and European citizenship.

The transformational Transform4Europe knowledge-entrepreneurial mind-set is characterized by specific competences (creating new values, reconciling tensions and dilemmas, taking responsibility) and specific knowledge (systemic, critical, generative and reflexive, with both societal and scientific impact). Transform4Europe knowledge-entrepreneurs are global citizens capable of being critical towards the current status quo and ready to contribute to advancement, demonstrating an integrative, applied approach across diverse European cultures, understanding and dealing with complex systems, and applying interdisciplinary and co-creational approaches to problem-solving.

All students in the alliance can build their study paths on this transformative profile. It allows interdisciplinary, experience-based learning based on new co-creative approaches to learning.

¹ And also in accordance with the Council Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning and the European Reference Framework setting out eight key competences: Literacy competence, Multilingual competence, Mathematical competence and competence in science, technology and engineering, Digital competence, Personal, social and learning to learn competence, Citizenship competence, Entrepreneurship competence, Cultural awareness and expression competence ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018H0604\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018H0604(01)&from=EN))

The Transform4Europe alliance's innovative study programmes provide a sound basis in the respective fields and in-depth knowledge in the fields of specialisation. Guiding principles are:

- Creating tight links between education and research in challenge-driven, transdisciplinary academic programmes.
- Pursuing a co-creational approach, with students, researchers and regional stakeholders collaborating in innovative formats to generate new practice-oriented knowledge.
- Embedding entrepreneurial competences, language-learning and seamless mobility in the Transform4Europe study offer.
- Encouraging service learning and societal engagement.

1.1. Key qualification objectives of the Transform4Europe alliance

The transformative knowledge-entrepreneurs that the Transform4Europe alliance strives to educate excel by the following competences:

- Transform4Europe graduates are used to interdisciplinary collaboration. Open for perspectives and findings of other disciplines, they are broad-minded and value the benefit of cooperation and co-creation across disciplinary and cultural boundaries.
- Transform4Europe graduates have a knowledge-entrepreneurial mind-set characterized by specific competences that enable them to identify and seize opportunities and ideas, and transform them into social, cultural, or productive value. They are able and willing to reconcile tensions and dilemmas and to take social responsibility, making use of their knowledge and skills to help tackling the challenges Europe and the world are facing.
- The Transform4Europe alliance being deeply rooted within the regions, its graduates are particularly aware of their responsibility for their region as well as of the opportunities provided by networking the European regions to a joint knowledge and innovation hub. They possess spatial literacy, the ability to use the properties of space to communicate, reason, and solve problems.
- Transform4Europe graduates have a high level of digital literacy and are well-prepared for the confident, critical and responsible use of, and engagement with, digital technologies. Digital competence has proven to be essential, not only since the corona pandemic during which telework and distance learning have become a reality for a majority of the Transform4Europe students and staff and millions of people in Europe and world-wide.
- Multilingualism being a basic value of the alliance and a requirement for European cooperation and the international job-market, Transform4Europe graduates are plurilingual. Besides their native tongue, they have learned English and have been in contact with at least one other European language.

- Transform4Europe graduates stand out by their intercultural competences. They are global citizens who value international cooperation and are open to foreign cultures, disposing of a high level of cultural (self-)awareness.
- Oriented towards innovation, Transform4Europe graduates give high importance to creativity. They have internalized a problem-solving approach to apply their findings from research.
- Transform4Europe graduates are trained in critical thinking and life skills.
- Transform4Europe graduates stand for strong values of peace, justice, social cohesion, diversity, inclusiveness and active citizenship, and share a sense of European identity.
- Transform4Europe graduates are ready for the transformation required by the challenges of our time and equipped with competences that allow them sustainable lifelong learning.

2. KEY QUALIFICATION PROFILE OF TRANSFORM4EUROPE STAFF

The Transform4Europe alliance is convinced that successful transformation to face future challenges like digital, environmental, and societal transformation processes, needs individuals who are capable and prepared to act as smart agents of change and as true and committed European citizens. In accordance with its mission statement and vision², the alliance has defined the **key qualification profile of T4Europe staff** (both academic and non-academic) as the basis of the joint activities in teacher training and professional development. It describes the mind-set and competences needed to act as active agents in the European transformation process now and in the future. The key principle is the idea of transformative knowledge-entrepreneurialism.

The transformational Transform4Europe knowledge-entrepreneurial mind-set is characterized by specific competences (creating new values, reconciling tensions and dilemmas, taking responsibility) and specific knowledge (systemic, critical, generative and reflexive, with both societal and scientific impact). Transform4Europe knowledge-entrepreneurs are global citizens capable of being critical towards the current status quo and ready to contribute to advancement, demonstrating an integrative, applied approach across diverse European cultures, understanding and dealing with complex systems, and applying interdisciplinary and co-creational approaches to problem-solving.

Knowledge-entrepreneurialism differs from the traditional economic concept of entrepreneurship in that it does not aim at producing or maximizing monetary profit, but rather the enhancement of knowledge production and the development of knowledge and expertise through an applied approach. The T4Europe alliance complements this concept of knowledge-entrepreneurship with a more social, value-based dimension towards comprehensive social responsibility and European citizenship.

The Transform4Europe vision and mission of transforming Europe by educating knowledge-entrepreneurs require the partner institutions to transform themselves and their way of cooperating with each other. The alliance strives to create one single joint sustainable European University characterised by a strategic network of the universities and key stakeholders from their surrounding regions, joint challenge-driven academic programmes with embedded entrepreneurial competences and language-learning, innovative knowledge-creating formats between students, staff and entrepreneurs and practitioners, innovative teaching methods and learning environments, seamless and inclusive mobility around the transnational T4E ecosystem and a lively European campus spirit.

The Transform4Europe staff need to have a specific profile enabling them to fulfil the transformative tasks and activities that the alliance has set for itself, and to teach and educate

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the European knowledge-entrepreneurs of tomorrow: agents of change with the interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial, digital, multilingual and intercultural competences needed to actively contribute to and shape upcoming challenge-related transformation processes in Europe.

The following describes the transformative profile that the Transform4Europe alliance will support their academic and non-academic staff to develop.

2.1. Key qualification objectives of professional development for academic and non-academic staff of the Transform4Europe alliance

- Transform4Europe staff are used to international collaboration. They are broad-minded and value the benefit of cooperation and co-creation across disciplinary and cultural boundaries.
- Transform4Europe staff have a knowledge-entrepreneurial mind-set characterized by specific competences that enable them to identify and seize opportunities and ideas, and transform them into social, cultural, or productive value. They are able and willing to reconcile tensions and dilemmas and to take social responsibility, making use of their knowledge and skills to help tackling the challenges Europe and the world are facing.
- The Transform4Europe alliance being deeply rooted within the regions, its staff are particularly aware of their responsibility for their region as well as of the opportunities provided by networking the European regions to a joint knowledge and innovation hub. They possess spatial literacy, the ability to use the properties of space to communicate, reason, and solve problems.
- Digital competences have proven to be essential, not only since the corona pandemic during which telework and distance learning have become a reality for a majority of the Transform4Europe students and staff and millions of people in Europe and world-wide. Transform4Europe staff have a high level of digital literacy and are well-prepared for the confident, critical and responsible use of, and engagement with, digital technologies.
- Multilingualism being a basic value of the alliance and a requirement for European cooperation, Transform4Europe staff are plurilingual. Besides their native tongue, they speak English and have been in contact with at least one other European language spoken in the alliance.
- Transform4Europe staff stand out by their intercultural competences. They are global citizens who value international cooperation and are open to foreign cultures, disposing of a high level of cultural (self-)awareness.
- Transform4Europe staff stand for strong values of peace, justice, social cohesion, diversity, inclusiveness and active citizenship, and share a sense of European identity.

- Transform4Europe staff are ready for the transformation required by the challenges of our time and equipped with competences that allow them sustainable lifelong learning.