



## HEINNOVATE USER EXPERIENCE CASE STUDY

### LUT UNIVERSITY, FINLAND

#### Stimulating Discussion

##### **Background**

Since its establishment in 1969, LUT University has a successful track record in university-industry collaboration. The University has 5,200 students across its three Schools (School of Business & Management; School of Energy Systems; School of Engineering Science). Entrepreneurship programmes are available to all students (undergraduate, master's level and doctoral students). Master's degree programmes in Entrepreneurship have been running since August 2005, and since 2008, LUT has offered further education for teachers in entrepreneurship education. All LUT students, independent of their major programme of study, can take a minor programme in Entrepreneurship. An active student-driven entrepreneurial society - LUTES - has been stimulating interest in student entrepreneurship for several years. Furthermore, LUT has its own 'accelerator' and 'investment company' to promote the commercialization of research.

##### **Details**

Within in LUT's 'Trailblazer 2020' strategy, entrepreneurship was a cross-cutting theme across all university activities. LUT used the *HEInnovate* tool to assess how its strategic aims - especially those in the Action Plan for Entrepreneurship - were being met. Based on their strategy, LUT ran two *HEInnovate* assessment exercises (in 2015 and 2017). The first round (2015) was conducted as a survey targeted at all students and staff members (with an email sent by the Rector); in the second round (2017), small discussion groups were conducted.

The groups in the 2017 assessment exercise represented all of the main functions and Schools within the University. Members from the local Chamber of Commerce were also involved. Each group was given between three and six *HEInnovate* dimensions to assess. For example, the following dimensions were selected for the Management group of the School of Business & Management: 1) Leadership and Governance; 2) Organisational Capacity; 3) Entrepreneurial Teaching and Learning; 4) Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs, and 5) Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration.

##### **Results**

- *HEInnovate* works well as a tool if the aim is to stimulate discussion about the current state of entrepreneurship promotion and related activities within the institution;
- Trying to get responses by email does not work;
- It is essential to provide feedback to respondents in relation to assessment results, and inform them what can or will be done to improve the University's entrepreneurial standing.

##### **Key Takeaways**

University staff are eager to discuss the current state of entrepreneurship within their organisation. The *HEInnovate* tool is useful for facilitating such discussion. In addition, the *HEInnovate* tool provides an indication of what works and what does not work. It is important to note that the organization must be ready to respond to the development needs emerging from using the tool and follow-up with more robust discussions.