Rethinking educational policy to embed public and community engagement

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Introductions
RRI?
RRI in a Nutshell

• Solving real world problems collaboratively
• Research and innovation (including applied research) addressing research questions from society
• Collaborations between researchers, policymakers, civil society organisations, statutory bodies and industry at all stages of the research process

*Dublin Institute of Technology*
RRI Values

• Democratic values regarding participation and power
• Social and moral values regarding the care of the future of our planet and its people
• Individual and institutional values of open-mindedness or receptiveness to change
European education policy

- Bologna Process
- Europe 2020
- ET2020 (Educational policy)
- Modernisation of Higher Education
Key priorities for the implementation of ET2020

The development of relevant and high quality skills and competences, focusing on learning outcomes, for employability, innovation and active citizenship

• Promotion of labour market and societal relevance of HE including new forms of curriculum, more work based learning and enhanced cooperation between institutions and employers

• Inclusive education, equality, non-discrimination and promotion of civic competences’ including ‘promoting civic, intercultural, social and relational competences, mutual understanding and respect, and ownership of democratic values and fundamental rights’

• Mainstreaming innovative and active pedagogies such as interdisciplinary teaching and collaborative methods, to enhance the development of relevant and high-level skills and competences while fostering inclusive education’

QUB Policy Context

Education Policy:
Queen’s delivering ‘high quality leading edge education...focussed on the needs of society’

Civic Engagement Strategy?

Research Strategy?
UK Context

- White paper
- Teaching Excellence Framework

‘We take a broad view of teaching excellence, including the teaching itself, the learning environments in which it takes place, and the outcomes it delivers. We expect higher education to deliver well designed courses, robust standards, support for students, career readiness and an environment that develops the ‘soft skills’ that employers consistently say they need. These include capacity for critical thinking, analysis and teamwork, along with the vital development of a student’s ability to learn.’
Irish Context

CAMPUS ENGAGE
CHARTER FOR CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONE
We, the Irish Higher Education Institutions, wish to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our higher education institutions over the years, pursuing engagement with local communities, and society at large, for the common good;

TWO
We will continue to promote civic and community engagement through the mission and strategy of our institutions wherever possible;

THREE
We will promote civic and community engagement through a variety of community-based learning, community-based research, public scholarship and volunteering activities and seek to align these with the overall teaching, research and outreach missions of our institutions;

FOUR
We will continue to build a campus community imbued with a civic culture through our use of space, cultural activities, commitment to diversity, co-operation with partners, student civic engagement and all relevant operational practices;

FIVE
We will pursue, through a variety of means, our aspiration to open our campuses to local communities, and our social, arts, cultural, academic and sports activities will, where possible, promote local community engagement and partnership;

SIX
We will contribute to the widening participation and lifelong learning agendas by promoting civic and community engagement, combating disadvantage and furthering the social inclusion mission of higher education;

SEVEN
We will partner with relevant stakeholders and agencies to promote our institutions as hubs of engagement activity in order to actively address the local and regional development, regeneration and research agendas;

EIGHT
Our campus and all our activities will be informed by the sustainability agenda in recognition that a ‘green campus’ contributes to community well-being and economic development;

NINE
We will continue to promote the engagement of our institutions with the wider society through two-way knowledge exchanges, and actively communicate the social relevance and impact of our research and teaching activities as broadly as possible;

TEN
We will continue to advocate for appropriate resources, both financial and human, to achieve high impact civic and community engagement activities to maintain and build on what we have achieved to date.
Irish Context

Dr Michael Murphy, President of UCC signing the campus engage charter
Irish Context

... but universities are also a part of our societies. What’s the point unless the accumulated knowledge, insight and vision are put at the service of the community? With the privilege to pursue knowledge comes the civic responsibility to engage and put that knowledge to work in the service of humanity”.

President Michael D. Higgins at the launch of the Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research, Galway, Friday, 24th February, 2012
Irish Context

Chapter 5 of National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030:

“Higher education institutions become more firmly embedded in the social and economic contexts of the communities they live in and serve.”

• Mission-based Performance Compact Section 5.5
  Enhance Engagement with industry and community and embedded Knowledge Exchange