

# Modular training toolkit for students engaged in ENHANCE activities

## Executive summary

We propose the concept of a toolkit intended for students interested in engaging in ENHANCE activities. We present ideas, tips, and advice for organising processes that involve students in co-creating activities associated primarily with teaching and learning and with research to a lesser extent. We show examples of such activities currently taking place at the ENHANCE universities.

We believe that the toolkit will assist students in learning about ample opportunities of engaging in ENHANCE activities and in organising events aimed at increasing the participation of their colleagues in co-creation processes. We advise students on how to most effectively engage in such processes and thereby motivate and empower them as co-creators of education and research taking place at the ENHANCE universities. Although the toolkit is intended primarily for students, academic staff can also find it a useful source of information and inspiration.

The report has two parts.

The first part gives a brief review of the relevant literature on the participation of students in various forms of co-creation activities taking place at universities. Several types of engagement and the different roles of students in co-creation processes are discussed. As an example, the “ladder of student participation in curriculum design” shows how student engagement in the development of a curriculum can evolve from essentially no interaction, through having some choice and control of prescribed areas to having a substantial influence on all decision-making processes regarding the curriculum.

Other aspects of students’ involvement in the development of a curriculum or its part – a course or a module – are also discussed, including:

- different approaches regarding the number of students participating in co-creation (a small selection of students vs. all the students participating in the co-creation process),
- different approaches to co-creation (co-creation of the curriculum – before the programme or course takes place vs. co-creation in the curriculum – co-design of learning and teaching within a course or programme, usually during the course or programme).

The large spectrum of possible outcomes of the co-creation processes reported in the literature is presented as well.

In the second part of the report, we focus on six selected types of co-creation processes taking place at universities, namely:

- co-creating of events and workshops by students,
- co-researching and undertaking scholarship projects by students supported by staff,
- students’ participation in course and curriculum design review committees,
- co-assessing by students,
- co-designing courses and curricula by students,
- co-evaluation of courses by students.

These six types of co-creation activity correspond to six modules in our toolkit.

For each module, the following issues are discussed:

- encouraging students: What are potential incentives for a student to participate in co-creation activities? How to encourage students to get involved in co-creation of university activities? What can discourage students from participating in the co-creation process?
- costs and benefits: Do we need the co-creation at university? What are the costs (not necessarily monetary) of co-creation? What are the benefits (for whom) of co-creation?
- organisation: How to organise the co-creation process engaging a small group of students/the whole class?

Then, examples of co-creation activities taking place at the ENHANCE universities are presented to show possible directions and inspire future developments. Finally, for each module, a scenario is proposed to advise the students on how to engage in each type of co-creation process effectively.

The basic concepts presented in the report, related to six identified aspects of university activity where co-creation could be particularly beneficial, were initially discussed at meetings of the Higher Education Innovator working group. The proposed recommendations are based on the outcomes of the "Workshop for modular training toolkit for students engaged in ENHANCE activities" organised by the Warsaw University of Technology on 5 November 2021. The workshop was conducted online using WebEx and Miro and attended by 13 representatives of 6 ENHANCE universities: students, academics, and members of administrative staff:

<https://workshop.enhance.pw.edu.pl/toolkitstudentscocreation>