



Testing and Implementing HEI Acceleration services

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A Strategic EU Push for HEI Transformation

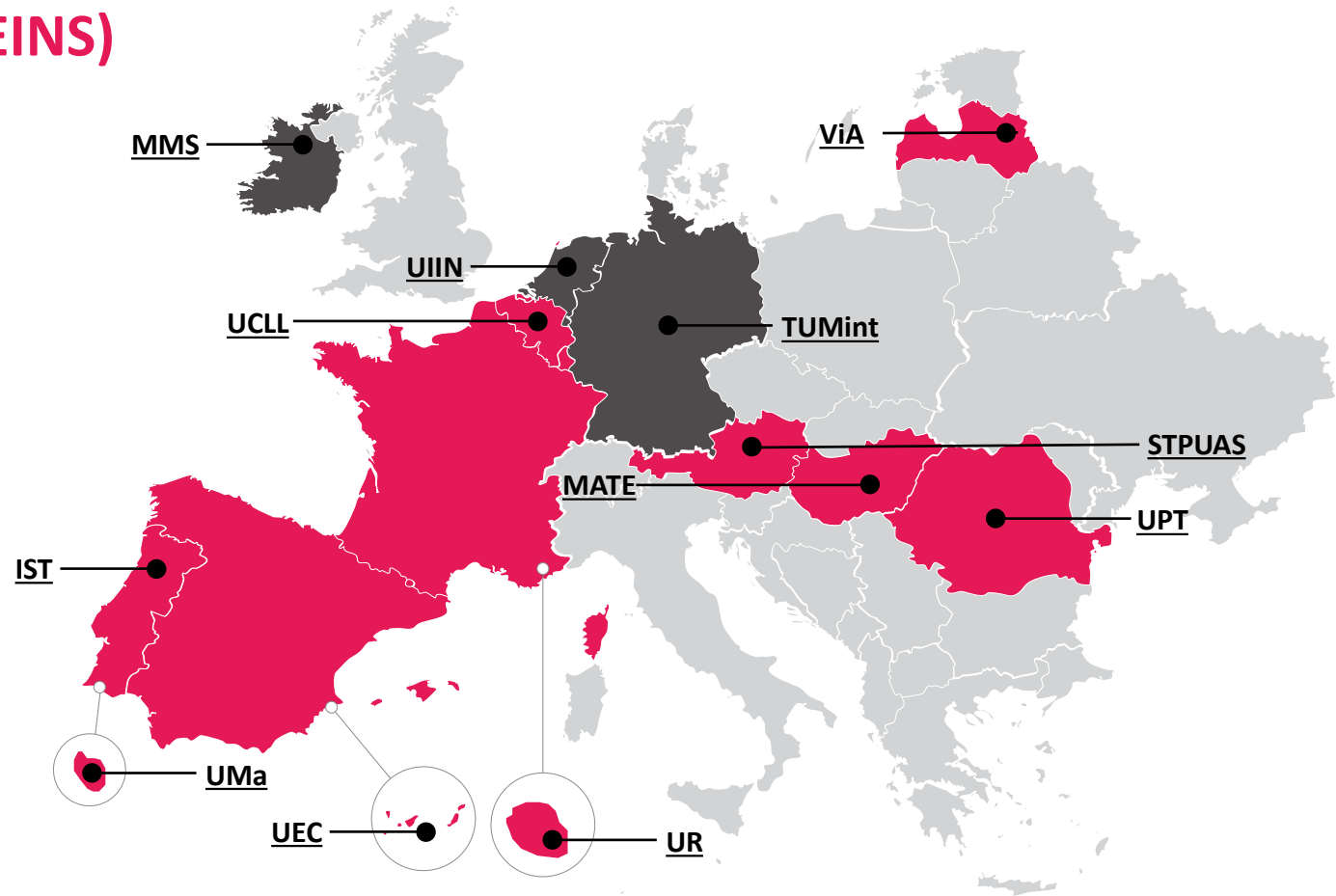
- Horizon Europe Call: WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-51
- Support for institutional transformation
- Focus: coaching, roadmaps, evaluation
- Accelerate Future HEI starts in January 2023 (ends December 2026)



Our Consortium

■ 9 Testing Partners (INCORE + EINS)

■ 3 Acceleration Partners



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OBJECTIVES



IDENTIFY

the status quo of each HEI and its ecosystem regarding entrepreneurial and innovative activities.



DEVELOP

test and implement acceleration services that help institutions undertake a transformation roadmap and projects.



BUILD

the capacity of the participating HEIs' staff to implement the transformation roadmaps through **a skills development program**.



EVALUATE

the strategies from HEIs supervised by an 'Acceleration Board' of **independent experts**.



GENERATE

policy feedback to the European Commission as well as provide widespread dissemination of the pilot results to other target groups.



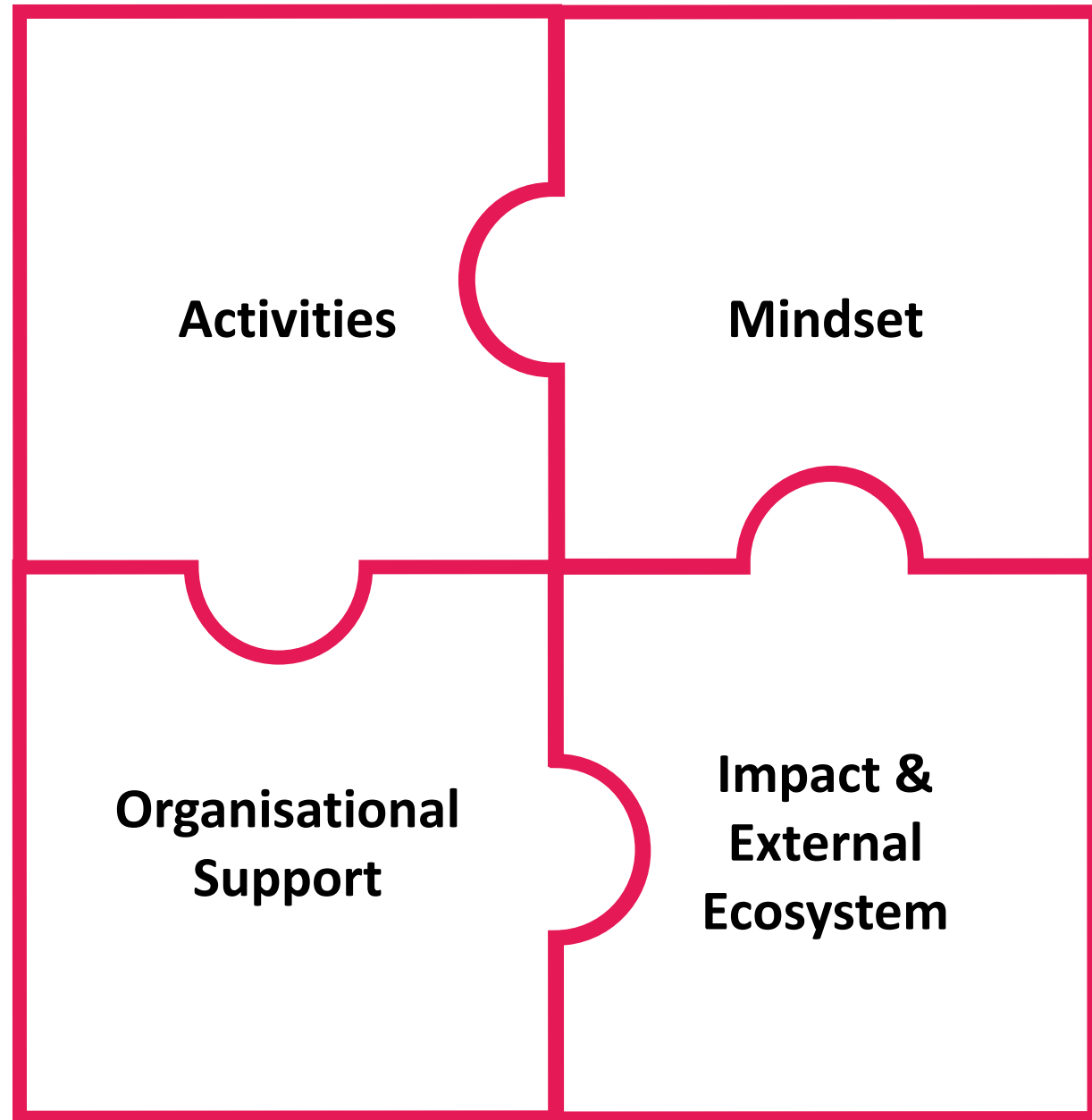
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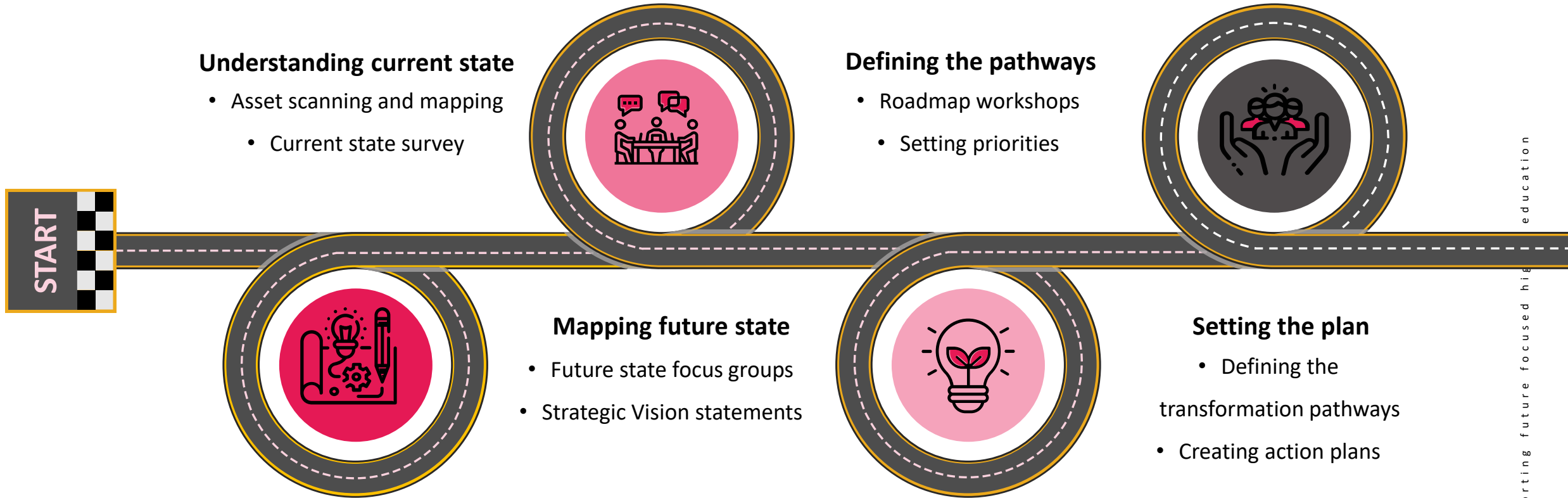
Framework

UIIN Entrepreneurial and Innovative University Framework[®] as foundation for the methodology to:

- Identify desired future state
- Map current state
- Develop roadmap to achieve goals



Acceleration Services Phase 1

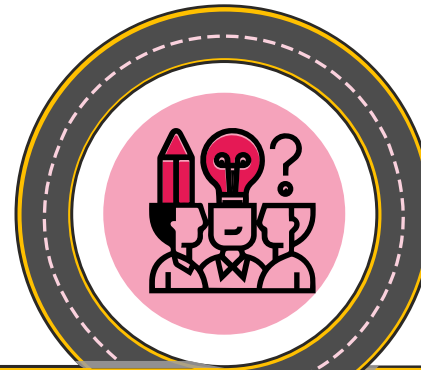


Acceleration Services Phase 2



Monitoring and evaluation

- Impact workshops
- Progress tracking and updates

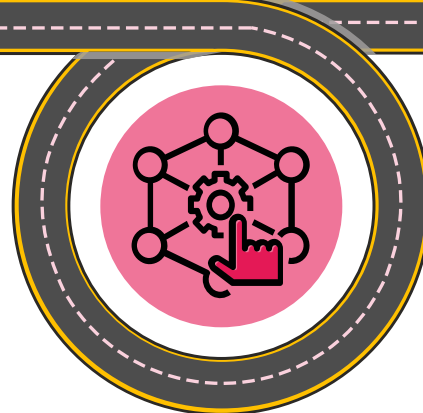


Communication

- Storytelling & outreach
- Stakeholder engagement

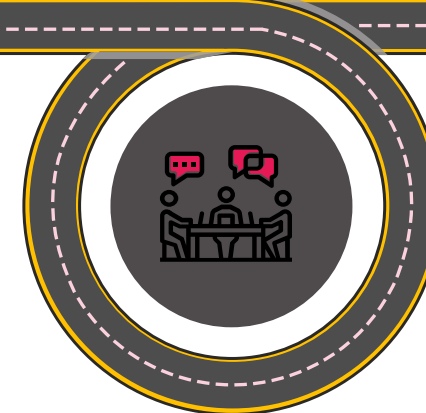
Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing

- Training courses
- Coaching by mentors
- Working group sessions



Forward-looking

- Cohort knowledge exchange events
- Investment strategy workshops





Transformation Pathways: examples

ViA (Latvia): Regional Ecosystem Engagement

- **Business Laboratory 2025:** 37 students trained, 3 winning regional grants.
- **Youth Innovation Forum:** 138 participants (students, teachers, pupils), masterclasses on entrepreneurship, policy dialogue with schools.
- **Strong municipal collaboration** with 3 regions (Cēsis, Limbaži, Smiltene).

Biznesa laboratorija
2025



Ievads uzņēmējdarbībā un dizaina domāšanā |
Inovāciju veidi | Mentoru konsultācijas |
Biznesa modeļa izstrāde | Digitālais mārketingu un
zīmols | Finanšu vadība | Prezentācijas prasmes

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES | EUDRES | cēsis | Limbažu novads | Smiltenes novads | accelerate futureHEI | Funded by the European Union



VIDZEME UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES



UCLL (Belgium): Institutional Transformation through Curriculum



- **Donut Economics Handbook:** new foundation for economics courses.
- **Multiplying impact:** Handbook will become available for other University Colleges in Flanders (via publisher).
- **SME/NGO Collaboration:** student projects on sustainability & social innovation for regional organisations (CIMIO and VOKA)



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IST (Portugal): BuildHub - Entrepreneurship in the Built Environment



- **Thematic Entrepreneurship Hub** aligned with Técnico Venture Lab.
- **Activities:** co-creation workshops, hackathons, mentorship sessions, funding strategies.
- **Impact Pathways:** external advisory boards for curricula, industry partnerships, mentoring hours, new startup pipeline, multi-stakeholder collaboration (university–business–government).



UEC (Spain): Breaking Down Silos Across Faculties



- **Shared KPIs across 3 faculties** (first time ever).
- **New innovation spaces:** CEOE Center (2024), labs in architecture.
- **Joint student activities:** LEIN CAMP, Hunger4Innovation, Dream BIG.
- **Systemic change:** acceleration services catalysed interfaculty collaboration & mindset shift.



**Universidad
Europea**



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Challenges for EU Policy

- How do we ensure HEI transformation efforts don't stop at the project level?
- How will future EU programmes incentivise breaking silos — within institutions and across regions?
- How can EU policy flexibly support place-based innovation while still aiming for cohesion?





“Transformation is about aligning vision, tools, and people for systemic change”





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