

Inspiring the Minds: Embedding inclusion, diversity and climate action into the academic environment

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The Inspiring the Minds project is a collaboration between five European institutes, aiming to develop a new framework for co-creating educational programs/courses that will address the lack of competencies related to inclusion, diversity, and climate action. The project will test this mechanism by developing an interdisciplinary course that focuses on the two end-members of knowledge: inclusion and diversity in society and green skills required to take climate actions. The stakeholders, including academics, business partners, and non-profit organizations, will play an essential role in defining the course's objectives based on society's needs.

The European Green Deal's objective is to leave no one behind, making inclusion and diversity crucial in building a sustainable, resilient, and just Europe. Gaining competencies related to these topics will help students overcome skill mismatch and meet employment needs, while academic, business, and non-profit sectors will benefit from knowledge exchange among them. The use and transfer of the newly developed framework will impact the academic sector in Europe, ultimately benefiting European society.

The Inspiring the Minds project is part of the CloudEARTH*i* initiative, led by UiT The Arctic University of Norway, aiming to transform society to be more sustainable, greener, resilient, and inclusive by building innovation capacity using big data, AI, and deep technology. This will enable understanding and analyzing different social challenges. The CloudEARTH*i* initiative aims to unlock the potential of higher education institutes as engines of change.

The project received administrative and financial support from the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills and is funded by the Erasmus+ - KA2 Cooperation among Organizations and Institutions. The project partners represent different stakeholders from five European countries, including higher education institutions, business, non-governmental organizations, and governmental institutes.