

Impact assessment in HE regional development and cooperation

1 Introduction

Today, accountability is an increasingly relevant issue in regional development and cooperation of higher education. Beyond input and output, the question of outcomes and impact has become a dominant theme in the last years and will be in the future. So far, most universities do not assess their real impact(s) yet.

Stakeholders and shareholders demand to see prove of the effectiveness and efficiency of their investments also in these non-economic areas. The pressure to be able to provide evidence is ever growing. Yet there is on the one side a certain reluctance towards indicator-based impact assessment in higher education. The reasons for this reluctance may vary and range from the preference for appearance and claim to the fear of discovering short-comings.

However, this attitude is not sustainable and the GII therefore is convinced that there is an immense need for impact assessment in this field which is so far not exploited widely nor with the right approach.

2 The offer

The GII offers Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to assess the impact of their activities, programmes and projects in the field of regional development and cooperation in order to improve this impact in relation to the goal of the institution for that specific programme or project.

The impact assessment will be based on the goals of the HEI in the area of regional development and cooperation. In cases, where institutions did not yet establish such goals, we can help to clarify them. In the next step, the GII will then identify the impact indicators to conduct a tailor-made impact analysis.

The impact assessment is offered on the three levels:

1. **“quick assessment”**: a one-off, document and data-based impact assessment which is conducted entirely desk research;
2. **“intensive assessment”**: a one-off impact assessment comprising all of the content of the quick assessment plus active data collection (surveys/interviews) and at least one site visit at the HEI and if necessary regional and local authorities and partners;
3. **“long-term assessment”**: a time series of impact assessments (minimum 3 years) comprising all content of the intensive assessment over time plus, if wanted to the Impact Monitor as used in the IAI label process (see the respective offer).

The GII is currently already present in Australia, Czech Republic, Canada, France, Japan, Singapore, Spain, and the UK and thus can guarantee personal real-time support globally. Its members are well-known individuals in the higher education and internationalisation sector.

3 USPs of the GII

The main USPs are:

1. The GII is the only institution offering impact assessment in regional development and cooperation of HEIs globally.
2. The GII is through the Associate Professorship of its Managing Partner affiliated top the Chair of Knowledge Region at the Universitat Rovira I Virgili in Tarragona, Spain, and the competence of the team of the Chair is available for impact assessment.
3. The various of the GII members have global reputation in the field of impact as well as regional development and cooperation.
4. The GII combines practical, consulting and academic competence in impact assessment.
5. The GII does not provide a fixed set of standards against which an organisation is measured (the “Cinderella’s shoe” problem)
6. The GII helps the organisation to achieve the coherence between aims and impact.
7. The GII offers an approach that is, to our knowledge, unique in the field of impact assessment.

4 Costs

The impact assessment is designed to be accessible for all types of HEIs. It shall be economically feasible and as efficient as possible.

The costs, depending on the type of assessment, are:

Type of cost	price in €
Quick assessment	3,950.00
Intensive assessment (concrete price depends on extend of survey and site visits)	from 6,950.00
Long-term assessment (concrete price depends on extend of survey and site visits, mentioned price is per annum with a minimum of 3 years)	p.a. from 4,950.00

Additional costs are travel costs (flight (under 6 hrs: economy class; above 6 hrs: business class), taxi, accommodation).