



Universities as Regional Innovation Catalysts: Insights from the NEOLAIa Qualitative Analysis

The Goal of the research

The primary objective of this initiative was to understand how universities can strengthen their impact on local entrepreneurial ecosystems, support start-up development, and enhance cooperation with external stakeholders—ranging from SMEs and investors to public institutions and NGOs.

Key Findings Across the NEOLAIa Regions:

Universities are key enablers of talent development, technology transfer, and entrepreneurial education.

Start-up incubators and technology transfer centres (TTCs) led by universities facilitate the commercialization of research and the creation of spin-offs.

Partnerships with industry in fields such as IT, healthcare, agriculture, and green energy are advancing applied innovation.

Internship and mentorship programmes co-designed with businesses increase student employability and address labour market needs.

Looking Ahead:

To enhance regional innovation capacity, NEOLAIa universities will continue to:

Develop interdisciplinary innovation hubs;

Expand business-education collaborations;

Foster sustainable entrepreneurship models that address both economic and societal challenges.

A Shared Commitment:

This research confirms that universities are not only educational institutions, but strategic anchors in the regional innovation landscape. By aligning academic expertise with real-world challenges and investing in collaborative ecosystems, we are committed to building resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking regions.

NEWS CORNER

Universities as Regional Innovation catalysts

As part of the NEOLAIa Alliance's commitment to fostering societal engagement and regional development, the participating universities have jointly conducted an in-depth qualitative study to map and assess regional entrepreneurship ecosystems. This collaborative effort reflects our shared vision to act as drivers of innovation, knowledge transfer, and inclusive economic growth.

NEOLAIa WP6 Entrepreneurship meeting in Romania

This meeting will bring together representatives from NEOLAIa universities to: share preliminary findings from the qualitative research on regional innovation ecosystems; explore best practices in stakeholder engagement and entrepreneurship training; identify collaborative opportunities for innovation hubs, start-up support, and policy alignment.

NEO Entrepreneurship Conference

This prestigious event is organized by the Faculty of Economics, Administration and Business, „Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, and will take place on June 3rd – 7th, 2025, in Suceava, Romania.

Conference Partners: NEOLAIa European Universities Alliance, The Association of Romanian Economics Faculties (AFER), Romania European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSR)

WP6 Entrepreneurship



NEOLAIa WP6 Entrepreneurship Group Meeting in Romania

 Date:- 4-5th of June 2025
 Location: Suceava, Romania – Ștefan cel Mare University Campus.

The recent meeting successfully brought together representatives from NEOLAiA partner universities involved in WP6 to: share preliminary findings from the qualitative research on regional innovation ecosystems; explore best practices in stakeholder engagement and entrepreneurship training; and identify collaborative opportunities for innovation hubs, start-up support, and policy alignment across NEOLAiA regions.s.

Entrepreneurship Insights Survey!

Participate in our survey and help us create tailored training programs that meet your specific needs. Your input will help us provide you with the right tools to take your business to the next level. Your voice matters! Want to see training programs that address your business's unique challenges? Take our survey and be part of the solution. Together, we can build a brighter future for ENTREPRENEURS!



Your responses will help us identify the challenges and areas for improvement in entrepreneurial education and tailor our entrepreneurial programs to your needs.

Scan the code now and let's
build a stronger entrepreneurial
ecosystem together!



NEOLAIA



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"Universities as Engines of Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship"

We are pleased to announce that the NEOLAiA WP6 Entrepreneurship Group meeting was hosted by Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava (USV), Romania.

- The agenda included:
- Keynote session on regional innovation models in Eastern Europe;
- Presentations from focus group results;
- Conference debates and presentation
- Planning session for upcoming deliverables and joint initiatives

This meeting represents a crucial step in strengthening our strategic role in fostering inclusive, innovation-driven regional development through university-business-government collaboration.

WP6 Entrepreneurship



 The Goal of the research:

Three pilot training courses will be organized for (1) bachelors and masters students; (2) for PhD and postdoc researchers and; lastly (3) for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.