Universitetsalliancer

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Agenda

- Welcome and introduction

- Presentation of two different strategic alliances

  - UCN: HEROES Alliance – a European University initiative

  - VIA: International Partnership Alliances

- Introduction to the workshop

- Pause

- Workshop

- Joint discussion and wrap-up

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HEROES

By Mette Samuelsen Head of UCN International Office & Gro Villumsen, Senior Consultant and HEROES SPOC and project manager at UCN

Knowledge is power.
Resilience and innovation are superpowers.

The Heroes case in points

- The European University Initiative
- Why UCN chose to become part of developing HEROES
- HEROES 101
- Governance
- Successes and challenges so far

HEROES – Part of the European University Initiative

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

- Flagship initiative from the European Commission
- The target is 60 European universities. As of last call, there are 64 alliances in 35 countries
- Must build on partners' own strategies
- Legal entity
- Connects research, education, innovation and civil society - Quadruple Helix
- Aimed at students - you must be able to combine education across Europe
- Ensure better coherence between the European Education Area (EEA) and the European Research Area (ERA)
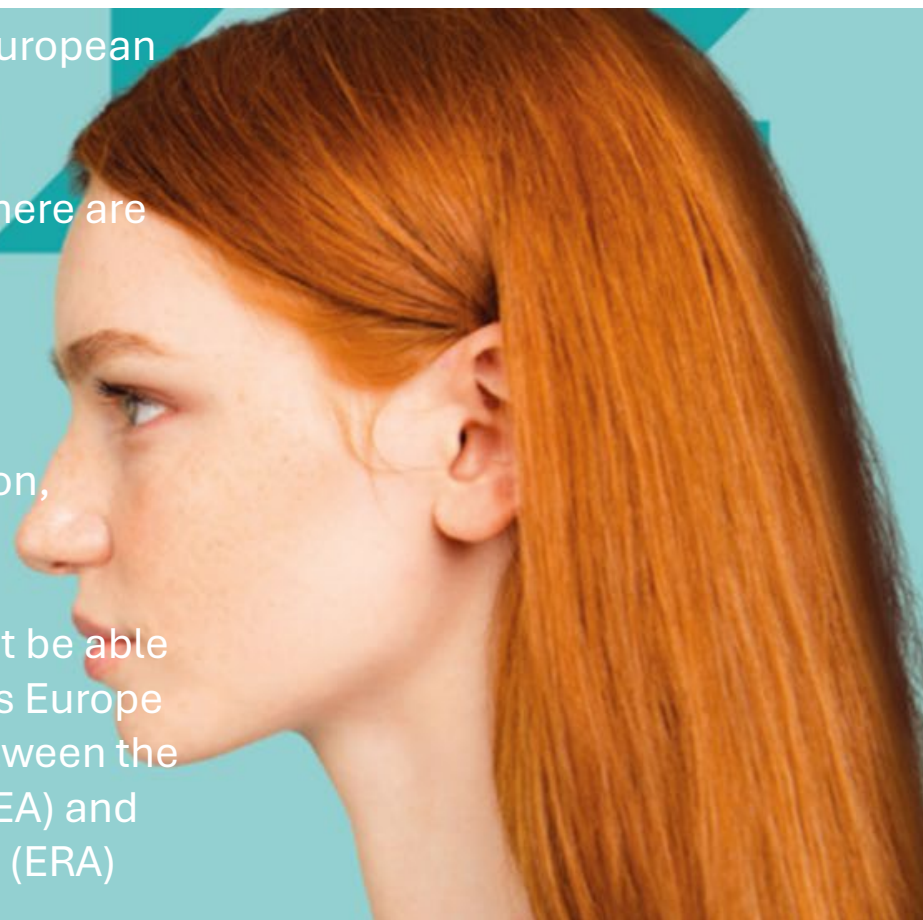
European inter-university Campuses

Bachelor/Master/Doctoral levels

Flexible and personalised European curriculum	Innovative pedagogies and challenged-based transdisciplinary approach	Embedded and seamless student and staff mobility

Forward looking skills

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
Erasmus+

European Commission

Why UCN chose to become part of developing HEROES

- Strengthen international strategic partnerships within:
  - Education
  - Research
  - Further Education and Lifelong Learning
  - Innovation
- Internal Competence Building
- Develop, and test new learning methods and tools at a larger scale
- Create new learning pathways
- Internationalisation@home
- Strengthen our regional ecosystem

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HEROES 101

H igher
E ducation for
R esilience
O riented and
E mpowered
S ocieties

HEROES

☐ Partners
☐ Associated Higher
Education Institutions

Seinäjoki University
of Applied Sciences
Finland

University College
Northern Denmark
Denmark

Halmstad University
Sweden

Vilniaus Kolegija/Higher
Education Institution
Lithuania

Fontys University
of Applied Sciences
Netherlands

Ukranian Catholic
University
Ukraine

Thomas More University
of Applied Sciences
Belgium

Artois University
France

Deggendorf Institute
of Technology
Germany

Mendel University
Czech Republic

Universum
International College
Kosovo

Polytechnic
University of Beja
Portugal

Ismail Qemali
University of Vlorë
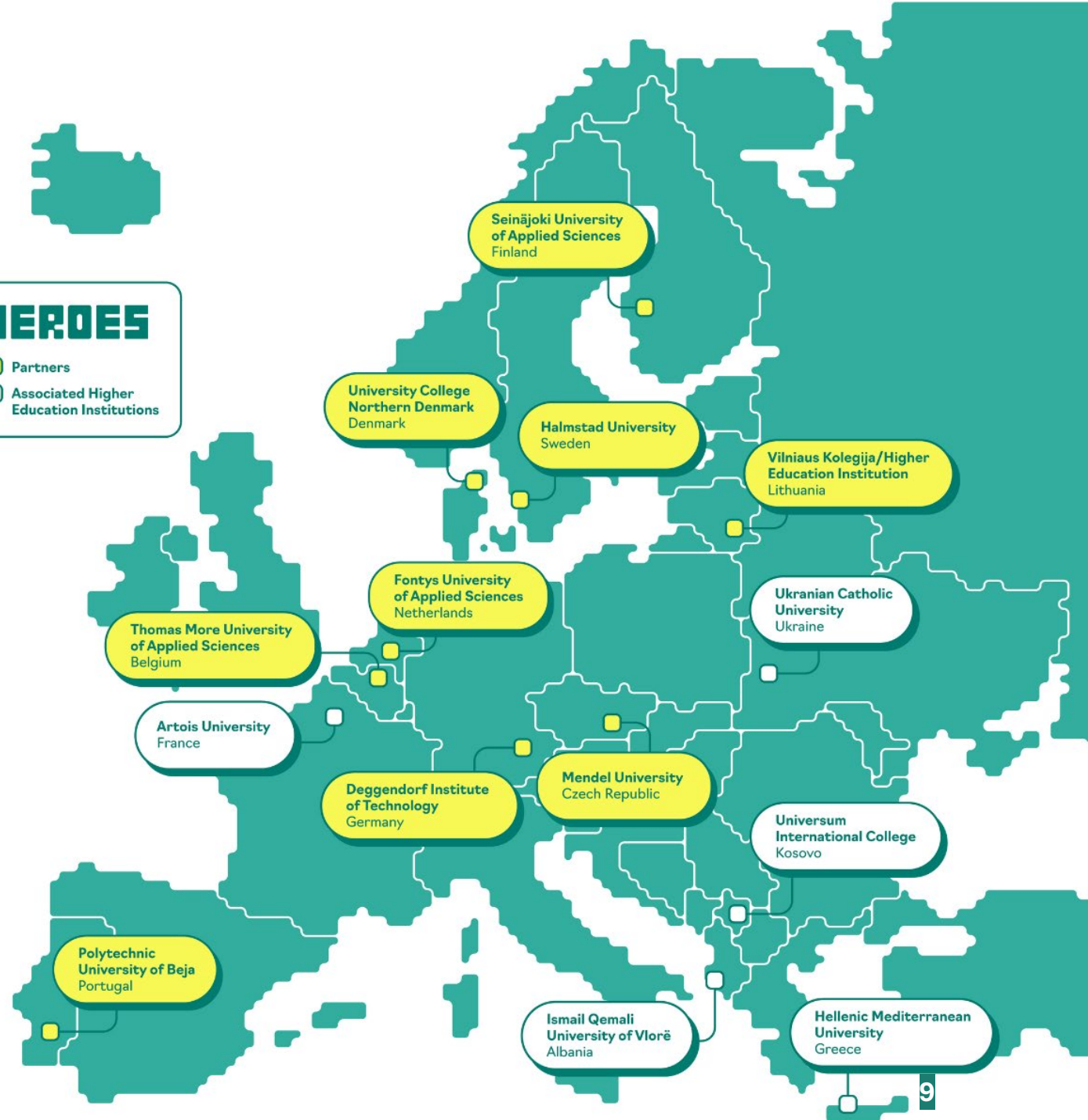Albania

Hellenic Mediterranean
University
Greece

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We are HEROES

- 9 + 5 partners
- 120,000 students
- 22 campuses
- 14,000 staff
- Alumni, local stakeholders, umbrella organisations and citizens of the HEROES partner countries
- Professional higher education community and policymakers in Europe and beyond

HEROES

☐ Partners
☐ Associated Higher Education Institutions

Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences
Finland

University College Northern Denmark
Denmark

Halmstad University
Sweden

Vilniaus Kolegija/Higher Education Institution
Lithuania

Ukranian Catholic University
Ukraine

Fontys University of Applied Sciences
Netherlands

Thomas More University of Applied Sciences
Belgium

Artois University
France

Deggendorf Institute of Technology
Germany

Mendel University
Czech Republic

Universum International College
Kosovo

Polytechnic University of Beja
Portugal

Ismail Qemali University of Vlorë
Albania

Hellenic Mediterranean University
Greece

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We need HEROES

The HEROES Alliance transforms the talents of EU citizens into superpowers that advance the ==smart regional resilience== of people, businesses and nature.

HEROES leverages human-centred, nature-positive and resilience-enhancing ==digital innovations== to solve complex problems.
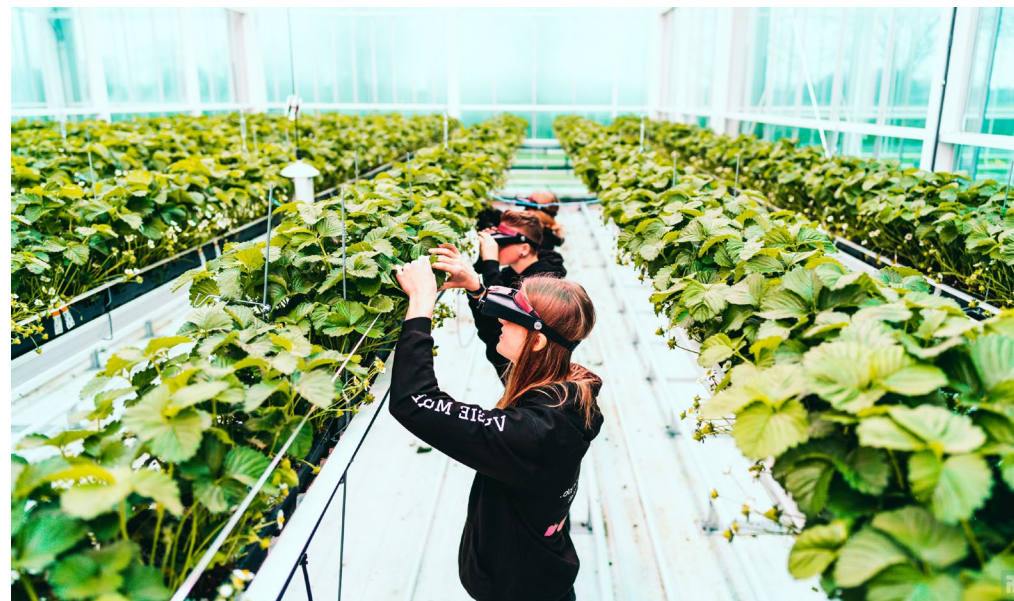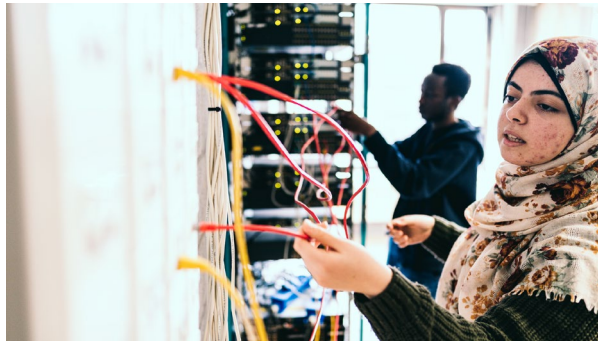
To achieve its purpose, HEROES focuses on quality professional ==education==, impactful practice-oriented scientific ==research== and ==collaboration== between like-minded partners.
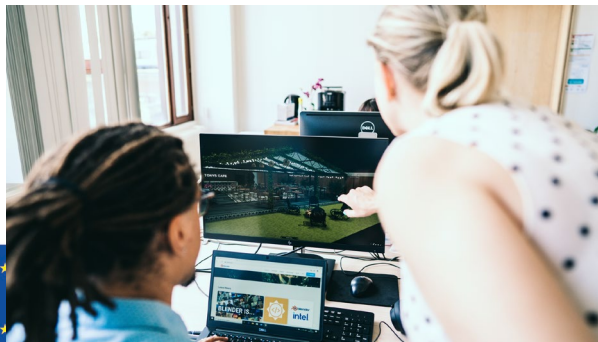

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HEROES Flagships

- **EDUCATION 4 HEROES** deepens collaboration in educational programmes

- **HEROES 4 REGIONS** encompasses all challenge-based initiatives

- **HEROES 4 EVER** provides flexible learning opportunities and alternative learning pathways for digital upskilling and employability for working professionals

Impact

Quality professional higher education

Resilient regions and local ecosystems

Future-ready professionals and societies

Ambitions

60k students

7k staff

44 joint programmes

45 research projects

272 partners

50 community activities

20 micro degrees

38 training modules

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HEROES Governance

Student Council

Board of Presidents

Steering Committee

International Advisory Network

Management Team

Research Pods

Project Support Team

LSN

ED: Executive Director
PM: Project Manager
LSN: Local Stakeholders Network

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HEROES Governance

Board of Presidents

ED

Steering Committee

PM

Management Team

HEROES Governance at UCN

Rector

Director of UCN Business and Industry Programmes

UCN internal project manager and internal WP coordinators

Existing meeting fora

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Successes and challenges so far

Challenges	Successes and Benefits
• Different legislation and regulation e.g. degree level and legal entity • Different LMS's • Different Cultures and work ethics – also a benefit • How do we engage 50 % of our students and staff? • Invited to more international projects – also a benefit	• Different Cultures – also a challenge • "All" part of UCN involved in the same project and exposed to international collaboration • Trusted partners • Invited to more international projects – also a challenge • New learning and competence-building opportunities for staff and students • Synergies to UCN strategy and the coming reform of the Danish higher education system • Funding to develop, e.g. micro-credentials etc. • Boost internationalisation and mobility • Ready for the next Framework period starting 2028

International Partnership Alliances

Tina Lisberg Bundgaard, Executive Senior Adviser,

Global Engagement
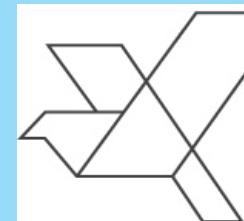
Global Polytechnic Alliance (GPA) – a case in point

- What is the GPA?
- Organisational structure
- Strategic objectives
- Priority areas of focus
- Current initiatives and new activities
- Example of Summit conclusion and next steps
- First 5 years – challenges and successes

What is the GPA

Leveraging shared values, the creation of the **Global Polytechnic Alliance (GPA)** builds upon collective expertise providing an alliance to address the challenges of Polytechnic education in the 21st Century and simultaneously advance the global and strategic objectives of the participating institutions
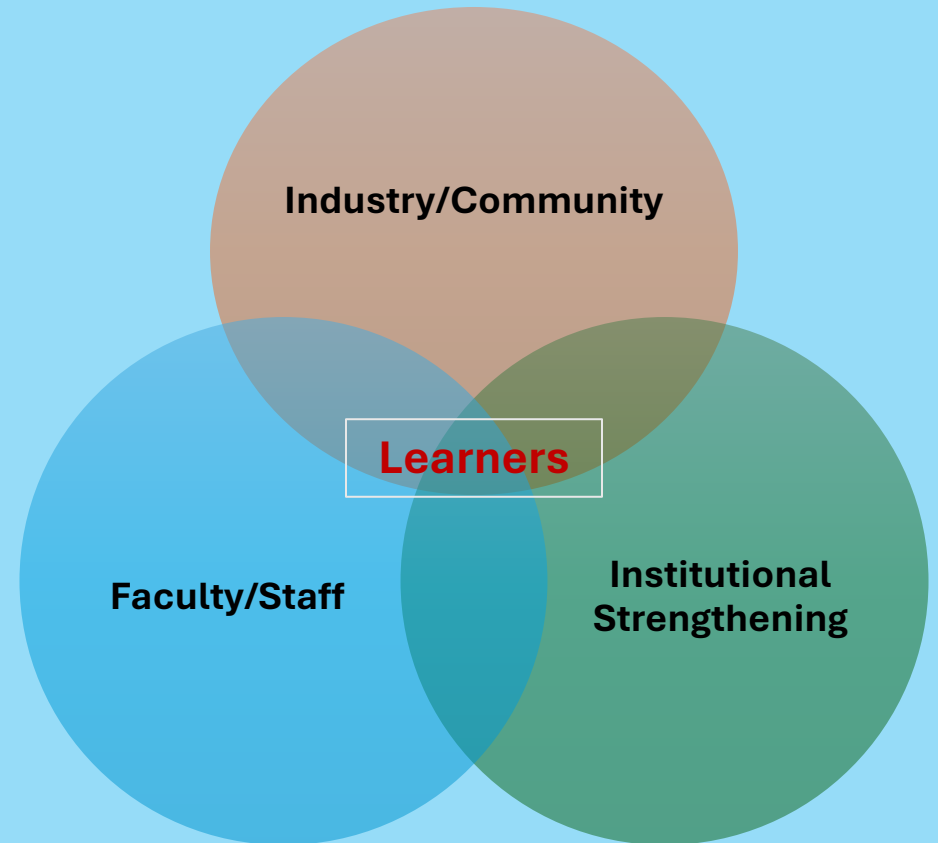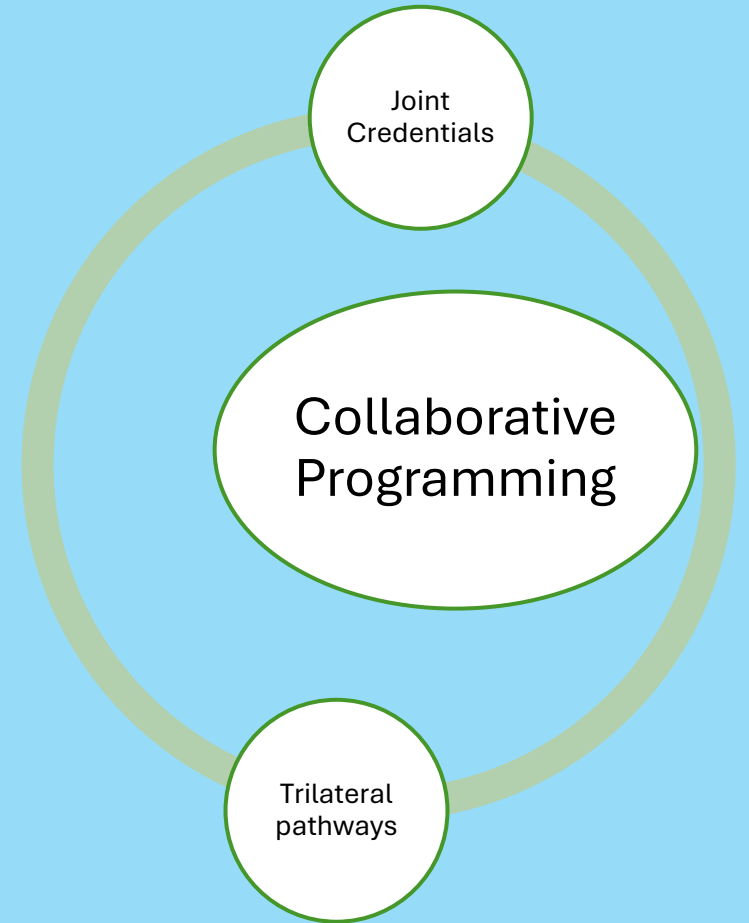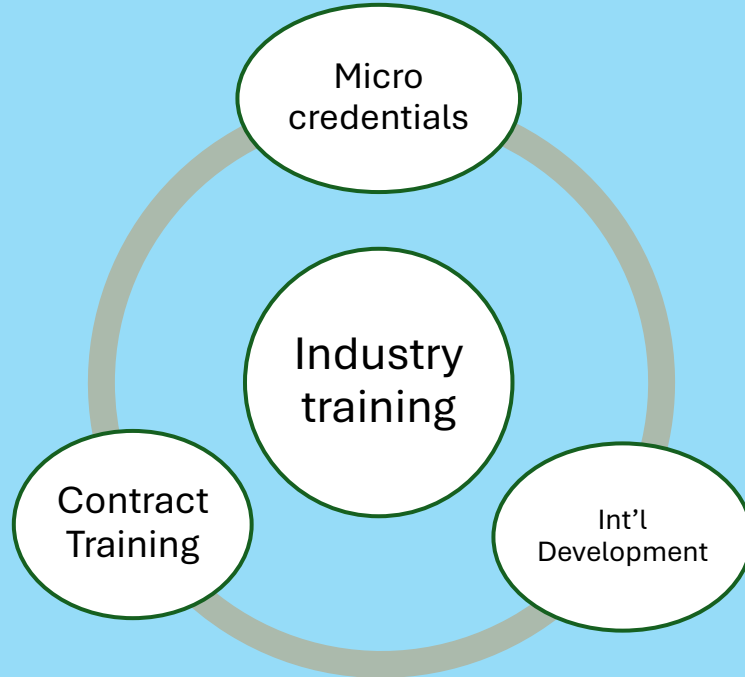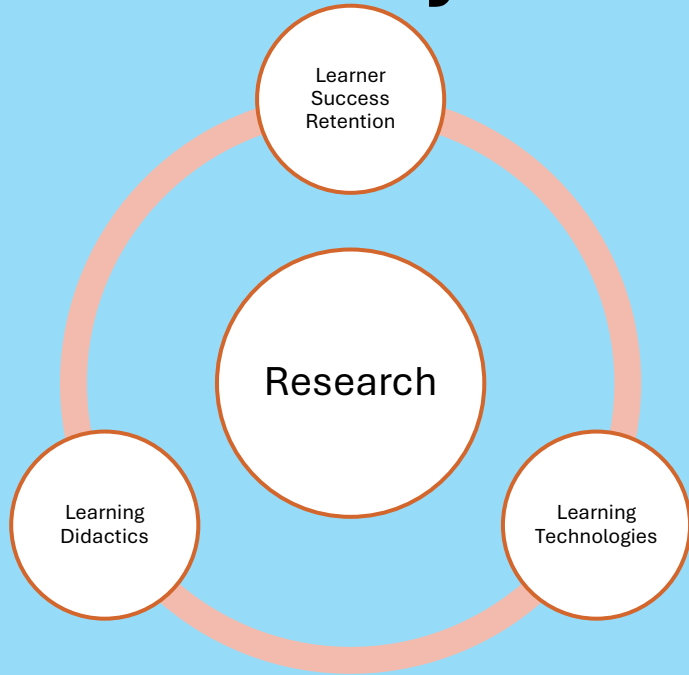
Organisational structure

- GPA Executive team
  - Executive senior management (Presidents, VPs, CEOs)
  - GPA Management (3 project managers/ report to the above)

- Finances
  - Funds allocated annually to support activities, financed hours for involved faculty, delegation visits etc.

- Annual summit
  - meeting between senior management and involved faculty and staff

Strategic Objectives

The GPA will support and drive activities that enhance learning through the strengthening of our institutions, faculty and staff in response to industry and learner needs.

Priority Areas of focus

Learner Success Retention · Research · Learning Didactics · Learning Technologies

Micro credentials · Industry training · Contract Training · Int'l Development

Joint Credentials · Collaborative Programming · Trilateral pathways

Current initiatives and new activities

Current initiatives

- **Map the System** – Oxford workshop-impactful student experience

- **Collaborative Research** – article number two co-published by the three institution on student-centred learning (Academy of Management conference Copenhagen research conference in 2025 where the GPA will present)

- **Collaborative On-line International Program:** Leadership and Sustainable Practice

New activities

- Collaborative Summer School: Topic: *Systems Thinking*

- Publications: Chapter in dissertation on the value of the GPA – Steve Henry

- Map the System: scoping strategies to include wider GPA institutional uptake

- Super PAC: leveraging industry partnerships globally

- Development of micro-credential in close collaboration with industry across the three institutions

Expamle of Summit conclusions

Proposed Next Steps

Follow-up from the Summit and the next five years

- Agreement Renewal (president's call to discuss next steps and expansion
- Follow-up with the current working groups – what do they need from the executive to support current initiatives
- Facilitation of Knowledge Sharing
  - Establish Communities of Practice through the MS teams site (add participants)
  - Sharing of contact information for the three institutions
- Establish Working groups for new initiatives:
  - Super PAC
  - Microcredentials/CPL
  - Global Summer School

First 5 years – challenges and successes

- Major challenges:

- Top-down collaboration

- Institutional onboarding

- Sectorial differences across the continents in accreditation and educational development

- Time zones

- Major successes:

- Annual budget allocation

- MapTheSystem (expand)

- All levels of the institution involved

- Group of ambassadors established

- Projects that create inter-institutional strengthening and cross program collaboration

- Joint conference presentations of the GPA

Introduction to the workshop

Together with your colleagues

- ✓ Map the most important international partners in your institution

- ✓ Discuss if some of these partners are or could be strategic alliance partners

- ✓ List pros & cons

- ✓ Discuss what would be your next step in building strategic alliances with your international partners

Be prepared to share your points of discussion and reflections during the plenary session

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Kort pause

Introduction to the workshop

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Joint discussion

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Thank you ☺