

Initiation of Programmes and Actions to support the valorisation of Social Sciences and Humanities projects with high potential for societal impact

| Vision and Aims | The University of Luxembourg (UL) has defined a specific programme and set of actions to stimulate and encourage the knowledge transfer of SSH projects and to improve the related support practices and tools. |
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| | Enforce the Knowledge and Tech Transfer team, with the recruitment of one person specifically dedicated to supporting the valorisation and knowledge transfer of SSH projects, |
| | Effect a real deep change regarding the vision, approach and practices of valorisation and transfer of non-technological projects, |
| | Collaborate with the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) on a better understanding and communication of SSH projects favouring an impact approach and stimulating social entrepreneurship and innovation, which will ultimately help in the improvement of the FNR developed JUMP Proof of Concept funding programme. |
| | Raise awareness and animate the internal network, on the topic of valorisation opportunities for non-technological and impact projects. |
| | Intensify the connections and establish a sustainable partnership with the whole Innovation ecosystem in Luxembourg; boost the complementarity regarding project support; and create connections with the industry and the private sector to better promote and give visibility to SSH projects outcome. |
| Target Audience | Researchers/University of Luxembourg research support teams (research facilitators of the SSH faculty and interdisciplinary centre), funding agencies |
| Key Features | Recruitment of SSH KT Officer with the support of the FNR and its Knowledge and Innovation Transfer Support program (KITS) |
| | Design and set-up of customised training and awareness-raising sessions for the researchers of the SSH faculty and interdisciplinary centre of the University of Luxembourg, in close collaboration with the respective management teams, |
| | Animate and stimulate regular exchanges among the UL Projects support teams of the SSH faculty and interdisciplinary centre through regular meetings and discussions, |

| Continuous collaboration with the FNR to adapt and fine-tune the existing funding programme JUMP-Proof of Concept to the needs of SSH projects, including the definition of a specific set of requirements and evaluation criteria, well beyond the traditional market model of transfer and valorisation, and focusing on the projects with impact approach. |
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| All the actions deployed by the University of Luxembourg allowed: |
| to formalise the valorisation and transfer support process, as well as tools for SSH projects (project follow-up, Valorisation plan, term sheet templates, projects communication channels, investors' database, etc.), |
| to dynamize and improve the efficiency of our relationship internally, with all the different UL services and departments (Research Support department, Legal department, KT officers, research facilitators of each faculty and interdisciplinary centre), and externally with the whole national innovation ecosystem (incubators, investors, business advisors, citizen associations, national funding and innovation agencies). |
| We animate and provide input to the reflections and exchanges of experience with our internal collaborators at the UL and with external partners, on the topic of valorisation of projects with societal impact. |
| A webinar aimed at UL researchers on the topic of social entrepreneurship is in preparation and will take place in February 2023, |
| Our proactive approach has allowed us to establish new contacts and enrich our network, as with, for example, the Social Business Incubator in Luxembourg. |
| Societal impact projects were more encouraged to be submitted to the FNR JUMP 2022, and this trend will continue in 2023 with two deadlines in June and December. |
| In 2022-2 call of FNR JUMP, projects with expected high social impact were submitted, including on which is targeting a spin-off creation in the field of circular economy. |
| The feedback already received from SSH researchers on the new project valorisation opportunities through the FNR JUMP calls and the proactive support and interactions with the Partnership, Knowledge, and Technology Transfer Office (PaKTTO), are extremely positive and encouraging. |
| Sept. 2021 |
| Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) |
| Partnership, Knowledge and Technology Transfer Office at the University of Luxembourg: https://www.uni.lu/university/about_the_university/organisation_charts/organisation_chart_rectorate_central_administration/office_for_partnership_knowledge_and_technology_transfer |
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| | JUMP call: |
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| | https://www.fnr.lu/funding-instruments/jump/ |
| | KITS call: |
| | https://www.fnr.lu/funding-instruments/kits/ |
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