



University
of Economics
in Katowice



International Centre of Research
Excellence in Transition of Coal
Regions (ExCORE)



FINAL RESEARCH REPORT

TITLE OF THE PROJECT

Academic knowledge adaptation in Industry 4.0 transition in coal mining regions in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia

TEAM

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Project supervised by:

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Mentors: prof. Cristina Florio, prof. Francesca Rossignoli



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Development of project proposal

The project was developed during the Hackathon in Ostrava. During the first live meeting, the project members were divided into smaller teams, in which they worked on their topics. Our group wanted to examine the relations between universities and their environment from the perspective of universities. The main issues were the use of technology, industry 4.0 solutions, and sharing knowledge with partners in the context of green transformation. The motivation was to learn the opinions of experts working at universities in the context of the abovementioned topics. Experts should hold high positions at their universities or deal with projects with business or relations with the university environment.

Literature indicates gaps in cooperation between business and education, and various researchers focus on specific aspects of this problem. We wanted to check how it looks at universities in 3 countries (Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia).

The presentation during Hackaton - appendix 1

Further presentations of the project:

(1) University of Southampton study visit - appendix 2

At the conference in Southampton, we shared with the participants the initial results of our literature study, which described various problems and phenomena related to the cooperation of universities with external partners. By this point, we had collected a few responses, mainly from Poland, so the first analyses of the interviews were also presented. We also asked mentors and professors how to deal with the problems that arose during the research, mainly the reluctance of the interviewees to conduct interviews.

(2) University of Bari / 10th European Risk Conference Conference - appendix 3

At the meeting in Bari, we presented our study's theoretical background and main assumptions again. The situation related to the interviews had changed slightly, but there was still a problem with convincing the experts to do the interviews. During the presentation, we also presented a more elaborate analysis of the experts' answers from the interviews we obtained. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to consult the project with the mentors in Bari. Their insightful comments have been instrumental in improving the project.

(3) University of Verona - appendix 4

In Verona, we had the pleasure of presenting the results of our work during a meeting with mentors and other project participants. We shared again what we found in the literature. We also presented the preliminary results of our research from Poland and Slovakia. There was a big difference in the quality of the answers between experts from these two countries. Unfortunately, a member of our team from the Czech Republic dropped out of the project, so



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we could not present the data from that country. We also presented the preliminary coding of the interview answers and received valuable comments from mentors on the best way to conduct the research.

(4) Final conference in Katowice - appendix 5

The project ended during a conference at the University of Economics in Katowice. During this event, we had the opportunity to consult our projects with mentors and other professors who came to the event. This time, the presentations were in the form of short films (flash presentations). Mentors and other participants had the opportunity to watch and comment on them. Mentors' comments focused on preparing the acquired data for publication or further project work.

Outcomes of the project work:

The aim of our research was to publish it in the form of a scientific article. Unfortunately, during the data collection process (in the form of open interviews with university experts), a member of our team withdrew from the project. Since our study was based on a comparison of the issues discussed (industry 4.0, green and technological transformation, and the relationship between universities and business and industry) in 3 countries, it was impossible to complete it in its original form. During the event in Katowice, a summary of the project, the mentors suggested steps we could take to complete or reorganize the study. At the moment, the results of the study have not been submitted for publication anywhere due to problems with obtaining answers from interviews in the Czech Republic. If we decide to publish the results of our research, we must first consider improving some parts of the study and its aim.

Other results of project collaboration

During our research, we talked about various joint initiatives and projects that we could implement in the future. Among the proposals were those related to the Visegrad Fund since our original team members represented all four countries. During other events, representatives of universities from Hungary were present in Katowice and discussed various possibilities. Besides, we have good contacts, so future joint projects are possible.



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