

COMMENTS SET A: RELEVANCE

The proposal is relevant and well suited to the selected funding action and provides for university-business collaboration in the targeted scientific discipline. Industry collaboration relies, positively, on the direct involvement of enterprises during mapping, programme development and beta testing phases. Access to wider enterprise markets is also fully explained and appropriately extends across each of the participating partner regions and countries.

Relevant European policies are cited alongside strategic development objectives for each of the six partner bodies and with notably positive alignment in the case of higher education partners and with the required arguments given in terms of the complementarity of the proposed developments to participating partners from industry. Needs arguments and development responses are each wholly appropriate and achievable and make for a valid three-year collaboration project.

Arguments for European added-value centre on a single European development challenge through which greater employability can expect to be achieved for new (or recent) graduates and refer, credibly, to plans for knowledge sharing and joint development activity.

COMMENTS SET B: RELEVANCE

The proposal is relevant to the selected funding action and provides for university-business collaboration in the targeted scientific sector. Goals for collaboration with industry are fairly credible yet would have benefited from additional insight and detail, particularly the case where there are plans to involve wider enterprise and industry actors from each of the partner regions and countries.

Whilst positively citing alignment with institutional priorities, most obviously among the participating higher education actors, higher-level European ambitions that centre on bringing together stakeholder firm higher education and industry, are only broadly referenced. Relevance to industry partners also merits additional explanation. Needs arguments are adequately referenced and fairly valid and it is clear to see the link between confirmed and cited needs and the targeted development response.

Arguments for European added-value centre on a single European development challenge and on the benefits of knowledge sharing among actors working on curriculum development and delivery, each appropriate.

COMMENTS SET C: RELEVANCE

Objectives that centre on bringing together partners from higher education and industry are potentially achievable yet arguments in favour of this are not well made. The novelty of that which is proposed, is not well argued and it is difficult to see real innovation in the proposed industry-education collaboration with partners having come together in many past-funded, joint development actions for close to 10 years.

Whilst the application refers to past needs analysis actions, the bulk of this appears to result from a single project meeting involving 4 of the 6 partner institutions. Wider consultation actions are not referenced and there is little said in relation to existing research for the targeted sector and discipline. Moreover, it remains unclear how planned platform and programme development will complement existing course delivery in the participating partner countries and institutions. References to a lack of modern and efficient programmes are declarative and fail to be substantiated by supporting data.

European added-value centres predominantly on confirming the importance of education and enterprise collaboration which, itself, is not sufficient to justify the proposed developments. On a positive note, plans for cross-border knowledge sharing are confirmed and fairly appropriate.