

Social Innovation and Smart University: A Living Lab Approach toward Interdisciplinary and Entrepreneurship Education

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In responding to current challenges of higher education, Taiwan's Ministry of Education has launched several national education programs to encourage educational innovations. Among them, the mission of the *Talent Cultivation Program for Smart Living Industry* is to promote new educational and learning approaches to enhance the interdisciplinary and entrepreneurship education that can meet the demand of smart living industry. Problem-based and project-based learning in a living lab setting is the major approach adopted by this educational program. However, incorporating the user-centered living lab approach into learning and education needs to reframe the university's role and social responsibility to avoid the dominance of market-led education.

In knowledge society, universities play a central role in driving the economic growth both through higher education and research. Recently there are calls for university responsibility and accountability to address the societal challenges and to search for solutions either to pressing problems or social needs. The expectation and responsibility of university to generate social innovation and to transfer knowledge of social innovation have been paid great attention in current discussion of the changing role of university. To highlight the social impact of education and research, and even to enhance the potentiality of transforming society has been greatly valued as well since the past decade.

The program of "Empowerment Networks of Social Innovation Talents", a subprogram of the *Talent Cultivation Program for Smart Living Industry*, aims to promote universities taking the role as hubs of regional regeneration and revitalization. The program highly encourages participant universities to collaborate with local municipalities and to create spillover effects on local communities. However, our project focuses more on the experiences of generating social innovations and social entrepreneurship in "the living labs" that engaged universities can contribute to local development.