

## **Project Title     Senate 2030+ @TUWien**

**Keywords**     Governance, Community Building, Senate

**Project duration**     2 years

### **Name of Team Members Lead:**

Senate Chair jointly with Office of the Senate, Project Manager N.N. Members:  
Senate and Substitute Members, PR, IT, other stakeholders

### **Project Summary/Abstract**

Senate 2030+ @TUWien is a Senate initiative to enhance its role for TU. Aligned to strategic aim 4 it creates a supportive environment and prioritizes digital transformation. Refining operations the Senate strengthens internal cohesion and TU identity via improved communications and inclusive culture, aim 8.

The project addresses existing problems in Senate operations, conflicting interests and communication barriers, to foster open effective collaboration. Methods include rethinking cooperative strategies via structured discussions, regular dialogues and innovative moderation. Goal is to reorganize the Senate to better serve its members and TU Wien by 2027.

The plan involves 4 phased WPs over 2 years. It will be implemented through workshops and events to enhance stakeholder cooperation. It emphasizes modernizing Senate processes to support digitization for sustainable committee work.

The project budget (€420000) comprises personnel, IT tools, coaching and retreats - including hiring a project manager and IT force to ensure a professional efficient process. Senate Chair and Office with expertise in governance and strategy are pivotal for success. They leverage organizational, administrative, and communication skills, ensuring alignment with TU's mission.

The fuTure fit Senate will strongly impact TU Wien. By enhancing teaching, promoting research, and fostering transparency, the Senate will boost student and staff satisfaction, academic freedom, and our competitive standing.

### **Introduction, background, and motivation - Contribution to the mission and vision, planned implementation of strategic goals and support of cross-cutting issues**

This project builds on a very successful fuTure fit process within the Senate. It resulted in Achieve-Avoid-Preserve statements (AAP, <https://www.tuwien.at/en/tu-wien/organisation/university-management/senate/further-development-of-the-senate>), and especially the “Achieve” targets are addressed for ensuring continuous improvement of the Senate and its contribution to TU Wien.

The Senate serves as a university-wide institution uniquely positioned to engage with all members of TU Wien and shape their shared environment. The Senate and this project are ultimately committed to Aim 1: to further develop an attractive, high-performance environment that benefits everyone in the university community.

To achieve this, the Senate's role must evolve through enhanced interaction—both among members and between the Senate and various stakeholder groups. This transformation will be driven by and contribute to a broader digital shift, aligning with Aim 4: making digital transformation a strategic priority for TU Wien.

A clearer, more appreciated role for the Senate will bolster TU Wien's internal cohesion and reinforce its identity as a unified institution. Successfully strengthening the TU Wien community and fostering a strong sense of belonging (Aim 8) cannot be accomplished without an active and responsive Senate.

Additionally, Aim 3 (Re-emphasize the unity of teaching and research) is supported within the project by aligning teaching with student needs through better collaboration on the curricula, which supports completing degrees within the standard time frame. Beyond supporting student success this enhances TU Wien's attractiveness to (inter)national talent.

This project addresses multiple cross-cutting issues of TU Wien, with a particular focus on "Comprehensive Communication," ensuring that all initiatives support a connected, inclusive, and forward-looking university environment.

### **Project goals, Expected results**

Good cooperation in the Senate is often difficult because different interests, specializations and opinions clash, which can make conflicts and decision-making difficult. In addition, there are often hierarchies, communication barriers, different views on priorities and formal constraints imposed by regulations such as university law, statutes or rules of procedure. These challenges make open and constructive cooperation difficult, both within the Senate and between the Senate and other university bodies, and not least with the TU Wien as a whole.

It is therefore important to rethink this cooperation in order to improve communication processes, increase transparency and clearly define common goals. Innovative approaches such as clear moderation, structured discussion formats or regular dialogue can strengthen cooperation and make decision-making processes more efficient and trustworthy. Re-thinking the meetings of the Senate will increase attractiveness. Senate members will be knowledgeable experts, further strengthening the transformation of the Senate.

The aim of project "Senate 2030+ @TUWien" is to rethink and reorganize the work of the Senate by 2027, thus strengthening the Senate for its members and for TU Wien as a whole.

## Short outline of Methods/feasibility und Budget justification

Our project has 4 WPs for 2 years. Structured planning will ensure generating deliverables, setting milestones, efficient implementation, and objective achievement.

We will hold joint workshops to promote cooperation and network-meetings to strengthen stakeholder dialogue. This will involve all members of TU Wien. Working groups are targeting specific solutions. Another focus is the modernization of the process landscape of the Senate to offer next generation TU employees an attractive digital environment. TU's digital transformation strategy is to become visible in the Senate: digital platforms for information, communication and transparency. At the same time, the internal processes and the cooperation with the Rectorate, faculties and committees (e.g. for curricula and appointments), must be modernized and made more efficient to ensure sustainable future-oriented work. The revision of the Rules of Procedure is a prerequisite, it creates the framework for information and cooperation.

This project is based on workshops, stakeholder-meetings with like faculty offices, commissions and alike. We plan to hire 1 Person for 20-30 hours for 2 years for professional project management (payment level IVa). We envision a professionally accompanied process, not only for the core group but also topic-centered retreats. Project plan and meeting plans: see GANTT chart.

2026-27

Personnel: project management, € 140k

Personnel: IT support € 60k

Coaching Core Group: 8 meetings € 16k

2026

4x retreats (each work package € 5k) € 20k

1x retreat (senate) € 7k

5x 2-days Coach per retreat € 20k

8x network event (each work package, € 2.5k) € 20k

Dissemination (videos, print, booklets, short videos, website,...) € 15k

Digital tools € 15k

2027

4x retreats (each work package € 5k) € 20k

1x retreat (Senate) € 7k

5x 2-days Coach per retreat, € 20k

8x network event (each WP € 2.5k) € 20k

Dissemination (videos, print, booklets) € 30k

Digital tools € 10k

Total budget € 420000

## **Role of team members**

The Senate Chair and the Senate Office have extensive expertise in political, administrative and strategic areas and work closely with the Rectorate and other strategically important offices at the university.

The Senate Chair is held by an experienced person with knowledge of governance and decision-making processes who has the communication skills to lead the Senate efficiently and steer it strategically.

The Senate Office provides support through professional expertise in organisation, administration, legal frameworks and communication, ensures smooth coordination and prepares the basis for decision-making. The Senate Office ensures the professional management and realisation of the Senate's political goals.

A project manager, to be hired, will implement all the planned activities (retreats, structured discussions, networking events, etc.), ensuring continuous progress.

## **Potential impact on fuTUrefit TU Wien**

A well-functioning Senate has a significant impact on TU Wien, as it takes on central tasks in governance, academic self-administration and strategic planning. It ensures high-quality teaching, promotes research activities and ensures transparent decision-making processes. In addition, an effective Senate strengthens academic freedom, increases student and staff satisfaction and contributes to the sustainable development of the university. Improved processes and clear communication and transparency strengthen collaboration between all university stakeholders.

Deepening the affiliation with TU Wien is therefore essential so that the Senate can support the Rectorate in shaping a stable, innovative and efficient university culture that increases the competitiveness and reputation of the university in a national and international context.