

About the Impact of European Academies of Engineering in European social, economic and technological development

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The presentation will focus on the common features that can be understood in the missions of the European Engineering Academies, which are associated with the mission of Euro-CASE, The European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering, currently made up of 22 Academies of European countries, of which the Portuguese Academy is a member.

In a broad view, the mission of such Academies is to pursue, encourage and maintain excellence in the fields of engineering, applied sciences and technology, and promote their science, art and practice for the benefit of the citizens of Europe, indeed to promote economic and social development. This can be achieved, and is being achieved, through a number of policies and activities, namely (i) by developing studies on specific cases; (ii) by providing impartial, independent advice on engineering and applied science issues that affect Europe and its people to the European Commission and Parliament, very specifically through close cooperation with the European organization SAPEA – Science Advice for Policy by European Academies; or (iii) by ensuring that the societal impact of technological change is given proper attention with full consideration of environmental and sustainability aspects.

To flesh out this broad view, just a few current activities can be mentioned: (i) the very recent work (completed) in cooperation with SAPEA, on "Successful and Timely Uptake of Artificial Intelligence in Science in the EU"; (ii) studies concerning critical raw materials; (iii) studies on critically toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); (iv) promoting a platform to foster engineering and technological innovation ecosystems with the overall goal of reinforcing technological innovativeness and the competitiveness of Europe.

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