

E³UDRES²

Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as
Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions

1.2 1st Annual Report

Work Package 1

December 2021

Authors: St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences (Austria),
Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal (Portugal), Hungarian University of
Agriculture and Life Sciences (Hungary), UC Leuven-Limburg
University of Applied Sciences (Belgium), Politehnica University
Timisoara (Romania), Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)



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Overview

Deliverable nr.	Deliverable name	Person responsible	Corresponding HEI
D 1.2	1st Annual Report	Project Lead	STPUAS

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Brief summary

Public Report in English delivered as an overall summary of the first project year including output, outcome, impact, added values, important insights, and more.

STPUAS	St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences
IPS	Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal
MATE	Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (former SZIU – Szent Istvan University)
UCLL	UC Leuven-Limburg UAS
UPT	Politehnica University Timisoara
VIA	Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

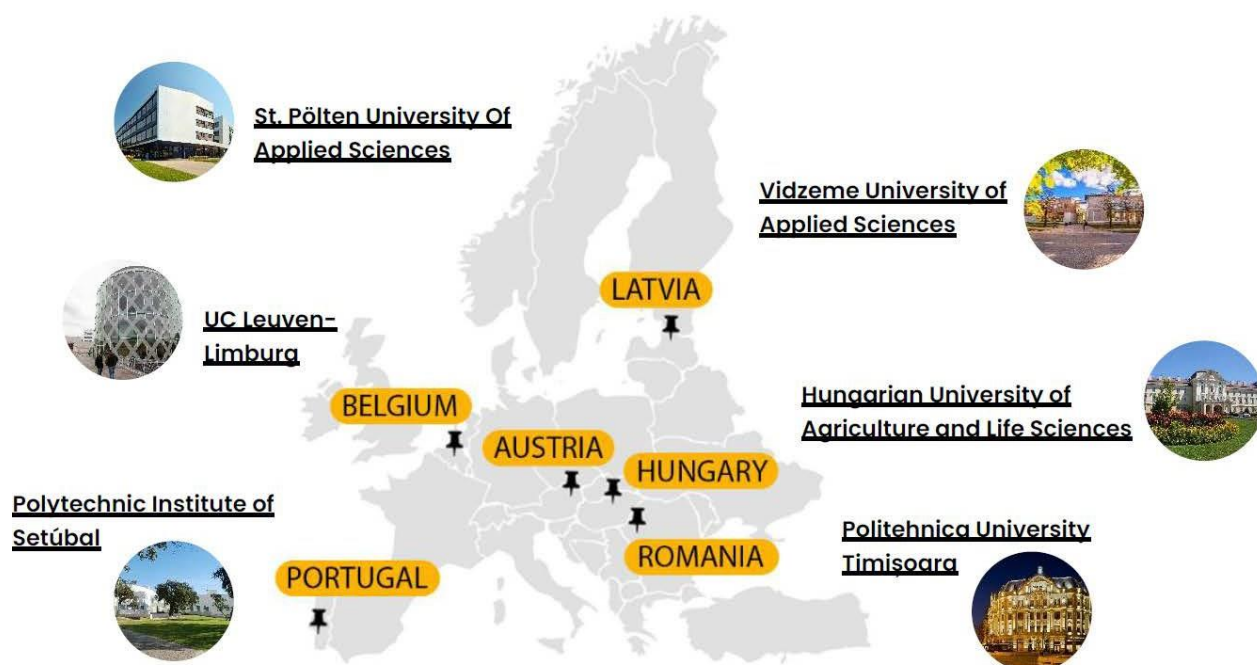
1. E³UDRES² Idea

1.1. Partners

E³UDRES², the Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions, is a newly established university alliance connecting six higher education institutions all over Europe. The consortium consists of a unique combination of scientific universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS).

The E³UDRES² members meet the following criteria:

- Ambitious, flexible and small or medium-sized university (<15,000 students)
- Located in a small or medium-sized European city (< 250,000 inhabitants)
- Located in one of the smaller European countries (<20 million inhabitants)



- **St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences (Lead)** | Austria
- **Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal** | Portugal
- **Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences** | Hungary
- **UC Leuven-Limburg UAS** | Belgium
- **Politehnica University Timisoara** | Romania
- **Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences** | Latvia

1.2. Vision & Mission¹

E³UDRES², the Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions, is focusing on the following main topics:

- Co-Innovate Smart and Sustainable European Regions
- Co-Ideate a Future University
- Co-Create a European Multi-University Campus

E³UDRES² promotes the development of small and medium-sized cities and their rural environments into smart and sustainable regions and shapes a prosperous future with the best possible quality of life for a self-determined people in a progressive European society.

E³UDRES² co-creates outstanding ideas and concepts for future universities, integrates challenge-based education, mission-oriented research, human-centred innovation as well as open and engaged knowledge exchange as interrelated core areas and establishes an exemplary multi-university campus across Europe.

The E³UDRES² network defined the following key aspects as its mission statement:

- E³UDRES² is committed to the further development of small and medium-sized cities and their rural surrounding areas into smart and sustainable regions.
- E³UDRES² is a unique European university that is widely recognized for groundbreaking approaches to challenge-based higher education, mission-oriented research, human-centered innovation as well as engaged knowledge exchange.
- E³UDRES² provides a platform for collaborative innovation for multidirectional, cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-actor knowledge exchange.
- E³UDRES² is exemplary as an engaged and entrepreneurial European university that responds to the social, environmental, and economic challenges of the 21st century and is committed to sustainable development goals.
- E³UDRES² acts as a living laboratory for the society of the future in progressive European regions and connects research, innovation, education and service to the community (knowledge square).
- E³UDRES² strengthens the diversity of European cultures and uses their manifold potentials to collaborate with transnational partners to develop sustainable solutions.
- E³UDRES² contributes to a human-centered digital transformation that strengthens the overall quality of living.

¹ The full E³UDRES² vision & mission document can be downloaded here: <https://eudres.eu/assets/eudres-vision.pdf>

- E³UDRES² promotes creativity, creates space for experiments and demands agile management and flexible action to develop exciting ideas into sustainable products and smart services.
- E³UDRES² is committed to excellence and strives for the highest quality in all areas of activity in order to promote, support and challenge motivated learners, employees and various partners in regional, European and global contexts.
- E³UDRES² brings together smart individuals with different social, economic and cultural backgrounds to act at a regional level and adopts a European perspective at the same time.

1.3. Core E³UDRES² Topics

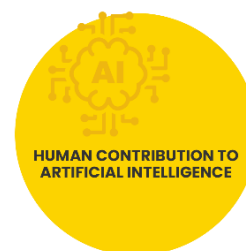
- **Future Universities**

What will universities look like in the year 2030 (and beyond)? How can learning and teaching be transformed to fit the needs of the society of the future? And who will be the relevant actors to drive the change that is needed? E³UDRES² is trying to find answers to all those questions and aims to support the transition to future-proof universities.

- **Smart and Sustainable Regions**

The higher education institutions participating in E³UDRES² together promote the development of small and medium-sized cities (being located in such cities themselves) and their rural environments into smart and sustainable regions. Trying to shape a prosperous future with the best possible quality of life for self-determined people in a progressive European society is the base of the work done on this topic of E³UDRES².

The E³UDRES² alliance identified the following three challenges in order to promote smart and sustainable regions:



Those challenges are core topics in all activities related to teaching, learning, research and innovation.

1.4. E³UDRES² Management

The E³UDRES² alliance is coordinated by St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences. However, shared responsibilities in the project administration ensure that all partners are actively contributing to the work of the alliance. The lead of the work packages was chosen by taking into account the individual institutional characteristics and interests, their internal structures, main strengths, as well as each institution's experience at the different areas.



Different players (from rectors to students, including external stakeholders) are part of the E³UDRES² management. Therefore, different management bodies including the different stakeholders were established.

- **Executive Board:** representatives from the high-level management of each institution
- **Board of Coordinators:** site-coordinators and WP-Leads from each institution
- **Board of Student Representatives:** student representatives from each institution
- **Advisory Board:** external experts from different fields related to the E³UDRES² topics

2. Transformational Deliverables

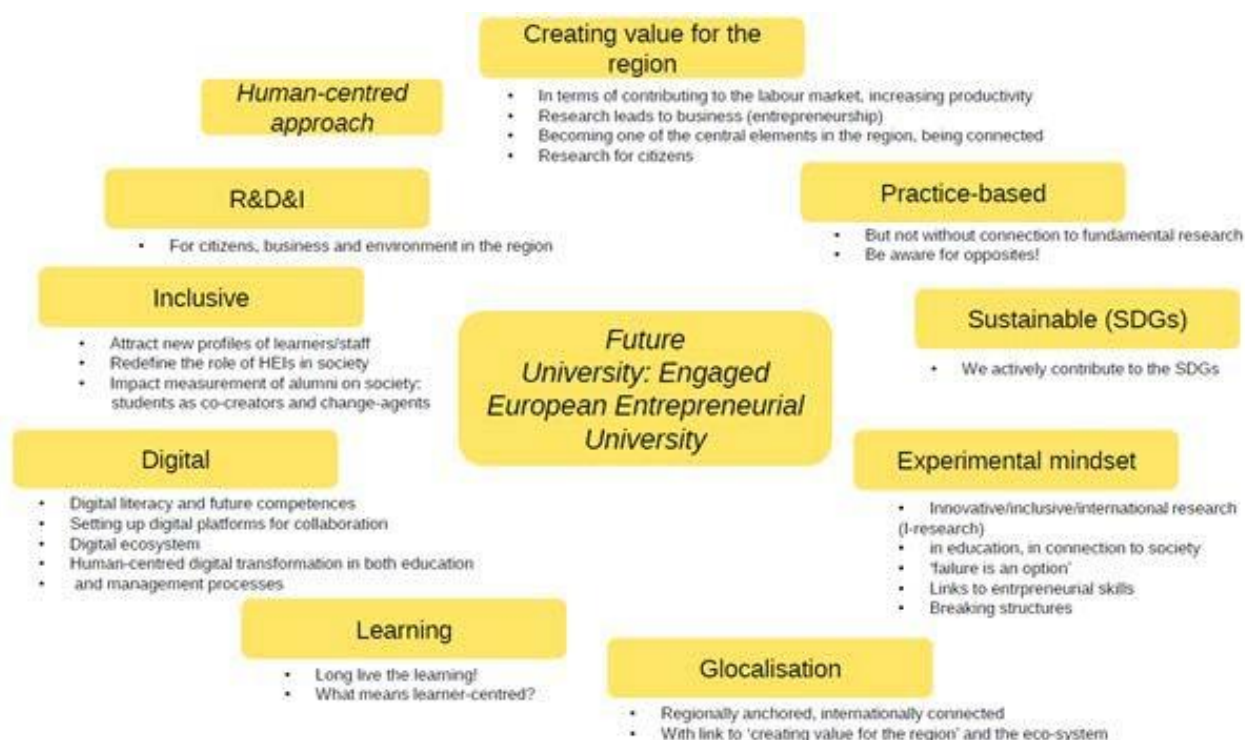
In order to achieve the goals defined in its mission, the E³UDRES² network is developing, testing, evaluating, adapting and implementing different new formats and ways of collaboration, teaching, learning, research and innovation. During the first year of E³UDRES, several activities in the described fields of action were carried out. Hereinafter, some of those activities with the most innovative, disruptive and sustainable effects for the network are described as transformational deliverable. They describe the major output and outcome of the alliance work in the first year of collaboration and give important insights to the alliance' work.

2.1. Context Map (WP2)

The Common E³UDRES² Context Map of the Future University is the result of several rounds of discussions among Work Package 2 (WP2) members, representatives from other E³UDRES² Work Packages (WPs), representatives from all E³UDRES² partnership universities and their external regional stakeholders. The discussions were organized in line with the E³UDRES² Future-casting training concept (Deliverable 2.1.) which is based on Stanford University Playbook for Strategic Foresight and Innovations² and provides the guiding principles and methods for WP2 workshops and reports.

During the first year of the project the Context map approach was used to create a common vision of this consortium as European University and the template of Context maps was used for visualisation of the results. The proposed context map consists of 10 main elements that should define the future university.

WP2 team summarized the Common E³UDRES² Context Map taking into account the results from previous WP2 workshops, Regional stakeholders workshops 1 and individual workshops of different E³UDRES² universities. Each partner submitted their individual common context maps with the summary from their country workshops, which at the later stage were integrated in one common E³UDRES² context map with the elements we can find common across different partners' context maps. The first validation of the Common E³UDRES² Context Map took place during the Future Casting workshop 2 in July 2021 with diverse participants from all WPs and university management representatives. The further work on the final version of the context maps and the interpretations of the elements took place among WP2 members. The final discussion on Common E³UDRES² Context Maps and Vision Check 1 took place on site at St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences, Austria on October 19, 2021. It was a joint meeting of Executive Board, Board of Students Representatives and Board of Coordinators.



Common E³UDRES² Context map of Future University, the result of Vision Check 1

² <https://app.box.com/s/i1q85p829xm1ez0xl0r9mjp2ana2ov9r>

Extensive transferable exchange of experience and future training

The first year of WP2 was also an extensive transferable exchange of experience and future training with the colleagues from similar background institutions: small countries, non-metropolitan regions, and small institutions. The facts and figures of the first year in WP2 are as follows:

17 WP2 work meetings

18 team members in WP2 from all the universities

46 participants in online **Future Casting Workshop 1 and 2**

more than **140** participants in **6 Regional Stakeholders workshops 1**

more than **36** participants in **exchange of experience** for non-academic staff

33 participants in **Vision Check 1** at Executive Board, Board of Coordinators and Board of Students on site at STPUAS, Austria

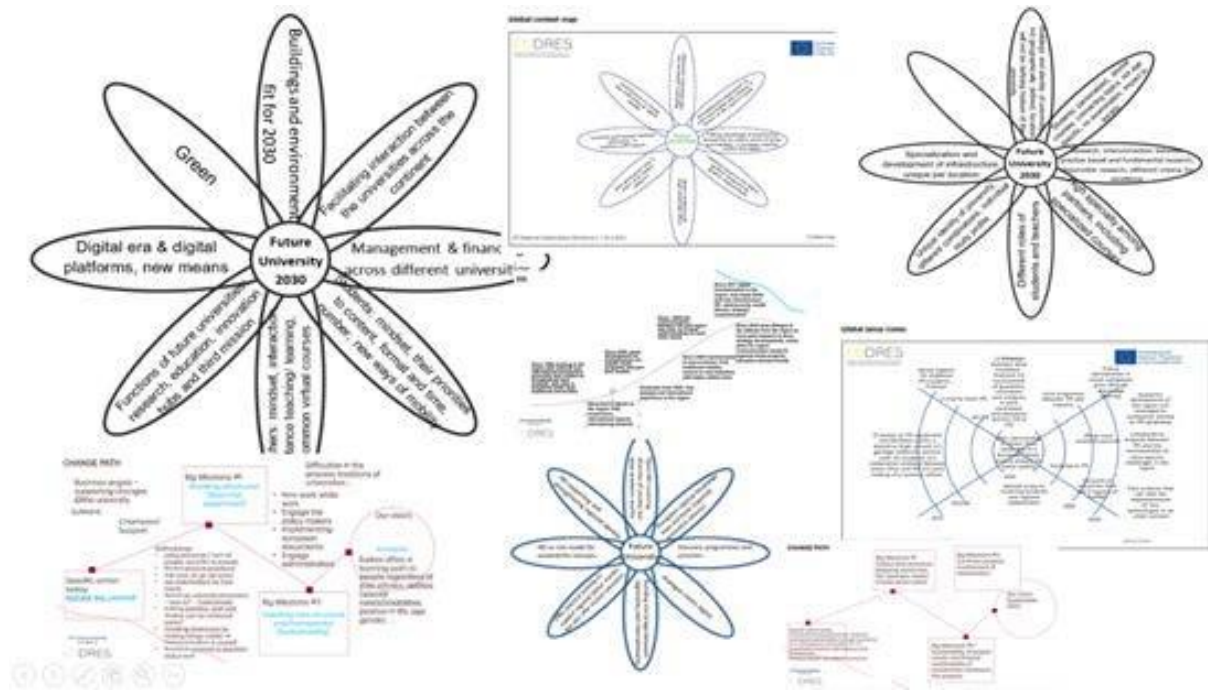
27 joint events of **future training** and **exchange of experience**

4 future sighting methods tested and summarized

1GB of working materials, **400** files, **30** folders

Future sighting methods and working materials

E³UDRES² future sighting is based on Stanford University Playbook for Strategic Foresight and Innovations³ and provides the guiding principles and methods for WP2 workshops and reports. 4 different methods are tested during the 1st year and are used for co-creation of the future university during more than 10 events thus ensuring agreement and common interpretation of the key elements of the context map.



Future sighting methods adapted for E³UDRES²

³ <https://app.box.com/s/i1q85p829xm1ez0xl0r9mjp2ana2ov9r>

2.2. I Living Labs (WP3)

- Two blueprints for I Living Lab orchestrators on which the two training programmes for Educational Entrepreneurs have been based.

Introduction E ³ UDRES ² : Learners' Journey	Steps towards innovative education
<p>1. First concept of the learners' journey Introduction to the WP3 Learners Part 1: Concept I Living Lab 1. Co-creation 2. Transdisciplinarity 3. Stakeholders 4. Learning outcomes 5. Assessment Part 2: Training Educational Entrepreneurs 1. Co-creation 2. Transdisciplinarity 3. Stakeholders 4. Learning outcomes 5. Assessment Initial State of Affairs 1. Executive summary 2. St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences 3. Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal 4. Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem 5. UCLL University of Applied Sciences 6. Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara 7. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The concept of an I Living Lab 2. 2.1 In general 3. 2.1.1 Living Labs: common elements 4. 2.1.2 I Living Labs: unique elements 5. 2.2 From the perspective of the teacher 6. 2.2.1 Multicultural awareness 7. 2.2.2 Transdisciplinary and design thinking as lecturers – from teacher to design thinker and coach 8. 2.2.3 Future skills and learning outcomes 9. 2.2.4 Feedback and assessment in an I Living Lab 10. Staff training 11. 3.1 Flow for educational entrepreneurs 12. 3.2 The Game 13. 3.3 The training 14. 3.3.1 Concept and modules 15. 3.3.2 Session plans of the different modules 16. 3.3.3 Evaluation of the first training

- **Overview of transnational ILLs**

- **Yellow:** ILL from the first round, most teams prefer to stay together and pick up a new challenge for the second round starting in March 2022.
- **Blue:** ILL that start in second round, but are being developed
- **White:** for new ILLs; ready to start
- **Green:** T-shaped innovator as mentors
- **Pink:** new EEs that have to start training & development

From January 2022, 18 new Educational Entrepreneurs will join the community.

Challenge	Partner	Partner	T-Sh. I. - Coach
How to Improve Healthcare Access for Elderly through Digitalisation	UPT	STPUAS	STPUAS
Healthy Lifestyles for Youngsters	IPS	MATE	IPS
How can we raise awareness and strengthen student mental health in higher education?	ViA	UCLL	ViA

	How might we use Artificial Intelligence to improve the Cultural Tourism Experience in European cities	UPT	ViA	UPT
	How to improve inclusion for disabled people, using Artificial Intelligence?	STPUAS	IPS	STPUAS
	How to make E-Mobility sustainable by applying the principles of circular economy?	MATE	STPUAS	MATE
	How microalgae and robotics help agro-wastes valorization	UPT	IPS	UPT
	Sustainable campus	IPS	UCLL	UCLL
	BrainPower by smart food	IPS	MATE	IPS
	AI and robots in wellbeing for disabled people	MATE	UCLL	MATE
	Student participation in E ³ UDRES ²	-	UCLL	UCLL
	Talent Gardening How can AI help us find the right talent that fits within our (cultures) company	UCLL	ViA	ViA
	Wooden pallets: new application for the wood + logistics	UCLL	ViA	
	Food for wellbeing	MATE	UCLL	UCLL
	-	STPUAS	-	-
	-	STPUAS	-	-
	-	UCLL	-	-
	-	UPT	-	-
	-	UPT	-	-
	-	UPT	-	-
	-	ViA	-	-

2.3. Living Labs (WP4)

The first meeting of the WP4 Living Labs (LLs) is part of Task 4.2 (Annual Living Labs) listed in the grant agreement. Its purpose was to bring together researchers, students and stakeholders (including citizens or citizen representatives) from the six Alliance institutions and regions in a physical (or hybrid) event lasting 3-5 days so that they could jointly develop proposals for mission-oriented citizen science projects.

Due to COVID, the event had to be held online and underwent some rearrangements. First, it was prolonged to seven working days (June 7th to June 15th) to avoid the so-called “online fatigue” which would be detrimental to the work to be carried out with the different stakeholders. Secondly, instead of three living labs being held independently by each of the three research networks, we adopted a mixed format event in which open sessions, bringing together the 3 research networks and corresponding stakeholders and students, were alternated with closed working sessions held independently, and on a flexible schedule, by the research networks.

At this early stage of the project, where several adaptation and transformation processes took place simultaneously and requiring a heavy response from researchers and WP4 management team, it was not possible to attract so many participants to the event as initially planned. However, the open sessions shared by the three research networks allowed us to reach enough audience and critical mass and, thus, both objectives of raising awareness and of gathering external feedback on WP4 work were met. Inclusively, there was some cross-fertilisation of ideas of both the CE and WB&A with the HCtAI network during the Markets of Researchers (Fig. 1), as a result of them sharing some complementary research and technological interests. In the future, they may also share common stakeholders.

In the Market of Researchers, we counted with the presence of the following persons from the bank of researchers:

- STPUAS (AT) – Senior Researcher at Carl Ritter von Ghega Institute for Integrated Mobility Research
- IPS (PT) – Assistant Professor and Researcher at the School of Health
- IPS (PT) - Assistant Professor and Researcher at the School of Health
- IPS (PT) – Invited Assistant Professor and Researcher at the School of Health
- ViA (LV) - Researcher & lecturer in travel technology and digital wellbeing.
- IPS – Assistant Professor and Researcher at the Barreiro School of Technology
- STPUAS (AT) – Senior Researcher at Carl Ritter von Ghega Institute for Integrated Mobility Research
- IPS (PT) – Assistant Professor and Researcher at the School of Health
- STPUAS (AT) - Senior Researcher Ilse Arlt Institute for Social Inclusion Research. Department of Social Sciences
- UPT (RO) – Associate Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Technology
- ViA (LV) – Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Information Technologies
- ViA (LV) – Researcher at the Institute of Social, Economic and Humanities Research

In the Market of Stakeholders, we counted with the presence of the following stakeholders and students:

Stakeholders:

- AVIPE, PT (HCtAI)
- CONTINENTAL, RO (WB&A)
- Goodville Mobility, AT (CE)
- Vidzemes Elektrotehnikas Fabrika – VEF, LV (HCtAI)
- Zero Desperdício, PT (CE)
- Vidzeme Olympic Health Center, LV (WB&A)

Students:

- PhD Student, UPT
- PhD Student, UPT

The working sessions carried out during the LLs were instrumental to promote the collaboration of researchers, stakeholders, students and citizens in the preparation of internal projects (please refer to section 3.2.4). On the other hand, the open sessions promoted greater awareness of the E³UDRES² project and more specifically WP4 by internal and external communities, namely stakeholders and citizens. Through the markets of researchers and stakeholders, it also widened networks and encouraged collaboration among them. Furthermore, it was a very enriching experience that is already guiding the organization of the next LLs in March 2022.

2.4. Hackathon (WP5)

In September 2021, WP5 organized the 1st E³UDRES² International Hackathon with the participation of recruited students and SMEs. Hack2Change featured all research areas of E³UDRES², namely Circular Economy, Human Contribution to AI and Wellbeing & Active Ageing. The organization of the Hackathon was coordinated by STPUAS. Main tasks and subtasks of the Hackathon were defined, working teams were created, and each was coordinated by a different consortium member.

The marketing and communication of the event was done based on a detailed communication plan, including local (on-site) and online (web and social media) opportunities.

Each institution invited a local SME to provide regional real-life challenges:

Title	Challenge owner / Country	Description
"Efficient Collection of Biodegradable Waste"	ProfiKomp (Hungary)	<p>In the European Union and around the world, the amount of municipal solid waste is increasing year by year, half of this waste is compostable bio-waste. Among bio-waste, the amount of food waste is significant due to the growing population. Improperly utilized bio-waste can cause increased greenhouse gases, odour problems, and soil and water pollution. Centralised waste collection and recovery infrastructure cannot keep up with the rapidly growing amount of bio-waste, although there are many systems and solutions available for proper recycling.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6_Ep8MhSWo</p>
"Enriching the Wellbeing of Smart City Inhabitants"	Politehnica University Timișoara & Cowork Timișoara (Romania)	<p>The Politehnica University of Timișoara is one of the biggest and most well-known technical universities from Central and Eastern Europe.</p> <p>Cowork Timisoara is a coworking space opened in 2017 with the mission of helping entrepreneurs, digital nomads and other creatives find the perfect place to work.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xB5LFrKgSiw</p>
"Sustainable Farming in Times of Climate Change"	Latvian Rural Training and Advisory Centre (Latvia)	<p>The impact of changing meteorological conditions and other factors on the development of harmful organisms (pests, weeds and fungal diseases) is becoming increasingly difficult to manage for farmers. It is difficult for small and medium-sized farms to adapt to climate change, which makes it difficult to reduce fertilizers and pesticides.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ekiH3mxQOI</p>
"NENA – The Neighborhood Network"	Federal Government of Lower Austria (Austria)	<p>In August 2021, the Unit for Technology and Digitization of the Lower Austrian Federal Government collaborated with around 30 citizens from Lower Austria in an innovative sandpit process to develop ideas and initial approaches for how digital solutions can contribute to successful village and community life in Lower Austria. The idea of NENA - The Neighbourhood Network is now to be developed further in the E³UDRES² Hackathon 2021.</p> <p>NENA - The Neighbourhood Network is a platform idea in which citizens of a municipality can contribute with their ideas and also take responsibility to "do it themselves". Project suggestions, but also concerns can be deposited here, which can be supported, taken over or converted afterwards by citizens themselves, by enterprises or associations as well as by the municipality. This strengthens and actively promotes cooperation in the community.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxZFzZwHHzw&feature=youtu.be</p>

<p><i>“Using AI to Find the Right Talents That Fit Within Our Company”</i></p>	<p>ABN Cleanroom Technology (Belgium)</p>	<p>ABN Cleanroom Technology is a design, construction, commissioning & maintenance company specialising in cleanroom activities in the fields of health care, biotechnology, microelectronics, pharmaceuticals, automotive and food processing. As leading innovator in providing Industry 4.0 connected Cleanrooms, they aim to make cleanroom technology affordable.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZlqQJWZwWg</p>
<p><i>“Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tools for Pest Control in Vineyards”</i></p>	<p>Associação de Viticultores do Concelho de Palmela (Portugal)</p>	<p>AVIPE would like to get support in development and commercialization of advanced pest traps, such as tools to support early detection/diagnostics/monitoring of vineyard infestations, such as, for instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI-powered vineyard pest traps - smart pest traps • IoT devices to monitor and report pest activity in real-time and collect data that provides new insights into pest behaviour, help improving pest control • new pest trap designs replacing or complementing the role of chemical attractants (pheromone lures) by other types of bioactive molecules or mechanical/physical technologies (e.g. coloured LEDs) • new (modular) trap designs employing sustainable materials <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGUKKWL443M</p>

International teams were assembled to work on solutions for the challenges. Since it was a hybrid event, participants worked on digital platforms, like Miro or MS Teams. However, each university made it possible for the students to work on site, by providing catering, rooms and IT infrastructure. To make sure the teams take breaks and have a good time at the event, social events like yoga classes were also organized.

Hack2Change brought together 63 hackers from several European countries. 20 mentors from all six higher education institutions joined to guide and help hackers on their challenges. Mentoring areas covered a wide range of topics from soft skills to Artificial Intelligence. Jury of the Hackathon was compiled of experts from different fields, delegated by each university.

It was particularly in the area of AI that the teams were especially innovative, as two of three prizes sponsored by IBM went to creative ideas in that field. By coming up with “A.R.T. (AI-powered Recruiting Technology)”, the winning team developed ideas within the 36h of the Hackathon about how to exploit AI for talent matching, talent sharing and talent retention in a regional Small to Medium Sized Enterprise (SME). The second prize of the multi-national event went to an application that connects citizens, neighbourhoods and municipalities in the organization of events and community projects. An idea to use AI and digital tools for the pest control in vineyards won the third prize.

E³UDRES² Hack2Change was a great and entertaining event for all – it featured individual mentoring, fun mini-challenges as well as plenty of time to come up with a creative solution to

the selected challenge. For the whole team working on this event, it also stood for great teamwork, energy, inspiration, positive spirit, fun and a lot of learning.

After the event, a “lessons learned” session was organized that concluded the following:

Project Management of such an event shall be an own role and should not be combined. The next event should be placed at the end of October to have all students "on site" and to avoid the difficulties of communication during the summer period. For the Program Design next year, we will use wonder.me or similar platforms for team match-making session. If the event is hybrid, both students online and on-site should join and focus on the online intro session to help track actual attendance and be provided with clear info. Relaxing onsite actions (e.g. Yoga) should remain, as they were very well received. When setting up the program for next year, organizers should more focus on the outcome the stakeholders expect. Also, interim 'knowledge sprint' will be necessary to help not yet trained students in the field of business models, agile working and ideation. Regarding moderation and tool hosting, the team concluded that the team should be supported by an audio-visual director. Pre-communication shall be stronger, especially regarding timing and local beginnings (differences in time zones), and post event communication needs to be ensured. The team concerned with the challenge management should create clear guidelines for pitch videos, and the Hackathon organization should start with the challenge identification. Including the other work packages more strongly in the planning of such events is necessary. A plan how to further develop ideas and keep supporting the teams even after the Hackathon shall be created.

More information and the full program of “Hack2Change”, the E³UDRES² Hackathon 2021, can be found here: <https://eudres.eu/hackathon-2021>

3. Get connected and participate!

E³UDRES² aims to involve a variety of people inside and outside the academic field in its activities. Therefore, E³UDRES² offers a range of opportunities to get connected with its network and for participating in the project.

Digital platforms and Social Media:

- E³UDRES² digital platform: <https://www.eudres.eu>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eudres.eu>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/eudres_european_university/
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/eudres-european-university>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCISfStEMKOUd5d2zKkhwVvQ>

Activities and Calls:

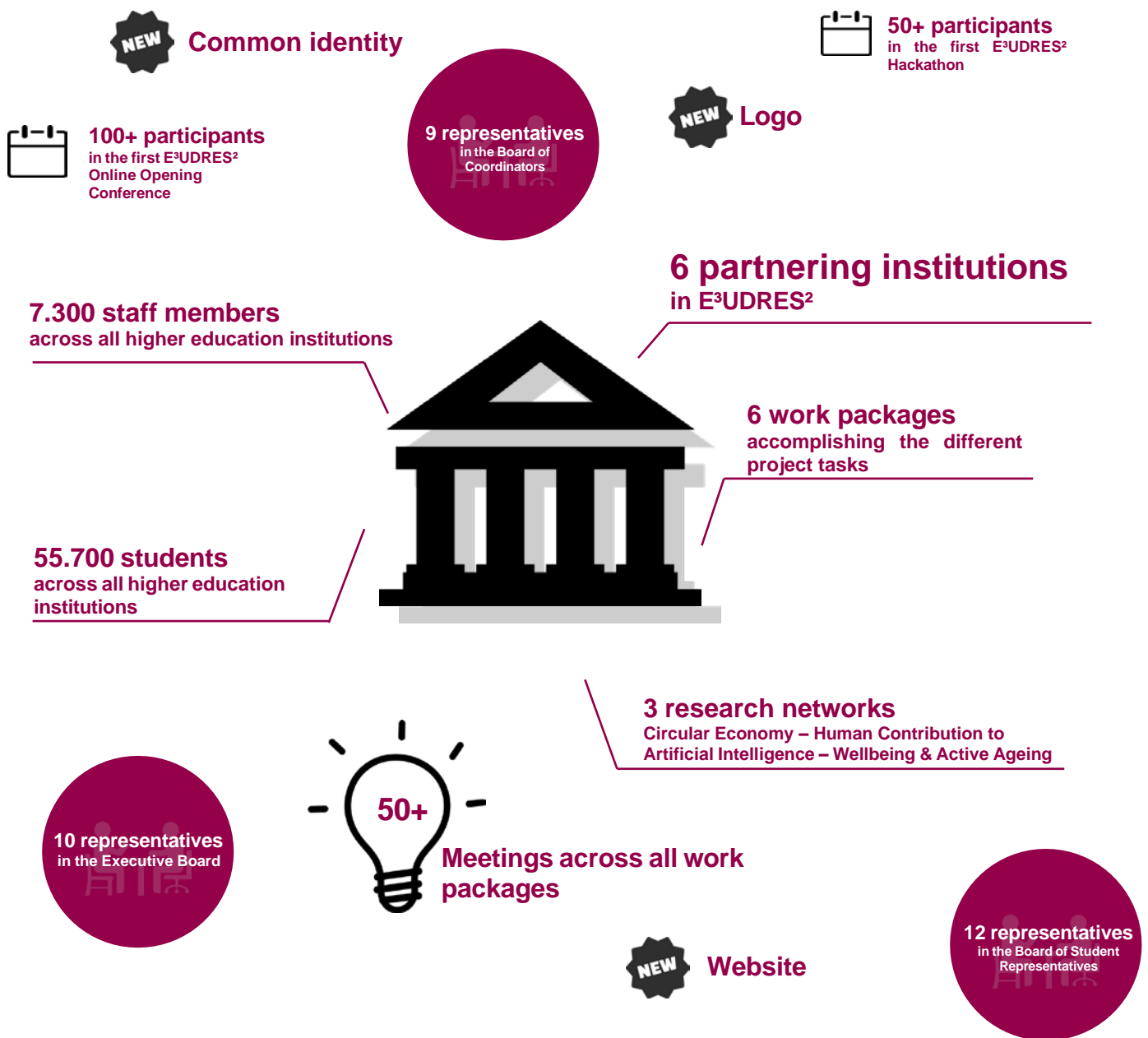
- Submitting Challenges from your region: <https://eudres.eu/challenges/submit-challenge>
- I Living Labs: *see also 2.2*
- Living Labs: *see also 2.3*
- Innovation Activities, e.g. Hackathon: *see also 2.4*
- E³UDRES² Call for Ideas: <https://eudres.eu/ideas-and-concepts>
- Photo Voice Challenges: <https://eudres.eu/changecorner>

Get connected

4. Facts & Figures

During year one of the alliance, E³UDRES² has managed to establish a profound structure to build on for the coming years of the project. The first project year marked the establishment of all necessary boards and work packages, the alliance together formed interdisciplinary research networks, created a catchy visual identity and supporting marketing materials, and also hosted events for staff, students as well as external participants, like citizens and stakeholders.

The following visualization illustrates a summary of what E³UDRES² has established in the first year:



22/76 Deliverables finished

E³UDRES²

Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as
Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions

Find out more about E³UDRES² online:



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