E^3UDRES^2

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

1.5 2nd Annual Report

Work Package 1

December 2022

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Overview

Deliverable nr.	Deliverable name	Person responsible	Corresponding HEI
D 1.5	2nd Annual Report	Project Lead	STPUAS

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Brief summary

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

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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)
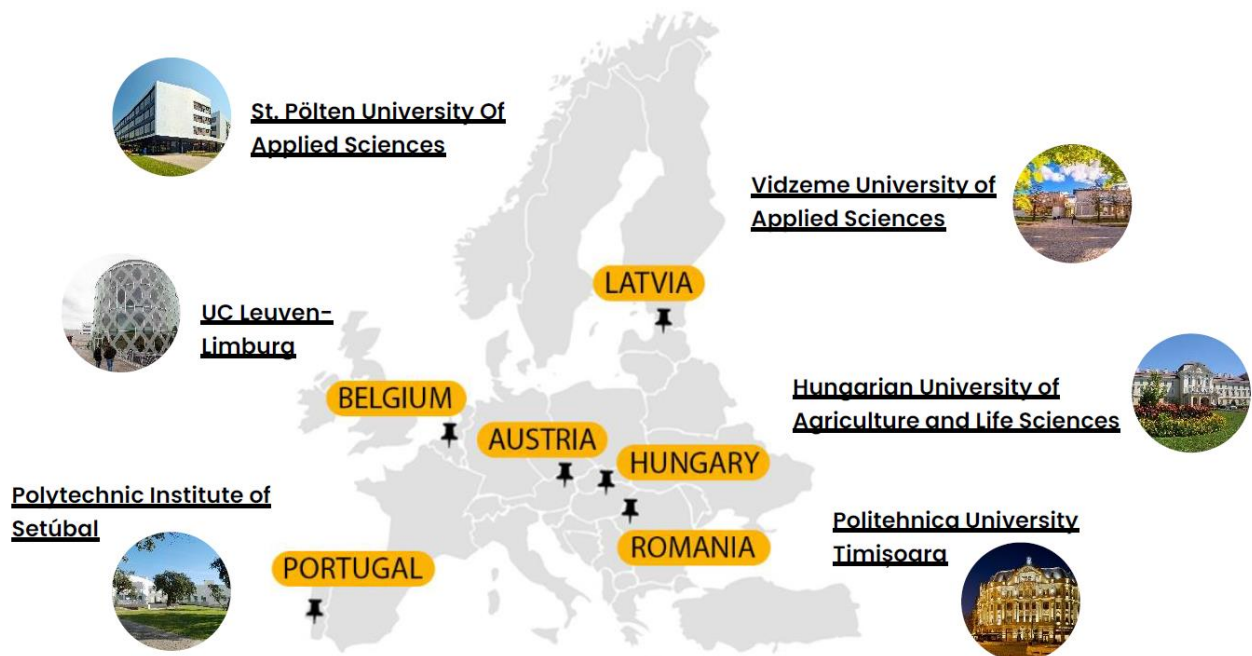
- **St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences (Lead)** | Austria

- **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

In project year 2, three further European Higher Education institution were selected as associated partners, which wi-ll become full partners in 2023.

The new associated partners are:

Saxion University of Applied Sciences — New

Fulda University of Applied Sciences — New

Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences — New

1.2. Vision & Mission[1]

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 ground-breaking approaches to challenge-based higher education, mission-oriented research, human-centered innovation as well as engaged knowledge exchange.

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

- 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.

- 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

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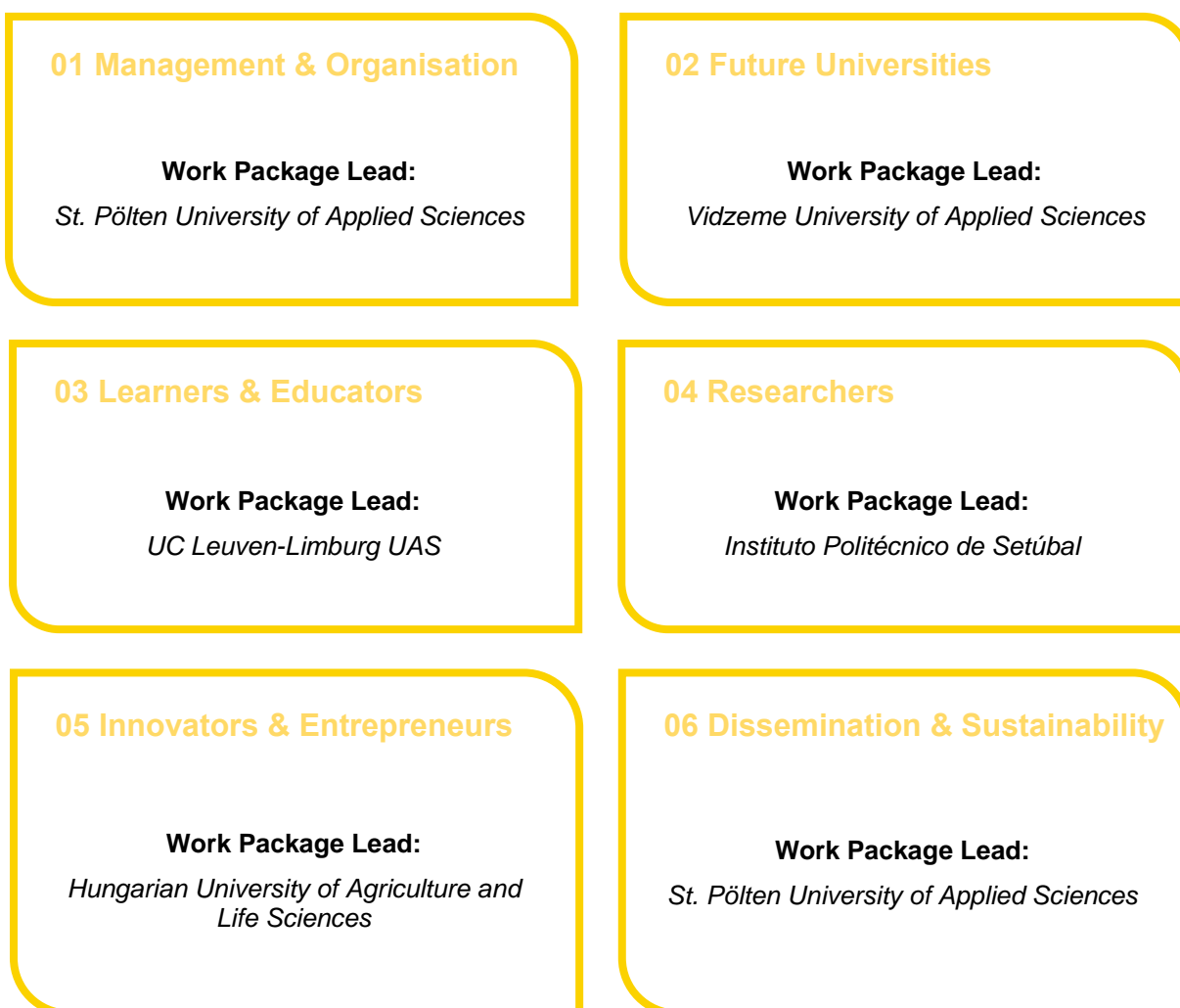
The E³UDRES² alliance identified the following three challenges in order to promote smart and sustainable regions:

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.

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01 Management & Organisation

Work Package Lead:

St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences

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02 Future Universities

Work Package Lead:

Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

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03 Learners & Educators

Work Package Lead:

UC Leuven-Limburg UAS

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04 Researchers

Work Package Lead:

Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal

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05 Innovators & Entrepreneurs

Work Package Lead:

Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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06 Dissemination & Sustainability

Work Package Lead:

St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences

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.

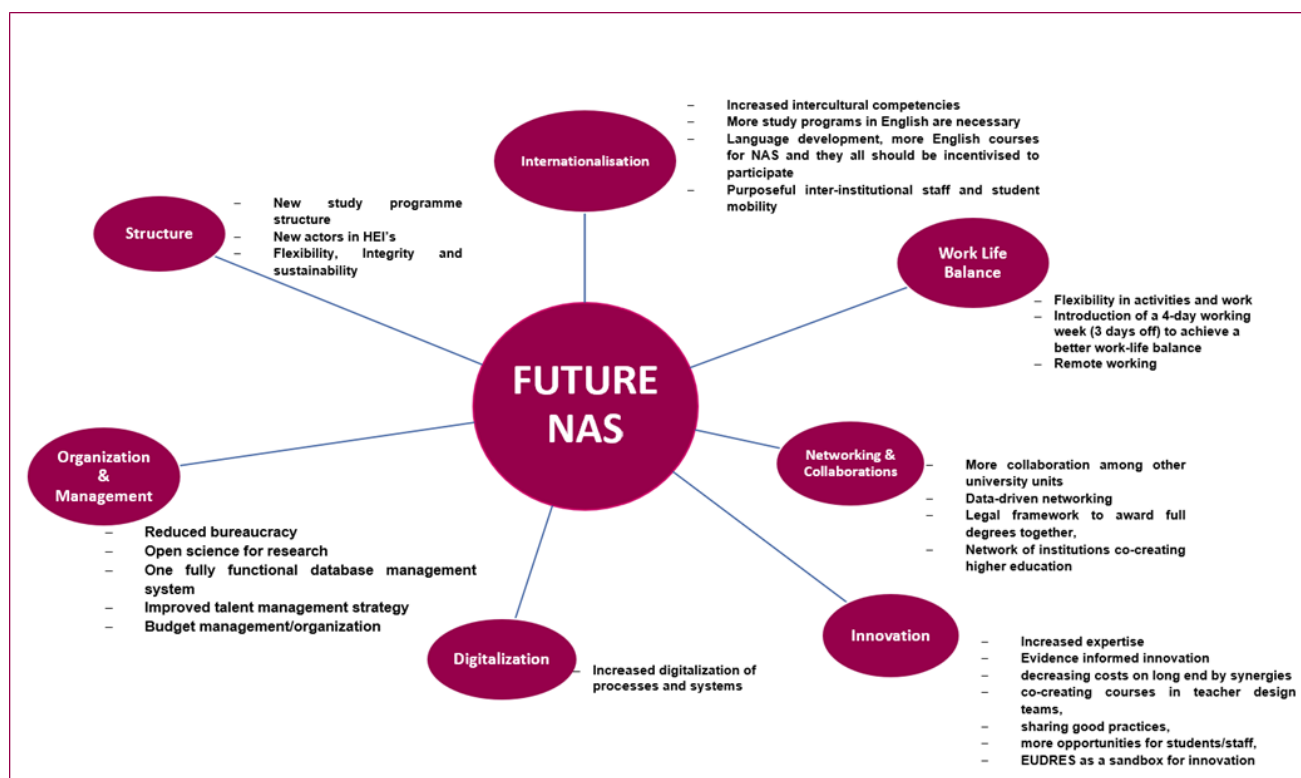## 2.1.   Vision Check 2 and Future University Personas (WP2)

We used the insights which we gathered during the second project year to create and validate Future University Personas: Future Students, Future Researchers and Future Non-Academic staff. Their interests, concerns and necessity should be the key drivers for designing future university.
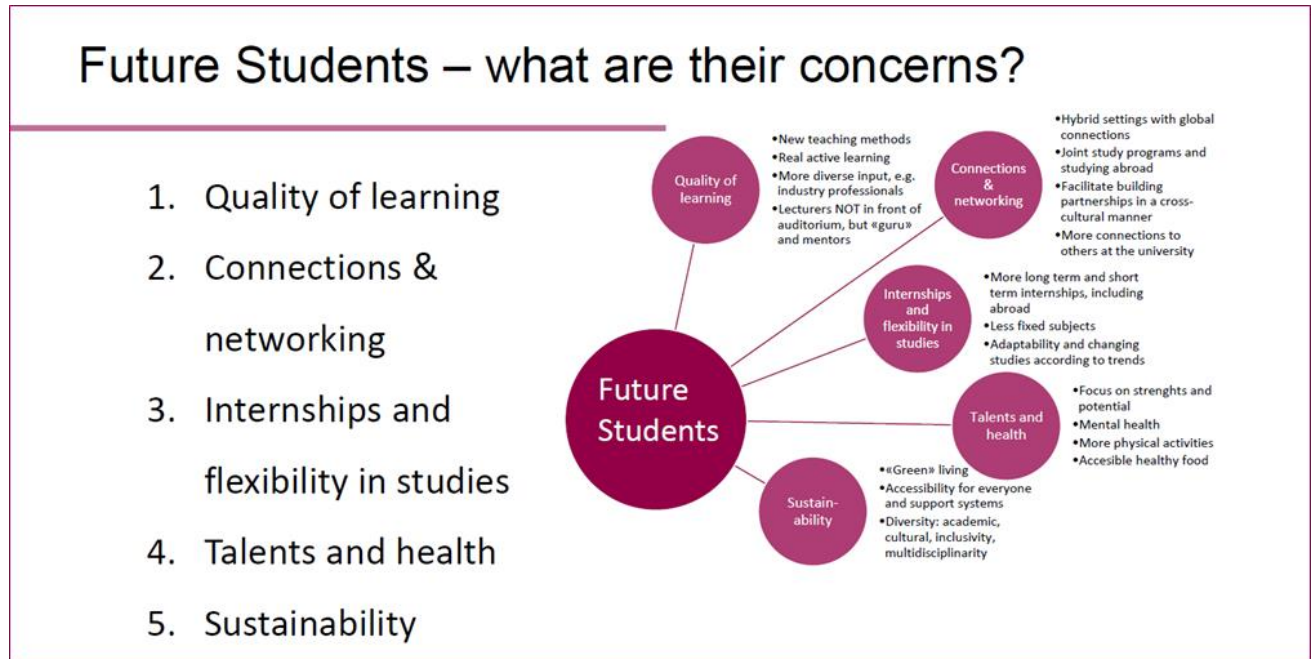
Future Students, the result of Vision Check 2

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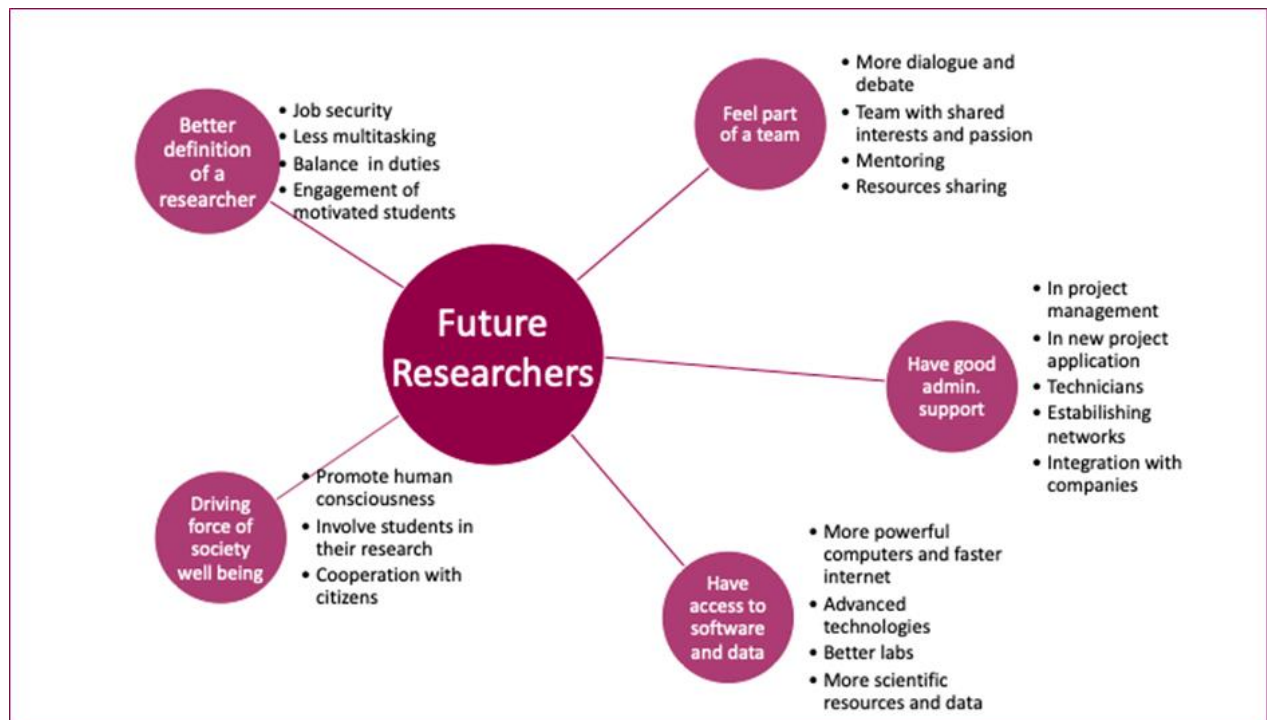
Future Researchers, the result of Vision Check 2

Future Non-Academic staff, the result of Vision Check 2

Extensive transferable exchange of experience and future training

The wide participation of different stakeholders in future university training and future sighting also during the second project year provided the necessary diversity of opinions which is needed for the trends and patterns to emerge, as well as to highlight the paths which would be worth trying.

The number and diversity of participants in Vision Check 2 events:

- Workshop on E3UDRES2 Students Context map, On-site in St.Pölten, Austria, October 19, 2021 and finalizing online using Miro platform (11 participants);

- Future Casting Workshop 3, On-site at ViA, Latvia, April 7, 2022 (53 participants);

- Exchange of experience for non-academic staff, March/April 2022, on-site at ViA, MATE, IPS, online at UCLL, STPUAS and UPT (145 participants);

- Regional Stakeholders Workshop 3 at ViA (online), UCLL (on-site), STPUAS (on-site), IPS (on-site) and MATE (75 participants);

- Future Universities for Researchers workshop, On-site, Setubal, Portugal, May 4, 2022: joint vision of WP2 and WP4 (28 participants);

- Future University Workshop with the directors of ViA study programs, Online MsTeams, June 1, 2022: How ViA and E3UDRES2 students see the future university (14 participants from ViA);

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- E3UDRES2 Strategy Forum I, On-site, St.Polten, Austria, July 6-8, 2022: (40 Participants);

- WP2 work meeting, Online MsTeams, September 9, 2022: the evaluation of WP2 work 2021/20221 (8 participants).
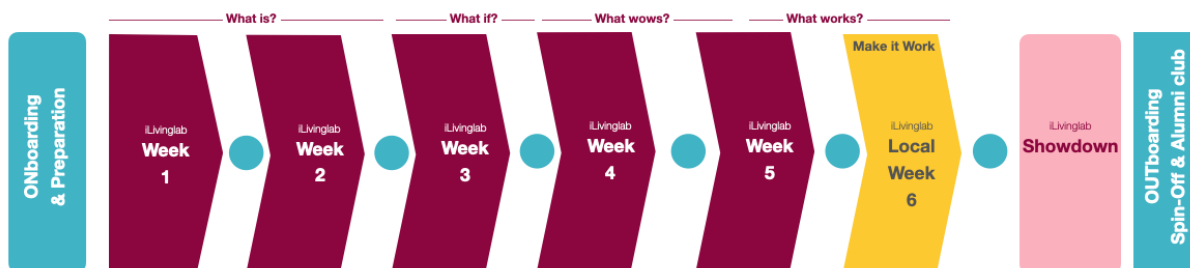
2.2. Umbrella I Living Lab & International Engagement Circus (WP3)

The ILivinglab are a perfect form of open eco-systems. By systematically working together with local entrepreneurs and public institutions based on real-life cases, E³UDRES² encourages open innovation. With the Umbrella concept that combines several ILivinglab around a specific topic such as, for example, Talent Development or Energy Transition, E³UDRES² has taken a step further in facilitating open innovation.

The strength of these Umbrella ILivinglab is that multiple and different regional stakeholders collaborate within a cluster of ILivinglab. This diversity of knowledge, sector expertise and culture creates a demonstrably higher dynamic of collaboration.

■ The Umbrella iLivinglabs concept

The flow diagram below shows the process operation of the Umbrella Open Innovation ILivinglab. Through this mix of hybrid learning in close collaboration with multiple challenge owners simultaneously, the focus is not only on personal learning goals, but also very specifically on innovating together with the region as an open collective and further develop ideas that emerge from an ILivinglab in a Local Week project.

Design Thinking

An Umbrella I Living Lab typically consists of a 6-week design-thinking process, during which students co-ideate and co-create a solution to a real-life challenge together with international students from different disciplines as well as external stakeholders, including the end user. In doing so, they improve different skills which in the

Challenge owner

Each I Living Lab is kicked off with a joint event which brings together participants from all ILivinglab that start on the day. In the weeks to follow, students meet for online evening sessions on a weekly basis. In between these online sessions, they learn, conduct research and investigate on an individual basis as well as together

Experience based learning

An I Living Lab follows the principle of experience-based learning, which means students learn as they go. The facilitator does not transfer knowledge, but instead they encourage the students find their own team solution to the problem. In addition, the facilitators help the students through the process and coaches the group as well

Learning Goals

- Personal growth
- Intercultural competence
- Language skills
- Global engagement
- International disciplinary learning
- More detailed information is available in the course guide

future will be of use to them in both their personal and professional lives.

with other students in their own time.

as the individual students.

During Local Week, several local challenge owners will work intensively with a group of students (40ex) from two different Umbrella ILivinglab. They do this at different locations within the E³UDRES² regional eco-system. The students are working with SME entrepreneurs as well as start-ups. From the E³UDRES² partners, researchers work closely with the students on knowledge exchange. The collaboration of a multitude of Educational Entrepreneurs (8ex) from multiple partner countries accelerates the innovation process. This is because there is a greater diversity of knowledge and coaching expertise within the total Umbrella group.

- ■ International Engagement Circus

E³UDRES² is an innovator and a connector. To innovate, connect and build trust it is key to meet each other live on location. A positive group dynamic forms the basis for daring innovations. How do you have a good relationship with each other in an online environment? How do you build such a bond? We did our absolute best to create ways to connect online but to build the University of the Future with six partnering Universities in an online environment was extremely challenging. The concept of online meetings, as reported in M18, was successful and we sticked to the 2-weekly T-Shaped Innovators and the 2-weekly Educational Entrepreneur meetings. Nevertheless, as soon as possible, we acted and created a new format to meet up with each other in person. The idea of the International Engagement Circus (IEC) was born.

From 26th to 28th of April 2022 we finally had the opportunity to travel and meet each other in person in Belgium. As you can imagine these face-to-face meetings had an enormous impact on the team management. We started really feeling like a team even more a FAMILY during the first International Engagement Circus.

The program of the first IEC in detail can be found in the following figure:
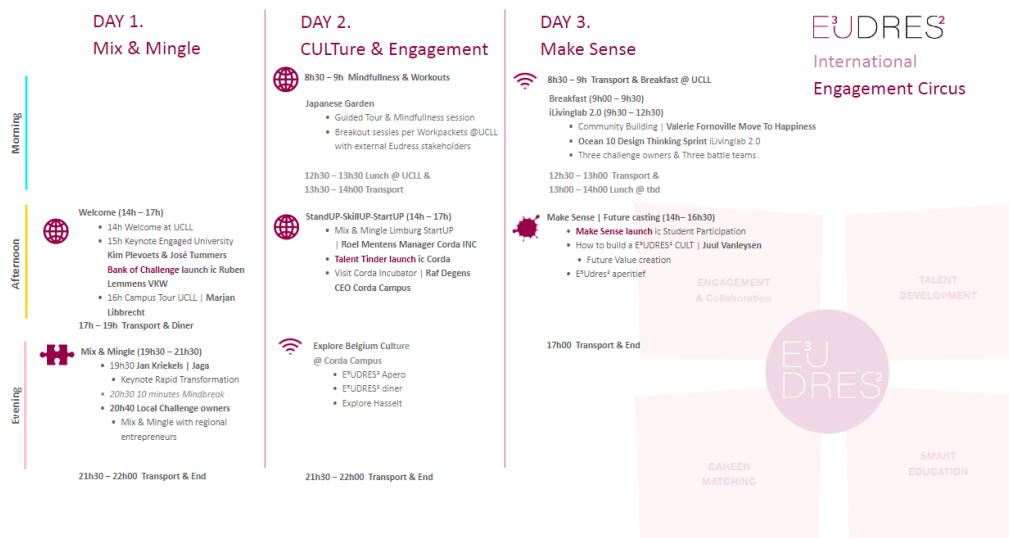
This International Engagement Circus (IEC) came to life for one main reason: connecting to each other. WP3 leader UCLL came up with the idea to invite the five partners to UCLL to engage with each other in person. Within the various work package teams 2, 3, 4 and 5 from E³UDRES² with the TSI, EE, Learners, and challenge owners, we have been working intensively on educational innovation. By kickstarting and organizing the IEC we wanted to strengthen the engagement and cooperation. Therefore, we invited a hybrid mix of team members (directors, managers, teachers, …) from the different work packages 2, 3, 4 and 5 from E³UDRES² at the same time.

The underlying concept for the IEC can be described as follows: 'During the IEC we focused on 4 core values of innovation and change. It stimulates a deep connection between learners, lectors, entrepreneurs, and public institutions. It focuses on talent scouting, matching, sharing and encourages a growth mindset. In doing so, the IEC connects the promotion of lifelong learning with a long career opportunity for a promising region. In addition, the IEC stimulates innovation towards smart blended learning systems in collaboration between education and entrepreneurship'.

2.3. Research Living Labs (WP4)

The WP4 has foreseen, in its workplan, the realization of three Living Labs (one per each project year) to bring together on one hand, researchers involved in the WP4 and researchers from E³UDRES² bank of researchers, and on the other, stakeholders, students and citizens/citizen representatives. To avoid confusion with the I-Living Labs of the WP3, we have renamed them as "Research Living Labs" (RLLs). This activity is part of Task 4.2 - Annual Living Labs in citizen science for each I-R&Di network.

The first part of the 2nd RLLs took place from 2-6 May at IPS (Setúbal, PT) and, in the following week, two online sessions were hold: one for the Market of Stakeholders (May, 10) and the other for the Market of Researchers (May, 12).

■ During the week of 2 to 6 of May, the programme included the following activities:Two plenary sessions: the first was to to present the E3UDRES2 project and the work being developed in its different WPs to our researchers, communities and stakeholders; and the second to present the results, conclusions and future orientations outlined by the 3 research networks during the working sessions.

■ Several working sessions of the 3 research networks (including a joint one), in which the researchers from the 1st and 2nd generations discussed project ideas and proposals at different stages of maturity (some were newly proposed, whereas other have been under development since the 1st RLLs) with stakeholders and students.

■ A training session on how to prepare competitive proposals for European calls, which was jointly delivered by the WP4 coordinator, who has extensive experience in participation, coordination and evaluation of European projects (from FP6 to Horizon Europe) and two experts from the FI Group.

■ A visit to regional stakeholders, organized with the support of E3UDRES2 associated partner Câmara Municipal de Setúbal (Setúbal City Council) and of AVIPE – Palmela Wine Growers Association. AVIPE is a very active stakeholder, collaborating not only with the HCtAI network, but also with other researchers involved in the WP3. One stop of this visit was the Energy Multisensory Garden at Setúbal, with a guided tour by another stakeholder of the Energy and Environment Agency of Arrábida (ENA).

Due to the limited number of researchers and stakeholders, other than Portuguese, that we could bring on site, we planned the Market of Stakeholders and the Market of Researchers to be held online the following week. The objective of these markets was to attract more researchers from the E³UDRES² bank of researchers and more stakeholders to collaborate with the WP4 researchers but the result felt short of the expectations, as the engagement of these players was generally low for the 3 networks.

Following the event, a survey was launched to all participants to assess its impact. The survey was sent by email to 67 participants in the 2nd RLLs and we had a response rate of approximately 30%. From that we extracted valuable insights that will be used to improve the 3rd RLLs planned for March 2023.

The deliverable D4.8 "3 I-R&Di network 2nd living labs" was a product of the event. It was initially due in March 2022 but had to be postponed to May 2022 as it would not be possible to have the 3rd RLLs before May without compromising the quality of the event. The 2nd RLLs counted with the participation of some important stakeholders who were not available to participate on an earlier date. Therefore, the Project Coordinators requested the postponement of this deliverable to May to the Project Officer in the beginning of March and this was

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approved. D4.8 presents information on the 2nd Research Living Labs, namely: the programme, objectives, overview of the sessions and work developed, and analysis of results.

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2.4. Bootcamp (WP5)

The E³UDRES² Bootcamp was a 5-day event in which students from our E³UDRES² higher education institutions collaborated to solve a specific challenge established by WP5 members and challenge owners. The Bootcamp was conducted in the Austrian mountains in St. Jakob in Defereggen from July 4th to July 8th, 2022.

The Bootcamp gave participants the opportunity to actively participate in shaping Europe's future. Its goal was also to offer students with the experience of working in an inventive and creative atmosphere with support and inspiration from mentors and experts, where participants learned to develop an idea from a problem to an impactful solution. Participants exited the bootcamp with a better understanding of design thinking, business models, investor pitching, and, of course, the E³UDRES² areas. The students were split into four groups, each working on a different challenge.

The Bootcamp was limited to 26 students in order to ensure small teams and high-quality coaching from our staff members. We determined that each E³UDRES² partner may send four students, and we also encouraged our new associate partners Fulda University of Applied Sciences and Saxion University of Applied Sciences to send one student at their own expense. We therefore decided on a two-stage selection process: first, students applied on our website with a brief motivation letter, and second, chosen students were interviewed and asked why they wanted to participate in the bootcamp. Over 140 students from the six E³UDRES² partners applied in total. In the end, 24 students participated: 4 from IPS, UCLL, STPUAS, MATE and UPT respectively, 3 from ViA and 1 from Fulda University of Applied Sciences.

Students collaborated in four international and interdisciplinary teams on challenges centered on the topic "The New Sustainable Future Campus" over five days. They created concepts for the challenges "Lifelong Learning," "Bridging and Sharing Talents," "Living Formats," and "Regional Impact" with the help of mentors and experts. The students also got useful insight on areas such as design thinking, business models, and brainstorming methodologies through frequent expert sessions, allowing them to further develop their approaches to solving their challenges. Participants' personal growth was encouraged in addition to their technical skills.

During a conversation with the mayors of St. Jakob/Defereggen and Hopfgarten/Defereggen, the students learned more about the region's advantages and challenges. During their visit, they also learned more about the Defereggen Valley's way of life and traditions.

The intensive work schedule was supplemented with physical activities in the mountains: one expert discussion was linked with a walk in the mountains, and another hike was organized early in the morning, including breakfast at the mountain. These activities notably helped to team building and networking, resulting in a positive mood among the participants.

All teams presented their concepts in brief pitches on the last day of the Bootcamp, which were also livestreamed at the St. Pölten UAS during the E³UDRES² Strategy Forum. A jury in St. Pölten, as well as mentors and peers, reviewed all teams. Following that, the teams' dedication and hard work were recognized with a custom crafted Bootcamp cake and a live concert provided by the hotel.

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/UClSfStEMKOUd5d2zKkhwVvQ*
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/eudres_alliance

Activities and Calls:

- Submitting Challenges from your region: *https://eudres.eu/challenges/submit-challenge*
- I Living Labs: *see also 0*
- Living Labs: *see also 2.2*
- Innovation Activities, e.g. Bootcamp*: see also 2.4*

Get connected

4. Facts & Figures

During the year two of the alliance, E³UDRES² maintained its well-established governance structure. The second year marked a successful admission of 3 new associated partners from Germany, Netherlands, and Finland, allowing them to join as guests on several E³UDRES² occasions as well as join the team in writing the proposal for the new funding period. E³UDRES² continued in organizing diverse activities, such as I Living Labs #2, Hackathon and Bootcamp, leaving learners, educators and staff with new skills and great memories.

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

111 participants
in E³UDRES² I Living Lab #2

Emerging project E.I.N.S.
with the partners from the E³UDRES² Alliance

100+ participants
in the Strategy Forum & International Engagement Circus

9 representatives
in the Board of Coordinators

NEW **3 additional associated partners**
High Education Institutions from Germany, Netherlands and Finland in E³UDRES²

6 partnering institutions
in E³UDRES²

7.300 staff members
across all higher education institutions

6 work packages
accomplishing the different project tasks

55.700 students
across all higher education institutions

3 research networks
Circular Economy – Human Contribution to Artificial Intelligence – Wellbeing & Active Ageing

9 representatives
in the Executive Board

60+

Meetings across all work packages

NEW **New Chair and Vice-chair of the Student Representatives**

30 representatives
in the Board of Student Representatives

49/76 Deliverables finished