Making UNICA a Network of Urban & Metropolitan future proof Universities

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1. The future is urban

2. What are urban/metropolitan universities?

3. Can UNICA act as *thé* network of urban/metropolitan universities?
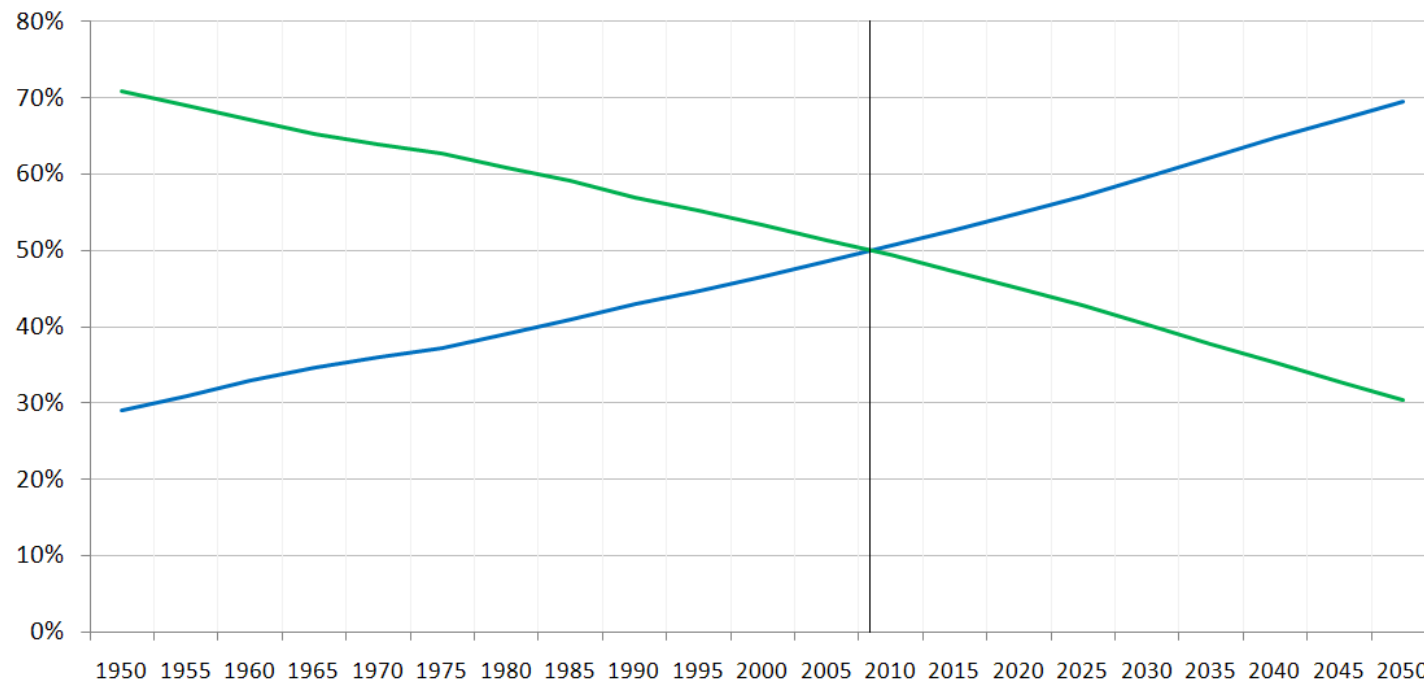
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1. THE FUTURE IS URBAN

The world urban population increases with **60 million/year**.

In 2050, **70 procent** of the world population will **live in cities.**

Urbanity will be the **way of life** of the majority of the human population.

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WORLD POPULATION: URBAN (BLUE) AND RURAL (GREEN)

Three urban challenges (Eric Corijn):

➢ How to make cities **liveable,** through the combination nature/culture: the **ecological** challenge

➢ How to make cities and their multicultural communities **connected**: the **cosmopolitan** challenge

➢ How to make cities **inclusive**: the **social** challenge

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2. URBAN & METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITIES

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An **urban university** is a U.S. term for an institution of higher learning that is socially involved and serves as a resource for educating the citizens and improving the health of the city or region in which it is located.

A **metropolitan university** includes a similar mission; however, its research has national and international implications and its student body includes a significant number of international students.

Being **in a city** does not make a **university urban, nor metropolitan.**

To be urban, a university **must be "of" the city as well as "in" and "for" the city**.

Research, teaching and service to society focused on **urban & metropolitan challenges**.

CUMU Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities

Coalition of Urban Serving Universities

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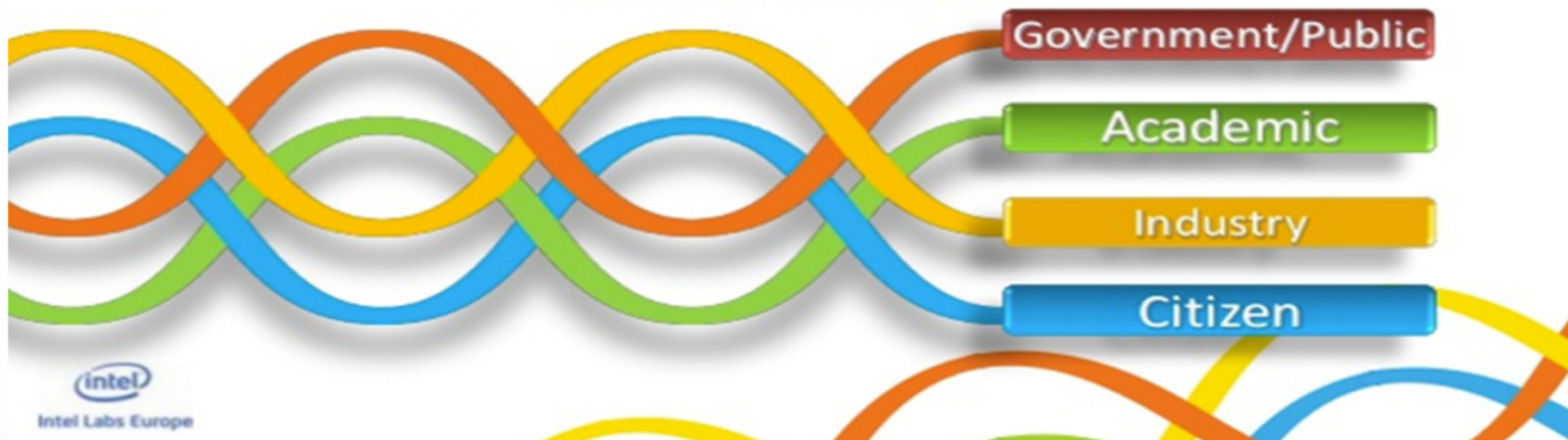
Strengthening universities and cities, and their interdependence

Through research & research valorization, education, service to society

Quadruple Helix Innovation

Government, Academia, Industry and Citizens collaborating together to drive structural changes far beyond the scope of any one organization could achieve on it's own

Government/Public

Academic

Industry

Citizen

intel
Intel Labs Europe

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3. UNICA AS *THE* NETWORK OF URBAN UNIVERSITIES

*"Our universities are in cities, capital cities to be more precise. I probably don't need to convince you of the numerous advantages our urban location provides. The city is where things happen - where things happen **first**. For a scientist and for a teacher, a city is a laboratory. For artists a source of inspiration, for entrepreneurs a testbed."*

UNICA General Assembly, Budapest November 17, 2017

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UNICA: 49 universities from 37 capital cities of Europe, combining over 160,000 staff and 1,900,000 students.

- **Potentially the largest and most relevant network of urban universities in the world**

  - Relevant experience in City-University Cooperation
  - Strong UNICA GREEN Platform
  - Working group "Culture in the City"

UNICA

Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

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What kind of **research** is relevant to the city?

What kind of **teaching** is relevant to the city?

What kind of **services to society** are relevant to the city

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- **Can UNICA stimulate research focused on urban challenges? Are our universities doing this?**

  - **What?** Thematic research, SDG/mission oriented: beyond disciplines on mobility, smart cities, urban health, sustainability, diversity, urban economy, urban governance, urban living, equity…

  - **How?** By facilitating UNICA-research networks, Ph.D programs, summer schools, exchange of best practices…

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- **Proposal:**

  - 7.2.2019: Poincaré Group VUB organizes *Homo* **Roboticus-event** in La Monnaie/De Munt

  - 8.2.2019: we propose to host a **UNICA-seminar** 'Urban research Universities addressing global challenges' on **Robots & AI** (research policy, FP9, trans- & interdisciplinary research,…)

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- **Can UNICA stimulate teaching which is of urban relevance in terms of content and/or format?**

  - New MIT programs focused on urban challenges: multiculturalism, urban governance, sustainability
  - Studium Generale: life lessons & soft skills for urban living (*Redelijk Eigenzinnig*, *Difference Day*)
  - Making the city your classroom (*wekonekt.brussels*)
  - Community Service Learning projects (*Univer.city*)
  - Programs in different cities (*4Cities-UNICA Master*)

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- **Proposal:**

  - 8.10.2018: 2nd *Mind Blowers –
    Alternative Academic Opening –
    Arts meets Science: Imagination*

  - A **UNICA-wide Mindblowers**
    on the same day, in different
    European capital cities?

  - A **Difference Day** event on
    freedom of expression (may 3d)
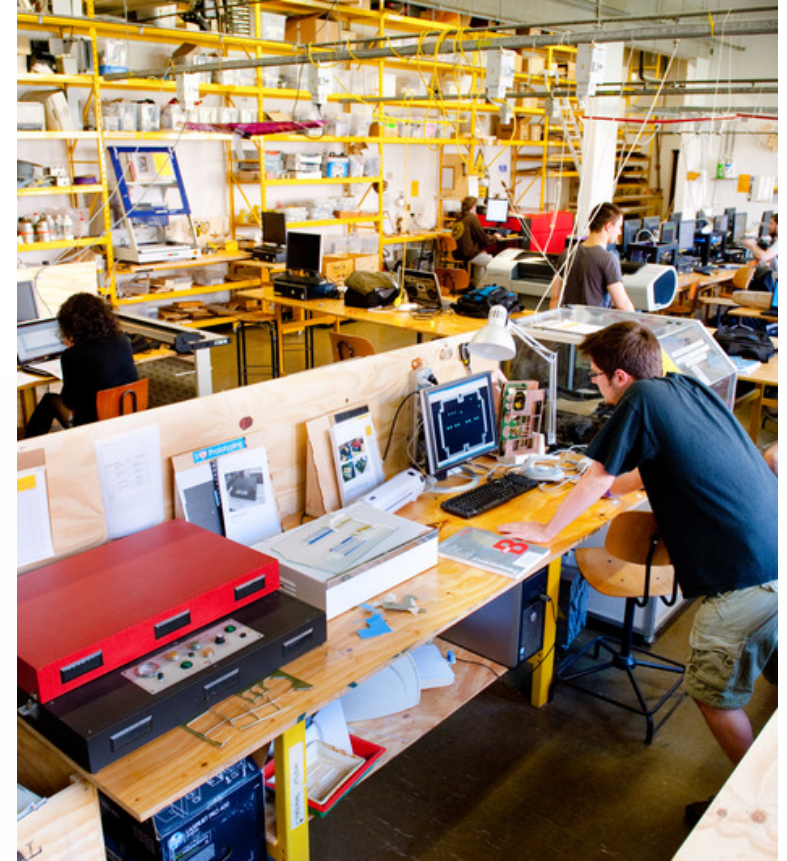   in our capital cities'universities

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- **Can UNICA stimulate service to society which is of urban relevance?**

  - Citizen science projects in, with and for the city
  - Urban labs for interactive urban planning
  - Urban health programs
  - Urban commons (urban farming, wekonekt.)
  - (Social) Entrepreneurship for the city
  - Smart cities
  - Fab Labs

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- **Proposal:**

  - Organize a **UNICA City-University Cooperation workshop**

  - Bring together project leaders, exchange of best practices, discuss future collaborations, discover the missing links, along the quadruple helix methodologies

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- **How can UNICA become urban in its governance?**

  - Can UNICA act as a **laboratory for the urban&metroplitan universities of the future**
    - European universities: Macron's network of EU universities
  - UNICA-members should already be the **urban & metropolitan universities of the future**
    - sustainable infrastructure and more sharing of infrastructure, multicultural staff, multicultural student population,…

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- **Proposal:**

  - VUB and ULB will host a **UNICA student conference** in 2019-2020. Our ambition: students write a whitepaper on the (UNICA) urban & metropolitan university in 2030 and beyond, to be presented in the EP and to the EU Commisioners.

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THANK YOU

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