Comments on
European Universities Network
Initiative

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1. Networks for Universities

Nova University, Lisbon, belongs to UNICA, YERUN; EUA and AULP (...)

Very GOOD

o *They allow continuous systematic institutional **conversation** among partners*

o *With conversation comes **mutual knowledge** and with mutual knowledge comes **trust***

o *When institutions trust each other, they collaborate effectively and design and carry out **joint projects** of all sorts and they have **a collective voice** about things that matter (both are part of the success metrics)*

o *A **win-win**: networks get stronger, each university gets stronger, in all relevant senses*

1. Networks for Universities

Not so GOOD

o *Some 'parameters' for networks (e.g., capitals, young, Portuguese speaking) are or may be limitative*

o *Partners outside academia are not frequent at all*

o *Bottom-up initiatives are an issue*

o *Lack of joint projects weakens networks*

*To **overcome** the 'not so good things' is a challenge …*

o *Now I am going to talk about possible networks that, unlike the current ones, **may change the landscape of HE in Continental Europe HE** in, say, 20 years, by creating a sort of 'Champions League': **European University Networks***

2. REFERENCES

- ✓ *Universities of the Future" **The Guild** – European Research Intensive Universities (23.03.2018) [Aarhus, Oslo, Wien, KCL, Ghent, Uppsala, …*

- ✓ *"Building a stronger Europe: the role of youth, education and culture policies" , Communication from the **European Comission** to the European Parliament, The European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of Regions (22.05.2018)*

- ✓ *Concept Paper: European Universities. **Eurocor** (Basel, Freiburg, KIT, Haute-Alsace, Strasbourg).*

- ✓ ***Missions**. Mission Oriented Research & Innovation in EU. By Mariana Mazzucato*

- ✓ ***T.I.M.E.** – Association (Milan Polytechn., Berlin, ULB)*

2. REFERENCES (cont.)

- ✓ ***Coimbra Group*** *statement on European Universities Networks (12.02.2018)*

- ✓ *European universities **CPU** proposal (Conference des Presidents d'Université) (no visible)*

- ✓ *"Towards True Integration of European Education, Research and Innovation". **EuroTech** Universities (Technical Univ. of Denmark, École Poly. de Lausanne, Technicshe Univ. Eindhoven, Technical Univ. Munich) (no visible date)*

- ✓ *"Developing 'European Universities' as Excellence Networks of Universities". Concept Paper from **HRK** German Rectors' Conference (22.02.2018)*

- ✓ *European University Network Initiative– Input by **SIU**, the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (09.03.2018)*

3. EU University Networks

Why are EU University Net needed?

o To *reinforce the relation* between **research, teaching and innovation**

o To create European universities for the future enabling them to **face complex challenges** which are not limited to individual nation states, but require fast-paced out-of-the box thinking across borders, disciplines and sectors

o To facilitate **seamless mobility and cooperation** between European universities, and strengthen the quality, relevance and **global competitiveness** of European universities (vs. Asian world class universities that are becoming world leaders in higher education)

3. EU University Networks

What is their mission?

o To *address the **complex challenges*** that Europe is facing

o To combine **complementary strengths** of their members to achieve critical mass and impact for society

o To jointly construct an efficient strategy and governance in the ***triangle of knowledge:*** research, innovation, education

o They are "the **next level of ambition**, where higher education institutions, sharing the same vision and values, develop joint long-term institutional strategies for **top-quality education, research and innovation**" (European Commission, 22.05.2018)

3. EU University Networks

What are the general features of the consortia?

o Strong commitment to deliver on their objectives

o Maximum effectiveness & minimum bureaucracy

o Creation of a common pool of physical, virtual, intellectual and administrative resources to be used by their communities

o Commitment involves: universities, governments and EU

o Flexible and allowing for *bottom-up initiatives*

o Takes advantage of complementary strengths

o Creates *bridges between* the entire University value chain: *education, research and innovation*

3. EU University Networks

What are the general features of the consortia?
(continued)

o *Mobility*: student and staff – teachers, researchers, non-academic (also stated by EC)

o Development of *educational content and innovative pedagogies*: curricula development for courses, joint programmes, summer schools, on line modules, entrepreneurship, etc.

o *All the degrees* should be covered: Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral (also stated by EC)

o *Impact* should lie *mainly in Education*

3. EU University Networks

What are the general features of the consortia?

(continued)

But EC is more ambitious

o "They should operate on the basis of **multidisciplinary approaches**, allowing students, lecturers and researchers to *co-create and share knowledge and innovation*."

o "This could help to **address the big societal challenges** and *skills shortages* that Europe faces."

(European Commission, 22.05.2018, p.8)

3. EU University Networks

What are the general conditions for submitting proposals?

o An ***open call*** (unlike the KICs)

o Partnerships covers Member States and Associated Countries

o Number of partners: ***form 4 to 6***

o Long-term commitment, ***10 years***, with a *mid term review, 5 years*

o Favors ***cross-border alliances***, development of *border regions* vs. being ***region comprehensive*** *in EU*

o *Previous cooperation should be **required** and enhanced (Erasmus +; H2020).*

3. EU University Networks

What are the general conditions for submitting proposals? (cont.)

o Annual **Budget**: ± €20M / year (Eucor); €3-5 M / year + Erasmus+ (SIU); €5-15M / year (HRK).

o Should involve at least **three Member Countries**

o *Pilots 2019 & 2020*, rolled out more widely as of **2021, at least 20** (European Commission, 22.05.2018, p.8)

o Pilots should be placed within the Erasmus+ framework (!) and encompass all programme countries (European Commission, 22.05.2018, p.8)

4. Missions the Stuff FP9 is made of

What are Missions?

o **Public Policies based on Knowledge**: "systemic *public policies that draw on frontier knowledge to attain specific goals* or 'big science deployed to meet big problems'"

o **Address Global Challenges**: "missions *provide a solution, an opportunity, and an approach to address the important global challenges* "

o **Improve Welfare**: "research and innovation **missions** should **address global challenges** and aim to improve society's welfare"

o **Flexible**: "To allow research and innovation missions *to create impact* with societal relevance, **flexibility is needed in how the mission is defined**, e.g. *more on the side of technology, more on the social side, or both*."

4. Missions the Stuff FP9 is made of

What is the connection between: Challenges / Missions / Projects?

o Global challenges have been expressed as *17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)*

o Missions can give the **needed 'granularity'** to European research and innovation, because *it sits between broad challenges and concrete projects* (unlike H2020)

o Missions should be **broad enough to engage the public** and attract cross-sectoral investment; and remain *focused enough to involve industry* *and achieve measurable success*

4. Missions the Stuff FP9 is made of

What are the General Criteria for Missions?

They should be

o *Bold, Inspirational* with wide ***societal relevance***

o *Targeted, measurable and timebound*

o *Ambitious but realistic research and innovation action*

o ***Cross-disciplinary*** *research and innovation*

o *Multiple **bottom-up solutions** (= projects)*

4. Missions the Stuff FP9 is made of

Example 1

- o **Goal** – **Climate Change** (Goals 7, 11 & 13 of GSD)
- o *Mission* – *100 Neutral Carbon Cities by 2030*
- o *Projects*:
- - X1: Buildings with Carbon-Absorbing Components
- - X2: Clean Urban Electric Mobility
- - X3: Carbon neutral food industry connecting city and agriculture
- - X4: Citizen carbon-ID: e-government streamlining of carbon footprint
- - …. (n more projects)

4. Missions the Stuff FP9 is made of

Example 2

- **Goal – Clean Oceans** (Goal 14 of GSD)
- **Mission** – *A Plastic Free Ocean by 2030*
- **Projects:**
- Y1: Autonomous ocean stations to remove plastic pollution
- Y2: Re-use of packing items through personalized collection services
- Y3: Re-usable and biodegradable plastic substitutes
- Y4: Image recognition and deep learning waste separation system for domestic and marine waste
- Y5: Plastic and micro plastic digestion mechanism
- … (n more projects)

5. Points for further Discussion

General Question

o **What would be a Mission-base approach to European University Networks?**

Some Topics

o *Missions within the university triangle:* education, research & innovation

o Missions and *complementarity among resident knowledge of partner universities*

o Missions and *complementarity among the regions of partner universities (North – South; Crossborder; ...)*

o *Should the partnership be made at Challenge(s) Level, Mission(s) Level, or both?*

Obrigado!