



University of Cyprus  
Medical School



How European University Alliances address the question of well-being  
A Biobank for promoting well-being in societies  
The next generation biomedical research

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**UNICA - Semmelweis University webinar**

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***We invest in Biobanking, we invest in a healthier Cyprus!***



# YUFE Vision



- Aims to bring a **radical** change by becoming the leading model of a young, **student-centred**, **open**, inclusive and diversified European University.
- Based on the cooperation between higher education institutions, **public & private sector**, and citizens. Great connections and **co-creation** opportunities with all stakeholders.
- YUFE will shape future generations of Europeans into socially responsible, globally oriented citizens and life-long learners equipped to effectively contribute to a more cohesive and inclusive European society.



## Research & Innovation dimensions of YUFE:

- Technology Transfer
- Flip knowledge Transfer
- Start-ups
- Spinoffs
- Open Science
- Development of new researchers

# YUFE partners:

- Full partners/Academic Members:

1. Maastricht University (Coordinator)
2. University of Antwerp
3. University of Bremen
4. University Carlos III of Madrid
5. University of Cyprus
6. University of Eastern Finland
7. University of Essex
8. University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
9. University of Rijeka
10. Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun

- Associated partners/Non-Academic Members:

1. Kiron Open Higher Education
2. The Adecco Group France
3. Educational Testing Service (ETS) Global

# How is YUFE different?

- Students co-create and share responsibilities in YUFE
- YUFE learning is classroom, work-experience and social action
- Access to opportunities for non-traditional learners in Europe
- Assessing individual progress also outside the classroom
- Mentoring from professionals and entrepreneurs also beyond academia
- Education aligned with local and European needs

# What does YUFE mean for our citizens and youth?

- Increased social participation of citizens from disadvantaged groups
- Re-skilling for citizens that are unemployed
- Youth empowerment via (higher) education
- Digital literacy and digital support for (older) citizens
- Mutual support between YUFE students and staff and locals

# YUFE Focus Areas



EUROPEAN IDENTITY & RESPONSIBILITIES IN A GLOBAL WORLD

CITIZENS WELL-BEING

DIGITAL SOCIETIES

SUSTAINABILITY

## YUFE Flagships

YUFE ECOSYSTEM - UNIVERSITY +

YUFE Student Journey

YUFE Staff Journey

YUFE Innovation & Entrepreneurship

YUFE in our Cities

YUFE VIRTUAL CAMPUS

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## Outcomes

>

Young, student centred, non-elitist, open and inclusive European University

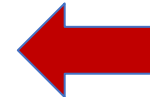
Strengthened European Identity / Empowered European Citizens



## *10 Ideas Changing the World*



1. Why Your Job is Your Most Valuable Asset
2. Repurposing the Suburbs
3. Survival-Store Shopping
4. **Biobanks; Saving Your Parts**
5. Need Land? Rent-A-Country
6. The New Calvinism
7. Ecological Intelligence
8. Amortality; Forever Young
9. Africa; Open for Business
10. Reinventing the Highway





# What Biobanks do?

- Collect and store data and biological material to use in research studies
- Care about quality of data and material
- Care about transparency, physical and digital safety and confidentiality of data
- Distribute data and material to ethically approved proposals to promote research
- Support studies related to:
  - Epidemiology
  - Clinical trials
  - Genetics/Pharmacogenetics
  - Case-control studies
  - Prospective and follow-up studies
  - Other
- Biobanks also serve as custodians to collections of other researchers



# Types of Biobanks

- Hospital based
- Not-hospital based
  
- General population biobanks
- Disease focused (cancer, heart conditions, kidney conditions, etc)
- Project based (with specific aims)
- Material based (wide material use, or only DNA, or DNA plus plasma and/or serum and /or urine, or else)



# Biobanking and the Cyprus Human Genome Project

**CY-BIOBANK** | Grant Agreement Number: 857122

**Project Title:** Center of Excellence – Biobanking and the Cyprus Human Genome Project

**Funding:** European Commission

**Project duration:** 15 years | European funding for years 1-7

**Program:** H2020-WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019: Teaming Phase 2

<b>Project Budget:</b>	European Commission:	€15 million
	Republic of Cyprus:	€15 million
	University of Cyprus:	€8 million



## PARTNERS

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. University of Cyprus   | Cyprus            |
| 2. Medical University of Graz / BBMRI.at  | Austria           |
| 3. Biobanking and BioMolecular Resources Research Infrastructure-<br>European Research Infrastructure Consortium / BBMRI-ERIC | Austria<br>Cyprus |
| 4. RTD TALOS Limited  | Cyprus            |

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## THE GREAT ADVANTAGE OF COLLABORATING WITH A BIOBANK

“Think of the Marathon starting line where everybody else is waiting the gunshot to run, while you are way ahead because you have in your hands a ticket to a high-quality Biobank”

# Ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI)

- Sensitive data are collected and archived
- Data and material are distributed to multiple researchers
- Genetic/genomics data are generated
- Risk for linking or breaching of data
- Risk for illegal use of data
  
- General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Impact Assessment
  - The biobanking activity follows strict standard operating procedures to align with various ISO standards, while at the same time considers emerging ethical, legal, and societal issues (ELSI) in compliance with GDPR and confidentiality considerations. High quality physical and digital measures are taken to protect from accidental or malicious breaching of data.



# Expected Outcomes

Discovery of new knowledge in biomedical sciences

Derive conclusions based on existing data

Use material to develop basic and innovative research results

Contribute to better diagnosis, prognosis and prevention of diseases

Contribute to discovery of biomarkers regarding disease predisposition or disease progression, enabling early intervention

Contribute to discovery of new and better medications

***We invest in the Biobank! We invest in a healthier Cyprus***

# Thank you very much!

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 ***Keep in touch with us!***

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