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How European University Alliances address the question of well-being

UNICA webinar

4EU+ Alliance and well-being in modern cities

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Outline:

- 4EU+ Alliance, its objectives, works and achievements
- 4EU+ Flagships
- Flagship 1: "Health and demographic change in an urban environment,,
- Flagship 4 "Biodiversity and sustainable development,,
- Examples of educational projects

4EU+ Alliance

„...to strengthen the European vision of deepened cooperation and mutual enrichment by developing a new quality of cooperation in teaching, education, research and administration, leading to the creation of a truly integrated European University System...”

Challenges:

- Boost Meaningful Mobility
- Increase inclusiveness and balance at a European level
- Develop a common challenge-based framework for education



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Flagship 1

Health and demographic change in an urban environment

Flagship 2

Europe in a changing world: Understanding and engaging economies, cultures and languages

Flagship 3

Transforming science and society: Advancing information, computation and communication

Flagship 4

Biodiversity and sustainable development

1. The governance/regulatory aspects of Europeanness – European Citizenship.
2. The multitude of factors that contribute to European self-identification - Multilingualism

Big data management and modern analysis techniques like machine learning and AI applied in different fields from humanities to natural sciences

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Flagship 1

Health and demographic change in an urban environment

1. Three interconnected issues of an ageing population, increasing urban density and environmental impacts on healthcare.
2. Focus on health and well-being of European citizens, prolonging their active and productive life.
3. The priorities of the European Union and the global Sustainable Development Goals (especially #3 and #11) portrayed by the UN.
4. Public health has no borders and requires joining forces across universities and disciplines.
5. Urban environments are of central concern here because they are the places where environmental impacts are strongest, population density is highest, but also research and knowledge transfer are concentrated.

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Flagship 4

Biodiversity and sustainable development

1. Address an ever-increasing demand on resources and serious disruptions from climate change.
2. Research in the biology of organisms, ecology, biodiversity, and environmental protection, thus providing a sound basis for multidisciplinary research
3. Construct an inspiring, multidisciplinary environment for students, with shared expertise in: academics, teaching-through-research, resources and infrastructures, including well-tailored exchange semesters, summer schools, short intense joint courses
4. Contribute to the environmental education of society, in Europe and across the globe, including suggestions and solutions that would address complex relationships of society, economy and the environment and the communication of these solutions to a diverse audience



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TRANSFORM – Innovation & Entrepreneurship for Sustainability

1. An open source, collaborative university course on social entrepreneurship and impact investing.
2. The course will introduce the concepts of: open and frugal innovation, strategic thinking for social problem solving, scaling sustainable solutions, and measuring societal impact.
3. The course builds on the previously established “Accelerating Investment Readiness” MOOC (#AirMOOC, see https://youtu.be/yPUVuh_uFgg), but extends its contents significantly.
4. Focus on how entrepreneurs (and impact investors) address sustainability challenges by their organizations, broadly defined in the sense of the SDGs.
5. It will develop knowledge on circular economy business models, or how innovative nonprofit startups increase environmental and social sustainability in commodity supply chains.

4EU+ Alliance

Urban Health Case Challenge

2021: Mental Health in Urban Spaces

1. The aim is to develop the best solution to a real-world issue within a limited time-span.
2. First, a number of online lectures that deal with the general topic and give insights from different perspectives.
3. Second, the challenge is revealed.
4. Third, mixed teams of students from 8 universities presents their solution in front of an expert jury at a pitching session on the last day of the case challenge.
5. In 2022 the focus was on how the quality of urban space and social interactions within it can help in the prevention and mitigation of mental health issues on an emotional, psychological and social level and thus to ensure the well-being of the inhabitants and the strengthening of social cohesion.