Rethinking expertise: Co-creating inclusive communities with students

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UNICA panel 12.5

Una Europa

Freie Universität Berlin

Università di Bologna

University of Edinburgh

Helsingin Yliopisto

Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie

KU Leuven

Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

University College Dublin

Universiteit Leiden

Universität Zürich

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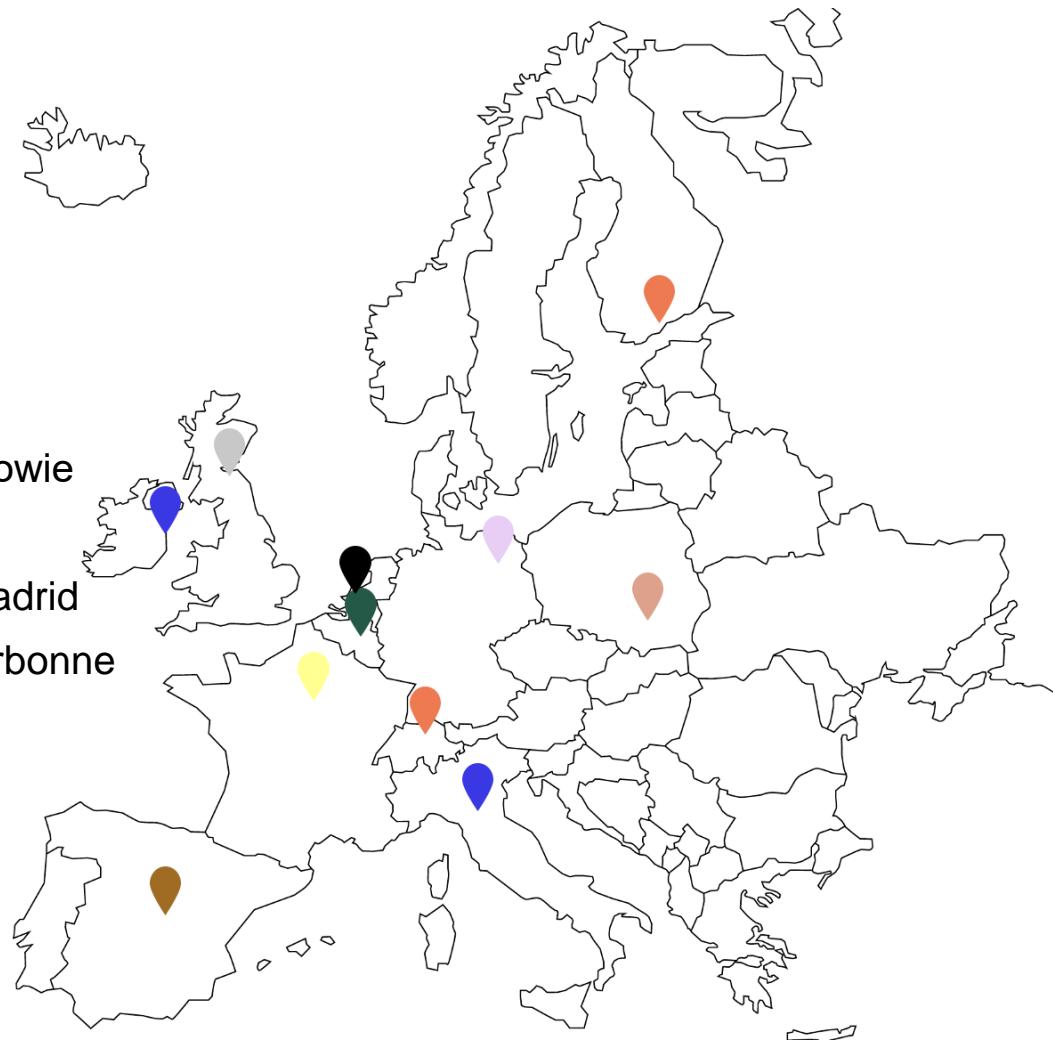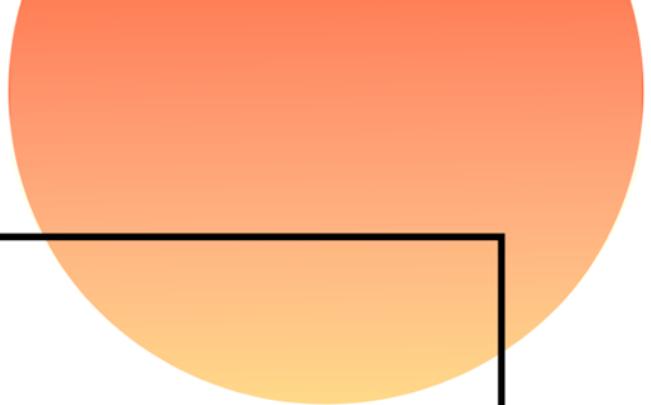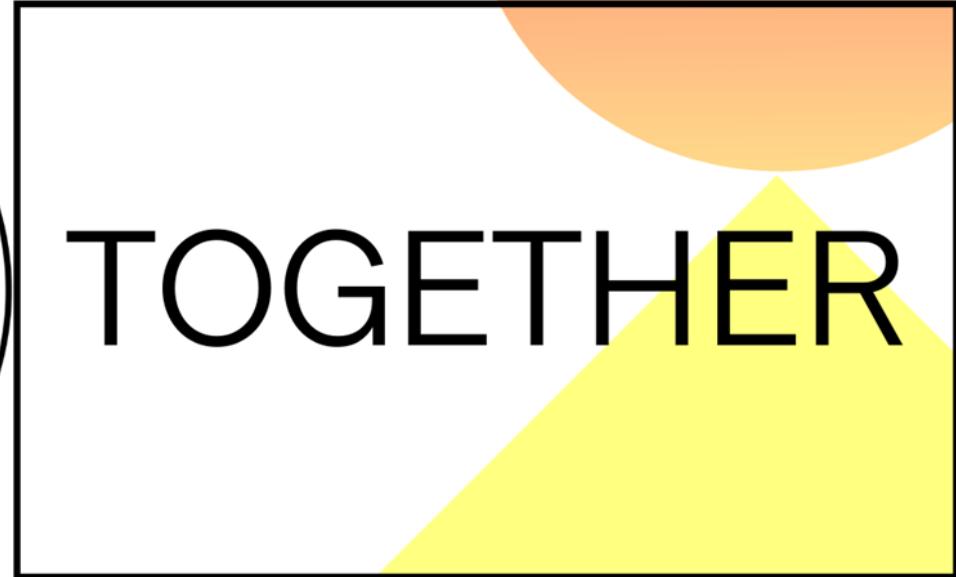
TOGETHER

What is Una.Together?

- The third iteration of the Una Challenge

- Aim is for students to work together in interdisciplinary teams, using tools of design thinking, rapid prototyping, the double diamond to find solutions to pressing problems in our world.

- Hackathon, challenge-based learning approach

- Short-term program

Una.Together:
5 April –19 May 2022

Students coming together to create concepts that advance diversity, equity and inclusion in universities

Why diversity, equity and inclusion?

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- Acknowledging students' multiple identities – age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexuality, religion – should all be considered and embraced in the academic communities

- The interconnection between university and surrounding society

- Mental health, loneliness, discrimination, burnout, exclusion

- Ensure well-being, inclusion and ability to thrive for all students

- Does everyone have **equal opportunities**?

- Do people feel like they **belong** and are **valued**?

- A broader range of experiences is essential – students have specific, unique **expertise**

So how are we doing it?

- A strong community approach

- Sourced challenges from eight member universities

- Received 121 applications from students - selected 55 of them to work in international and interdisciplinary teams to come up with ideas

- Enrolled a number of colleagues across our universities to support us as local coordinators, mentors, challenge contact persons and experts - ensuring real buy-in from each institution

- Connecting student teams and staff in mutual learning situations

What kind of challenges did we get?

Paris1 Sorbonne: What could be done to improve equality of opportunity/success for students forced to work to finance their studies?

University of Helsinki: What kind of innovative solutions can help us create and foster more inclusive environments for supporting students with different language skills (e.g. different mother tongues, different skills in the university's official language) and see it as a strength and an added value for students?

Freie Universität Berlin: How do we recruit and support first generation students from non-academic backgrounds?

KU Leuven: How can we as a university better include students with a physical disability in campus life, both in an academic as well as non-academic context?

Timeline of the program

Four lectures
5 – 21 April
(Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Opening weekend
23 – 24 April
(Saturday & Sunday)

Six workshops
26 April – 12 May
(Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Final showcase
13 May (Friday)

Reflections & feedback
19 May (Thursday)

26 April – Lean Canvas
28 April – User Experience
3 May – Expert Sparring
5 May – Piloting
10 May – Pitching
12 May – Finishing Touches

Lectures & Workshops 16-19 CET
Opening Weekend 10-17 CET both days.

How have things unfolded?

- Learning, awareness, exploration and new insights

- Empathy and connection

- Sharing initiatives for well-being, inclusion, and accessibility across universities

- Sharing practices and identifying gaps in our approach to inclusion and well-being

What has been the impact?

- Final event tomorrow! Please join us!

- Teams will pitch to the jury
  - General Secretary of Una Europa Emily Palmer
  - Student Board member Rachel Weller
  - Future Unilab coordinator and professor Radek Rybkowski
  - Think Company COO Ifeoma Kulmala

- Winning team will get to travel to the university that posed the challenge – hopefully to ensure real impact and change

- Open Educational Resources and dissemination:
  ideas shared and implemented – with broader community also
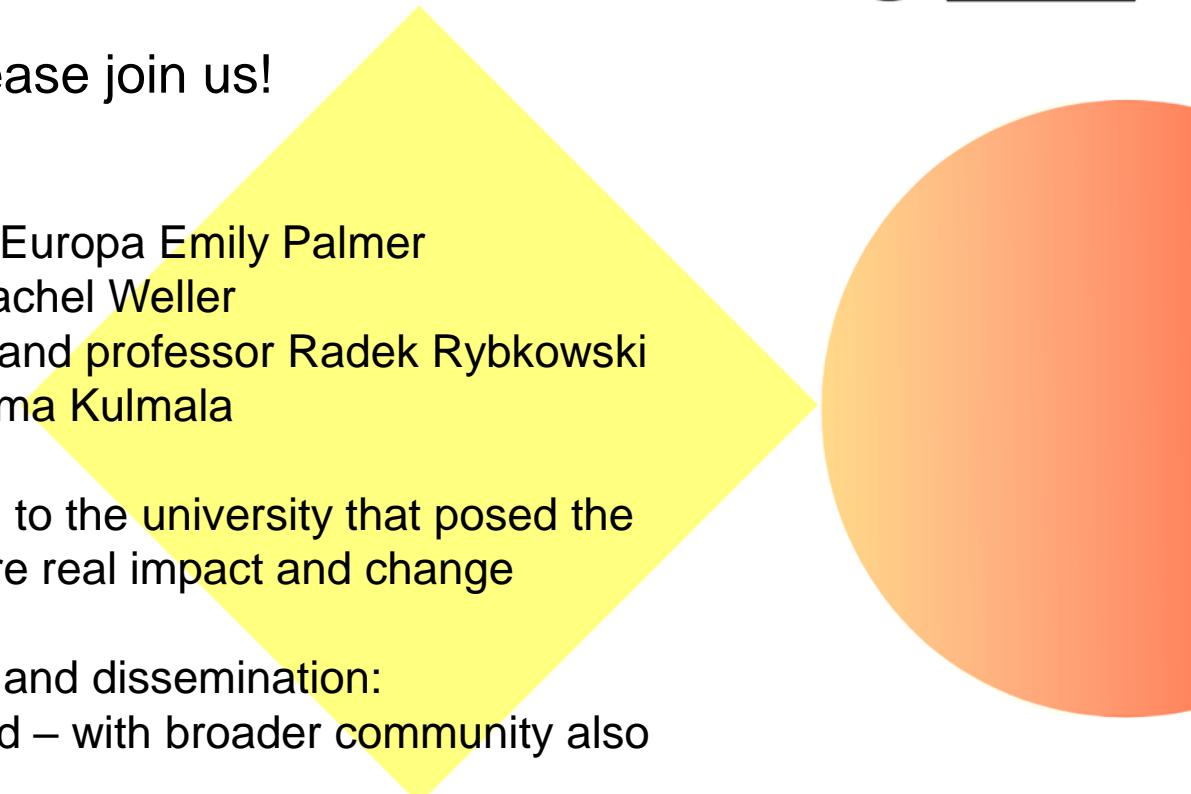
Thank you!
Hope to see you tomorrow! ☺

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https://www.una-europa.eu/calendar/una-together-closing-event-showcase