# Position Paper on the Future of European Universities for the Conference on the future of Europe

3rd December 2021

Ulysseus alliance's vision is to become an excellency-recognized University built upon the European values of social cohesion and respect for human rights. Contributing towards this goal it is our mission to be a European University open to the world, persons-centred and entrepreneurial, with students actively participating in its development.

Ulysseus welcomes the EU's initiative for the Conference on the Future of Europe having a participatory dialogue with citizens from across the Union. Young people in particular have a lot to contribute to these discussions impacting their future and those of upcoming European generations. It is essential that their views are heard and acted upon during the Conference process. The Conference is a unique opportunity for the institutions to listen and to enact real change through its implementation.

Ulysseus students' ideas and wishes were collected in in a co-creation session on the future of European Universities in order to feed a Manifesto that is currently under preparation by the European Student Community (Action 3) and will be brought out within the Conference on the Future of Europe. The European Student Community is a grassroots project initiated by students from European Universities aiming to be the voice of European students in the Conference.

With this aim, we have gathered our inputs and perspectives in this position paper for becoming a European University of the future. We want to express that we consider the following items crucial to be taking into account for the further development of European universities.

**Excellence**

- Putting less pressure on students while their studies
- Create common degrees, implementing free mobility between universities
- Conducting both oral and written exams and include soft skills exams
- Updating study-programs regularly
- Investing in research projects like Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe, relating to different themes and topics.

**Digital Transition**

- Digitalizing bureaucracy processes in our institutions
- Implementing more practical and intuitive forms of teaching & learning
- Universities providing more online tools for students
- Educating teachers and students in a responsible use of technology
- Giving all stakeholders access to tools & infrastructure

**Green Transition**

- Taking care of the environment by planting trees in order to also have a good aesthetic of the place
- Organizing extracurricular activities related to environment and nature
- Establishing incentives for the use of public transport and bikes

- Proving more documents online for reducing paper use in general
- Including students into the process of creating solutions for environmental issues

## Multi-Stakeholders engagement

- Creating specific courses organized by stakeholders to raise consciousness and knowledge
- Establishing a strong network to the industry to enable students into having internships in stakeholder companies
- Bringing together stakeholders of the university with students to create attractive work environments for future employees
- Strengthening relationships between public organisations and our institutions
- Upholding the conversations with stakeholders in our community

## Lifelong and lifewide learning

- Supporting people living a healthy lifestyle e.g. through more activities outdoor
- Organizing meetings between students from different cultures to strengthen international relations
- Offering many more Open Events on different topics e.g. food, sports or languages
- Creating strong & connected Alumni Networks, improving the interaction between past and present students
- Innovating the teaching methods and having alternative methodologies to study

## Inclusion and diversity

- Providing grants to support students with economic difficulties
- Establish protocols to act against bullying
- Enhancing diversity in all matters of European Universities
- Offering diversity studies and respect minorities and gender equality

- Funding opportunities of scholarships and opportunities for everyone

The students of Ulysseus, therefore, call for these jointly decided conclusions for further steps for our European University to become a European University of the future.

*Background:*

*This document was put together by a selection of students of the Ulysseus European University, through online preparatory design thinking work and an in-person cooperation activity, as part of the Ulysseus European University Open Event that took place on the 2nd and 3rd of December of 2021. The list of participants can be found in Annex 1.*

**Annex -** **Participants of the session on the Future of European Universities for the Conference on the Future of Europe**

| Name | Surname | University |
|---|---|---|
| Yana | Liubarskaia | haaga-helia-university-of-applied-sciences |
| Tomi | Lempinen | haaga-helia-university-of-applied-sciences |
| Laura | Tolvanen | haaga-helia-university-of-applied-sciences |
| Cristiana | Dabija | mci-or-the-entrepreneurial-school-r |
| Michala | Weissová | technical-university-of-kosice |
| Adam | Valiska | technical-university-of-kosice |
| Lorenza | Vittoriano | universite-cote-d-azur |
| Sirine | Ben Hadj Khalifa | universite-cote-d-azur |
| Anh | Nguyen | universite-cote-d-azur |
| Anna | Bozzo | university-of-genoa |
| Maria Elena | Cassinelli | university-of-genoa |
| Irene | Sante | university-of-genoa |
| Clelia | Vignolo | university-of-genoa |
| Marta | Serra | university-of-genoa |
| Agustín | Morilla Colmenero | university-of-seville |
| Mª Carmen | Hinojosa Corbacho | university-of-seville |
| Carmen | Antúnez López | university-of-seville |
| Blanca | Ruiz Estévez | university-of-seville |
| Clara | Romero García | university-of-seville |
| Pedro Jesús | García | university-of-seville |
| Enrique J. | Díaz Montaña | university-of-seville |
| Alfonso | Márquez Martínez | university-of-seville |
| Billy James | Williams | university-of-seville |
| Daniel | Salado Hidalgo | IES-Aleman |
| Francis Pamela | Martínez Espinoza | IES-Aleman |
| Elsa | Vallejos | IES-Carande |
| Lucía | Carmona Zabala | IES-Carande |
| Diego | Jiménez | IES-Carande |
| Cristina | Lomelino Rodríguez | university-of-seville |

# Ulysseus

## EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

HAAGA-HELIA UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES (Finland)

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
OF KOŠICE (Slovakia)

MCI | THE ENTREPRENEURIAL
SCHOOL (Austria)

UNIVERSITY OF GENOA
(Italy)

UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D'AZUR
(France)

UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE
(Spain)

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

Università di Genova

UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D'AZUR

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