



1Europe

Annual Report

2020-21



Foreword

Professor Peter Lievens

1Europe Coordinator and Vice Rector for International Policy, KU Leuven

When we set out to create Una Europa as a living lab for our university of the future, our hopes were high and our enthusiasm endless. We knew fully well that we would encounter challenges along the way, but despite early scientific intelligence on Covid-19, the disruptive, life-changing impact of the global pandemic was not part of the planned picture. All the more so, we are proud that the Una Europa journey continued to inspire us all in 2020, albeit with occasional adjustment in speed, track or vehicle. The highly successful kick-off of our 1Europe pilot in January (the only physical meeting of the year) and launch of our new branding in June released enough energy for our community of students, academics and professionals to expand and flourish, sometimes beyond original expectations, as for instance with the Una.Ten student competition, the mobility in emergency scheme and the emergence of our fifth scientific Focus Area, One Health. Significant progress was made on our Joint Innovative Formats for education and mobility, in particular the joint Bachelor in European Studies and the joint Doctorate in Cultural Heritage, truly paving the way towards the European degree that is currently being explored at EU level.



Professor Verena Blechinger-Talcott

Chair of Una Europa Board of Directors and Vice President for International Relations, Freie Universität Berlin



As we enter 2021, our focus will be on keeping up the momentum, to implement the first of our more than 20 joint courses and programmes. We will also venture into new territory, building the Research and Innovation dimension of our future university through our Una.Resin pilot, funded by Horizon 2020. We will broaden and deepen our offer for the different strands of our community. The first Una Europa Student Congress and Prize will connect hundreds of Una Europa students to co-create our University of the Future. Una Europa academics will benefit from Una Europa Seed Funding and new workshops on offer to develop a common research and innovation agenda towards external funding. The first Una Europa Staff Week will not only feature dedicated sessions for groups of specialists, it will also fuel open dialogue with other European Universities on the transformation agenda of European Higher Education. In the Spring, we look forward to launching a broad strategic exercise engaging the whole community in the consolidation of Una Europa and its preparation for full roll-out in the years to come.

Una Europa in brief

Eight leading European research universities have come together to create a unique alliance – Una Europa. Una Europa draws on the collective strengths of its partners to create a truly European inter-university environment, a University of the Future unprecedented in scale and quality.

Funded among the first European University pilots selected by the European Commission in 2019, 1Europe is driving the education dimension of our future university. Implementing a Europe-wide living lab for testing Joint Innovative Formats for education and mobility (JIFs), 1Europe is dedicated to help build the European Higher Education Area for the graduates of the future.

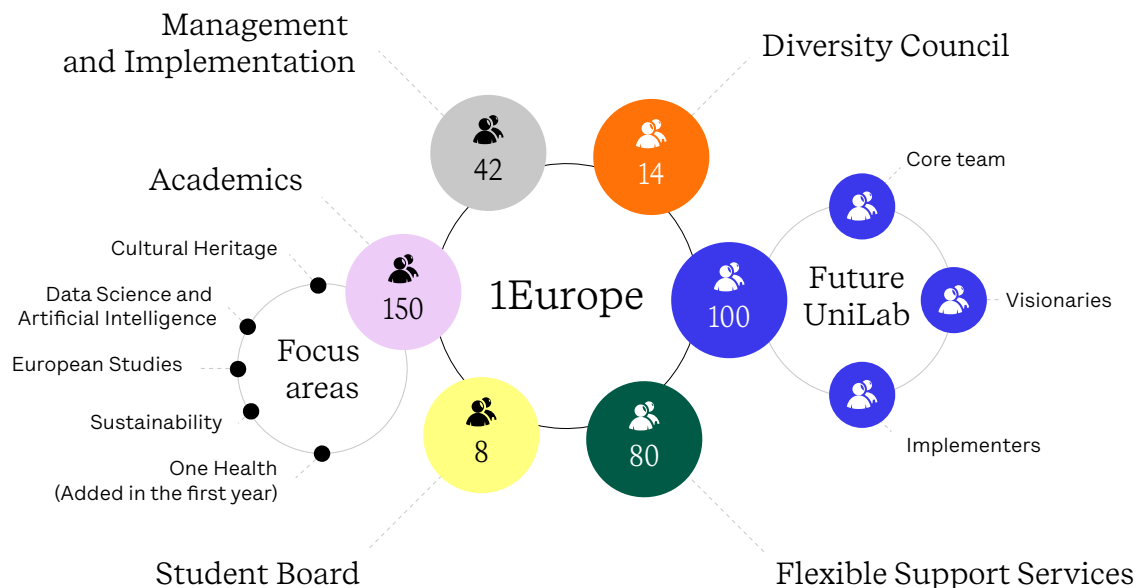


Una Europa in 2020

From people to community

In 2020, we set out to identify the relevant experts and staff, engage them through community-building actions and facilitate their work in project teams.

Identifying the relevant experts



- + **Focus areas:** academics from the Una Europa partner universities grouped in the five Self Steering Committees, organized by focus area
- + **Diversity Council:** 14 experts in inclusion and diversity
- + **Student Board:** one student representative per partner university
- + **The Future UniLab:** our think tank for out-of-the box ideas on the university of the future
- + **Flexible Support Services:** professionals from our partner universities grouped in eight thematic clusters
- + **Management and Implementation:** more than 40 colleagues ensuring the delivery of Una Europa projects and activities

Engaging our community

Community building and engagement was crucial all along 2020 to build strong links among the different actors involved in 1Europe despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

- + The 1Europe kick-off in January featured an interactive fishbowl debate, connecting the Una Europa community, associated partners, higher education policymakers and representatives of other alliances

Una Kick-off event

- + The first Una Talk on digital collaboration in academia, livestreamed on YouTube from four EU countries

Una Europa Talk

- + Online community building
- + Una Podcast – People, Plans and Progress

Una Europa Podcast

Facilitating the collaboration

Una Europa facilitated the collaboration of its community by establishing a project team approach in 2020. This lean, agile and sustainable governance model ensures the engagement of the relevant players at the right moment in time, boosting efficiency whilst providing in-built development opportunities for professionals.

Una Europa Project Teams Approach



Paving the way to a virtual European campus

Throughout 2020, the Una Europa community set in motion the enabling work to

- + Create a University of the Future
- + Prepare the graduates for the Future
- + Shape learning in the Future

Creating a University of the Future

How to envision an inter-university eco-system for joint innovative education, research and innovation at the service of society? And how to build it in practice?

Dream big: Future UniLab

Future UniLab is Una Europa's think tank, designed to instigate out-of-the-box reflection on what the university of the future could and should look like. For four months, the first eclectic mix of 98 Una Europa visionaries has shared their reflections and dreams on four fundamental questions the University of the Future should address.

Future UniLab

“To shape and understand a future university, we need to think about the skills our graduates will need in 10 or 20 years. We need to ensure our research helps to resolve the challenges of a changing environment, and we need to equip our society, infrastructure and policies to allow for continued teaching innovation.”

Maria Soledad Garcia Ferrari, Una Europa Future UniLab visionary



Make it happen: Flexible support services

The Flexible Support Services are the backbone of our future university administration. Organized in thematic clusters, university professionals from our partners jointly address the paramount practical questions that arise throughout the conceptualisation and implementation of our many joint formats.

One pertinent 2020 example is the webinar organized by the IT for Education Cluster on the visual design of online courses as a consequence of Covid-19 pandemic. The webinar supported Una Europa teaching staff in the organization and delivery of online lessons.

Get it right: Quality assurance (QA)

How to ensure quality whilst venturing into new territory? 2020 was marked by setting up a lean approach to QA, firmly building on the structures already in place at national and local level. Within the Flexible Support Services, the Quality Assurance Cluster started working on the QA of the programmes and courses that Una Europa will deliver.

In line with Una Europa's spirit of openness and collaboration, the cluster has been supported by the internal and external experts represented in the Una Europa Quality Assurance Board. Una Europa was also among the four Alliances that served as testbed for the EUniQ project which aims to develop a Quality Assurance Approach for European Universities.

EUniQ pilot evaluation

Preparing the graduates for the Future

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By working together, Una Europa universities will deliver an education offer no university would be able to develop alone. We want our future students to benefit from a courses and programmes that are interdisciplinary, transnational and inclusive. Right here, right now, we are future-proofing our offer to students because we want our future graduates to be global citizens equipped with the skills and experience to handle the complexity of societal challenges.

European degree

Una Europa therefore set out the ambition to deliver two Joint Bachelor Degrees (European Studies and Sustainability) and a Joint Doctoral Degree (Cultural Heritage) by the end of 2022. Joint MOOCs and joint lifelong education certificates (Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, and Sustainability) are equally underway.

To ease the design and implementation of joint degrees on all levels, the EU is currently working towards a framework for a European degree. Drawing on our first-hand experience as frontrunners in developing truly joint degrees, we aim to have a succinct voice in all dialogues necessary to co-design such framework.

European degree

Inclusion and diversity

The Una Europa Diversity Council set up in spring 2020 aims to ensure the inclusiveness of all joint initiatives. Una Europa Students are actively involved, leading the Affordably Abroad Task Force.

Mobility opportunities between Una Europa universities are now accessible through a searchable one-stop shop, the Una Europa Mobility Database.

Una Europa Database for Mobility Opportunities

Shaping learning in the Future

The implications of the Covid-19 pandemic shifted the focus to virtual modes of collaboration and mobility whilst highlighting the relevance of challenge-based curricula and interactive modules.

In response to the pandemic, Una Europa partners joined forces in developing innovative modules that we plan to consolidate and integrate into our future formats:

- + Una.Ten: a ten day cross-European open innovation design process that took place from 27 April to 8 May 2020 and brought together 100 students to develop solutions for Covid-19 -related challenges

UNA.TEN student competition

- + PhD workshop in Cultural Heritage: Due to Covid-19, the physical workshop has been replaced by remote collaboration between the PhD cohort and a series of open virtual events, e.g.

PhD Workshop & Open Lectures in Cultural Heritage

Mobility in Emergency: Towards new ways of mobility

- + To make sure that students did not completely miss out on international learning experience in 2020, Una Europa partners piloted the Mobility in Emergency scheme. Students enrolled at the participating Una Europa partners can apply to access a series of online courses at the other participating universities.

New forms of mobility

- + One Health Joint Teaching Units: As part of Una Europa's Mobility in Emergency scheme, academics from the One Health Community jointly organized education activities for their classes with embedded forms of interaction among participating students.

Mobility in Emergency & Joint Teaching Units



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