



Press Pack

About Una Europa

Eight leading European research universities have come together to create a unique alliance – Una Europa. Our universities have been educating Europe for almost 1,000 years. Together, we teach more than 400,000 students. Our combined student and staff community approaches half a million and our digital learners number in the millions. Una Europa aims to draw on the collective strengths of its partners to create a truly European inter-university environment, a University of the Future.

What do we mean by that? Here is our Manifesto on the University of the Future:

We believe in a university that is

1. Not a place, but a body of knowledge, ideas, and values, evolving freely beyond borders, mediums and time.
2. The home, therefore the responsibility of its community, namely all the people who share and contribute to its ideals.
3. Created by and for society and as such driven to be of relevance, impact and high quality.
4. An open tradition, using the lessons of the past as fertile ground to grow solutions for the future.
5. A mirror of humanity in all its diversity, reflecting cultures and languages, conventions and disruptions.
6. Resolutely independent, shaping its own standards away from the fleeting trends and the impulses of a hasty world.
7. Ready to embrace the challenges of this hasty world, whose fate relies on educated citizens.
8. A laboratory of the here and now, where creativity and experimentation unlock the hidden potentials of tomorrow.
9. An intellectual playground, where critical minds can expand to their full aspiration.
10. A driving influence, transforming education on a wider scale, shaping Europe's shared future for the better.

Partners

What unites and drives our partners is their shared heritage and commitment to jointly implement a University of the Future, underpinned by the manifesto. Our partners are:

- Freie Universität Berlin
- Alma mater studiorum Università di Bologna
- University of Edinburgh
- Helsingin Yliopisto
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie
- KU Leuven
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

More details on our partners can be found below.

Focus Areas

Together, the Una Europa partners have decided to launch their collaboration within five priority Focus Areas: European Studies, Sustainability, Cultural Heritage, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence as well as One Health. These Focus Areas have been chosen in line with Una Europa's mission and values. They constitute the initial thematic 'glue' that ties the member universities and most of their faculties. The Focus Areas will each foster multi-disciplinarity and include many of the studies on offer at our partner universities: from Social Sciences through Humanities, to Engineering, Mathematics, Computer Sciences and Biomedical Sciences. Beyond the Focus Areas, we encourage bottom-up collaboration in other fields. For instance, Una Europa's seed funding is open to applications from all disciplines. More details on the Focus Areas can be found below.

The 1 Europe Project

Funded among the first European University pilots selected by the European Commission in June 2019, Una Europa's 1Europe project will establish a Europe-wide living lab for testing Joint Innovative Formats for education and mobility (JIFs). Co-funded with an Erasmus+ grant of €5 million for three years as of December 2019, the project is central to our ambition to create a future-looking European campus, turning the European Higher Education Area into reality.

At its core, the 1Europe project will test more than 20 Joint Innovative Formats (JIFs) for education and mobility through International Academic Incubators. These are virtual umbrella institutes gathering academics active in Una Europa's first four focus areas. Across these areas, the incubators will pilot new joint formats at all levels of study, from Bachelor and Master to Doctorate and Continuous Education, ultimately delivering a truly European campus. The Joint Innovative Formats will be developed in such a way that they can be scaled and transferred to other disciplines or organizations.

Are you looking for more concrete examples? We have included some details on selected initiatives from our 1Europe project for you below.

As a mirror initiative to our flagship 1Europe where we focus on education, we are currently developing a new project to consolidate the research dimension of our alliance.



Useful links

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You'd like to be part of Una Europa? Great! Openness and collaboration characterize everything we do. Find an overview of opportunities here. Get involved Section www.una-europa.eu/get-involved.

Our Events Archive is your reference point for event recordings, quotes, social media threads, event-related reports, etc. www.una-europa.eu/calendar/archive.

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Contact

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Partners – Detailed overview

Freie Universität Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin was founded in 1948 by students and professors as a response to reprisals faced by critical students at the traditional Berlin university, at that time called Universität unter den Linden, which was located in the Soviet sector of the divided city. The US Allies and Berlin politicians approved of the plans for founding a free university. This paved the way for Freie Universität to become an internationally recognized university. The academic ethos of Freie Universität Berlin, based in its founding history, encompasses the three values: Veritas, Justitia, Libertas – truth, justice, freedom.

www.fu-berlin.de

Alma mater studiorum Università di Bologna

Established in 1088, the Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna is the oldest university in the western world. The University of Bologna has a Multicampus structure, with campuses in Bologna and the Romagna region - Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini, and permanent headquarters in Buenos Aires since 1998. With a current community of more than 85,000 students, the university is among the largest in Italy. Alma Mater occupies the first place among Italian universities in terms of number of students abroad and is among the top 5 universities in Europe in terms of number of exchange students. It is the first Italian university for funds received from the Erasmus+ programme and the second in terms of funds received from the European Commission due to the participation of the Horizon2020 research and innovation programme. The University of Bologna is among the top 5 Italian universities in the main international rankings (QS, Shanghai, Times Higher Education, Censis Guide and the Sole 24Ore rankings).

www.unibo.it

University of Edinburgh

Founded in 1583, the University of Edinburgh is one of the world's top universities, consistently ranked in the world top 50, in the Times Higher Education World Rankings, and placed 18th in the 2019 QS World University Rankings. The University's entrepreneurial and cross-disciplinary culture attracts students and staff from across the globe, creating a unique Edinburgh experience. The University is currently host to 40,000 students from 156 countries. We provide a stimulating working, learning and teaching environment with access to excellent facilities. Previous students include Nobel Prize winning laureates, pioneers and inventors. The University offers a range of ways to study and is the largest provider of online learning in the Russell Group of UK research-intensive universities.

www.ed.ac.uk

Helsingin Yliopisto

Founded in 1640 by the 13-year-old Queen Christina of Sweden, the University of Helsinki has been the cradle of Finnish civilisation and contributed significantly to Finnish prosperity and national and cultural identity. We have educated nine (out of twelve) presidents of the country, four Nobel Prize winners and thousands of leaders in politics, science, culture and economics. Our footprint in building a fair, equal and open society is strong, as illuminated by global indicators from happiness to innovativeness, where Finland ranks top of the world. Helsinki has repeatedly been chosen as one of the most liveable cities in the world, and our partnership with the City of Helsinki boosts well-being and competitiveness locally and globally. The university's accessible living room, Think Corner, is based on the idea that new thinking and creative energy are born when doors and ideas are open to everyone. University of Helsinki is a strong, research-intensive multidisciplinary university. In the most important rankings, it typically features among the 50-100 best universities in the world and among the 30 best universities in Europe. With an annual turnover of 668M EUR, its return on investment is one of the best in the world, with 7,800 academic articles each year, 87 research projects funded by the ERC and more than half of all Finnish Centres of Excellence.

www.helsinki.fi

Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie

Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie is a leading Polish higher education institution. It is a comprehensive university, where excellence in research is combined with the highest quality education, innovation and responsible social engagement. It is a place where the rich and creative history of one of the oldest universities in Europe blends with state-of-the-art research infrastructure, innovative technology and future-oriented thinking. The legacy of the Uniwersytet Jagielloński as epitomized by its most famous alumni – Nicolaus Copernicus, Pope John Paul II or the Nobel Prize winner Wisława Szymborska – is best captured by its motto *plus ratio quam vis* (reason before force). This attitude, immersed in rationality, tolerance and creativity, has formed the history of the Uniwersytet Jagielloński, and continues to shape its future.

www.uj.edu.pl

KU Leuven

KU Leuven is an autonomous university which was founded in 1425. It was born of and has grown within the Catholic tradition. KU Leuven endeavours to be a place for open discussion of social, philosophical and ethical issues and a critical centre of reflection in and for the Catholic community. The University is research-intensive, internationally oriented, and carries out both fundamental and applied research. It is strongly inter- and multidisciplinary in focus and strives for international excellence. KU Leuven aims to actively participate in public and cultural debate and in the advancement of a knowledge-based society. KU Leuven carries out its academic activities at various campuses, research parks and hospital facilities in close cooperation with the members of the KU Leuven Association and with its hospital partners.

www.kuleuven.be/kuleuven

Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Universidad Complutense de Madrid dates back to the 13th century. The original Ciudad Universitaria campus was founded in 1927 with the goal of merging education, science and culture. The University is home to over 86,000 students and also has institutions in the city of Pozuelo de Alarcón. The University offers summer courses in the world heritage site of San Lorenzo del Escorial and boasts a number of study abroad programmes with universities located in Europe and the US. The University's alumni include many famous historians, philosophers, poets and Prime Ministers. Its graduates are given 'lifelong training' that furnishes them with professional skills allied to their chosen fields of work and alongside their academic studies.

www.ucm.es

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Founded in 1253, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne is one of the oldest universities in the world. The policy of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne is to conduct excellent interdisciplinary research and learning. It is organised around 3 main scientific areas: Economics and Management, Humanities, and Law and Political Sciences. Research performed at the University is renowned on both a national and international level. The University is currently host to 43,000 students and offers degrees partially taught in English, double degrees with international partners and off-campus training sessions. It has close and long-standing ties with 400 universities around the world and is a member of international networks. The overall goal is to provide researchers and students with a unique opportunity to interact with a broad and global network.

www.pantheonsorbonne.fr

Focus Areas – Detailed overview

Cultural Heritage

Building on the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018, the rich and diverse Cultural Heritage across the EU shines evidence on the role that universities have played in the creation and cohesion of European identities. Our partners at Una Europa have each contributed to the historical development of the cities in which they are embedded and play an important role in safeguarding important historical-artistic heritage. Their study and research programmes promote interdisciplinary collaboration, in response to an increased demand for training in research and management of Cultural Heritage assets. As an interdisciplinary study area, Cultural Heritage contributes to understanding identities and to promote cohesion in communities disrupted by change and economic instability.

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence have a pervasive impact on society in all its dimensions, from the way we live our lives and earn our livelihoods to the way we communicate and make decisions. Technological progress will create new ethical challenges and will require new democratic mechanisms. Building on our leadership in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, we at Una Europa have joined forces to ensure that all Europeans are part of the digital transformation, that adequate resources are developed to Artificial Intelligence and that the EU's fundamental values are at the forefront of the AI landscape.

European Studies

The study of today's complex European landscape in a world in flux requires an innovative and cross-cutting approach through which to observe Europe, its challenges, but also its opportunities. Europe does not only need to be 'studied' from different geographic angles within its borders, but also from various disciplinary perspectives. This will weaken the perception of differences as a barrier and promote perspectives focused on the pursuit of common solutions. As an open and interdisciplinary study area, European Studies are necessary as the backbone of a Europe of citizens, of knowledge and of competitiveness. In order to achieve those objectives, Una Europa aims to promote European Studies and – at the same time – Europeanise all studies.

Sustainability

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents 17 ambitious goals, which integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. To address the interdependent goals effectively, a new approach is required. By bringing together and interacting with all disciplines in the fields of sciences, social sciences, health sciences, engineering, arts and humanities, Una Europa makes it possible to research and teach the connections and interdependencies between the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We aim to transform Una Europa into a single transnational campus that generates cross-disciplinary knowledge and societal interaction and to educate the next generation in making the 2030 Agenda part of daily life.

One Health

One Health is a recent movement promoting networked thinking about health to improve disease detection, prevention and treatment. The health of humans, animals, other organisms and the environment are inextricably linked. As proven by the Covid-19 epidemic, health challenges that stem from the complex interaction between humans, animals, plants and ecosystems call for a review of existing concepts and methods. Tighter collaboration across sectors and disciplines - life sciences, public health and social sciences - is crucial.

Coupled with Una Europa's activities in the field of sustainability, the diverse range of expertise from across our Una Europa partners carries tremendous potential to deliver high-quality initiatives in education, research and social engagement at large.

Selected Initiatives

Una Europa is leading numerous initiatives to drive change in higher education and research in Europe. Linked to a project or defined independently, initiatives fuel everything we are doing. Initiatives evolve as our activities gain maturity and new ideas emerge. The below selection of central initiatives from our 1Europe project is non-exhaustive. Please check the “Initiatives section” on our website for the most up-to-date overview.

Future UniLab

The Future UniLab serves as the think tank of Una Europa. Designed as a ‘living laboratory’, it aims to

- Provide a forum for discussion on the future role of universities in society
- Develop ground-breaking tools and models for cooperation in European Higher Education
- Assess and future proof Una Europa’s activities

In order to achieve these ambitions, the Future UniLab will develop a new method for discussing the obstacles and opportunities European universities face when they join forces to “Europeanise” their activities. In the longer term, the Future UniLab is expected to become a permanent institution that brings together top-level experts and serves as a reference point in the European Higher Education and Research Area.

Joint Bachelor

By 2021, Una Europa will pilot its first truly joint Bachelor degrees. The Una Europa partners will build fully integrated curricula and jointly award the degrees. In practice, this means that on successful completion of their studies, students will receive one single degree document that is officially recognised by the countries in which the Una Europa partners are active. We will pilot this new type of degree in two of our Focus Areas: European Studies and Sustainability.

Joint Doctorate in Cultural Heritage

With our Joint Doctorate in Cultural Heritage, we at Una Europa aim to go beyond previously tested models for European doctoral programmes. Our Joint Doctorate in Cultural Heritage will be a joint European doctoral title recognized in all the countries where Una Europa partners are active. Based on mandatory supervision of the doctoral candidate by professors from several Una Europa partners, the format will include obligatory stays at several Una Europa partners, in particular through Una Europa PhD Workshops. Multilingual short online training courses as well as a module for soft (transversal) skills are additional distinctive features. The Joint Doctorate will be administered by truly joint structures for admission, selection, supervision and assessment, an innovation in itself.

Una Europa Chairs

The Una Europa Chairs initiative is one of our key initiatives to attract talent from around the world to collaborate with us. By attracting outstanding academics from the Una Europa partners and beyond for visiting professorships, the Una Europa Chairs will further raise our profile on a global scale, deepen our activities and cement different kinds of mobility, within our network and beyond. With the Una Europa Chairs, we would like to advance research, training and programme development in higher education by acting as bridge-builder between academia, civil society, local communities, researchers and enterprises.

The visiting professors, or Una Europa Chairs, are expected to carry out research, to teach in physical, virtual or blended mode and – optionally – to design activities for and with civil society. The positions are foreseen for a short fixed-term period (less than one year) and funded by an external stakeholder. Hosted by one of the eight Una Europa partners, the individual Una Europa Chair holder delivers his or her activities at the host university, but carries out mobility activities (physical or virtual) to at least 2 additional Una Europa universities. We are piloting the Una Europa Chairs initiative in the Una Europa focus areas. We are actively seeking fundraising opportunities with potential funders. The main topic and focus of the Chair's activities are to be defined by the funder, in close collaboration with the Una Europa Self-Steering Committees.

Learning for Society

One of the Joint Innovative Formats tested as part of Una Europa's 1Europe project is "Learning for Society". Una Europa Learning for Society is foreseen to bring together students from across the Una Europa partners to work together in virtual teams to address a challenge defined by an external partner from industry, an NGO, a local authority, etc. Making a virtue of necessity in times of COVID19, we developed UNA.TEN, a ten-day student hackathon, as a pilot to test new methods of challenge-based learning in times of virtual mobility. UNA.TEN (Transform Emergency Now! 10 days for change) is an open innovation design process aimed at developing solutions to address real challenges in COVID19 post emergency times. The initiative is a scale-up of OPER.TEN, a competition developed by Università di Bologna, the first Una partner struck by the Corona crisis.