



Una Europa–Africa Partnership Seed Funding 2023

Call text

October 2023

Objectives

The **Una Europa–Africa Partnership Seed Funding Call 2023** has been designed to encourage long-term collaboration among the academic communities of the Una Europa partner universities and participating African universities. This Seed Funding call aims to support project proposals focusing on joint activities across education, research and innovation, and/or societal outreach in [six Focus Areas](#): **Cultural Heritage, Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, Europe and the World, Future Materials, One Health, and Sustainability**.

In each successful Seed Funding project, an established researcher from a participating African university will take on the role of chair. Through a mobility fellowship embedded in the Seed Funding scheme, the chairholder will strengthen ties between the participating universities and contribute to raising the visibility of the project. The active involvement of early-career researchers will further ensure a multiplier effect among the wider university community of the participating universities.

The Una Europa–Africa Partnership

In June 2022, representatives from Una Europa partner universities and participating African universities came together for the first time to explore opportunities for collaboration, rooted in complementary strengths and a shared commitment to addressing global challenges together. In a dedicated Working Group, senior representatives from participating universities (please see below), co-developed the [Una Europa-Africa Partnership: Vision and Roadmap](#). The Vision outlines joint ambitions for the future and defines core partnership values and excellence principles.

The Roadmap focuses on supporting the creation of an international academic community, with a particular emphasis on the **growth and development of early-career researchers**, who represent the future of the academy in both Africa and Europe. The participating universities share a commitment to proactively widen knowledge production and develop new mobility opportunities to learn and engage for both African and European researchers. The **Una Europa–Africa Partnership Seed Funding Call 2023** represents the first such opportunity.

The participating universities are:

- Alma mater studiorum - Università di Bologna (UNIBO)
- Eduardo Mondlane University
- Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)
- Helsingin yliopisto/Helsingfors universitet (UH)
- Kampala International University
- KU Leuven (KUL)
- Makerere University
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)
- Universität Zürich (UZH)
- Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1)
- Universiteit Leiden (LU)
- University College Dublin/An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath (UCD)
- University of Edinburgh (UoE)
- University of Ghana (UG)
- University of Johannesburg (UJ)
- University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN)
- University of Nairobi (UoN)
- University of the Witwatersrand
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie (JU)

Find your partners through [submitting a form](#) or [joining the LinkedIn group](#).

Project proposals

With a **total budget of 216,000 €** this call for applications will fund up to **six project proposals**, each up to a maximum of **36,000 €**.

Research teams will consist of:

- Early-career researchers and established researchers from at least three Una Europa partner universities;
- A chairholder from a participating African university;
- Early-career researchers either from the chairholder's home university or another participating African university.

Roles and responsibilities within the research team

- **The research team** prepares the project proposal and is responsible for the realisation of the project. **The project proposal** outlines the vision and specific activities for international academic collaboration in one of the **defined Focus Areas** (see examples of activities below). It is possible for projects to address more than one Focus Area.
- The **project coordinator** is an [established researcher](#) **affiliated with one of the Una Europa partner universities (the coordinating institution)**. The project coordinator leads the research team, oversees the project and is responsible for receiving and distributing the funds, and for reporting on the project and its finances. The project coordinator submits the project proposal via the online application system.
- The **chairholder** is an **established researcher at one of the participating African universities**. The chairholder is nominated as part of the project proposal to carry out a **mobility fellowship** at the coordinating institution. The mobility fellowship enables the chairholder to contribute their expertise to the delivery of the project. The chairholder's nomination in the project proposal is qualified based on their expertise relevant to the project proposal.

The chairholder must deliver **at least one lecture**, either in online or hybrid format, open to the Una Europa partners' and African universities' communities. The open lectures will form part of a programme, which will draw additional visibility to both the chairholder and the projects more broadly. Project coordinators and chairholders should engage the support of the local Una Europa ecosystem to plan, promote and deliver the lecture, ensuring optimal impact and visibility for the project and the lecture(s).

Involving early-career researchers

The projects must include a **robust strategy for the involvement of early-career researchers**, outlining clear added value for this community across the participating universities. The involvement of early-career researchers will need to be ensured either in the project delivery or as benefactors of project activities, for example through the provision of **short-term mobility opportunities for [early-career researchers](#) from participating African universities**, in connection with the mobility of the chairholder.

In addition, project activities that address researcher and skills development for early-career researchers, such as transferable skills in relation to accessing research infrastructures and resources, open science, citizen science, team science and entrepreneurship, may be explored.

Importantly, the projects are encouraged to seek synergies with other relevant initiatives at the Una Europa partner universities and participating African universities, such as a Summer/ Winter School, PhD workshops, doctoral training or other activities, in order to create a multiplier effect for the wider early-career researcher community across the partner universities.

Collaboration with partners

The project coordinator is encouraged to involve established researchers and early-career researchers from more than three Una Europa partners to contribute to and benefit from the project. Furthermore, projects should contribute to the overarching objectives outlined in the [Una Europa–Africa Partnership: Vision and Roadmap](#). Moreover, it is to be expected that the projects be aligned with and contribute to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Third parties may participate in the proposed activities; however, this will be at their own expense. Third parties can be higher education institutions, research organisations, business and third sector organisations involved in some way in the activities of the project. Project proposals that bring co-financing from other sources will be evaluated favourably under the Impact criterion.

Examples of activities

Delivery of an open lecture (see above under the role of the chairholder) is a prerequisite and should be included in the project proposal. Here is an indicative list of activities across teaching, research and innovation and societal outreach:

- Preparation of joint modules or teaching units based on innovative teaching strategies
- Organisation of research and/or educational seminars and/or winter or summer schools
- Organisation of PhD workshops or other joint doctoral activity
- Development of research teams with a view to e.g. preparing joint proposals for external funding or joint publications
- Organisation of activities that contribute to researcher development of early-career researchers, e.g. mentoring schemes
- Organisation of congresses or conferences to disseminate the project's activity
- Engagement and communications activity towards the non-academic sector

These examples are meant to serve as an indication of those types of activities that can be supported. Applicants are invited to suggest other relevant activities that fall within the scope of the call, evaluation criteria and funding and financial procedures.

Eligibility

The project coordinator, the chairholder and additional Una Europa partners

- 2023 Seed Funding projects must involve one African university and at least three Una Europa partner universities.
- Projects must be coordinated by an established researcher affiliated to an Una Europa partner university and must involve a chairholder who is an established researcher affiliated to one of the African universities. At each **additional Una Europa partner participating in the project proposal**, one **lead researcher**, who is also an established researcher, must be appointed.

At each Una Europa partner, ‘established researcher’ is defined as:

- FUB – Full professors, junior professors, extraordinary professors, associate professors (*Akad. Rat*), junior research group leaders (*Nachwuchsgruppenleiter*);
- UNIBO – Full professors (*Professori ordinari - PO*), associate professors (*Professori Associati - PA*), and researchers (*Ricercatori Universitari – RU, Ricercatori a tempo determinato di tipo B - RTDB*)
- UCD – Academic staff, excluding postdoctoral, with a university contract to cover the proposed project;
- UoE – Academic staff, excluding postdoctoral, with university contracts;
- UH – Levels 3 and 4 (university lecturer and clinical instructor; university researcher, senior researcher, research coordinator and curator; academy research fellows; assistant/associate professor – tenure track; and professor, research director and senior curator);
- JU – University lecturer (*adiunkt*), associate professor (*profesor uczelniany*), full professor (*profesor*);
- LU – Full professors, associate professors and researchers with university contracts;
- KUL – For the statute of the applicants the same regulations apply as for [KU Leuven Internal Funds](#);
- UCM – Full professor (*Catedrático*), professor (*Professor titular*) and permanent professors (*Profesor contratado doctor*);
- Paris 1 – *Professeur, Maître de Conférences, Directeur de Recherche* and *Chargé de Recherche*;
- UZH – Assistant professors (with/without tenure track), associate professors, full professors.

At each African university, established researcher is defined as:

- University of Kinshasa – An established researcher is a senior researcher. In universities of DRC, they are called “Ordinary Professor”. An established researcher is a titular of research unity at university.
- University of Ghana – Senior Research Fellow, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, and Full Professor
- University of Johannesburg – Researchers who enjoy considerable international recognition by their peers for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs
- University of Nairobi – Full Professors, Associate Professors, Senior Lecturer, Lecturers
- University of the Witwatersrand - A person who has produced an eight-year record of significant quantity and quality of research outputs in a coherent field and has played a leading role in conceiving the research questions behind the outputs. They should also have demonstrated their ability to secure successful grant funding, establish research collaborations OR networks and supervise and mentor postgraduate students.
- Kampala International University - These are researchers from lecturer to full Professors.
- Eduardo Mondlane University - Full Professor, Associate Professor, Coordinating Researcher and a Principal Researcher with a full-time contract at UEM or guests from other institutions with comparable qualifications
- Makerere University – researchers who have attained the rank of professor.

The early-career researchers

- A robust strategy for the involvement of early-career researchers must be included and reflected appropriately in the project budget. The selection of early-career researchers that will be involved in the delivery of the project and/ or project activities may take place once the project is funded, but the project proposal should outline the process and selection criteria.
- For the purposes of this Seed Funding call, early-career researchers are doctoral candidates as well as doctoral degree holders from any discipline who are actively pursuing research but who are not yet fully independent in these pursuits. Applicants must be affiliated with one of the Una Europa or participating African universities and must have a doctoral degree awarded no more than 7 years prior to the application. Applicants whose doctoral degrees were awarded earlier may be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to justification (e.g. career breaks for family-related reasons or to seek asylum due to political instability).

The project, including the mobility fellowship

The project must be delivered between **1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025**.

The duration of the chairholder's mobility **fellowship** position should be **30 days** covered by the Seed Funding budget. External co-financing may cover an extended mobility period within the overall duration of the project. The chairholder should carry out the mobility fellowship mainly at the coordinating Una Europa partner university, but mobility to the other Una Europa partner universities may be included as well. Projects are encouraged to plan in adequate lead-time for procedures related to international travel, such as visa requirements, in order to ensure a smooth mobility fellowship.

During the mobility fellowship, the chairholder should carry out at least one **online or hybrid lecture** open to the African universities' and Una Europa partners' communities.

The Seed Funding should not duplicate funding that is otherwise available.

Evaluation of applications

An international and interdisciplinary selection committee consisting of independent experts nominated by both Una Europa partners and African universities will rank project proposals for funding on a competitive basis. The Seed Funding initiative seeks to guarantee the highest level of gender, geographical and disciplinary balance across the committee.

In the evaluation process, particular attention will be given to the following criteria:

Quality (50 points)

- Quality, clearly formulated plan, budget and goals of the envisaged project.
- Innovative and interdisciplinary approach.
- Strength of the chairholder and the extent to which their expertise contributes to the project goals.
- Strength of the team, such as prior experiences, successes, and indications of diversity.
- The extent to which diversity, equality and inclusion are taken into consideration in the project.

Impact (50 points)

- The extent to which the project contributes to the international development of the Focus Areas.
- The extent to which the project contributes to the objectives outlined in the Una Europa–Africa Partnership: Vision and Roadmap
- The extent to which the project includes a wide assortment of partnerships (number of partners involved, engagement of early-stage career researchers, scope of disciplines etc.).
- Capacity to involve external stakeholders and attract continuing external funding.
- The extent to which additional resources will be contributed in addition to the seed funding grant (co-financing in terms of human and/or financial resources).

The final decision-making for project funding lies with the Una Europa vzw Board of Directors. In case of equal ranking, funding will be granted to the project with highest number of points under the Quality criterion, or the project including the underrepresented African university.

Funding and financial procedures

The total budget for the 2023 call for applications is 216,000 €, up to 36,000 € per project.

Please find more detailed information in Annex 1: Funding and Financial Procedures.

Submission and deadlines

Project proposals for the Una Europa seed funding initiative should be submitted by the project coordinator in English via the online application system. The application consists of an application form with questions related to the eligibility and evaluation criteria, and an upload section for the CVs, timeline, budget and endorsement letters. The endorsement letters, declaring support for the envisaged project, should be signed by the respective Dean or Faculty or Department Head, or legal representative of each partner university in line with internal university procedures.

Please click the following links to access the:

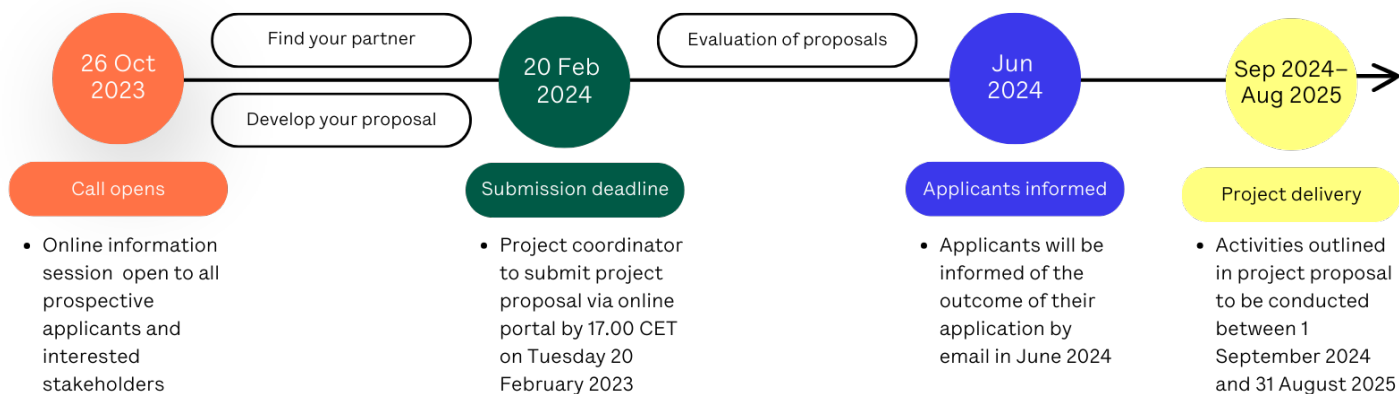
- [Online application form](#)
- [Endorsement letter template](#)
- [Endorsement letter \(chairholder\) template](#)
- [Budget template](#)
- [The Mission of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Una Europa](#)

The deadline for project proposals is 20 February 2024 at 17:00 CET.

Applicants will be informed by email in June 2024.

The proposed activities should be conducted between **1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025.**

Submission journey and timeline



Reporting on projects

Beneficiaries will be requested to submit a short project and financial report by 28 November 2025.

Successful applicants will be provided with a template for reporting.

About Una Europa

Una Europa is an alliance of 11 leading universities from all corners of Europe. Together, they are forging a new path for education and research in Europe and beyond to shape our shared future for the better. The Una Europa community spans more than half a million students, 100,000 members of staff and 10 languages, grounded in over 1,000 years.

Una Europa partner universities:

Freie Universität Berlin | Alma mater studiorum - Università di Bologna | University College Dublin/An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath | University of Edinburgh | Helsingin yliopisto/Helsingfors universitet | Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie | Universiteit Leiden | KU Leuven | Universidad Complutense de Madrid | Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne | Universität Zürich

Founded in 2019, Una Europa has secured successive rounds of European Union funding to realise its vision for a European 'University of the Future'. In just three years, the alliance's pilot project succeeded in launching nine joint programmes – including Europe's first truly joint bachelor's degree – transcending boundaries of discipline, institution, and country to take international collaboration to the next level. The alliance has also taken its first steps towards a common research ecosystem underpinned by a shared research and innovation agenda.

Guided by its 2030 Strategy, Una Europa is working towards a truly inter-university and pan-European campus, shaped by universities' universal and fundamentally interwoven obligations to society: research and innovation, teaching and learning, and societal outreach.

Annex 1 Funding and financial procedures

The total budget for the 2023 call for applications is 216,000 €, up to a maximum of **36,000 € per project**.

If the project proposal is evaluated successfully and upon signature of the grant letter, the entire grant will be transferred to the coordinating university who then distributes it to the project partners according to the outlined budget. The project coordinator will receive support for the financial administration of the project by a local administrative colleague. (see contact persons below)

Detailed information on the finances will be stipulated in the grant letter. The submitted and approved project budget will be annexed to this grant letter.

Lump sums for mobility

Mobility is funded through the use of lumps sums. **Fixed amounts** have been stipulated for **travel costs**, **accommodation** and **daily allowances** depending on the destination.

The **accommodation** allowance may be used for **each night** of the trip. The **daily allowance** may be used **for each full day** of the trip. For the **first and last travel day**, **50%** of the indicated lump sum shall be applied.

The daily allowance for the chairholder is 50 euro higher per day to compensate for the longer stay and intense commitment to project.

The travel lump sums are calculated based on the number of km a participant will travel. This should be the shortest and most efficient route possible. The arrival to and departure from the location of the activity should be maximum one day before or one day after the scheduled activity. Personal travel before or after the funded mobility is allowed, but no accommodation nor daily allowance lump sums can be budgeted for those days.

Wherever lump sums are used, Una Europa vzw does not request information on actual costs nor any invoices or tickets, but rather an overview of the colleagues that traveled to a certain activity, an agenda and signed participants list.

There is no lump sum foreseen for the travel from Africa to Europe. (see section about actual costs below)

Travel lump sums

Travel distances (in km)	Travel budget	Travel budget for Sustainable travel
0-99	€ 23.00	N/A
100-499	€ 180.00	€ 210.00
500-1999	€ 275.00	€ 320.00
2000-2999	€ 360.00	€ 410.00
3000-3999	€ 530.00	€ 610.00
4000-7999	€ 820.00	N/A
8000 or more	€ 1,500.00	N/A

Accommodation and daily allowance lump sums

Destination	Accommodation	Daily Allowance	Daily Allowance Chairholder
Alma mater studiorum Università di Bologna (UNIBO)	€ 150	€ 100	€ 150
Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)	€ 130	€ 95	€ 145
University College Dublin	€ 150	€ 110	€ 160
University of Edinburgh	€ 150	€ 125	€ 175
Helsingin yliopisto (The University of Helsinki)	€ 140	€ 115	€ 165
Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie	€ 115	€ 65	€ 115
KU Leuven	€ 150	€ 100	€ 150
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	€ 130	€ 90	€ 140
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne	€ 150	€ 100	€ 150
Universiteit Leiden	€ 150	€ 105	€ 150
Universität Zürich	€ 150	€ 80	€ 130

Sustainable travel

Sustainable travel is defined as travel that uses low-emissions means of transport for the main part of the travel, such as bus, train, car-pooling or ferry.

Travel bookings should follow the local travel policies of the universities participating. Una Europa vzw appreciates and encourages efforts in relation to using sustainable options for travel. An additional travel day per one way travel may be included in the budget and higher lump sums may be applied to cover costs related to sustainable travel costs. (see table above)

Check some proposed sustainable travel routes between Una Europa cities via the [Sustainable Travel Tool](#).

Actual costs

For all other expenses beyond those that are mobility-related, actual costs apply. For these costs an **estimation** should be included in the budget and **invoices** should be kept and included in the reporting at the end of the project duration.

Since the **travel from Africa to Europe** may vary substantially in price, there is no lump sum foreseen for these travel costs. Budgeting and reporting according to actual costs therefore applies. Actual costs can also be applied for **travel related costs** such as visas, passports, vaccinations or any fees the hosting university charges to support international visiting professors.

Budgeting and reporting according to actual costs is permitted for the **accommodation during the 30-day mobility fellowship** of the chairholder, if it can be proven that this can be provided at a lower cost than the indicated lump sum.

Actual costs should be applied for costs related to the **organisation of events or communication purposes** e.g. costs for a small fee for venue, catering, printing materials, external speaker (if the expertise cannot be provided internally), temporary staff to help in the organization of the event, supporting virtual or hybrid events, translation where relevant, set-up of website, social media, creation of visuals etc.

Actual costs may also be applied for **inclusion support**. The inclusion support may cover all extra costs associated to a person's disability so that they can fully participate in the project, e.g. adapted accommodation, travel assistance, medical attendance, supportive equipment etc.

If the budget for actual costs is underestimated, please note that Una Europa vzw cannot fund more than the granted budget for the project.

Budget amendments

Una Europa vzw allows a budget shift of up to 10% per section or activity, after agreement between the project partners. This should cover the adjustments due to estimations of actual costs and small updates to travel plans. Larger budget amendments are possible, but need to be submitted to the Operational Team at seedfunding@una-europa.eu for approval before the final three months of the project.

How to put together the project's budget

The budget should reflect the implementation of the project goals. The **focus** should be **on mobility** for the research team, but other costs e.g. costs for the organization of events and communication purposes may be included as well.

The project coordinator should include a provision of the costs for the **30-day mobility fellowship and consider the recommended short mobility of the African early-career researchers**. It is highly recommended to take into account international travel-related costs and to foresee a contingency of approximately 1.800 euro in the budget for this purpose.

The **format of the budget should be detailed enough to show how the finances will be divided between the partners**. Please note that the budget for the mobility of the chairholder and any African early-career researchers should be assigned to the coordinating university, as they will arrange the bookings and/or hand over the budget to these researchers.

Example calculation of the 30 day-mobility fellowship of an established researcher from the University of Ghana going to the coordinating partner, Universität Zürich:

- *Travel costs: return flight, public transport to and from the airports: €954 (estimated actual costs)*
- *Accommodation: 29 nights x 140 euro = 4.060 euro*
- *Daily allowance: (28 full days + 2 half days) x 130 = 3.770 euro*
- *Total: 8.784 euro (plus any international travel related costs taken from the 1.800 euro contingency)*

A template budget can be downloaded [here](#).

Ineligible costs

The following costs are considered ineligible for seed funding:

- Permanent staff costs
- Proofreading
- Conference fees
- Publication fees
- Activities duplicated by funding that is otherwise available.

Annex 2 – Local contacts for seed funding

University	Staff member/Department	E-mail
Alma mater studiorum Università di Bologna (UNIBO)	Una Europa Team Unibo	una.europa@unibo.it
Eduardo Mondlane University	Prof. Emílio Tostao, Scientific Director	emilio.tostao@gmail.com
Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)	Una Europa Team FU Berlin	unaeuropa@zedat.fu-berlin.de
Helsingin yliopisto (The University of Helsinki)	Una Europa Team Helsinki	una.europa@helsinki.fi
Kampala International University	Dr. Andrew Kitua, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Innovation, Consultancy and Extension	andrew.kitua@kiu.ac.ug
KU Leuven	Una Europa Team KU Leuven	una-europa@kuleuven.be
Makerere University	Prof. Edward Bbaale, Director of Research and Graduate Training at Makerere University	edward.bbaale@mak.ac.ug and eddybbaale@gmail.com
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Dr. Francisco José Gómez Sánchez, Advisor to the Vice-Rectorate International Relations and Cooperation for the Complutense African School	una-europa@ucm.es
Universität Zürich	Ms. Susie Dappen, Senior Project Manager Global Networks	susie.dappen@uzh.ch
Université Paris 1 Panthéon- Sorbonne	Ms. Séverine Bortot, Director - Direction des projets et de la prospective (D2P)	D2p@univ-paris1.fr
Universiteit Leiden	Ms. Marielle Veldhuizen van Zanten, Project Officer	una-europa@bb.leidenuniv.nl
University College Dublin	Shane Lordan, Global Networks & Projects Manager	unaeuropa@ucd.ie
University of Edinburgh	Una Europa Team University of Edinburgh	una.europa@ed.ac.uk
University of Ghana	Mrs. Cynthia Adu, Deputy Registrar at the Office of Research and Innovation Directorate	cadu@ug.edu.gh
University of Johannesburg	Ntombise Mangqase, Director of Fundraising and Administration	nmangqase@uj.ac.za
University of Kinshasa	Prof. Pascal Kapagama, Coordinator of the Cooperation and International Relations Unit	pascal.kapagama@unikin.ac.cd
University of Nairobi	Mrs. Annmaria A. Mahaga (Assistant Registrar, RIE) and Simon K. Bett (Senior Administrative Assistant)	annmaria@uonbi.ac.ke and simonk@uonbi.ac.ke
University of the Witwatersrand	Dr. Mahomed Moolla, Head of Strategic Partnerships Office	Mahomed.Moolla@wits.ac.za
Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie	Ms. Paulina Chodoń, International Relations Office (Una Europa Section)	paulina.chodon@uj.edu.pl