Young Universities for the **Future** of **Europe**

YUFERING WP2
"The YUFE model towards a community engagement-based research & innovation agenda"

Mireille Sthijns

2nd of March 2022

Table of contents

YUFE vision and mission: the Dream!

- A leading model of a **student-centered, open and inclusive** European University **open to all**

- **Individualized and flexible life-long learning and career pathways** for students, staff, and citizens

- Truly innovative **research- and work-based ecosystems** based on interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach in education, R&I and service to society (**knowledge square**)

- Civic engagement and social responsibility as core values

Blueprint of a Europe thriving on diversity, inclusion, collaboration, synergies and empathy
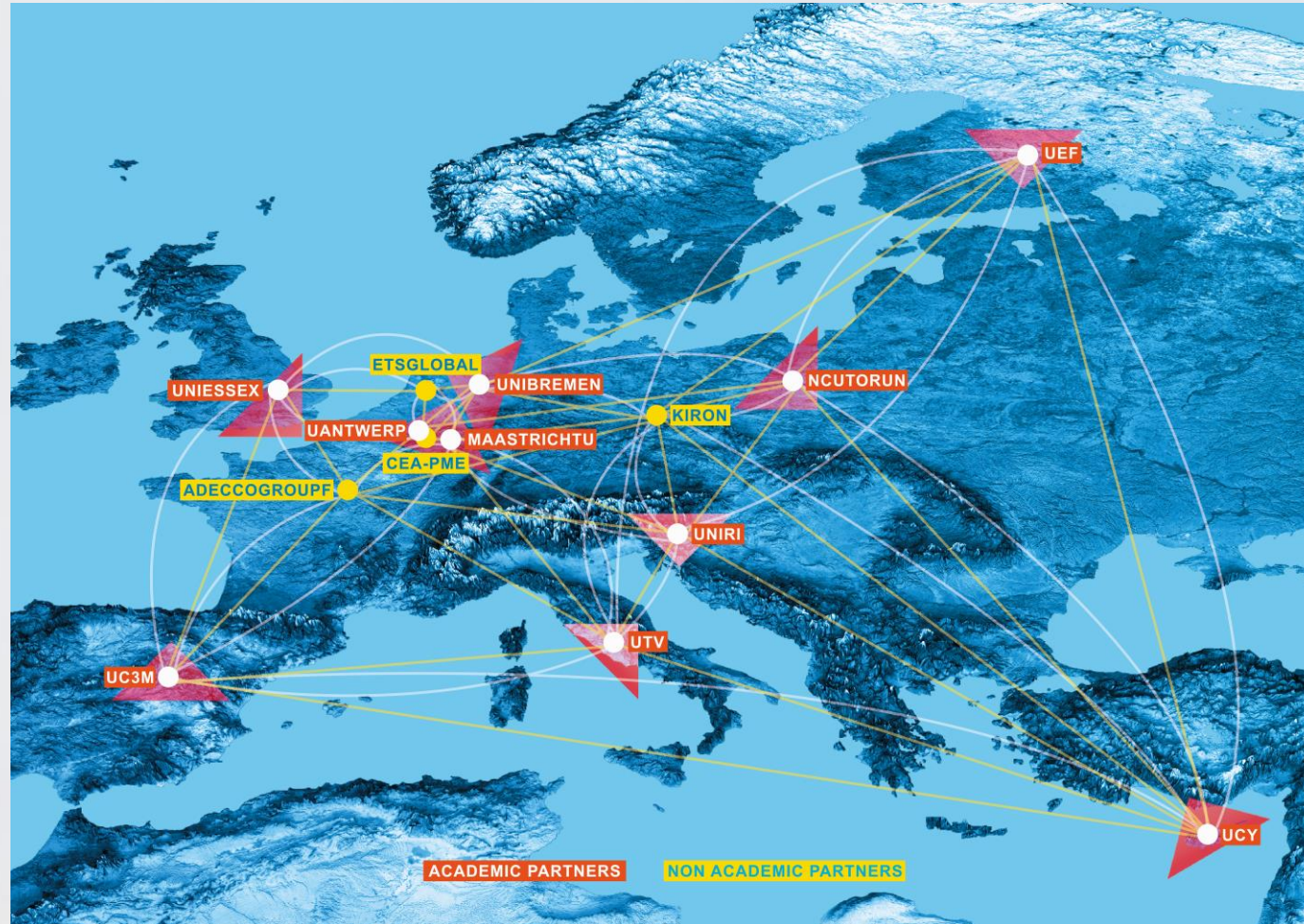
YUFE partners

10 universities

4 non-academic organisations

11 countries

15 cities

All EU regions

YUFE Partners

YUFE key facts

- **Top-scoring alliance** 1st pilot Erasmus+ call for European Universities Initiative

- Bottom-up **co-creation**, top-down support and commitment

- Three year pilot phase
  (12/2019 – 11/2021)

- Not a project, but **transformative initiative**

All YUFE projects to date (Feb' 2022)

- **Erasmus+ EUI pilot**
  YUFE model of European University; Coord. Maastricht University

- **DIOSI – H2020 SwafS**
  Hands-on training on Open science and Open Innovation for ECRs; Coord. University of Antwerp

- **YUFERING – H2020 SwafS/EUI pilot top-up for R&I**
  YUFE Transforming R&I through Europe-wide Knowledge transfer; Coord. University of Cyprus

- **Inno4YUFE – EIT HEI pilot**
  Towards a pioneering European University that powers a new generation of student entrepreneurs and innovators; Coord. Maastricht University

YUFERING Project objectives

- YUFE community-engaged R&I agenda for an excellent and inclusive European University
- Catalyst of flipped knowledge transfer and deployment in society
- Recognition, reward and circulation of talents and teams across Europe
- YUFE Open Science Strategy
- Shared research support structures, mechanisms and infrastructures amongst YUFERING partners
- Broader impact on the R&I community and the society
- System-level impact: joint structures and share best practices

Aim of YUFERING WP2

To develop and establish a YUFE-wide community engagement-based R&I approach

- Scalable
- Effective
- Impactful

An example for other European University alliances

Different tasks YUFERING WP2

- **Task 2.1** Map best practices in community-engaged research at YUFE universities *[Month 1-9; Task leader: UNIRI]*
- **Task 2.2** YUFE-wide analysis of existing R&I policies, support and decision-making processes *[Month 1-18; Task leader: UEssex]*
- **Task 2.3** Piloting a YUFE-wide community-engagement based research & innovation model *[Month 1-36; Task leader: UAntwerp]*
- **Task 2.4** Development of training programmes on community-engaged R&I *[Month 1-36; Task leader: UM]*
- **Task 2.5** Foster YUFE science outreach as means of community engagement and service to society *[Month 1-36; Task leader: UNIRI]*
- **Task 2.6** Development of a joint strategy towards a common YUFE research infrastructure agenda *[Month 1-36; Task leader: UCY]*
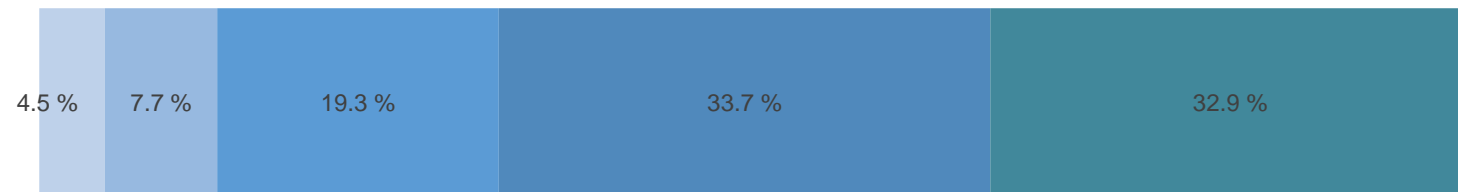
Relevance Community-Engaged Research and Innovation

When thinking about what my job offers as an academic I am stongly influenced by the potential for me to engage with external communities on research projects.

| 4 % | 11.5 % | 27.8 % | 31.7 % | 22 % |

It is important for me to be involved with community based research

| 4.5 % | 7.7 % | 19.3 % | 33.7 % | 32.9 % |

Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neither ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

Importance Community-Engaged Research and Innovation

- 573 total respondents: 15% PhD students and 78% academics (mostly teaching and research)
- 67% important to be involved with community-based research
- 45% participated in knowledge transfer related activities (including CERI) within the last 3 years
- 64% of these 45% were specifically engaged in CERI
- An average (median) time spent of 15 days

Aim subtask 2.1: Map best practices in community-engaged research at YUFE universities

- To map, define and test YUFE-wide community engagement-based R&I best practices and tools.

- Aim to foster multi-thematic approaches.

Approach to map best practices in community-engaged research at YUFE universities

- Defining community-engagement based research

- Mapping best practices of community-engagement based research within YUFE via surveys and/or science databases along with interviews of research group representatives

- Identify success factors, challenges and /tools within these best practices

Definition Community-engaged research and innovation

1. A participatory form of research that is performed with, by and/or for the community members that benefits communities involved
- direct intervention (innovation)
- translating research findings
2. Academic and nonacademic actors working collaboratively change
3. Principles of reciprocity, including the shared ownership of research

Characteristics: Community-engaged research and innovation

- Social impact
- Actively involves affected community partners (non-academic communities) in one or more phases
- Implementation of the research outcomes and innovative solutions
- Bi-directional relationships

Best practices

University	Project	Aim
University of Eastern Finland	ALL-YOUTH – All youth want to rule their world	to create possibilities and to enable young people to participate in making their own communities and the society a better place
University of Essex	-	This project takes veterans with PTSD on fishing trips and evaluates improvements to mental health.

Success factors

- diversity and contextuality
- (I) research process co-design, knowledge sharing and
- co-production
- (II) continuity, structure, cyclical approach and impact
- (III) multiplying effects of working together in a trusting relationship
- (IV) learning, growing and changing together by introducing innovative services/programmes

Challenges

- (I) logistic-related (Time, funding)
- (II) partners/collaborators-related, and
- (III) CERI principles-related challenges

Conclusion

- Definition final, best practices and success factors identified

Future perspectives

- Existing R&I policies, support and decision-making processes
- Piloting model
- Development of training programmes
- Foster YUFE science outreach
- Development of a joint strategy

Young Universities for the Future of Europe

YUFERING
TRANSFORMING R&I THROUGH
EUROPE-WIDE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Questions?

For more information, please get in touch with yufering@ucy.ac.cy

https://yufe.eu/yufering/

f @YUFE Alliance   yufe_alliance   @AllianceYufe

YouTube YUFE Alliance   Ln @YUFE Alliance

Follow us

f YUFEalliance
y allianceyufe
in YUFE Alliance
o yufe_alliance

www.yufe.eu ›

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union