

Building Communities in CHARM-EU: A Design Thinking Start @ HRW

Probing agile and challenge-based collaboration in a first pilot event in Muelheim/Ruhr

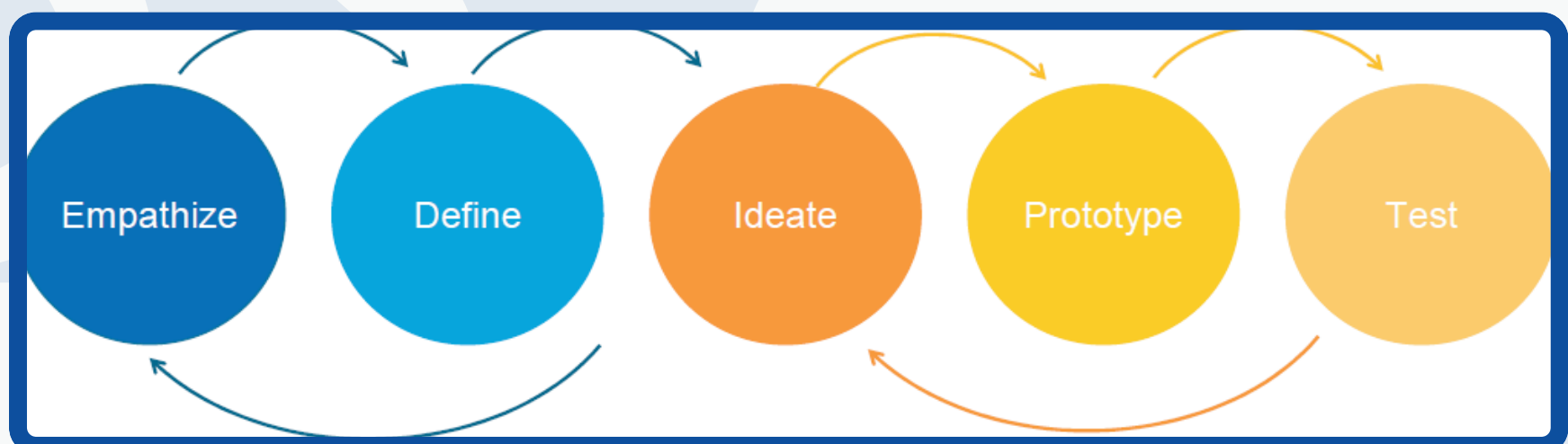
WP9.2 Objectives

The CHARM-EU Alliance aims to **develop networks and build sustainable communities** with the stakeholders and institutions of the alliance. **WP9.2** has the mandate to develop these networks and to build these communities. Bringing together various status groups, creating a lively exchange, and intensifying the sharing of knowledge and experience among the different stakeholders within and between the nine partner universities are therefore main objectives of WP9.2. As part of the alliance, **HRW** has an excellent opportunity to **bring together diverse stakeholders across the Ruhr region** and further contribute to its transformation.

Methodology

Design Thinking is an agile, innovative, and human-centered method of solving complex challenges: *“How can we involve and activate HRW faculty and staff in CHARM-EU?”*

The method facilitates the development of new ways of **networking** and **community building**.



Pilot @HRW

A **workshop** was held on **May 25 & 26, 2023**. **Twelve participants** (four professors, two researchers, two lecturers, and four administrative members of staff) joined together to explore how **Design Thinking** can create novel formats for collaboration and community building.



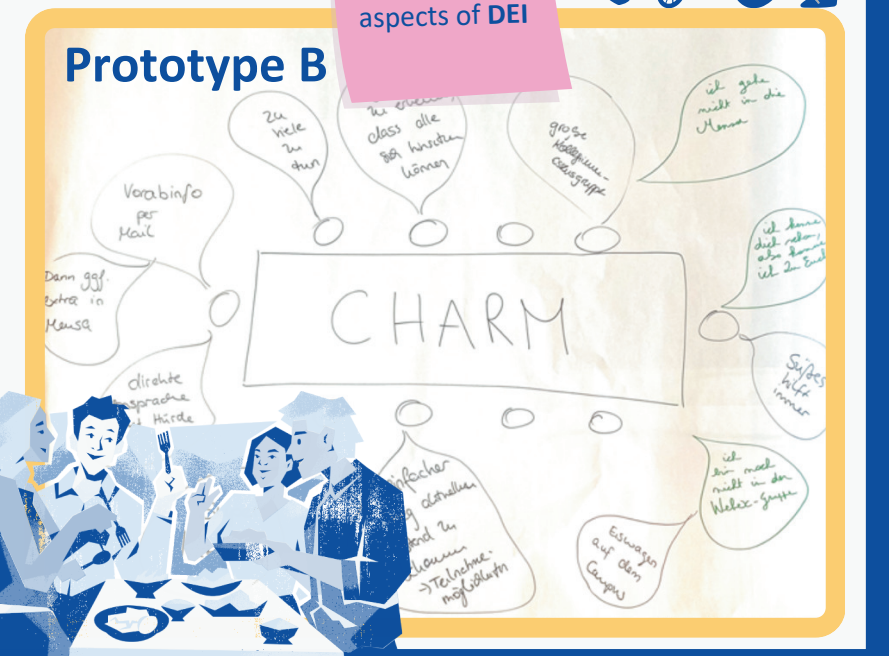
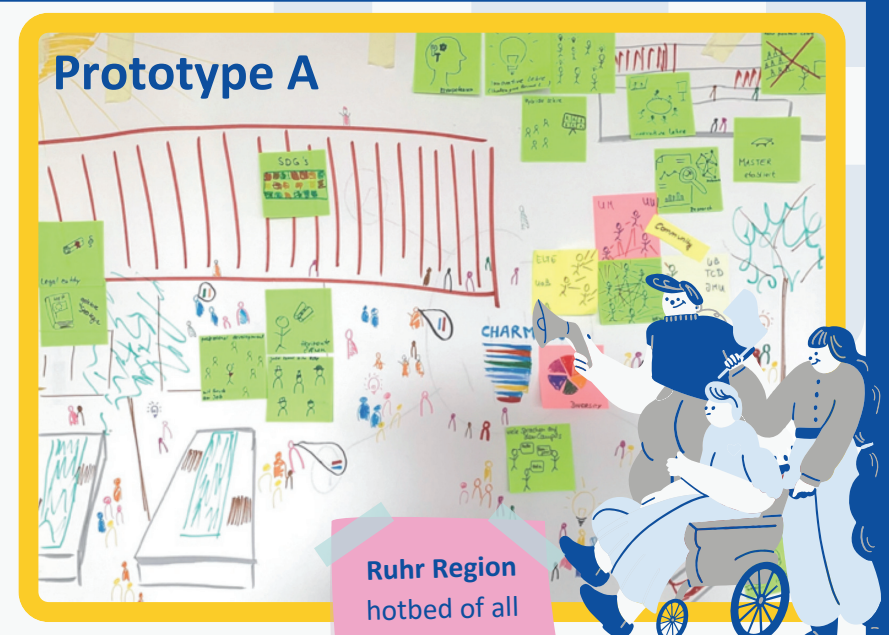
The Results

The Design Thinking workshop revealed different ideas, ranging from future visions to short term actionable measures, for example

- a future fully-CHARM-EU-integrated campus (**Prototype A**), accommodating the use of non-local languages, welcoming students and staff from all backgrounds, positively impacting the economically-challenged Ruhr region in need of transformation, and encouraging innovative sustainability in and beyond mobility;
- a total charmification of teaching and learning, including ‘university swapping’ in different formats (a day, a month—ranging from administrative staff to teachers and even university leadership)
- an international CHARM-EU festival/BarCamp with topics around Challenge-Based teaching and learning, matching researchers in and across fields of research;
- a CHARM-table (**Prototype B**) at the beating heart of the HRW campus: the cafeteria as meeting place for CHARM-interested parties and CHARM-enthusiasts, boasting international culinary delights on specific dates.

And many more.

These insights now serve to guide future pilots and WP9.2 plans.



Conclusion

Design Thinking unveils new perspectives, generates results on a broad and deep level, and has come to constitute a useful agile working method for complex networking and community-building activities in **WP9.2** ventures.

CHARM-EU

