



UNIVERSITY
ACTION LAB

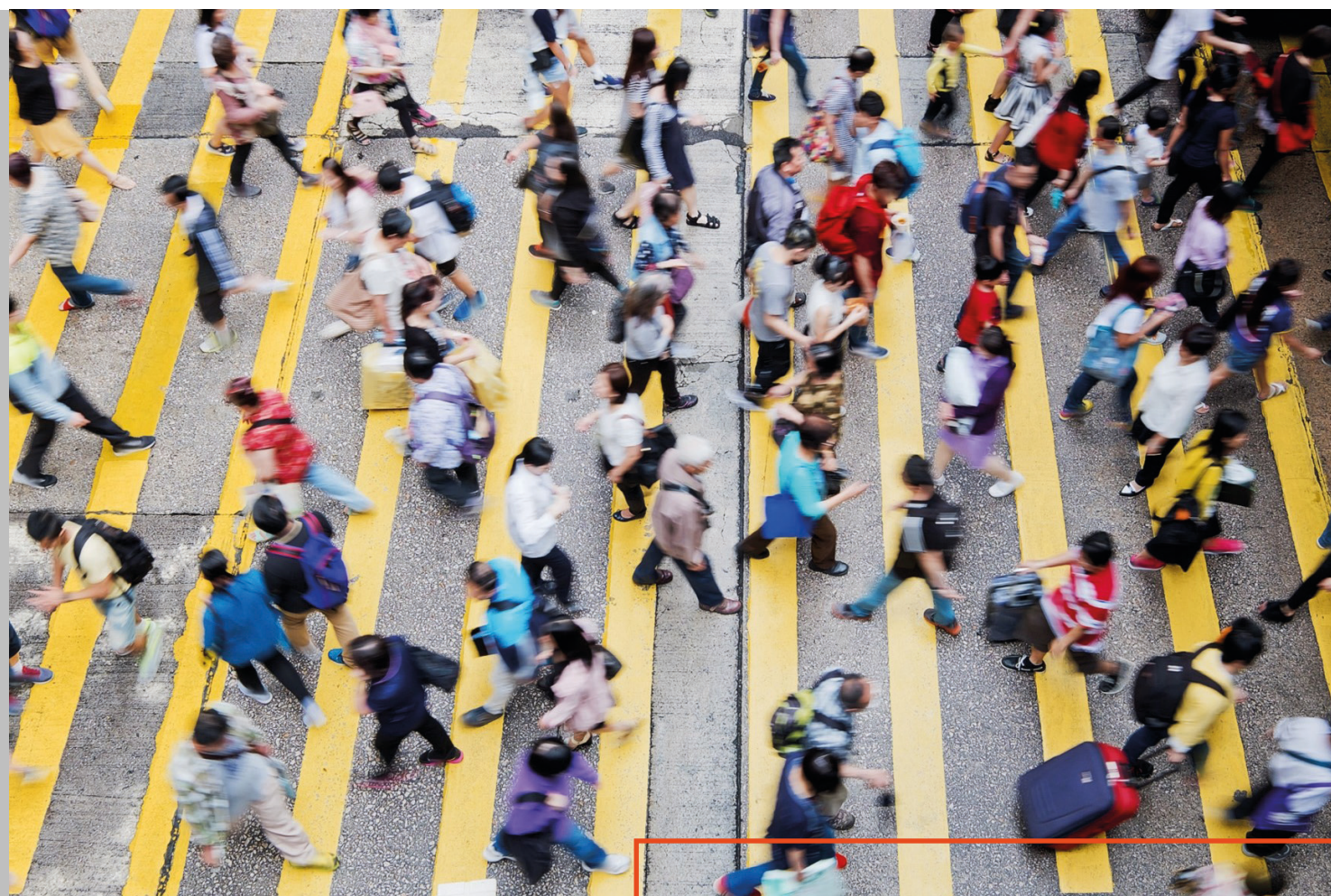
linking European universities

with urban stakeholders

to address societal challenges

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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Today more than 70% of Europe's citizens live in cities, what makes European Union one of the most urbanised areas in the world. While these areas are considered to be the engines of European economy that have lavish job opportunities and attract educated population, they are also the enclaves where social and environmental challenges concerning mobility, sustainable land & energy use, inclusion of migrants, digital transformation & poverty are concentrated at a higher degree. Without doubt, universities hold great potential to act as key players in fostering dialogue

WELCOME TO UCITYLAB!

U stands for university, **CITY** stands for itself and **LAB** stands for laboratory, a real-time, territorial context, user-centred laboratory.

Our mission with this project is to promote co-creation actions to add the “smart” to the cities, now and in the future. Collaborations between cities and universities to solve societal challenges, to identify problems and come up with solutions, are, after all, natural ones. Universities are based in the cities and part of their DNA. They represent the future through their students and the knowledge with their faculty. Universities are centres of open-minded curiosity, limitless proactivity and endless willingness to learn. Above all, universities are pools of perspectives. However, they need access to technology, they need somewhere to test theoretical knowledge and experiment, they need to see things from the business world's viewpoint, they need mindset guidance. So, this

collaboration (university-city) is a win-win situation. In fact, win-win-win situation since we must include institutions in the equation. Cities and universities per se wouldn't be enough to identify and solve the challenges. Partnerships with NGO's, research and innovation labs, public and private companies, VETs, among others, besides the ones with municipal chambers and/or their units (water, housing, energy), make this Erasmus+ project more valuable and trustworthy.

All these steps are taken in order to make UCITYLAB not just an attempt, but a combined focused endeavour to change the way we live in the ever-growing cities of this century.

The project's end date is March 2021, but our goal is that these collaborations last after the project lifetime, boosting urban development and social innovation.


UCITYLAB Project Consortium

among regional stakeholders to initiate and sustain joint actions towards creation of smart, sustainable and green cities. However, despite efforts, urban engagement has not become an inherent component of higher education systems, and its presence in academic programs is either marginal or non-existent as academia lacks relevant strategies, resources, and knowledge to apply and engage in city initiatives.

The UCITYLAB project has set sail to address the deficiencies described above and help higher education institutions find their

organic niche in the urban ecosystem they are embedded into. The project intends to let the higher education institutions discover their potential as a crucial stakeholder that can support anchoring innovation by raising interest in the urban areas they are based in, offering resources, and facilitating change. The UCITYLAB project will also navigate institutions in discovering the capacity of the cities as living labs so that they will be able to incorporate open spaces, institutions, and a local community in their research and teaching programs.

OUR GOAL



The UCITYLAB project goal is to share knowledge and tools with HEIs to extend their societal role in generating solutions for urban challenges, while developing social and environmental responsibility, innovative mindset and social entrepreneurship skills among their students

OUR OBJECTIVES



increase knowledge and understanding of HEIs in establishing urban partnerships



support societal relevance of HEI curriculum and enhance connectivity with the civic community



develop relevant skills among students by exposing them to real-life societal problems



strengthen links among the stakeholders of the urban community, including HEIs, and to facilitate knowledge exchange and a better flow of resources for urban development



disseminate results to foster adoption of city engagement practices in European HEIs

UCITYLAB OUTPUTS

1

UCITYLAB Status-Quo Report & Collection of Good Practices

A report with local, national and international mapping of status-quo of HEI practices involving city engagement in urban challenges and a collection of good practices.

2

UCITYLAB Network Roadmap

A network with city offices/local public representatives to build joint action plans & strategies, that align HEI activities with local/regional urban development and innovation agendas.

3

UCITYLAB Challenge Teaching Toolkit

A toolkit that will include a course program and a set of resources to be used in teaching the Challenge program.

4

UCITYLAB Challenge Pilot Implementation Report

A report about the Challenge Program which will be embedded into the curriculum of the partner HEIs for two semesters during which students will grasp basic concepts of urban development, social innovation, and design solutions to tackle real-life urban challenges.

5

UCITYLAB Online Portal

A portal that will host an online network platform, project outputs & resources, self-learning materials, and project information, news and blog updates about the project.

OUR BENEFICIARIES



HEIs will address their third mission towards societal engagement by building up urban networks in their cities and enhancing the relevance of their curricula for the world of work



Urban stakeholders will develop an understanding on co-creation processes in devising solutions to complex urban challenges, and benefit from informed decision making



Students will gain awareness on the challenges faced by their local communities, and acquire new skills and competences associated with urban entrepreneurship



OUR PARTNERS

Institut Mines-Télécom
Business School (IMTBS)

The Porto Business
School (PBS)



University Industry
Innovation Network (UIIN)

Institute for Innovation and
Development of University of
Ljubljana (IRI UL)

Autonomous University of
Barcelona (UAB)

UCITYLAB Project unites five partners from network organizations, research institutes and academia based in five countries in Europe. Their expertise and impeccable reputation make a solid foundation for successful achievement of the intended project results.



The Porto Business School is the coordinating institution of the UniverCity Action Lab project, for its expertise in entrepreneurship, and design and delivery of innovative educational curriculums. In addition to their Project Management responsibilities, PBS takes part in the development and pilot implementation of the outputs, as well as overseeing activities pertaining to Quality and Evaluation, Dissemination, and Sustainability of the project.



Institute for Innovation and Development of University of Ljubljana (IRI UL) takes the lead in the preparation of the UCITYLAB Challenge Teaching Toolkit. The institute is a joint venture between the University of Ljubljana (UL) and ten major Slovenian companies. IRI UL's mission is to initiate the creation/attainment, transfer, distribution and application of knowledge, to promote the integration of the innovation triangle (research – education – innovation) by transferring research results into practice and commercial exploitation.



Autonomous University of Barcelona leads the development of the Intellectual Output (IO) UCITYLAB Network, during which 4 network communities are launched by the partner HEIs in their cities (Porto, Ljubljana, Barcelona, Paris) with the involvement of representatives including, but not limited to public authorities, NGOs, HEIs, smart and sustainable city initiatives, urban development units.



Institut Mines-Télécom Business School (IMTBS) leads the development of the UCITYLAB Status-Quo Report & Collection of Good Practices. Institut Mines-Telecom Business School prepares the future managers to become innovative entrepreneurs responsible and open to the world with creative approaches to work who would judiciously guide their enterprises through the transitional challenges of globalization to digital and energetic intelligence, ecological solutions, economical excellence and industrial prosperity.



University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN) will be responsible for the launch and operation of the UCITYLAB Online Portal, and dissemination and exploitation of the project results. With access to key contacts in academia and industry, and with various distribution channels reaching a large variety of European stakeholders, UIIN will ensure that the value created will also be exploited. UIIN will bring their unique experience and broad networks to support the launch of UCITYLAB Networks in partner HEI regions.



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Contact us!

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