Una.Resin

Task 1.2.: Benchmarking Una Europa member universities' R&I strategies

Benchmarking Template and quidelines WP1; Version 9.0; WP1 and WP2; 19th May 2021

1. Context

1.1. Introduction

Una Europa is an alliance of eight leading research universities with global reputation and reach. It is one of 41 emerging European Universities, consisting of bottom-up alliances that aim to create a truly European inter-university environment by triggering **unprecedented levels of institutionalised cooperation in the area of education and research**. Una Europa has the long-term objective to transform the institutional framework of its member institutions to prepare for the next wave of global challenges.

Through the three-year ERASMUS+ '1Europe' pilot project, Una Europa is taking the first steps towards creating a single education eco-system for our students, by establishing a Europe-wide living lab for testing Joint Innovative Formats for education and mobility, such as joint degrees.

Through the three-year Horizon 2020 '**Una.Resin**' pilot project, we will determine the purpose for the future research collaboration within and beyond Una Europa. The universities will create strategies for sharing Research & Innovation agendas (WP1), opening up and sharing Research Infrastructure and Resources (WP2), and strengthening Human Capital (WP3). We will implement and evaluate pilot actions for the systematic support for excellence as well as create cross-disciplinary and cross- sectoral teams across Una Europa. During the process, we will reach out to the non-academic partners of the universities to strengthen the Una Europa R&I ecosystem as a whole.

More information can be found at the website of Una.Resin: https://www.una-europa.eu/about/una.resin.

1.2. Common methodology for Una.Resin Work packages

In order to achieve the objectives of each work package, the Una.Resin projects follows a **common methodology** across work packages:

- Development of shared strategies, agendas and policies following definition of scope, mapping of policies and assets, stakeholder consultation and identification of barriers and enablers of R&I cooperation
- Development of an action plan to implement shared priorities
- Initial implementation via pilot actions
- Evaluation of pilot actions

  The common strategy will build on the learnings from the five focus areas, closely linked to Europe's strategic goals: Cultural Heritage; Data Science & Artificial Intelligence; European Studies; Sustainability; and One Health.

The **current focus is on phase 1**, mapping and understanding the relevant policies of the different institutions, providing us with essential information to develop shared strategies. The main methods used in phase 1 are:

1. questionnaires (targeted at policy makers, research administration professionals and relevant academics);
2. co-creation workshops for the academic community (targeted mainly at the academic leaders and other researchers in the five aforementioned Una Europa priority research areas).

2. Guidelines and instructions for completing the benchmarking template

In this first phase we aim to understand and benchmark the existing Research & Innovation and Research Infrastructures & Resources strategies and initiatives of the eight Una Europa universities to identify the complementary strengths of the Una Europa community. We also aim to identify national and organizational policies and mechanisms.

This benchmarking template consists of two questionnaires:

1. Research & Innovation (R&I) strategies and strategic initiatives
2. Research infrastructures and resources (RIRs)

The questionnaires are targeted at the research service professionals at each of the eight Una Europa universities. We encourage to answer the questions together with a team of relevant colleagues and experts in your university.

Guidelines for answering the questions:

1. Please complete the questionnaires by **June 30, 2021 and return your response to WP1 and 2 Leads**
2. Please fill in the name of the university, the name, role and email address of the main contact person, as well as the name, role and e-mail addresses of the main respondents that assisted in completing the different sections of the questionnaire[1];
3. Please use the template questionnaire for answering each item;
4. Please summarize your responses as clearly as possible from the internal consultation.
5. Please limit your answers to the maximum number of words as indicated in the questionnaire (range of 150-250 words);
6. If possible, please provide a link to online materials whenever relevant. If online links are not available, please list the relevant documents in your answer and attach them to the email together with the questionnaire. When doing so, please use the following format:
   a. Name of the relevant document
   b. Short description of the document

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[1] Please indicate in each part (p. 5, p. 10, to adjust in final version) the respondent's name, contact and profile.

c. Link or name of the attachment

The collected information and materials will be saved on the Una.Resin SharePoint with access limited to the Una.Resin Project office and WP leads and co-leads. These procedures will follow the ethics and security guidelines at the EU level strictly protecting personal and confidential information.

If you have any questions regarding the questionnaires during the data collection, please contact the WP leads* and/or co-leads via email

Part 1: R&I strategies and strategic initiatives (WP1)

Administrative information

A. **UNIVERSITY: ……**

B. **Institutional contact person and email:**

Name	Email	Function / Role	Work unit

C. **Information on respondents who assisted in completing the questionnaire on joint research and innovation agendas (add more rows if needed):**

Name	Email	Function / Role	Work unit

The answers to this part of the benchmarking template will be used for benchmarking the R&I strategies of the Una Europa universities. This is a necessary starting point for building a common Una Europa R&I strategy: where can we be stronger together? As the strategy also reaches beyond the Una Universities to the ecosystem of the community, some questions address the collaborations of the universities with non-academic sectors. Also, to understand the operational environment of our network, some of the questions aim to enlighten the characteristic of the local research cultures and policies.

1. **Does your university have a multi annual R&I strategy at university level or is your university planning to adopt such strategies? The strategy may be targeted to defining the**

direction of research, R&I policies or be a wider university level strategy defining the aims, values or policies of the university.

☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes:

- Please describe (describe in maximum 250 words).

- Provide the relevant link(s) or document(s).

Title document	Short description	Link or name of attachment

2. Has your university defined university level strategic research themes or areas / thematic priorities?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes:

- Please list the strategic research themes or areas / thematic priorities and describe them (describe in maximum 250 words). Please indicate if the priority areas listed are university level or tied to a faculty or an institute.
- Please describe the process (if any) at your university for defining the strategic themes or areas (describe in maximum 250 words).
- Does the university provide targeted funding to develop the strategic research themes / priority areas of the university? Please describe (describe in maximum 250 words).
- Provide the relevant link(s) or document(s).

Title document	Short description	Link or name of attachment

3. **Are there national or regional policies or funding in place which direct the strategic choices of your university?**

☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes:
- Please provide a concise description of relevant policies (describe in maximum 250 words).

- Provide the relevant link(s) or document(s).

Title document	Short description	Link or name of attachment

4. **Please list 5-10 top research fields of excellence at your university. Describe the criteria, how these were selected (for example publications, collaborations or other criteria) (describe in maximum 250 words).**

5. **Are there multidisciplinary structures (institutes, centres etc.) at your university or plans to create such new or additional structures in coming years?**

☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes:
- Please list and describe the most relevant existing ones (describe in maximum 250 words).
- If there are plans to create such new or additional structures in coming years please list and describe them (describe in maximum 150 words).
- How does the role of the multidisciplinary structures intersect with traditional faculties and departments (describe in maximum 150 words)?

6. **Are there strategies or practices in place that aims at enhancing multidisciplinary research?**

☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes:

- What kind of practices have been identified as necessary? What initiatives and instruments are in place to reach this goal? Please describe (describe in maximum 250 words).

7. **Please list the most important strategic (top-down) partners or partnerships of your university (other universities, research institutes, cities, museums, companies)? Name up to 15 partners/partnerships.**

Name of the partner/partnership	Short description	Link to the Internet site of the partner/partnership

- What are the aims of these partnerships? Please describe (describe in maximum 250 words).

- What kind of binding links do you have with these entities (e.g., memorandum of understanding, cooperation agreements etc.)? Please describe (describe in maximum 250 words).

8. **Are there any strategies in place or currently developed that have a dedicated geographical focus, for example, areas of the Global South?**

    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No

    If yes:
    - Please list and describe the partnerships (describe in maximum 250 words).
    - Provide the relevant link(s) or document(s) if available.

Title document	Short description	Link or name of attachment

9. **Does your university have existing pilots, initiatives or strategic partnerships on R&I or research support development with any of the other Una Europa universities?**
    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No

    If yes:

    - Please list and the describe briefly the aim and/or field of the partnership.

Partner universities	Name of the collaboration	Short description

10. **Does your university have a research code of conduct or comparable value-based regulations for research?**

    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No

    If yes:

- Please describe (describe in maximum 250 words).

- Provide the relevant link(s) or document(s).

Title document	Short description	Link or name of attachment