



Evaluation report

Una.Resin project, WP1

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Pilot 2: Developing a concept for an Una Europa collaboration platform

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Executive summary

(This summary should be a maximum of 1.5 pages and should focus on the following:)

In the Grant Agreement of the Una.Resin project, WP1 was tasked to pilot methods to accelerate cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration and networking in addressing the priority challenges. The second of the two WP1 pilots described in this document aimed to **develop a concept for an Una Europa collaboration platform**. The platform was envisioned to consist of an evolving set of tools and services for cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration and networking within the Una Europa ecosystem and throughout the R&I lifecycle on the priority global challenges. Initially, a number of signature projects were planned to be selected for testing the tools, activities and consolidated support services.

The approach to develop the pilot was comprehensive and linked to all seven transformation modules developed under this H2020-SwafS. The main focus of the pilot can be summarized in addressing the following transformation modules: (2) strengthen human capital, (3) share research infrastructures, (4) engage non-academic actors, (7) explore joint university structures.

The development of the pilot was achieved by a number of actions that can be separated into two categories: 1) a series of consultations and workshops and 2) mapping procedures.

1) Consultations and Workshops

Starting with regular meetings of the Research Coordination Cluster (RCC) of Una Europa and meetings of the Public-, private-, and 3rd sector collaboration cluster (PPTSC), a questionnaire was developed that was concerned with the main questions regarding a collaboration platform. The questionnaire was then circulated among all the Work packages to get their insights based on the Una.Resin outcomes. In a subsequent

dedicated workshop of the SSC One Health in February of 2022 in Bertinoro and in strategic discussions with the chairs of the other SSCs in April and May 2023 the bulk of the desires of our researchers could be described.

2) Mapping

With this information WP1 carried out a preliminary mapping of existing research portals at the 11 partner institutions and on the basis of this laid out the groundwork of a potential and substantial follow-up mapping of commercial platforms that could fit the needs expressed below. This will most likely be further explored during the conceptualization of the Una.Connect platform. Pre-existing platforms and could either be used as best practice examples for the creation of our own platform or to be used in their existing form.

The key project outcomes and impact can be summarized in the following points that researchers expressed as desirable aspects for a collaboration platform. For this tool to be effective, it should cover and enable collaboration in

- Developing careers and skills
- Research Funding Portal
- Research Portal (Research Information System)
- Sharing information on RIRs
- Enhancing citizen science in research

Lessons learned:

The most important outcome from the stakeholder consultations was that the platform should be **simple, intuitive and easy to use**. All given information would have to be **visible and transparent as possible**. For this to be an efficient tool for researchers and external partners it should facilitate their work, not add more complexity to their daily work. The target group of the platform is not homogenous, and the functions needed depend on the user segment. The two key user segments are the academic researchers and the research professionals. Under the first group the early and advanced career stage researchers may need different support and thus also the tools needed can be different. On the other hand, the research professionals need tools to support the researchers, but also for their career development and best practices sharing benefiting both the individual professionals and the institutions.

During the runtime of Una.Resin, Una.Futura was launched as the second phase of funding for Una Europa under the umbrella of Erasmus+. As part of that, Una Europa vzw was tasked to develop a comprehensive platform, "Una.Connect". With this in mind it did not make sense anymore to develop a separate and genuine Una.Resin-delivered platform, but to provide our learnings to the Una.Connect development. The development is currently underway. The main findings and preliminary results of this pilot have been communicated to Una Europa vzw and this report will be used in the further conceptualization of the Una.Connect platform. This phase will start in 2024 and the final product will be implemented by end of Una.Futura, meaning the end of 2026.

Recommendations for the future:

In order to ensure that the needs of the researchers are heard, Una.Resin is working closely with Una Europa vzw to make sure that the insights from our project are used in the process of conceptualizing a broader Una Europa platform. WP1 members have participated in the stakeholder consultations for the design of the platform where preliminary results of this mapping have already been discussed and will continue to give feedback on the proposed platform.

To address urgent research-related needs in the short term, prior to the establishment of a comprehensive platform, Una Europa should leverage commercially available products and further develop its website. These needs include e.g. research funding calls, expressions of interest and subsequent matchmaking, and listing our partner institutions' research portals to aid in identifying potential collaborators. Additionally, tools are needed to share online training courses for researchers and research professionals which are offered by our partner institutions or jointly developed. Coordination of these efforts will be the responsibility of Una Europa vzw, with support from research professionals who will provide advisory roles. In the medium term, we will require a tool for sharing information on research and data infrastructures. In the long term, Una Europa should aim to explore the possibilities of developing AI-based tools that can collect data from our partner universities' research portals, enabling seamless matchmaking between researchers, research groups, and interdisciplinary units. Some of our partner universities are currently developing similar approaches that could serve as pilots.

1. Introduction

2. Overview of the evaluation

2.1 Objectives and aims of the pilot

- *Outline the specific EC Transformation Module(s) that the pilot aimed to address.*
- *What barriers to cross border and cross-sectoral research and innovation collaboration did the project address?*
- *To what extent has the pilot project addressed the EC TM(s) towards the desired institutional change?*
- *Indicate any lessons that were explored or drawn from other Una.Resin or related projects in the implementation of this pilot?*

Una.Resin WP1 was tasked to pilot methods to accelerate cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration and networking in addressing the priority challenges. The second of the two WP1 pilots described in this document aimed at developing a concept for an Una Europa

collaboration platform. The platform was envisioned to consist of an evolving set of tools and services for cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration and networking within the Una Europa ecosystem and throughout the R&I lifecycle on the priority global challenges. Initially, a number of signature projects were planned to be selected for testing the tools, activities and consolidated support services. The main ideas for a joint collaborative platform thus included these tasks:

- Increase the visibility and fields of expertise of Una Europa researchers
- Allow for match-making and collaboration to create high quality consortia for acquiring competitive funding
- Allow for match-making for early career researcher for joint projects
- Allow for joint international doctoral training modules to be stored and processed
- Allow the search for specific profiles and keywords and allow the posting of calls of interest, in particular in the interest of early career researchers
- Allow for collaboration beyond the sphere of academia, e.g., in citizen science projects

The primary aim for the pilot thus was to **establish a digitally enhanced one-stop-shop or efficient combination of modules for fostering research collaboration within the alliance**. This resource could offer support in identifying relevant funding opportunities, advancing research initiatives, and facilitating innovation within the shared Una Europa ecosystem.

The overall aim of Una.Resin WP1 has been to lay the groundwork for the development of the common Una Europa R&I ecosystem by devising a shared Una Europa Research and Innovation Agenda. As a part of this, the work package was involved in finding ways to reinforce cooperation in research and innovation within the universities and beyond the sphere of academia.

The approach to develop the pilot was comprehensive and linked to all seven transformation modules developed under this H2020-SwafS. The main focus of the pilot can be summarized in addressing the following transformation modules: (2) strengthen human capital, (3) share research infrastructures, (4) engage non-academic actors, (7) explore joint university structures.

In the Research and Innovation Strategy (D1.2) developed in Una.Resin and subsequently all following projects and pilots, the main focus points of an ongoing cooperation in Una Europa were clearly laid out and can be led back to the transformation modules. In order to align the needs formulated by the engaged stakeholders for a R&I platform with the strategic goals that were formulated in the R&I strategy, it is necessary to reflect where the main tasks of Una Europa will be lying in the future, i.e. in respect to **building Interdisciplinary Hubs, to engage with our academic community and to make our existing research infrastructures accessible**.

1: Strengthening the Una Europa Focus Areas

- Establishing Interdisciplinary Hubs
- Training Researchers of the Future

- Strengthening Collaboration Beyond Academia

2: Engaging Researchers Broadly

- Supporting Bottom-Up Initiatives
- Promoting Mobility and Community Building
- Digitalising Collaboration

3: Opening up Research and Data Infrastructures

- Promoting openness of RIs and data infrastructures to foster research collaboration
- Strengthening Research and Data Infrastructure Skills
- Developing a stronger and more integrated Una Europa Research Infrastructure Ecosystem

2.1 Initial design and implementation of the pilot project

In not more than 500 words (=1/2 page),

- *Describe the design of the pilot project considering alignments with the overall Una.Resin project objectives (internal) and other Una Europa and/or European University Alliance interventions (external).*
- *Describe the various sources of data collected and the analysis undertaken. Take into consideration the framework used for gathering and including feedback from your stakeholders.*
- *Considering the design and implementation phases, describe the roles of the Clusters and/or Self-Steering Committees in the delivery of the pilot?*
- *What challenges were faced during the design and implementation phases of this project and how they were overcome or how you intend to tackle?*

Under this pilot we had two separate actions: 1) Consultations and Workshops, 2) Mapping

1) Consultations and Workshops

The potential needs and requirements of a collaboration platform were discussed in regular meetings and in dedicated sessions of two workshops, namely:

- Workshops in connection to Research Coordination Cluster (RCC) meetings: 13.12.2021 (online), 14.02.2022 (online), 17.03.2022 in Paris, 02.06.2022 in Helsinki, 29.11.2022 in Edinburgh, 08.06.2023 in Leiden
- Workshop with One Health Focus area Self-steering committee in Bertinoro in February 2022
- Public-, private-, and 3rd sector collaboration cluster workshop at Freie Universität Berlin, April 4 – 6, 2022.
- Strategic discussions with the chairs of the Una Europa SSC in February 2023

- Pilot 1: Una Europa R&I strategy workshop and the Horizon Europe Pillar II matchmaking process

The Una Europa Research Coordination Cluster (RCC) played a major role in formulating the ideas for the internal processes and sharing the best practices at their home institutions. This happened in close collaboration with WP1 of Una.Resin during the whole process. The RCC members helped in identifying the processes and the user groups of the platform and tools. Their input was of great value in regards to the technical and administrative feasibility of the whole pilot idea. They also served as contact points to reach the academics as well as supporting research funding professionals, when needed. **The self-steering committee of the One Health focus area** acted as the academic owner of the Pilot 1, and in that course also was a main point of reference regarding the Pilot 2.

In addition to the inputs from the above-mentioned groups, we formulated a questionnaire that was then circulated among all the Una.Resin Work packages and Clusters. The main questions that were asked were:

- Based on the Una.Resin outcomes, what communication needs did you identify? What support for matchmaking is needed?
- What are the main tasks an Una Europa communication platform would need to fulfil from your WP/Cluster's perspective?
- What are the main support needs for communication and matchmaking from Una Europa vzw?

From this questionnaire the main desires and needs of a collaborative platform could be distilled.

2) Mapping

In the consultations with the academic community they pointed out that for them it is very important to have an access to information about the research areas and experiences of the other Una Europa colleagues. WP1 carried out a mapping of existing research portals at the 11 partner institutions that could in the first stage be shared on the Una Europa joint platform/homepage. At a later stage this could serve as the basis for a joint portal, with which scientists could find suitable colleagues for match-making purposes or joint applications.

The aim was also to map commercial platforms that could fit the needs expressed below. This will most likely be further explored during the conceptualization of the Una.Connect platform that could either be used as best practices for the creation of our own platform or to be used in their existing form.

Challenges and how to overcome them:

Early on it became clear that a universal platform that incorporates a whole range of very different tools would have to be developed and implemented by various stakeholders. The design and implementation, understood as two separate tasks to be performed in the runtime of

one project, was soon deemed not feasible from the **viewpoint of human or financial resources** as one pilot of one project WP in Una.Resin.

The initial expectation that there would already have been active research collaboration to pilot the platform with during the course of Una.Resin was also too ambitious. Thus, WP1 decided to concentrate the limited resources to collecting the needs and expectations, i.e., drafting a concept for such a platform.

2.1 Outcomes and Impact of the pilot project

- *Discuss the key outcomes and impact of the pilot project that has or could induce institutional change.*
- *How have these outcomes/impact addressed the initial aims including enabling barrier-free collaboration in research and innovation?*
- *To what extent has the pilot project been able to translate and synthesise Una.Resin knowledge and innovations into accessible formats?*
- *To what extent has the outcomes of the pilot project (if any) been taken up and/or influenced decision-makers at the various levels – institutional, national, EU (European Union)? Or what institutional, national and EU decisions could be influenced in the future based on this pilot?*

The key findings regarding the desired functionalities for such a platform are listed here:

- Research funding portal

TARGET GROUP: academics and research funding professionals

AIMS: Sharing information about research funding opportunities and match-making for the calls

FEATURES NEEDED:

- Joint pool of funding opportunities
- European funding opportunities
- National and regional funding opportunities
- Institutional funding opportunities
- Platform for researchers' matchmaking for joint applications.
- Collection of interest of researchers at the Expression of Interest phase
- Creation of a repository of relevant information about funding opportunities on a national and European Level and (documents, training sessions on how to apply, taking the Horizon call preparatory sessions as an example, etc.);
- Facilitation of the interaction between participants (e.g., via a chat functionality)

WHO SHOULD MAINTAIN/OPERATE:

- A commercial platform could be used
- Research professionals at each university. Identified by RCC members
- Senior External Funding Advisor at vzw
- IT-professional(s) at vzw or partner universities

STRATEGIC GOALS ADDRESSED:

- Supporting Bottom-Up Initiatives
- Promoting Mobility and Community Building
- Training Researchers of the Future
- Digitalizing Collaboration
- Establishing Interdisciplinary Hubs

EXISTING COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

To be mapped

SHORT, MIDDLE AND LONG-TERM GOALS:

For all the expressed desired functionalities a certain set of development stages could be envisioned, and for some of them easy workaround could be used on a short-term perspective that could then be scaled up. It is important to note in general that for these tools to work that they do not necessarily have to be on the very same platform. At least in the initial stage of this process Una Europa could use adaptable platforms, like B2B (for more see below). As was stated above: The functions have to be user friendly for the researchers and for this purpose have to be easily found. It could be a feasible process to decide to start implementing tools that address only specific tasks in the beginning and then combine those with other functionalities later, if technically possible. This would start the process instead of waiting until a highly complex digital architecture is developed that encompasses all the functionalities that we aim for.

A first step could be e.g., to establish a tool for research funding matchmaking, collection of expressions of interest, systematic announcements of international calls, major national and regional funding formats and institutional funding opportunities. In a long-term perspective, scientists could use the envisaged platform to start discussing collaborations, elaborate on projects within and without the dedicated Una Europa SSCs. Especially an overview over the research conducted within the funding and organizational framework of Una Europa and the researchers conducting this research would be a good opportunity to showcase the thematic focus areas within the respective partner institutions, within Una Europa, and beyond academia. Thus, a platform of this kind could also give ample visibility to the alliance and enable Una Europa to better serve society as a whole, especially by facilitating contacts to companies. External partners could then also be able to scout projects that are of interest to them and contact scientists and vice versa and start matchmaking autonomously.

- Developing careers and skills

TARGET GROUP: academics and higher education staff

AIMS:

- Sharing the academic and professional positions available at the partner institutions
 - Skills training on transversal skills identified in Una.Resin, for example: Interdisciplinary research, Open research and research data management, Particularities of the academic funding landscape and careers at the partner universities / countries

FEATURES NEEDED:

- Ability to share and store webinar videos and/or presentations
- Ability to register for workshop participants

WHO SHOULD MAINTAIN/OPERATE:

- Ideally Una Europa vzw would maintain the platform and possibly the features could be added to the Una.Connect platform
- Research professionals at each university would produce the content as part of the ongoing initiatives/ projects. If other professionals would be needed, they could be identified by RCC or other cluster members.
- IT-support professional(s)

STRATEGIC GOALS ADDRESSED:

- Strengthening Collaboration Beyond Academia
- Supporting Bottom-Up Initiatives
- Promoting Mobility and Community Building
- Digitalizing Collaboration
-

EXISTING COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS:

To be mapped

SHORT, MIDDLE AND LONG-TERM GOALS:

In the short term a list with links to the job announcement platforms of individual universities could suffice. For skills training, a page with announcements of future events is a short-term goal. In the middle to long-term perspective, job announcements can be harvested from individual universities' portals and placed on the Una Europa platform to enhance a better overview. Regarding the skills training, storing of webinar recordings and registration for announced webinars can be added at a later point of time.

- **Research Portal (Research Information System)**

TARGET GROUP: academics and higher education staff

AIMS:

- Sharing information on researcher's profiles, publications, patents as well as research results
- Facilitate match-making between researchers for potential cooperation

FEATURES NEEDED:

- Interoperability of existing research portals of individual universities
- Harvest data from existing portals
- Key words search and other search filters, e.g., disciplines

WHO SHOULD MAINTAIN/OPERATE:

IT-professionals appointed to coordinate and build the system supported by IT staff at each university, if needed. It should not be academics who operate such a portal manually by their own, the data should be updated automatically.

STRATEGIC GOALS ADDRESSED:

- Establishing Interdisciplinary Hubs
- Training Researchers of the Future
- Strengthening Collaboration Beyond Academia
- Supporting Bottom-Up Initiatives
- Promoting Mobility and Community Building
- Digitalizing Collaboration
- Promoting openness of RIs and data infrastructures to foster research collaboration
- Strengthening Research and Data Infrastructure Skills
- Developing a stronger and more integrated Una Europa Research Infrastructure Ecosystem

Existing research portals at Una Europa Partner Universities:

UEDIN: [University of Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

UH: [University of Helsinki Research Portal](#)

UNIBO: [Directories](#)

UP1: [Pages Personnelles Enseignants Chercheurs](#) and [Expert Finder System](#) (beta version)

JU: [Staff search engine](#)

KU Leuven: a [research portal](#) with funded projects and information on research infrastructures; a [Publication repository](#) (LIRIAS) with all publication output of KU Leuven researchers; a [institutional research data repository](#) (RDR) for the publication of research data; [KU Leuven Who-is-who](#)

FUB: no RIS in place yet, considerations to use VIVO; [research data base with research projects](#), [FUB's academic Departments and Central Institutes](#)

UCM: [Portal de la Investigación](#)

UCD: [Research Portal](#)

UZ: no RIS in place yet

UL: [Universiteit Leiden's Academic Staff](#)

EXISTING COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS:

SciVal, SciVal Experts, Pure, Research in View, Converis, Symplectic Elements, VIVO

SHORT, MIDDLE AND LONG-TERM GOALS:

At the beginning, links to the research portals (research information systems) of individual universities can be listed on the envisaged Una Europa Platform (Una.connect or Una Europa Web Pages). Research information systems are already in place in most of the Una Europa universities. For the universities that still do not have such a portal this could be a good opportunity to align their needs with the process of developing a platform early on and use this exercise as an additional resource to create the best possible environment for their academic community. At a later stage, Una Europa could develop ways to harvest data from the individual research information systems, incorporate it in its platform, and ensure its synchronization and interoperability. The Una Europa platform's data set can commence by harvesting the researcher's profile and then expand the data with publications, patents, and research results. Initial discussion on the possibility to create such functionality started with KU Leuven and University of Edinburgh, where such functions have been developed in-house.

- **Sharing information on RIRs**

TARGET GROUP: academic and higher education staff

AIMS:

- Sharing information on RIRs at the partner institutions
- Giving access to scientists from partner universities
- Connect the academic community and facilitate interdisciplinary research cooperation

FEATURES NEEDED:

- Searching tools for connected RIRs, harvesting data from existing catalogues on RIRs at the partner institutions
- Sharing of instructive webinars on how to use RIRs
- Information on events, projects, networking opportunities, funding opportunities for the RIRs
- Storage of relevant documents, papers and books regarding the RIRs
- matchmaking between RIRs, see above
- Presentation of best practices to the interested public
- Newsletter on recently added RIR, upcoming webinars, etc.
- Entry point to the RIR

WHO SHOULD MAINTAIN/OPERATE:

- Research professionals at each university
- IT-Professional

STRATEGIC GOALS ADDRESSED:

- Establishing Interdisciplinary Hubs
- Training Researchers of the Future
- Strengthening Collaboration Beyond Academia

- Supporting Bottom-Up Initiatives
- Promoting Mobility and Community Building
- Digitalizing Collaboration
- Strengthening Research and Data Infrastructure Skills

EXISTING COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

Hevo Data, GigaSpaces, Airbyte, Snowflake's Unistore, Stitch.

SHORT, MIDDLE AND LONG-TERM GOALS:

The first short-term goal would be to establish an Una Europa digital catalogue (operational data store) of the RIR by harvesting data from the existing sources incl. setting up a searching tool. The dedicated Una Europa platform could then successively add information on events, projects, networking and funding opportunities related to the RIR. In the medium term, the collaboration requires data infrastructures. The long-term perspective is for the platform to be the central place from where to access the shared RIRs in Una Europa. A look for funding opportunities on the European level could be useful to develop data sharing tools and study the legal barriers. A matchmaking between RIRs could be part of a broader matchmaking page for Una Europa researchers, where they can express interest, needs, post information and opportunities. Ideally, Una Europa should develop a systematic way to link the infrastructures to research funding matchmaking.

- Enhancing citizen science in research

TARGET GROUP: academics, higher education staff, citizens

AIM:

- Presentation of research projects, communicating to the general public
- Project incubator as an open forum to suggest projects and engage with citizens
- Matchmaking between researchers for joint citizen science projects
- Matchmaking between researchers and/or research support staff for exchanging of experiences/best practices

FEATURES NEEDED:

- Presentation of citizen engagement projects
- Portal for match-making and expression of interest for joint projects
- online training
- Storage of workshop recordings

WHO SHOULD MAINTAIN/OPERATE:

- Research professionals at each university for specified research areas.
- IT-Professional

STRATEGIC GOALS ADDRESSED:

- Establishing Interdisciplinary Hubs
- Training Researchers of the Future
- Strengthening Collaboration Beyond Academia
- Supporting Bottom-Up Initiatives
- Promoting Mobility and Community Building
- Digitalizing Collaboration
- Promoting openness of RIs and data infrastructures to foster research collaboration
- Strengthening Research and Data Infrastructure Skills
- Developing a stronger and more integrated Una Europa Research Infrastructure Ecosystem

EXISTING COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

See above

SHORT, MIDDLE AND LONG-TERM GOALS:

The first step to allow for a more concentrated approach would be to establish easy and efficient ways of communication and matchmaking between Una Europa researchers interested in citizen science as well as between researchers and citizens. To do that, links to existing data bases with citizen science projects at individual universities could be gathered on the Una Europa Platform. In the middle term, a search for researchers doing projects on citizen science (or interested in) should be possible on the Una Europa research information system (cf. above). For this a label or hashtag needs to be provided in a researchers/projects profile. A search engine should be able to provide a specific search for such labels/hashtags. Similarly, the Una Europa platform dedicated to research funding opportunities should contain information on calls relevant to citizen science; such filter should be in place. Alternatively, citizen science projects can have a separate page and be curated by research teams.

2.2 Sustainability of the pilot project

In not more than 200 words,

- *How, when, and under what conditions will the insights and outcomes delivered through the pilot project be replicated/scaled up or continued?*
- *How do you intend to scale up this project after the end of the programme?*
- *What has been the cost-benefits analyses of the pilot actions? Elaborate on recommendations to national and European policy on the way forward.*

For all the expressed desired functionalities a certain set of development stages could be envisioned, and for some of them easy workarounds could be used on a short-term perspective that could then be scaled up. It is important to note in general that **for these tools to work they do not necessarily have to be on the very same platform**. At least in the initial stage of this process, Una Europa could use adaptable commercial platforms, like B2B. It could be a feasible process to decide to start implementing tools that address only specific tasks in the beginning

and then combine those with other functionalities later, if technically possible. This would start the process instead of waiting until a highly complex digital architecture is developed that encompasses all the functionalities that we aim for.

In longer sight, there is substantial skills and knowledge on harvesting data from existing sources in our partner universities, e.g. at KU Leuven and at Edinburgh University. Una Europa should take advantage of this to find ways to connect our community by developing these kind of tools as a community or by using the existing commercial products.

Una.Resin WP1 has been in contact with Una Europa vzw about these findings and they will be part of the design process of an Una.Connect platform. The cost analysis thus remains at the moment as the main responsibility of Una Europa vzw, but the preliminary mapping of commercial platforms of course has already revealed some potential costs. Already it seems though that for a holistic approach towards an alliance-wide platform that satisfies the needs of project management, communication within the alliance, data storage and the specific desires formulated here by researchers, a considerable amount of added funding would be necessary.

2.1 Lessons learned

Highlight the key lessons learned (5 max) as a result of the delivery of this project (200-word max = Very short!

Early on in the pilot it became clear that a universal platform that incorporates a whole range of very different tools would have to be **developed and implemented by various stakeholders**. This was **not feasible from the viewpoint of human or financial resources to complete as one pilot of one project WP**. The initial expectation that there would have been already active research collaboration to pilot the platform with during the course of Una.Resin was also too ambitious. Thus WP1 decided to **concentrate the limited resources to collecting the needs and expectations**, i.e. drafting a the concept for such a platform. We had to cut off the phase of development and testing of the tools on a larger scale.

The most important outcome from the stakeholder consultations was that the platform should be **simple, intuitive and easy to use**. All given information would have to be **visible and as transparent as possible**. For this to be an efficient tool for researchers and external partners it should facilitate their work, not add more complexity to their daily work. This is a key message regarding the structure, governance and management of an alliance that consists of a number of different projects, each with their own tasks, functions and logic. Even, if Una Europa would not aim to use just one platform, but to collect features from different sources, every aspect has to be clearly communicated within the Una Europa website **to guarantee an easy access and to avoid the current situation where multiple landing pages and platforms are in use at the same time**.

2.2 Recommendation for the future

Suggest recommendations (5 max) on how this project can be scaled up (200-word max).

In order to ensure that the needs of the researchers are heard, Una.Resin is working closely with Una Europa vzw to make sure that the insights from our project are used in the process of conceptualizing a broader Una Europa platform. WP1 members have participated in the stakeholder consultations for the design of the Una.Connect platform where **preliminary results of this mapping have already been discussed and will continue to give feedback on the proposed platform**. This pilot report will also be used in the process and **give directions to future research collaborations within Una Europa**, but also possibly within university consortia of the similar size and aspiration. For this to function on the long run, it would be **necessary to guarantee ample funding** for the findings to be put to use, since a transformation of this magnitude across European borders would require a considerably amount.