EUTOPIA LABEL AND MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Macerata, 1 April 2025

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

EUTOPIA

EUTOPIA MORE
European Universities Transforming into an OPen Inclusive Academy
Making Organisational and Real Evolution

- Erasmus+ Key Action 2 - European Universities Initiative
- **Project duration**: December 2022 - November 2026
- Partners:
  - **Project Coordinator**: Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spagna)
  - **Full Partners (8)**: Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai (Romania); Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgio); Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italia); CY Cergy Paris Université (Francia); Technische Universität Dresden (Germania); University of Gothenburg (Svezia); Univerza v Ljubljani (Slovenia); Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (Portogallo)
  - **Associate Partner**: University of Warwick (UK)
  - **Global Partners**: Monash University (Australia); Université Internationale de Rabat (Morocco); Stellenbosch University (South Africa); Kyungpook National University (South Korea); Arizona State University (USA); Universidad de los Andes (Colombia)

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EUTOPIA MORE - WP3
Connected Communities

The Connected Communities (CCs) are the **building blocks** of the EUTOPIA approach for empowering knowledge in the EUTOPIA MORE project.

The CCs are inspired by the outcomes of the former [Connected Learning Communities (CLC)](#) and [Connected Research Communities (CRC)](#) resulting from the pilot phase of EUTOPIA (*EUTOPIA 2050*: 2019-2022).

The CCs are **integrated thematic networks** where teachers, researchers, and students cooperate in cross-campus and inter-disciplinary knowledge activities.

The CCs are composed of **at least 3** European partners (extra-EU partners may also be involved).

The CCs do not impose change but **aim to strengthen existing good practices in challenge-based learning and research** by creating interuniversity

connectedness at a European scale.

EUTOPIA MORE funds the CCs with a 10.000€ **seed-funding** per CC.

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EUTOPIA MORE - WP3
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The CCs are aligned with the EUTOPIA alliance vision on **openness** and aim to **bridge the typical divides** that still characterise academia.

Their **main objectives** are:

○ **Connecting academia and society**: by focusing their knowledge activities on key challenges in society, and thereby involve stakeholders emanating from a wide range of activities in the business world, the public sector and cultural organizations.	○ **Teaching and Research**: participants combine their experience in teaching and research for testing different formats of cross-campus cooperation; by doing so they create impact that goes beyond the ad hoc experience of staff and students involved.	○ **Inclusion**: the CCs are expected to open up their knowledge activities to a wide range of potential learners by using flexible and/or blended formats for cross-campus cooperation.

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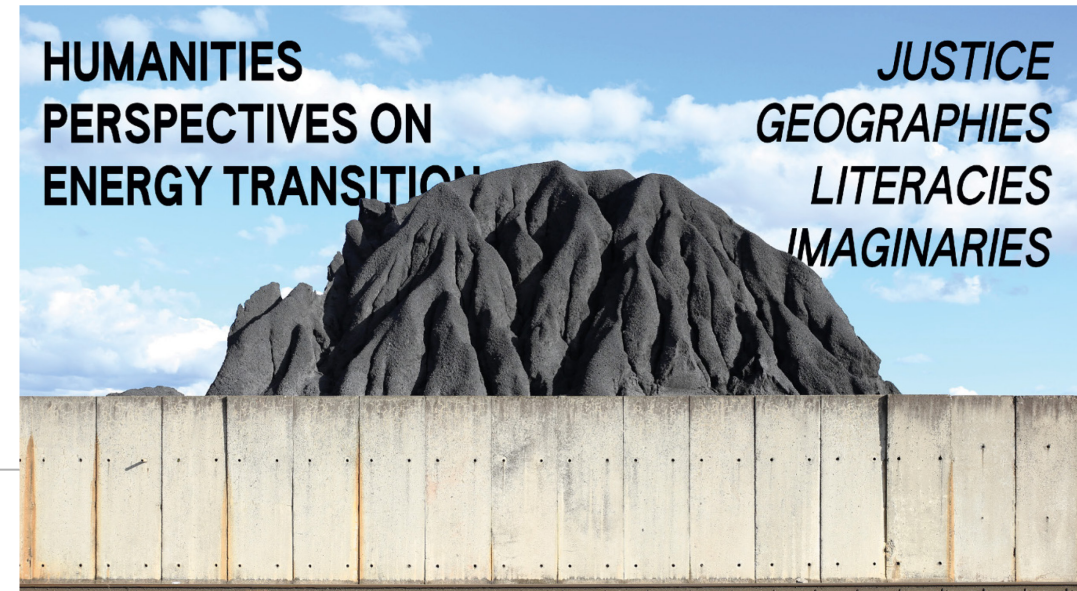
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Connected Communities
Connected Communities Round 1

HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVES ON ENERGY TRANSITION

JUSTICE
GEOGRAPHIES
LITERACIES
IMAGINARIES

The [10 Integrated Connected Communities](#) selected in the first Round of EUTOPIA MORE:

- ○ [Science, Art & Community](#)
- ○ **[Environmental Humanities](#) (UNIVE Lead)**
- ○ [Quantum Technologies Initiative](#)
- ○ [Grounding Human-Centred AI on Embodied Multimodal Interaction](#)
- ○ [ECOTOPIA, Educational and Research Network for the development of short-term mobility programmes](#)

- ○ [Ocean Challenges](#)
- ○ [Entrepreneurship & Innovation](#)
- ○ [New Technologies for Social Inclusion](#)
- ○ [CLARITI: Connected community for Learning And Research In Mathematics for Technology and Innovation](#)
- ○ [Global Health](#)

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Connected Communities
Connected Communities Round 2

The [10 Integrated Connected Communities](#) selected in the second Round of EUTOPIA MORE:

- [Reality-Centric Data Science](#)
- **[Working with University Students for Inclusion, Solidarity and Citizen Participation in the EU](#)** (UNIVE Lead)
- [Francophonies et rapport au "reste du monde"](#)
- [Tourism and Experiences](#)
- [Maintaining International Peace and Security](#)

- [Sustainable Well-being for People & Planet / Caring Communities](#)
- [Bioimage Analysis](#)
- [Agile in Biomechanics](#)
- [Digitisation for Hydro-Climatic Risk Reduction](#)
- [Thinking through the Silk Roads. Cross-Cultural Exchanges and Mobilities](#)

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Connected Communities
EUTOPIANISATION process and recognition of activities

The WP3 of EUTOPIA MORE is working on the creation of a common system for the recognition and *embeddedness* of CC activities.

The short-term objectives (2025, beginning of the 2025-2026 a.y.) are:

- **EUTOPIA Label**: It will be allocated to existing university courses and modules involved in CC activities. The Label recognises the efforts for increasing the international dimension of the learning process and the involvement of Alliance partners (EUTOPIANISATION process). It will be included in the course description and potentially in in the Diploma Supplement of students participating in the activity.

- **Micro-credentials**: They formally recognise specific learning outcomes through short learning units, both curricular and extra-curricular. In the vision of the Alliance, micro-credentials should be credit mentioning (potentially a min. of 3 ECTS) and quality assured. Quality assurance is based on existing mechanisms within partner universities, and the process includes central monitoring.

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EUTOPIA MECHANISMS FOR RECOGNITION

EUTOPIA CONNECTED LEARNING COMMUNITIES

THE EUTOPIA LABEL

CREDENTIAL
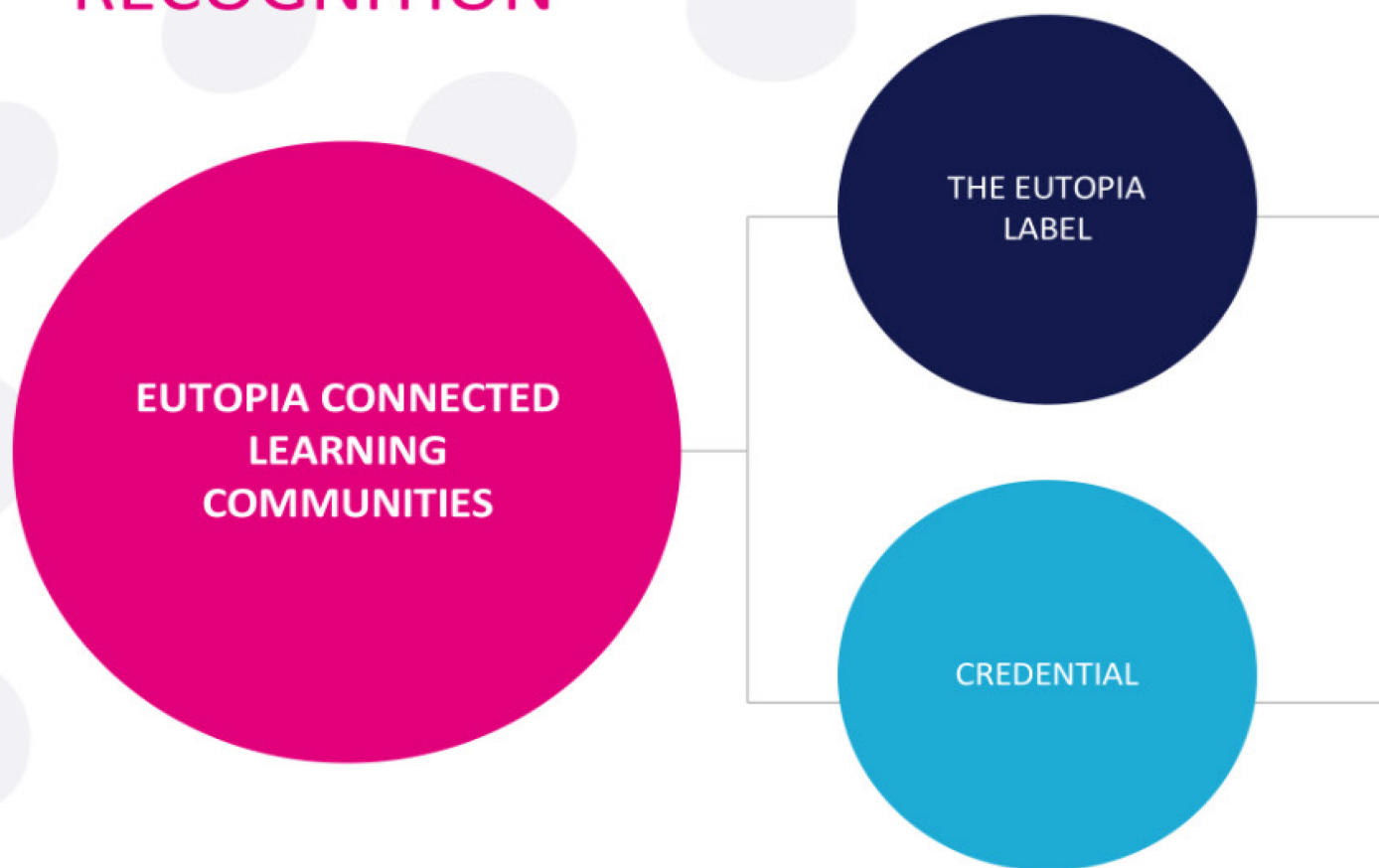
EUTOPIA labels *Recognise the efforts for increasing the international dimension of the learning process in course catalogues/diploma supplements.*
- Allocated to courses of academic partners involved in a EUTOPIA Connected Community who can translate the impact of the cross-campus cooperation on their learning outcomes..

Micro-credentials *In the vision of our alliance micro-credentials should be both credit mentioning and quality assured. The ECTS reflect the workload completed by the student, as designed and assessed by the full-fledged teachers of academic staff conducting the C(L)C activity.*
- The student's status and registration in the home university is not altered (Erasmus principle).
- The credits and other details mentioned on the EUTOPIA micro credential document are backed by the home universities and covered by the monitoring mechanism in WP3.

Currently the EUTOPIA micro-credentials are not transferable nor exchangeable between and beyond the alliance universities.

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Connected Communities
Examples of types of activities of a CC

SHARED RESOURCES

syllabi, course lectures, guest lectures, activity brief, teaching material, conference material, literature, course archives, tutorials, promo

JOINT ACTIVITIES

online debates, thematic project weeks, virtual simulations, experiments, lectures, seminars, conferences, research projects, site visits, summer schools, competitions (online games and hackathons), development of policy guidelines, co-writing of proposals

CROSS-CAMPUS ASSIGNMENTS

group work, research papers, presentations, blogs, website design, challenge-driven assignments

STUDENT-LED ACTIVITIES

research seminar, module development, conference

Potential beneficiaries of the activities: staff, students (BA, MA, PhD, LLL), civil society

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MICROCREDENTIALS
Allocating microcredentials to students enrolled in EUTOPIA labelled courses

Features of a micro-credential

The European standard for the constitutive elements of a micro-credential include the following:

Required information	Optional information
- Identification of the learner - Title of the micro-credential - Country/region of the issuer - Awarding body - Date of issuing - Notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes (in ECTS, wherever possible) - Level (and cycle, if applicable) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (EQF and/or national qualifications framework; Overarching Framework of Qualifications of the European Education Area) - Learning outcomes - Form of participation in the learning activity (online, onsite or blended, volunteering, work experience) - Type of assessment (testing, application of a skill, portfolio, recognition of prior learning, etc.) - Quality assurance of the credential and, where relevant, of the learning content	- Prerequisites needed to enrol in the learning activity - Supervision and identity verification during assessment (unsupervised with no identity verification, supervised with no identity verification, supervised online or onsite with identity verification) - Grade achieved - Integration/stackability options (standalone, independent micro-credential / integrated, stackable towards another credential) - Further information

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The EUTOPIA University Alliance hereby awards

STUDENT NAME

currently enrolled in the PROGRAMME LEVEL and NAME (BA/MA/Etc) at the UNIVERSITY of NAME, COUNTRY

with a

EUTOPIA MICRO-CREDENTIAL

for successfully completing the

ACTIVITY NAME on **DATE/PERIOD of ACTIVITY**

which took place in the context of the EUTOPIA COMMUNITY NAME., taught ONLINE/BLENDED/IN PERSON in COUNTRY by PROFESSOR/S NAME/S

Number of ECTS obtained: ADD NUMBER

Integrated into the ECTS/course NAME OR as Co-Curricular Activity

Learning outcomes

- LIST THE LEARNING OUTCOMES THE STUDENT HAS ACHIEVED IN LIGHT OF THIS ACTIVITY
- NN
- NN
- NN

Assessment

- LIST HOW THE STUDENT WAS ASSESSED FOR THE ACTIVITY
- NN
- NN

Issuing date: DAY MONTH YEAR

Academic year: 20XX-20XX

On behalf of the EUTOPIA University Alliance

Empowering Knowledge Lead

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LABEL AND MICRO-CREDENTIALS:
Open Issues for the Alliances

Label:

○ INCLUSION: Should a Label be allocated to courses or degree programs in which a CC cross-campus activity is *embedded*, even if it does not involve all students? If not, should it be limited to online/hybrid activities?

Two scenarios:

1. Label to the course or module and the degree programme if all students enrolled in the course or degree programme are involved in the Alliance activity
2. Label to the degree programme only if it contains at least 2 (?) EUTOPIA activities with limited student access.

Micro-credentials:

○ National regulation and guidelines on MCs

○ Number of ECTS: Is there a national harmonization regarding the number of credits required to issue an MC? (3, fewer than 3, or no requirement?)

Other issues:

○ Faculty staff engagement: How can faculty be encouraged to develop online learning opportunities that also involve students from partner universities?

○ Internal Authorisation Process: Which governing bodies need to authorize the Label and MCs? (e.g. Teaching Committee, Department's Delegate for Teaching…)

○ Process Management: Should the process of issuing MCs be centralized at the Alliance level, or decentralized— meaning that MCs should be issued by the university leading the cross-campus activity?

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LABEL AND MICRO-CREDENTIALS:
The role of European University Alliances

European University Alliances can serve as a testing ground to launch, experiment with, and promote the implementation of MCs, exploring the issues below:

➢ POLICY: The strategic importance of innovative and flexible teaching at a local, national, and Alliance level → strategic choices regarding the educational offering, e.g. funding

➢ POLICY: Advocacy role at a national and European level

➢ INCENTIVES for faculty staff who implement innovative teaching with MCs

➢ PROCESS SETTING: Creation of guidelines on internal and Alliance-shared procedures, especially regarding the authorisation process → creation of the **EUTOPIA Community of Practice on Recognition**, aiming to develop Alliance guidelines on the recognition of collaborative learning activities

➢ COMMUNICATION: Identifying appropriate communication strategies for the offering at different levels, including local

➢ REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT: Building cooperative relationships with local stakeholders to identify needs and communicate new forms of teaching and recognition

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