

Europe and the World

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Introducing the Focus Area

Pursuing new perspectives on Europe in a rapidly evolving world

Europe and the World explores the international role of the European Union across six thematic areas. These vital themes reflect rising tensions around the globe, a pressing need for renewed cooperation with state and non-state actors, and the demand for a comparative perspective in order to obtain a better understanding and learn to cope with diversity:

- Peace and security;
- Promotion of universal values and human rights;
- Poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- Global trade and financial interdependence;
- Global digital connectivity, market regulation, and cooperation on technological developments affecting world affairs;
- Global pandemics and health cooperation, especially with a view to tackling rising inequalities.

Focus Areas: Inspiration, not limitation

Una Europa's six Focus Areas – Cultural Heritage, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Europe and the World, Future Materials, One Health, and Sustainability and Climate Protection – reflect pressing global and societal challenges. Inherently interdisciplinary, they are designed to bring together experts in a wide range of fields to find new ways of collaboratively conducting the research of the future and forging new paths in education and societal outreach.

The Focus Areas are intended to inspire researchers, not limit them. No discipline is excluded from applying to secure Una Europa Seed Funding. We encourage novel and diverse perspectives on challenges broadly attached to the Focus Areas, proposing collaborative projects in research, education and societal outreach, from whichever fields these emerge.



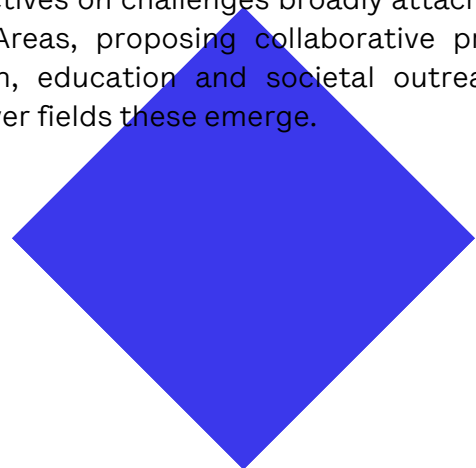
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Case studies

Sample Seed Funding-supported projects in Europe and the World



As with the Focus Areas themselves, these case studies are intended to provide inspiration only and are in no way indicative of research topics that are more likely to succeed in securing Una Europa Seed Funding in the future.

Project: FIBRE: Fostering European Integration through Bachelor Education

Description: FIBRE aims to develop high-quality didactical materials for two truncus communis courses that are part of the Una Europa Joint Bachelor in European Studies (BAES), scheduled to be taught for the first time in 2023–24: ‘European Integration’ and ‘Introduction to EU and International Law’. The project brings together a significant and multidisciplinary group of senior and junior academics from seven Una Europa universities to develop two original textbooks to be published with an international publisher. These textbooks will contribute both to the quality and radiance of the BAES and to enhanced research cooperation within Una Europa.

Duration: January–July 2023

Funding: €34,775

Key contact Jan Wouters, KU Leuven
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Project: Dialogues between policymakers and academia

Description: The project aims at creating a fully fledged interdisciplinary ‘Una Europa Global Governance Research Group’ composed by Una Europa members. The main goal is to initiate a long-term cooperation to end up building a competitive Research Group that will apply for funding in the future. The project helps identify research synergies, also through a first Una Europa Prize competition on global governance and promoting conversations with top officials from institutions like the UN, the WB, the European Commission, the WTO, the IMF, among others. The dialogue with policymakers was opened to the public via website and two seminars for Una Europa researchers were organised.

Duration: July 2020–March 2022

Funding: €19,000

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Project: Toppling Statues: Public Spaces, Colonial Heritage, and Identities in Europe (EuroStatues)

Description: What place do colonial statues and public spaces occupy within conceptions of Europe’s cultural heritage? EuroStatues compares different national discussions and critically engages with the current discourses on the contested meanings of European public spaces to examine ways to approach this question, as it looks at colonial heritage as a joint European phenomenon to be brought at the forefront of European identity debates. Researchers are brought together to increase academic collaboration, through the organization and delivery of a workshop, an online course, and public outreach events. Academics, museum curators and postcolonial civic activists will also discuss ethical ways of memorializing and representing the colonial past in Europe and for Europe and the world.

Duration: January–December 2022

Funding: €16,605

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