

Una Europa



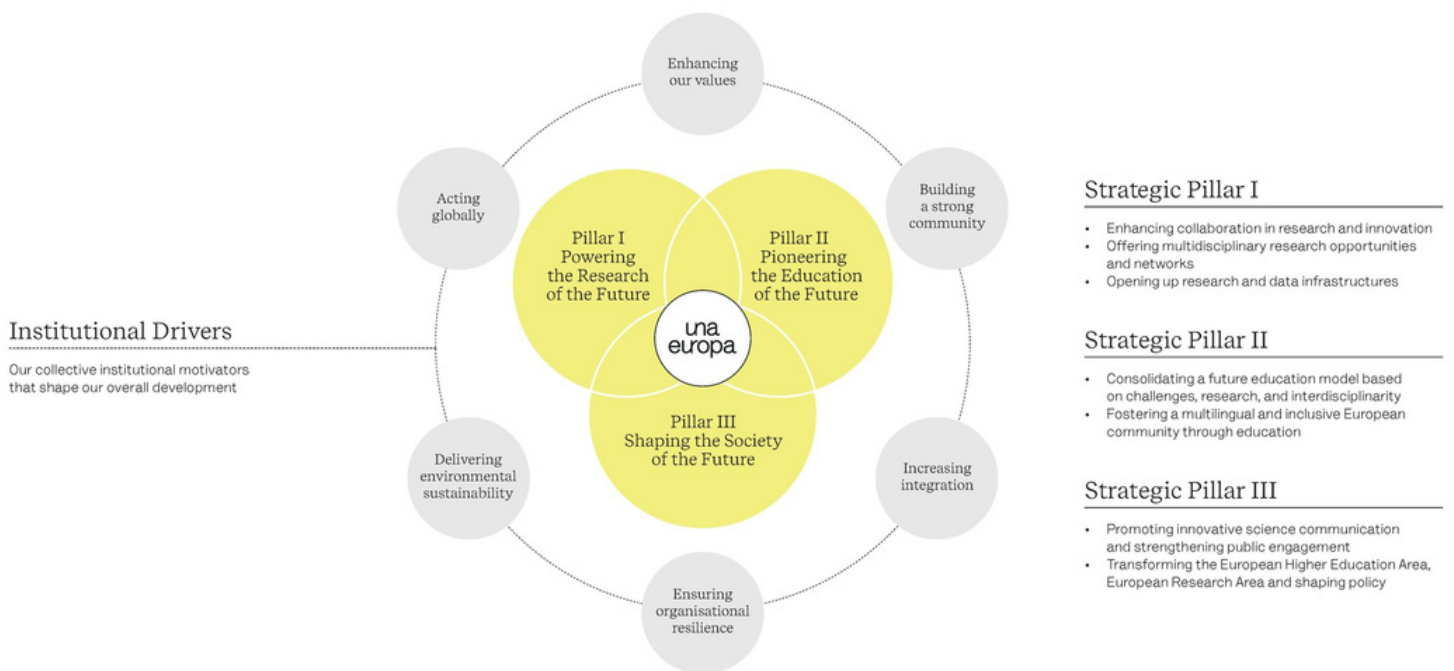
2030 Strategy

Reflecting on our milestones 2023-2024



Introduction

Una Europa’s 2030 Strategy is the culmination of a year-long consultation with our community of students, academics, professional staff, and external advisors to set our course for the future, together.



[Refresh your memory of Una Europa's 2030 Strategy.](#)

To ensure we stay on track towards this common vision, the alliance has committed to biannual reporting on Strategy milestones, which span both our Institutional Drivers and Strategic Pillars. As guardian of the 2030 Strategy, Una Europa vzw has outlined reflections on the delivery of the 2023–2024 milestones below.

These reflections invite you – the Una Europa community – to take stock of progress, consider challenges, and contribute to shaping our next steps as an alliance towards the vision set out in our Strategy.

The reflections are labelled using the following key:



Impact

The green ‘go’ icon highlights progress and impact achieved against milestones during the 2023 reporting period.



Opportunity

The blue ‘fast forward’ icon highlights opportunities and actions foreseen to accelerate our progress against milestones during the reporting period ahead in 2024.

The 2030 Strategy is partly implemented through individual projects. Relevant milestones are tagged as follows:

1Europe

1Europe: Erasmus+-funded European University pilot to establish Una Europa’s living lab for testing and scaling Joint Innovative Formats for education and mobility (timeline: December 2019–November 2022)

Una.Resin

Una.Resin: Horizon 2020-funded pilot project to build a common Una Europa ecosystem for research and innovation (timeline: February 2021–January 2024)

Una.Futura

Una.Futura: Erasmus+-funded European University roll-out project to develop a truly integrated University of the Future (timeline: December 2022–November 2026)

ED-AFFICHE

ED-AFFICHE: Erasmus+-funded project to examine and facilitate the delivery of the European Degree label (timeline: April 2023–March 2024).

Reflecting on our milestones: Institutional drivers

Our six Institutional Drivers will further our development as an alliance, enhancing our connection to our values, our collaborative activities locally and globally, and our sustainability as an alliance.

Ensuring organisational resilience



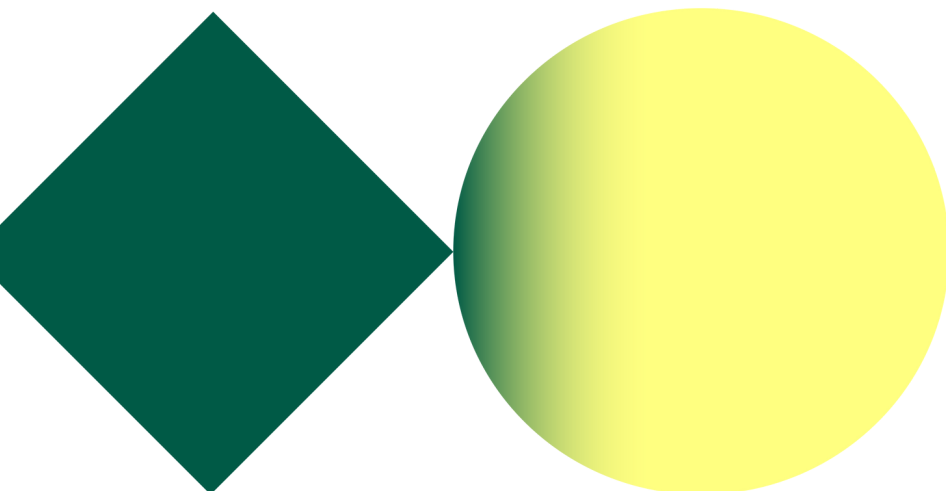
In 2023, Una Europa's Self-Steering Committees, comprising senior academics from across our 11 partner universities, defined strategy and action plans for the alliance's six Focus Areas to establish internationally renowned interdisciplinary hubs.



- Continuous support for the Self-Steering Committees to ensure that their joint educational, research and outreach offer is of high quality and aligns with Una Europa's values and scale of ambition.
- Support for Self-Steering Committees to build on the pilot phase, focusing primarily on educational offer to focusing also on research and innovation and outreach.
- Development of an approach to associated partner engagement, in parallel with the development of offer in the Focus Areas.

Actions foreseen under Una.Futura:

- Scaling up joint research and outreach activities, benefiting from the tools provided by Una Europa's Research & Innovation Vision and Action Plan (timeline: 2024).



Enhancing our values



In 2023, six Transversal Themes were established to ensure that our activities are underpinned by our core values:

- Diversity and inclusion
- International engagement
- Mobility of students and staff
- Research and innovation
- Student-centred and research-driven teaching and learning informed by cultural and linguistic awareness
- Sustainability and climate protection

Experts have delivered a vision and action plan for each Transversal Theme, overseen by a strategic group of experts tasked with further developing their vision and monitoring the implementation of their accompanying action plan.

A Quality Assurance Plan is currently being developed under the Una.Futura project. The Plan seeks to ensure that the project initiatives align with Una Europa’s broader values and ambition. Una Europa’s internal quality assurance process for joint education is currently being updated to further align.



- Continuous follow-up and support to ensure that Transversal Themes’ vision and action plans are translated in the alliance’s joint educational and research offer.

Actions foreseen under Una.Futura:

- Ensuring that the Quality Assurance Plan is dynamic and holistic enough to encapsulate Una Europa’s values and scale of ambition, while avoiding a burdensome reporting process (timeline: 2024).



Una.Impact

Diversity and Inclusion is one of the six Transversal Themes established in 2023 to ensure our alliance values sit at the core of all we do.

Want to learn more about our Diversity and Inclusion activity? Hear from Anna-Leena Riitaoj, Senior Lecturer in Education at Helsingin yliopisto/Helsingfors universitet and current Chair of the Una Europa Diversity Council.

[Read our interview with Anna-Leena](#)

Building a strong community



In 2023, the following milestones have been reached to contribute to building a strong community:

Una.Futura

- Development of a vision and action plan on student and staff mobility
- Development of vision on the Una Europa student experience
- Review of the Una Europa Seed Funding initiative, leading to the decision to allocate funding for:
 - A call for proposals in autumn 2023 to fund Una Europa Chairs in the six Focus Areas, including a fellowship for a senior academic to one of the partner universities, and engagement of African partners.
 - A call for proposals in early 2024 to fund bottom-up projects, with a focus on engaging early-career researchers.
- First initiatives to develop an internal communications strategy, including:
 - Launch of Una.Update as a first internal newsletter.
 - Focus on community-building events during the General Assembly meetings and online events throughout the year.
 - Building connections with Senior Local Leads, who play a key role in coordinating all Una Europa activity at their respective universities.
 - Initiating a community-orientated consultation on a digital workspace for the Una Europa community, Una.Connect.



- Responding to the request from the Una Europa Student Board to develop mobility options for students beyond a privileged few.
- Engagement of the Una Europa community in the further development and implementation of the 2030 Strategy.
- Organising a workshop for Senior Local Leads in Brussels (timeline: 2024).

Actions foreseen under Una.Futura:

- Developing an overarching strategy on mobility and training of professional staff (timeline: 2024).
- Offering students concrete projects to work on through a Student Incubator (timeline: 2024).
- Communications toolkits with key opportunities required for student and staff to raise awareness and engage with Una Europa, including implementation of ‘Staff Champions Scheme’ (timeline: 2024).
- Investment in and roll-out of digital workspace for Una Europa community.

Una.Impact

In 2023 Una Europa has and will facilitate staff mobility opportunities for academic and professional services colleagues. In particular, this year’s Una Europa Seed Funding Chairs saw five senior academics travel across our alliance embarking on visiting professorships, and the Una Europa Staff Week 2023 will welcome colleagues to Bologna to explore how our universities approach diversity, equity and inclusion this October.

[Meet the Una Europa Seed Funding Chairs 2023](#)
[Explore Una Europa Staff Week 2023](#)

Increasing integration



In 2023, the following milestones have been reached to contribute to strengthening Una Europa’s governance and enhancing integration across our partner universities:

- Strengthening the representation of the Una Europa Student Board at alliance level, including the first formal joint meeting with the Board of Directors.
- Establishment of the Teaching and Learning Strategy Group, bringing together vice-rectors responsible for teaching and learning and senior support staff to oversee Una Europa’s teaching and learning strategy.
- Reflections on how Self-Steering Committees and Clusters can best interact with Una Europa governance.



- Further co-creation with Una Europa stakeholder groups in development of the alliance’s governance frameworks.

Actions foreseen under Una.Futura:

- Developing a long-term systematic cooperation framework for the Clusters of professional staff (timeline: 2024)



Una.Impact

The Una Europa Student Board and Board of Directors held their first joint meeting in June 2023, reflecting their shared position operating at the highest level of alliance governance. The meeting was described by Board of Directors Chair Hanna Snellman as “an historic moment” for student representation and collaboration in the alliance and marked the final approval and adoption of the Student Board Statutes.

[Meet the Una Europa Student Board](#)



Delivering environmental sustainability



Una.Futura

In 2023, Una Europa developed a joint action plan on sustainability and climate protection, including the organisation of a community workshop in June 2023 focusing on governance and community engagement.



How Una Europa's goals for sustainability and climate protection can be translated into community-oriented tools and training materials remains an outstanding challenge.

Acting globally



Una.Futura

In 2023, the following milestones have been reached to contribute to Una Europa's goals to have impact on a global scale:

- Preparation and adoption of a joint [vision and action plan for international engagement](#).
- Organization of several meetings to co-develop and endorse a roadmap for collaboration with select African universities, including the development and submission of an Erasmus+ proposal for a virtual exchange project on micro-credentials for sustainability and allocation of Seed Funding for cross-continental collaboration.
- Use of external funding to ensure students and staff from Ukrainian universities can benefit from participation in Una Europa formats, including summer schools and staff week.
- An initial mapping exercise is underway to explore potential for collaboration with select universities in Latin America.



- Ensuring that Una Europa's external funding strategy supports academic-led projects with international partners in line with Una Europa's vision.
- Ensuring that Una Europa formats for education and research integrate an international dimension e.g. ensuring summer schools and other short courses include scholarships for participation of students from strategic international partners.

Una.Impact

Over the last two years Una Europa has worked in collaboration and co-creation with a number of African universities to develop a partnership that sparks unique opportunities for impact for all. This began with the formation of the Una Europa-Africa Working Group, who together created a shared Vision and Roadmap for impactful partnership resulting in our latest Seed Funding Call, open to researchers from Una Europa and a number of African universities.

[Learn more about the Una Europa-Africa Seed Funding Call 2023](#)

Reflecting on our milestones: Strategic Pillars

Our three Strategic Pillars will advance our ambition of creating a truly inter-university and pan-European campus, shaped by universities' universal mission to serve society through three interwoven strands: research and innovation, teaching and learning, and societal outreach.

Pioneering the Education of the Future



In 2023, the following milestones have been reached to enhance collaboration in teaching and learning:

Una.Futura

- Preparation and adoption of a vision and action plan for both teaching and learning and diversity and inclusion

Una.Impact

It's an exciting year for new Una Europa joint educational formats in sustainability. Building on the pioneering work undertaken to develop Una Europa's Micro-Credential in Sustainability, alliance colleagues spearheaded an innovative proposal (UnaVEx) to provide accessible sustainability education to students across Europe and Africa through the power of virtual exchanges, while preparations to launch Una Europa's Joint Bachelor in Sustainability continue apace.

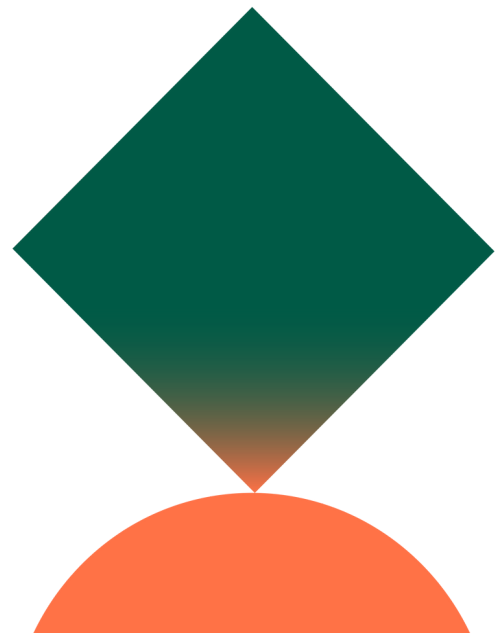
[Discover more about Una Europa's game-changing approach to micro-credentials and sustainability.](#)



- Ensuring the vision and action plans are translated in the alliance's joint educational offer.

Actions foreseen under Una.Futura:

- Development of concepts for service learning, challenge-based learning and international mentoring (timeline: 2024)
- Development of framework for implementation of joint micro-credentials (timeline: 2024)
- Reaching agreement for principles and next steps for facilitating automatic recognition of qualifications (timeline: 2024).



Powering the Research of the Future



In 2023, the following milestones have been reached to enhance collaboration in research and innovation:

Una.Resin

- Preparation and adoption of an alliance Research & Innovation Strategy, including a strategy and action plan for sharing and opening up research and data infrastructures and resources, and recommendations for human capital development.
- Preparation of a vision for research and innovation, focused on three broad ambitions: 1) supporting the development of interdisciplinary hubs; 2) providing a transnational framework for early-career researchers; and 3) opening up research and data infrastructures and resources.
- Development of a matrix exercise for the Una Europa partner universities to prioritize joint research and innovation activities in the future and to define their level of ambition and resource allocation.



- Raising awareness among the academic community about how they can concretely benefit from Una Europa’s Research & Innovation Strategy and its associated activities (timeline: 2024)
- Enhancing opportunities for early-career researchers, including through the development of a doctoral interdisciplinary methods curriculum and framework and concrete Seed Funding initiatives (timeline: 2024)

Actions foreseen under Una.Futura:

- Ensuring that the achievements and lessons learned from the Una.Resin project are fully integrated into the Una.Futura project and the broader scope of initiatives across Una Europa (timeline: 2024)
- Preparing a feasibility study for a Joint Institute of Advanced Study (timeline: 2024).

Una.Impact

This year our flagship R&I project Una.Resin is reaching its culmination, bringing to fruition all the hard work colleagues have done over the last three years to build the foundations for a shared R&I ecosystem for our alliance.

[Discover Researcher Matchmaking at Una Europa](#)
[Gain insights into the Una.Resin project through our interview with Seth Amanfo](#)



Shaping the Society of the Future



In 2023, the following milestones have been reached to enhance outreach to society and transformation of higher education:

- Development of a high-quality and robust community-building, outreach and dissemination plan for the alliance.
- Inauguration of Future UniLab with a renewed structure and strategy.
- Development of concepts for Una Europa outreach events.
- Leadership of a pilot project, ED-AFFICHE, to shape the European Degree.
- Ongoing collaboration with leading European and international higher education stakeholder groups.

ED-AFFICHE



- Ensuring outreach activities are aligned with Una Europa values and scale of ambition and that tools are developed to support uptake by the academic community.
- Continuing to shape the European Degree (timeline: 2024).
- Providing input to Review of the Recommendation on further European cooperation in Quality Assurance in higher education (timeline: 2024).
- Providing input on guiding principles on protecting fundamental academic values (timeline: 2024).
- Ongoing advocacy for the development of a sustainable long-term funding perspective for European Universities.



Una.Impact

In 2022, the European Commission launched a call for European Universities alliances to examine and facilitate the delivery of a joint European Degree label. The ED-AFFICHE project, a powerhouse consortium of six European Universities alliances (Una Europa, 4EU+, CHARM-EU, EC2U, EU-CONEXUS and Unite!) answered the call and secured support from the Commission to pilot the European Degree.

[Gain insights into ED-AFFICHE from Project Officer Laura Colò](#)