Circle U.
European University Alliance

JOINT LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

SOME INITIAL THOUGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNT IN CIRCLE U.

– KEVIN GUILAUME, SECRETARY GENERAL

2023 EUROPEAN L&TFORUM
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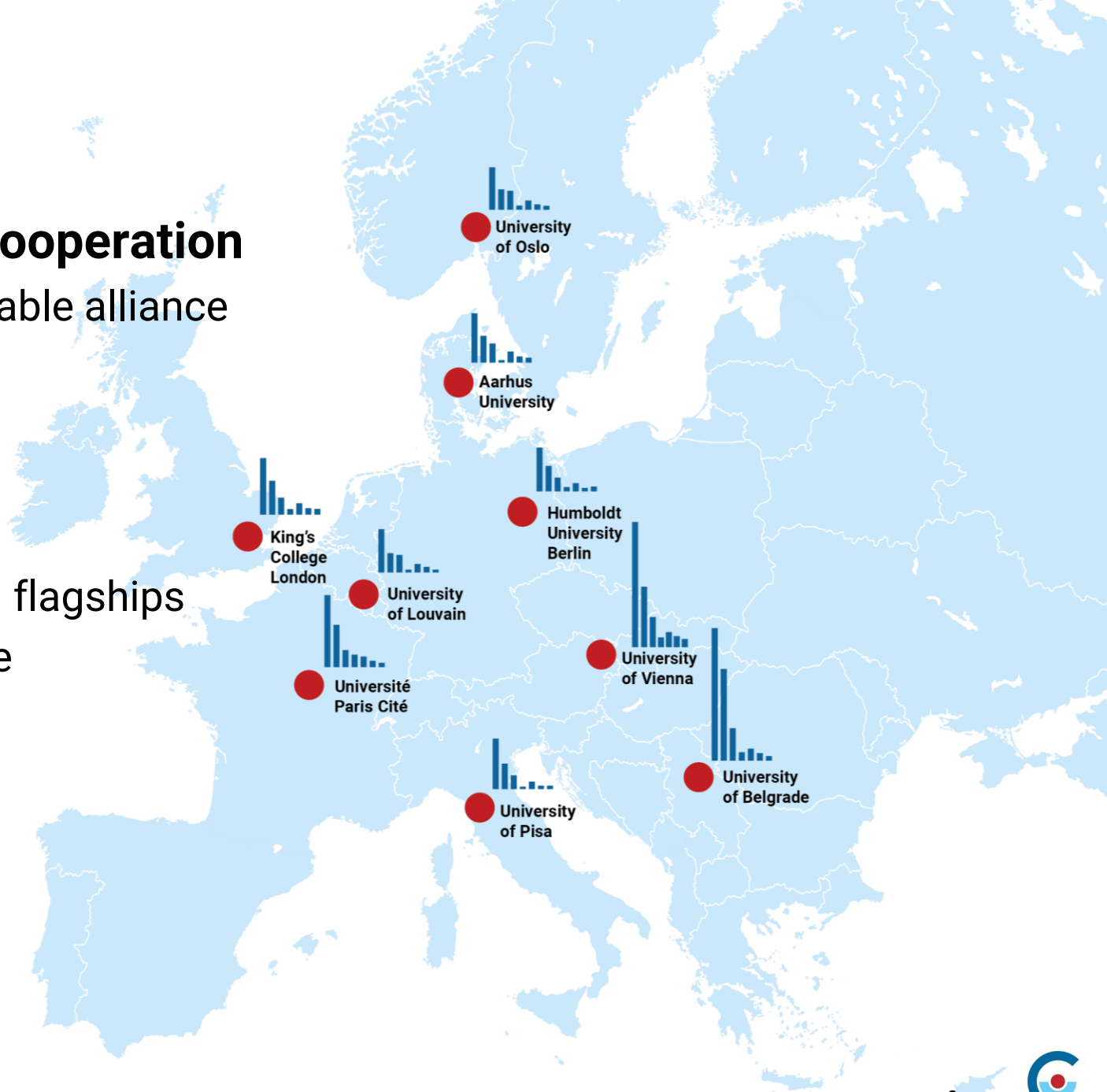
AARHUS UNIVERSITY · HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN · KING'S College LONDON · UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA · universität wien · UCLouvain · Université Paris Cité · UNIVERSITY OF OSLO · UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

MESSAGE #1

A SHARED DEDICATION TO THE ALLIANCE

WHO ARE WE?

- **Not a project, a transformational cooperation**
  - Interdisciplinary, inclusive and sustainable alliance
  - Stronger together, unity in diversity
- **“Likeminded” universities**
  - World, European, national and regional flagships
  - Comprehensive and research-intensive
- **Universities with values**
  - Among the first universities in Europe
  - Academic freedom and integrity
  - Inclusion and diversity



CIRCLE U.?

9 universities

0.5Mio students

65K staff

+2 500 study programmes

34 ass. partners

1 vision

+400 ERC

1 legal entity

+1.8K EU projects

MESSAGE #2

A STRONG VISION AND A JOINT ECOSYSTEM TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

OUR VISION AND OUR MISSION

An **interdisciplinary, inclusive** and **sustainable**
European university with a focus on
climate, democracy and global health

Sustainable and inclusive mobility

Inclusive inter-university campus

Education, research, innovation and service to society fully integrated

Keep Europe and the world
healthy, peaceful, democratic and prosperous

OUR ECOSYSTEM

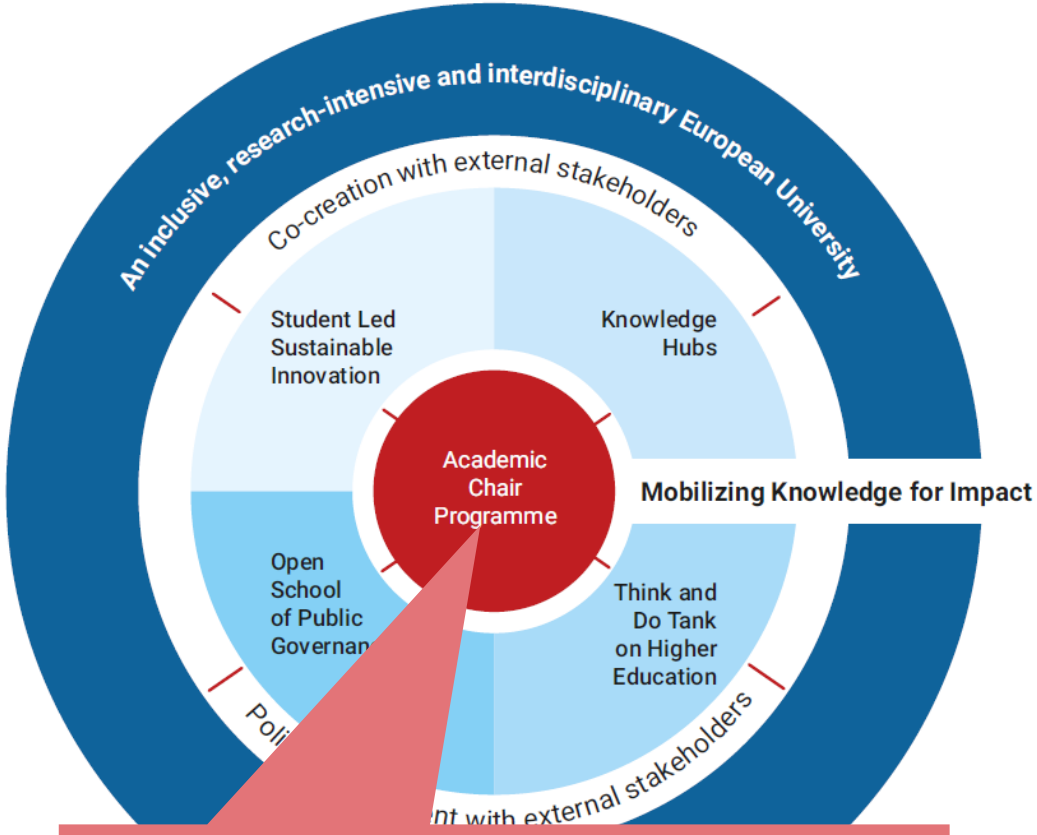
4 PLATFORMS TO MOBILIZE KNOWLEDGE FOR IMPACT

- **Knowledge Hubs** as **virtual and physical spaces** for co-creation between academics, researcher, students, stakeholders on three themes – **climate**, **democracy** and **global health**

- **Think and Do Tank** as **laboratory** of reflection, **"self-transformation"** and **active contribution** to policy developments on learning innovation

- **Open School of Public Governance** as **long-term framework** for coupling societal problem-solving and research-based **learning opportunities**

- **Student Led Sustainable innovation** as opportunity for students to engage in sustainable innovation **with the "outside world"**



Academic chairs as **enablers and champions** to bring academic/scientific content to the ecosystem

MESSAGE #3

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION

WHY JOINT L&T IN CIRCLE U.?

- **Societal challenges** of today and tomorrow are too big and pressing
- We aim to empower students, staff and other learners to **mobilize their knowledge into transformative actions for society**

WHAT IS L&T IN CIRCLE U.?

- Circle U. L&T is what we are, what we do and what we aim at
- So, **no revolution** but taking the best of all to provide **outstanding learning and teaching**
- Based on a mapping by the Think and Do Tank, T&L is oriented towards the **« 5 i's »**
- And **research-based as a "precondition"**

SOME EXAMPLES

5 summer schools

1 Female Founder Network

17 ongoing joint courses and programmes

48 academic chairs

3 Think and Do Tank cafés

1 Change-Makers programme

6 Circle U. challenges

6 Student-led projects seed-funded

MESSAGE #4

ENGAGING WITH ASSOCIATED PARTNERS TO INCREASE OUR IMPACT

OUR PARTNERS

34 associated partners

Hospitals

- Aarhus University Hospital
- Oslo University Hospital
- Clinical Centre of Serbia
- Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc (Belgium)
- CHU UCL Namur (Belgium health organization)
- AP-HP.NORD & AP-HP CENTRE – Université Paris Cité

University networks and national institutions

- The Coimbra Group (University Network)
- The Guild (University Network)
- The Norwegian Directorate for ICT and Joint Services in Higher Education and Research
- Serbian Ministry responsible for Education and Science Policy

Local Authorities

- The City of Aarhus
- Walloon Brabant Provincial authority
- City of Oslo
- London Council for Westminster
- London Council for Lambeth
- City of Paris
- Ile-de-France Region

NGOs and non-profit

- Constructive Institute (Danish NGO)
- Citizens United NGO (UK NGO)
- Studenterhus Aarhus
- Generation N (German student organisation)

Cultural institutions

- Museum for Natural History Berlin
- Nobel Institute

Business and innovation

- ImpactHUB Berlin
- Humboldt Innovation
- GameLab (German business organization)
- SKIFT - Business Climate Leaders (Norwegian business organization)
- Medicen Paris Region
- Oslo Tech (Science Park)
- Science Technology Park Belgrade
- Louvain Innovation Network
- Inven2 (University of Oslo Technology Transfer Office)
- Partnerforum (Norway)

A FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE:CIRCLE U. CHALLENGE

- “CU Challenge” is a **programme model** for **cross-disciplinary international** teams of students working with **“real life” challenges** presented by our **associated partners**

- Main objective: to develop **entrepreneurial skills and new approaches to problem-solving**

- Associated partner is expected to be

  The **challenger**

  The **supporter**

  The **decision-maker**

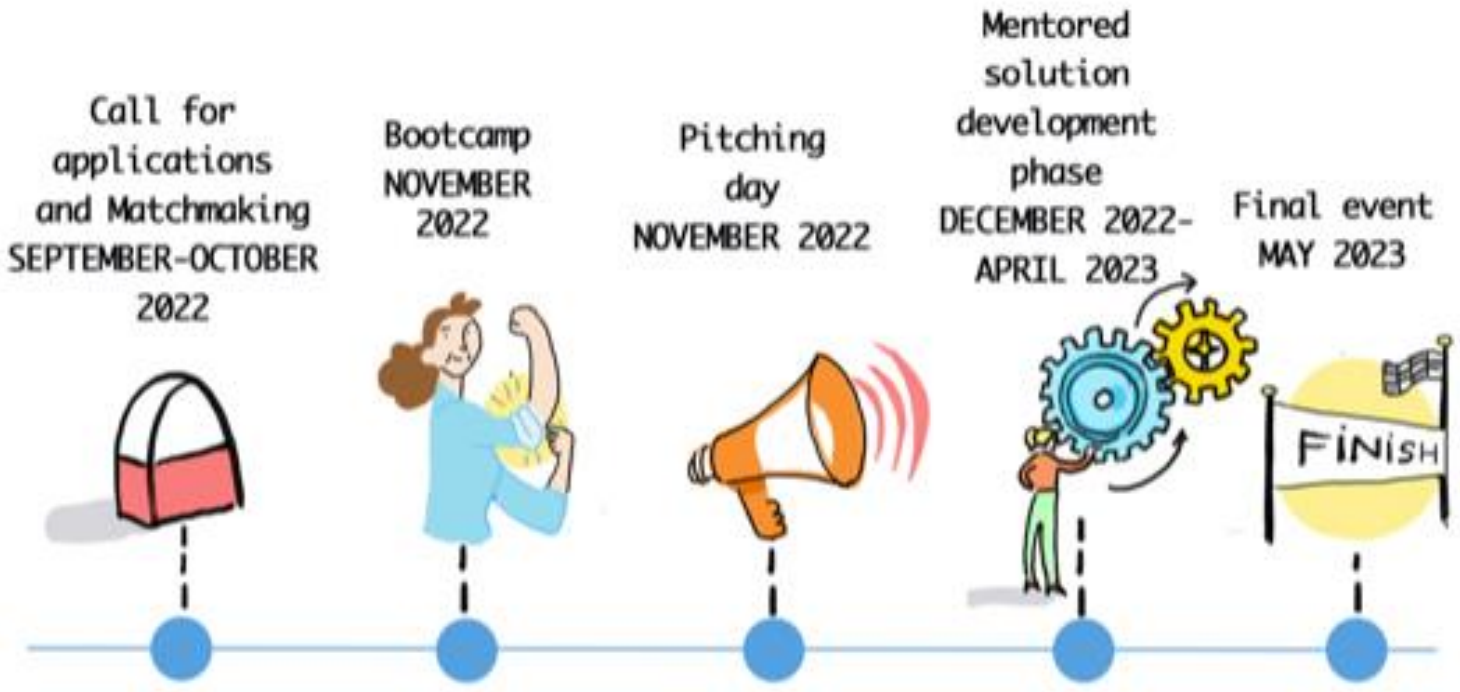
CIRCLE U. CHALLENGE – FIRST EDITION

City of Aarhus
> Aarhus eats greener

University hospital of Serbia
> Software solution for career development

Lambeth London Borough Council
> improving mental health for lambeth residents

Alliance of paris hospitals
> creating an eco-responsible hospital



MESSAGE #5

SOME (VERY) INITIAL THOUGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS, KEY “ENABLERS”

- **Trust, trust, trust** to facilitate cooperation at all levels
- Shared **ecosystem** to focus and to support
- **Academic chairs** to foster bottom-up initiatives
- **Diversity and quality of the existing initiatives** to make even better
- **Student and partners engagement** to maximise the relevance and to increase the impact

CHALLENGES, AS OPPORTUNITIES

- How to better engage **with associated partners**? Where is the “carrot”?
- **How to embed** those joint T&L activities in each university?
- How to **give time to time**?
- How to **go beyond the project dynamic**?
- How to **avoid the tick-box exercise**?

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KEVIN GUILLAUME
SECGEN@CIRCLE-U.EU
+32 476 606 972