



**VIRTUAL BRIDGE**  
BETWEEN EUROPEAN & AFRICAN STUDENTS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES



# Call for Participation

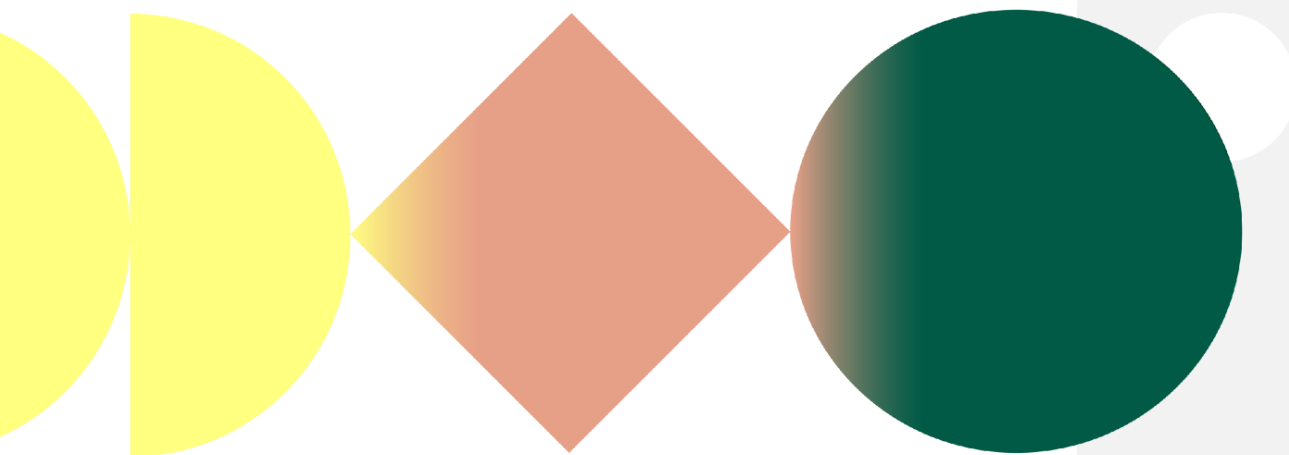
*Project Deliverable 4.1 “Call for Participation”*

*31 Jan, 2025*

UnaEuropa for Virtual Exchanges (UnaVEx) project: 2024-2027  
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This document is the “Call for participation for virtual exchanges”. The document has been written by the UnaVEx teams of Helsingin Yliopisto (FI, coordinator, *Una Europa partner university*), Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (IT, *Una Europa partner university*), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (BE, *Una Europa partner university*), University of Johannesburg (ZA), University of Nairobi (KE) and Université de Kinshasa (CD).

This document is the 1<sup>st</sup> version of an interactive document, which will be expanded in a cumulatively manner by the UnaVEx teams based on experiences of the UnaVEx Virtual Exchanges (VEs) for moderators and students.

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## 1. Organization of “Call for Participation” schedule and distribution

The 1<sup>st</sup> Call for participation is open between 15 November 2024– 1 February 2025

The Call text was distributed

- at the UnaVEX partner universities
- at the UnaEuropa network by the UnaEuropa office

Means of distributions of the Call

- e-mailing lists
- e-info screens
- bulletin boards

The 1<sup>st</sup> VE week will be organized on:

Monday 24 Feb  
Friday 7 March  
Friday 14 March  
Friday 21 March  
Friday 28 March

Helsinki time: 13:00 – 16:00 EEST, UTC+3  
Brussels & Bologna time: 12:00 – 15:00 CET, UTC+1  
Kinshasa time: 12:00 – 15:00 WAT, UTC+1  
Johannesburg time: 13:00 – 16:00 SAST, UTC+2  
Nairobi time: 14:00 – 17:00 EAT, UTC+3

## 2. “Call for Participation “ call text



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## Join the UNAVEX virtual exchange! (1 + 3 op / ECTS)

### Una Europa Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability

#### Call for Students is open!

Are you interested in global sustainability and international environments? Have you considered applying for a student exchange? If so, the UnaVEx virtual exchange might be just for you!

UnaVEx offers a versatile look into sustainability – topics of the virtual exchange include:

- Introduction to sustainability
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate change
- Biodiversity
- The intersections of political economy and the arts in sustainability



UnaVEx is a five-week-long virtual exchange unit consisting of a total of five sessions. During the virtual exchange, you will attend inspiring plenary talks on different perspectives on sustainability. You will also be introduced to your international small group and a moderator. In the groups, you will discuss and develop a collaborative, sustainability-themed action task.

No previous sustainability or natural science studies are required. UnaVEx is a platform for multidisciplinary and intercultural encounters for university students interested in sustainability and the future of our common planet. UnaVEx welcomes students from EU and African nations, building a bridge between the continents for sustainable futures.

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UnaVEx is organized by:

- University of Helsinki (Finland)
- University of Bologna (Italy)
- KU Leuven (Belgium)
- University of Johannesburg (South Africa)
- University of Nairobi (Kenya)
- University of Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo)

**WHEN:** 24. Feb — 28. Mar 2025

Dates of the sessions (max 3 hours each):

Monday 24 Feb

Friday 7 March

Friday 14 March

Friday 21 March

Friday 28 March

**REGISTER ON DIGICAMPUS**, course name:

UH: 2. UnaVEx Virtual Exchange 1

<https://digicampus.fi/course/view.php?id=5314>

**Course key:**

**WHO CAN APPLY:** BSc, MSc, PhD, PostDoc students

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** 1 Feb 2025

**LANGUAGE:** English

**COST:** no fee

**PLACE:** Online on Zoom

**COMPLETION METHOD:** online participation and a collaborative group assignment.

**AWARD:** 1 ECTS (via Helsinki Open University) and a certificate of participation - useful for CV.

More about UnaVEx:

Una Europa Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability (UnaVEx) is an international, interdisciplinary, and intercultural online bridge between European and African students for sustainability education. UnaVEx is an EU-funded ERASMUS+ project coordinated by the University of Helsinki and other leading research-intensive universities in Europe and Africa. UnaVEx offers accessible, affordable, and sustainable international online student exchange opportunities to all students interested in Global Sustainability education.

The first UnaVEx virtual exchange is on February 24th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, and 24th, 2025. In total, five iterations of the virtual exchange will be organized in 2025-2027. UnaVEx aims to increase environmental awareness, knowledge of the green transition, and skills in the sustainability transformation of young generations and societies both in Europe and Africa. The virtual exchange looks at sustainability from economic, socio-cultural, technological, political, legal, and scientific perspectives.

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KU LEUVEN



UNIVERSITE DE KINSHASA



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

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### Una Europa Micro-credential in Sustainability

UnaVEx builds from the *Introduction to Sustainability (3 ECTS) MOOC* (massive online open course). Completing all parts of UnaVEx awards you a total of 3 + 1 ECTS.

*Introduction to Sustainability* is part of the *Una Europa Micro-Credential in Sustainability 10 ECTS* online unit designed for your personal and professional development in the field of sustainability. The micro-credential consists of a total of five MOOCs related to the themes covered during the virtual exchange.

The four other micro-credential courses are:

- Climate.now (2 ECTS)
- Biodiversity.now (2 ECTS)
- Political Economy of Sustainability (2 ECTS)
- Sustainability and the Arts (1 ECTS)

After the VE unit, you can continue the Micro-Credential courses at your own pace. You will learn to analyze sustainability and its importance and impacts with an interdisciplinary approach. After studying the Micro-credential program, you will have a basic understanding of sustainability from ecological, social, and economic perspectives.

For more information:

- UNAVEX website: <https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/unavex/>
- More information about the Micro Credential in Sustainability: <https://www.una-europa.eu/study/microcredential-sustainability#content>
- Stay updated: [https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/unavex/?page\\_id=116](https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/unavex/?page_id=116)
- For any inquiries, please contact: Julia Karhumaa, [julia.karhumaa@helsinki.fi](mailto:julia.karhumaa@helsinki.fi)

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### 3. Registration results (status Jan 2025)

Number of student registrations (13. Jan.2025): 2000+

- University of Johannesburg: 1000+
- University of Nairobi: 300+
- KU Leuven: 65
- University of Helsinki: 42
- University of Bologna: 36
- University of Kinshasa: 11
- Other Una Europa Alliance universities
- Jagiellonian University: 2
- Leiden University: 11
- University College Dublin: 11
- University of Edinburgh: 17
- UnaEuropa–Africa Partnership Universities
- Makerere University: 1
- University of the Witwatersrand: 3

The rest are from other (non-eligible) universities/did not leave information about their home institution.

We have created a process for notifications. We are sending an invitation to register for the Virtual exchange week / course and DigiCampus to the 450 students who have preliminarily registered. (The max capacity of the VE week and course is 450 students and 50 moderators, Zoom license is for max 500 persons). If the student does not register within 2 days, we will send an invitation to the next students in line.

## APPENDIX UnaVEx Associated partners

### Associated partners

The UnaVEx project is supported by all Una Europa partner universities as well as Una Europa vzw, the legal entity of the alliance, as associated partners. Concretely, the associated partners are expected to:

- Support the overall visibility of the UnaVEx project, leveraging institutional platforms as well as links to relevant national, European and international networks and initiatives
- Promote UnaVEx virtual exchange opportunities to their respective student communities, opening up further opportunities for students and extending the potential reach of the project



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- Contribute to the communication, dissemination and sustainability dimensions of this project, encouraging the uptake and scalability of UnaVEx project outputs

If successful, the UnaVEx project will build a more comprehensive approach to reach out to further partners, in particular in Africa to ensure the involvement of further interested stakeholders. The partners in the Una Europa – Africa Partnership will be approached in this regard. The 1st online meeting with the Associated Partners will take place in September 2024 ???.

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### Una Europa vzw

Una Europa brings together 11 leading research-intensive universities from all corners of Europe: Freie Universität Berlin, Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, University College Dublin/An Coláiste Oliscole Baile Átha Claithe, The University of Edinburgh, Helsingin Yliopisto, Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie, Universiteit Leiden, KU Leuven, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Université Paris 1 Panthéon – Sorbonne and Universität Zürich. The Una Europa community spans more than half a million students, 100,000 members of staff and 10 languages, grounded in over 1,000 years of collective heritage. The alliance brings together universities with global reputation and reach, who each contribute to a socially, culturally, and linguistically diverse Una Europa in a unique way. The Una Europa partner universities stand together to face the global and societal challenges of our time and believe in the power of international cooperation as the best means to realise and promote our values, both within Europe and beyond.

### Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)

Freie Universität Berlin was founded in 1948 by students and professors as a response to reprisals faced by critical students at the traditional Berlin university, at that time called 'Universität unter den Linden', which was located in the Soviet sector of the divided city. The US Allies and Berlin politicians approved of the plans for founding a free university. This paved the way for Freie Universität to become an internationally recognized university. Within Una Europa, FUB leads the alliance's Sustainability and Climate Protection Task Force, based on the university's experience as a European frontrunner in the area of sustainability.

### University College Dublin (UCD)

University College Dublin (UCD) is one of Europe's leading research-intensive universities; an environment where undergraduate education, postgraduate studies, research, innovation and community engagement form a dynamic spectrum of activity. UCD is Ireland's most globally engaged university with over 33,000 students drawn from 144 countries, including almost 4,000 students based at our overseas campuses.

### University of Edinburgh (UEDIN)

The University of Edinburgh (UEDIN) is the sixth oldest university in the UK and the oldest civic foundation in the English-speaking world. Today, the University is home to over 45,000 students spread across five campuses. UEDIN has a deep and long standing relationship with Africa - The University has collaborated on 3,000 research projects with 84 institutions across Africa in the past ten years and has a community of over 3,600 African alumni across 45 countries.







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### **Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie (JU)**

Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie is a leading Polish higher education institution. It is a comprehensive university, where excellence in research is combined with the highest quality education, innovation and responsible social engagement. It is a place where the rich and creative history of one of the oldest universities in Europe blends with state-of-the-art research infrastructure, innovative technology and future-oriented thinking.

### **Leiden University (ULEI)**

Universiteit Leiden was founded in 1575 and is one of the leading international research universities in Europe. The motto of Universiteit Leiden is 'Praesidium Libertatis', or 'Bastion of Freedom'. The university has over 7100 staff members and 32 800 students. Universiteit Leiden is ranked amongst the top 100 universities and part of a number of international networks of universities. Within Una Europa, Leiden University leads the alliance's International Task Force, which sets the strategic direction for Una Europa's international collaboration dimension.

### **Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)**

Universidad Complutense de Madrid dates back to the 13th century. The original Ciudad Universitaria campus was founded in 1927 with the goal of merging education, science and culture. Its graduates are given 'lifelong training' that furnishes them with professional skills allied to their chosen fields of work and alongside their academic studies.

### **Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**

Founded in 1253, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne is one of the oldest universities in the world. The policy of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne is to conduct excellent interdisciplinary research and learning. It has close and long-standing ties with 400 universities around the world and is a member of international networks. The overall goal is to provide researchers and students with a unique opportunity to interact with a broad and global network.

### **University of Zurich (UZH)**

Universität Zürich (UZH) is committed to the free and open pursuit of scholarship and fosters the values of diversity, interdisciplinarity and scientific discourse. With more than 28 000 students, 9000 staff and more than 800 professors, UZH is Switzerland's largest university. Founded in 1833, UZH was Europe's first university founded by the will of the people. Research, teaching, continued education and services are the key tasks of UZH.



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