Descriptions of the round table discussions for the EUA Event 10.12.2024

ROUND TABLES BEFORE NOON (9)

1. **Alliance outreach with external stakeholders**

During this round table discussion we share experiences and best practices on each alliances' outreach activities and the results achieved. We will discuss collaboration with the industry and collaboration with the public sector and NGOs.

2. **Joint programmes accreditation and European Degree Label**

This round table is about sharing insights and experiences from a recent European Approach accreditation process: triggers, preparation, workload, requirements, and alliance-level cooperation. Discussion on future and ongoing accreditation processes across Finnish members in various alliances.

3. **Engaging academic staff into alliance education collaboration and recognition of their work**

A challenge seemingly faced by many institutions is how to engage and motivate academic staff in the education collaboration activities undertaken within the alliances. This round table will explore questions such as: What are the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that motivate academics to undertake this collaboration? How can universities support these? How can academics' work be recognized in a meaningful way?

4. **Mobility: innovative virtual mobility solutions**

Alliances are expected to develop and deliver new and innovative mobility solutions. In this round table discussion, the focus will be on innovative virtual mobility solutions (e.g. virtual exchanges, COIL etc): what kind of forms are there and what is the added value of such mobility opportunities for participants.

5. **Student engagement in alliances**

Engaging students in the activities of the alliances are essential for their long term relevance and success. This relates to the relevance and attractiveness of our offerings to all our students, but especially Finnish students. This roundtable will focus on students' engagement in the development and co-creation of the alliances to ensure that we develop the most relevant and attractive initiatives for students. What are different mechanisms, channels, and groups we have for co-developing our activities with students? How are they consulted and involved in the development process? How are

we gathering feedback and input and how are we working with students to make sure what we do is of value to them?

6. Operational management within the alliance

This round table is primarily intended for project managers and coordinators of the alliances to share experiences, challenges, and best practices related to operational management within the alliance. Topics of discussion could include, for example, the organization of alliance governance in general and the coordination of alliance activities at your home institution level.

7. Satellite projects/external funding of alliances

Gaining external funding to advance the goals of our alliances will become a key enabler for the long-lasting sustainability of the European University Alliance initiative. During this round table discussion we will share experiences and knowledge on the current and future means by which to achieve external funding for our alliance's actions.

8. Future and the sustainability of the alliance

This round table primarily brings together operational leads from various alliances. During our discussions, we focus on the future and sustainability of these alliances. We explore actionable steps we can take and clarify which aspects fall under the responsibility of the European Union.

9. Doctoral students and doctoral education in alliances

This round table focuses on activities for doctoral students, exploring various ways to promote engagement and identify opportunities tailored for them. We will share ideas and insights from both universities and universities of applied sciences, discussing how to enhance the doctoral experience and meaningful participation.

ROUND TABLES AFTERNOON (8)

10. Non-academic personnel engagement and opportunities

Professional staff play a critical role in implementing the ambitions of the alliances. However, they are also a key stakeholder in the potential benefits received by participating in the alliances. This round table will discuss how to engage and motivate professional staff but also share good case examples of formats that bring benefit for the development of members of the professional staff and their institutional ways of working. Different approaches to recognition for staff input will also be discussed.

11. Seed-funding initiatives within alliances

In this round table discussion, we will discuss alliances´ internal funding, specifically seed funding, for teachers, students, and researchers. Our focus will be on examining the tools utilized by various alliances, the processes they implement, and the overall organization of seed funding initiatives.

Furthermore, we will share valuable lessons learned from these experiences and the future steps of the alliance's internal funding.

12. Mobility: Blended Intensive Programmes in Alliances

Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) are an essential component of today's international education, combining virtual and physical mobility to enhance learning and international experiences targeted to the whole university community. This round table discussion will explore the added value of European university alliances in promoting BIPs, share best practices and discuss lessons learned.

13. Student communications within alliances

This round table discussion will focus on understanding students' preferred communication methods, sharing best communication practices and assessing the effectiveness of student communication strategies. Our focus questions will be:
Understanding: What role can students play in shaping alliance communication strategies, and how can we collaborate with them more effectively?
Sharing: What best practices have been successful at our respective universities? What learning opportunities can we identify?
Assessing: Which feedback mechanisms are effective in assessing our communication efforts, and how do we use this feedback to drive continuous improvement?

14. Microcredentials within alliances

This round table discussion will focus on the microcredentials: Looking into national level discussions, how to define them, how to organize them, experiences of including executive agencies to microcredentials, sharing best practices and lessons learned.

15. Role of the alliances in building Research cooperation and communities

This round table discusses the strategies and actions the alliances have taken in building the research cooperation and engaging the research communities into the alliance work. How to engage early career researchers and academics, how to support the research collaboration and what added value alliances can bring to researchers?

16. Legal status of the alliances

Alliances have different approaches to their organizational structures, with some have an established legal entity, some having a secretariat in the coordinating institution, and some just starting to figure out what kind of structure would work best for them. This round table discusses the lessons learned, pros and cons and challenges connected to the legal status and the central coordination of the alliances.

17. Cross-alliance cooperation at European, National or Local level

All European university alliances share common goals of enhancing education, research, and innovation, making cross-alliance cooperation essential to avoid working in silos. This round table discussion will highlight the importance of collaboration at European, national and local levels, featuring a successful example of Unite!, Una Europa and Ulysseus working together. We will discuss strategies for building effective partnerships, share experiences and explore opportunities for future collaborations.