

Global engagement in European University Alliances, including the Global South

Chair: Melissa Plath, University of Helsinki

Secretary: Marian Tumanyan, University of Oulu

Icebreaker activity: If your alliance was a sport, what kind of sport would it be? Some of the answers: Triathlon, marathon, curling, football, cricket, ice hockey, American football, plogging (running while picking trash), cheerleading.

Hopes from the session: More insights needed on RDI (Research, Development, Innovation). Getting more ideas for global engagement, especially global south, as most of our alliances don't have much experience in it.

Burning issues: Starting a global collaboration. Some examples from our alliances have been shared.

Opportunity: What would global partners get from collaborating with European Alliances and what would alliances get? Global South will get more structured collaboration and spend less resources compared to having several bilateral collaborations with different requirements.

Challenge: Paperwork needed for students from non-EU countries to be mobile. Governmental support will be needed for that. Solutions: It was mentioned that student exchanges are already done with global South, so it might not be a big issue. Virtual exchange addresses the challenges of physical mobility. Una Europa implements virtual exchanges with Global South.

Practical suggestions about collaborations with Global South: We need to get rid of pre-assumptions, not to look at collaborations as: "We need to save the Global South", but learning from each other and thinking also how Global South partners can enhance our alliances.

Joint supervisions, using existing funding opportunities (also ones outside Europe), implementing mobile-phone friendly systems, collaborating network to network, engaging with overseas territories of Europe (e.g. Reunion) are practical steps which can be taken. We need flexibility within our alliances, if only some partners want to collaborate. Guidelines for working with Global South should also be considered, as well as languages used in the agreements and hierarchies.

One concluding sentence: Global South doesn't (necessarily) need saving, let's look for equal and responsible partnerships.