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Lead of the
DIGITISATION FOR HYDRO-CLIMATIC RISK REDUCTION
Connected Community



Ann Van GRIENSVEN

Water plays a crucial role in societal changes amidst a changing climate. Specifically, we seek to quantify the two-way interactions between our society and hydro-climatic risks and their associated feedback loops: societal actions influence hydro-climatic risks, which subsequently affect society.

An important research question we will work on is how to use innovative measuring techniques (Internet of things, citizen science) to fill in the data gap on water quantity, water quality and human interactions and how this information can be integrated into climate-water models and management. We aim to organise joint workshops on innovative data collection and modelling techniques and innovative solutions such as nature-based solutions and water recycling.

We also aim to develop a roadmap towards a joint EUTOPIA Master programme in Water and Climate. We propose establishing a new network within the VUB and

EUTOPIA partners covering several disciplines (climate, science, law, governance, engineering) to integrate their interdisciplinary expertise on hydro-climatic risk reduction uniquely.

The network will provide opportunities for staff and student exchanges. It will also increase visibility, especially in collaboration with international organisations and networks such as the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, and the International Hydrogeological Sciences.

LAURA DIOȘAN

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science,
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Lead of the
REALITY CENTRIC DATA SCIENCE
Connected Community



Laura DIOȘAN

The emerging knowledge of our CC will focus on the benefits of intelligent data analysis tools in healthcare, but it also implicitly points to a societal challenge: data privacy and security. As intelligent algorithms handle sensitive medical data, including patient records, images, and genomic data, there is a significant risk of data breaches and unauthorized access. Ensuring the privacy and security of this data is crucial, as failure to do so could lead to misuse of personal health information, loss of public trust, and potential harm to individuals' rights and well-being. Additionally, there are ethical considerations regarding the use of such data for research and the potential for biases in algorithms that could affect treatment outcomes. These challenges require careful regulation and robust security measures to protect patient information and ensure equitable healthcare outcomes. Combining teaching and research activities is crucial for fostering a dynamic and enriching learning environment. Here are some ways in which teaching and research activities can be integrated:

- research-informed teaching
- research-based learning workshops
- thematic project weeks
- challenge-driven assignments
- innovation and DS Transformation Fair
- thematic hackathons.

The transnational dimension of EUTOPIA, with its emphasis on collaborative

development and global partnerships, offers a unique opportunity to enhance and expand the scope of our project. By leveraging EUTOPIA's network of diverse universities and institutions, our work on the trade-off between quantitative and qualitative data can benefit from a wide range of perspectives and expertise. This collaboration can lead to more robust and culturally sensitive machine learning models, ensuring that the transition from Big Data to Good Data is not only technically sound but also ethically grounded and socially relevant. Furthermore, EUTOPIA's commitment to creating an international graduate capability aligns with the goals of our project to develop explainable and transparent DS & AI systems.

The alliance's focus on "local internationalism" and "global internationalism" provides a framework for sharing knowledge and best practices across borders, which is essential for addressing the challenges of federated learning, structural analytics, and the ethical implications of AI.

ANA BOJINOVIĆ FENKO

Faculty of Social Sciences, International Relations,
University of Ljubljana

Lead of the
MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
Connected Community



Ana BOJINOVIĆ FENKO

What societal challenge does our CC aim to address? Weakening societal perception of the need for scientific research due to the abundance of quasi-expert sources of information. To address this challenge, the CC will perform an all-year mentoring programme of teaching via research and culminate in a hybrid online-Ljubljana-organized event called “international student conference”, where students will present the results of their research.

The other societal challenge is Western Balkan-based universities’ low institutional capacity to integrate with EU-based institutions’ research and teaching activities. To address this challenge, teaching-by-research activities and the “international student conference” will actively engage students and teachers from universities of Western Balkan Countries as one of the priority research issues addressing the EU enlargement via the accession process.

The aspiration is to strengthen the opportunity for students to apply their research competencies practically. For this purpose, extra

academic stakeholders will be included in CC activities. a) interdisciplinary practical challenge-driven assignments in the form of policy hubs: policymakers, businesspeople, civil society representatives and diplomats will be invited to participate in presentations of solutions created by students and evaluate their policy proposals. b) These stakeholders will receive the publication of conference proceedings, namely abstracts of student essays and PhD papers. c) Potential for student internships will be actively developed.

The transnational dimension of EUTOPIA is utterly necessary to understand challenges to international peace and security properly, address these challenges via independent and collaborative scientific research, and propose globally responsible and constructive policy solutions.

TERESA CALVÃO

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, **NOVA School of Science and Technology**

ANTJE DISTERHEFT

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, **NOVA School of Science and Technology**

Leads of the

SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING FOR PEOPLE & PLANET / CARING COMMUNITIES Connected Community

This CC aims to develop learning and teaching formats that address personal well-being and planetary sustainability as interconnected concepts that so far are often dealt with in separate approaches. The critical societal challenges driving the activities within this CC are climate change, biodiversity loss, quality education and (mental) health. By crossing and combining inner and outer sustainability questions, this CC can contribute to developing more caring communities in the respective institutional and local contexts and beyond. This CC also invites collaboration with external stakeholders, namely primary and secondary schools as well as local municipalities, building on existing relationships that exist for example, with the Portuguese « Living Science » [Ciência Viva) Programme, and which Teresa Calvão has been collaborating with for a long time. Furthermore, it intends to collaborate with stakeholders from local/national associations for environmental protection and civil society organizations (CSO), building upon existing contacts. Thereby, this CC can expand and connect with partners from outside academia and provide new entry points for learning and developing more caring communities in academia and beyond. The CC will draw upon the experience of each partner and co-design a strategy and action plan that aims to identify concrete opportunities along the academic calendar that allow, e.g.



Teresa CALVÃO



Antje DISTERHEFT

to include topics of this CC in regular courses (ba/BSc, ma/msc/, PhD) and research on previously agreed upon items. Such could, e.g. research on students and teaching staff's well-being and resilience in combination with learning activities directed at combating climate change and biodiversity loss. The transnational dimension of EUTOPIA will help strengthen and allow for opening up our work in the following points:

- Added value for sharing new experiences and different points of view from the other partners, allowing more holistic learning experiences for learners and staff by including sustainable well-being in research and teaching activities;
- Added value in knowledge creation on addressing and including well-being in academia and its possible monitoring, e.g., by developing guidelines/draft of a happiness report to complement existing sustainability reporting in higher education institutions.
- International exposure and attention to sustainable well-being and care still need to be represented in learning and teaching about sustainability.

HANS-PETER WIESMANN BENJAMIN KRUPPKE

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Leads of the
AGILE IN BIOMECHANICS Connected Community

This Community of Competence (which is another definition of the Connected Communities) aims to address the challenge of enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration and problem-solving in biomechanics, mainly focusing on preventing implant loosening. The teaching concept encourages independent work and resource utilisation across disciplines by integrating research-based learning combined with agile project management principles and agile project management methodology. Through collaboration with EUTOPIA partners, the CC seeks to develop innovative solutions that cater to diverse societal and medical needs and contribute to improving health outcomes.

The vision for education and research within the newly selected CC partnership is to foster a dynamic learning environment that promotes collaboration, innovation, and practical skill development. Students are exposed to real-world challenges in biomechanics, engaging in project-based learning facilitated by agile project management methods. Students gain exposure to diverse perspectives and expertise by integrating input from EUTOPIA partners, enhancing their understanding of European research, regulatory frameworks, and market demands. This holistic approach prepares students not only for careers in the industry but also equips them with the tools for conducting their research



Benjamin KRUPPKE

projects or pursuing further academic endeavours.

The transnational dimension of EUTOPIA catalyses the strengthening and expansion of the work of the CC partnership. Collaboration with EUTOPIA partners enables the incorporation of diverse higher education and health-care systems, enriching the learning experience for students and facilitating the transfer of knowledge and best practices across borders. By leveraging the expertise and resources of EUTOPIA partners, the CC aims to broaden its impact, stimulate scientific exchange, and foster interdisciplinary collaborations in biomechanics and biomedical applications. Joined international and interdisciplinary research projects shall go beyond the traditional boundaries of single disciplines. Additionally, the network facilitates future joint supervision of theses, exchange programs for students, and collaborative research initiatives, enhancing cross-cultural understanding and promoting innovation in academic and applied settings.

EVA MARIA JERNSAND EMMA BJÖRNER

School of Business, Economics and Law
University of Gothenburg

Leads of the
TOURISM AND EXPERIENCES Connected Community



Eva Maria JERNSAND

Sustainable tourism is about the relationship between tourism and the world we live in. The CC on Tourism & Experiences addresses climate and environment, health and welfare, democracy and community building, and digitalisation. Thus, we respond to real-world issues and opportunities with the aim of transforming societal systems and behaviours.

We want to expand the network, initiate student collaborations, jointly design research projects and apply for EU funding. We also plan for workshops and seminars, e.g. research-based learning workshops with students involving businesses and public bodies.

The new collaborations can make our ongoing research and education available to more people and create new possibilities for joint work. Furthermore, the researchers involved in the CC—from Paris, Venice, Barcelona, Lisbon, and Gothenburg—provide complementary competences, perspectives, and knowledge on tourism and experiences. This provides exciting possibilities for comparative research and multiple case studies, enabling timely, relevant, and impactful research and education.

Eva Maria Jernsand & Emma Björner are contributors to the first issue of the *EUTOPIA Review*

ORIOI GALLEGO

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Lead of the
BIOIMAGE ANALYSIS Connected Community

The key focus of our Community is the improvement of the analysis of microscopy images for basic research with a strong emphasis on biological and medical perspectives. The Connected Community will be driven by key societal challenges related to the development of advanced bioimaging tools and their analysis. We will actively involve extra-academic stakeholders to ensure the development of the community addresses the needs of the society.

The learning and research activities will be effectively combined within our Community to provide students with research-based learning experiences that foster their intellectual growth and contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

We will make sure that our Community opens up knowledge activities to a wide range of potential learners, including those who may not be able to engage in long-term physical mobility. We intend to include such students and enable them to benefit from an international experience.



Oriol GALLEGO

STÉPHANIE NOVAK

Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies
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Lead of the
**WORKING WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR INCLUSION,
SOLIDARITY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE EU**
Connected Community

We aim to address the lack of participation and awareness of the potential of European citizenship, as well as the lack of a sense of agency in your European citizens as such.

Interdisciplinarity is a fundamental aspect in the Connected Community (CC) partnership, and it is well represented: law, political science and media studies are intertwined so as to mirror the actual features of our complex contemporary society.

The transnational dimension of EUTOPIA as a way to strengthen and open up our work is topical, because it allows collaboration, sharing of ideas, strengthening of projects and realisation of a genuine European citizenship. The challenges of our times have a transnational dimension, so must have the response in education and research.



Stéphanie NOVAK

ELSA CARON

Centre de langue française
CY Cergy Paris University

Lead of the
FRANCOPHONIES AND RELATIONS WITH THE “REST OF THE WORLD” Connected Community

The community will address *francophonie* as the cultural and political ground/area, as defined by the French-speaking countries International Organisation (OIF), gathering 88 countries and governments. The quality of its members, French culture, and language faculties will prioritise their collaboration on these topics. Still, it will also include non-specialist questions related to territory challenges (linguistic policies, mobilities, exchanges...) handled by the European body represented by participating universities and their potential external guests.

The Connected Community will focus on three main dimensions:

- Study some aspects of French-speaking studies from the linguistic and cultural points of view, such as French and multilingualism within the Alliance and norms and varieties through literature in French, including French-writing authors from different areas involved in the community (e.g., Romania, northern Italy...).
- Practising and improving the linguistic field through cooperation between native speakers and learners to develop vernacular competencies and idiomatic oral abilities (tandem, for example), and training for future teachers of French: how to include the concept of *francophonie* in the curricula



Elsa CARON

- (e.g., how to focus on the varieties of oral French, how to promote places or projects to generate collaboration between native speakers and learners).
- A more comprehensive attempt to include multidisciplinary *francophonie*-related topics and their relationship with the world (e.g. History of the reception of francophone cultures in the countries concerned by EUTOPIA)

EUTOPIA will provide a way to open up the theme further, allowing for the exchange of expertise, the development of a series of online conferences and project weeks hosted by the community partner based on the diverse expertise and multidisciplinary topics related to French-speaking, curricular development through the internationalisation of student's curricula, and joint research efforts.

MILIJA GLUHOVIC

Head of Theatre and Performance Studies
University of Warwick

Lead of the

THINKING THROUGH THE SILK ROAD. CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND MOBILITIES Connected Community

This Connected Community proposes an innovative framework for the study of cultural productions, visual arts and performances, cultural heritage, and geocultural politics, emergent in the broad context of old and new Silk Roads. It will draw on the expertise of a strong team with regional and linguistic expertise covering South/Southeast Europe, Central and Southeast Asia, all with established collaborations across the academic networks and beyond.

This community aspires to produce new knowledge about the geocultural politics shaping identities, cultural and heritage policies and cultural diplomacy across South and Southeast Europe, Eurasia, and Southeast Asia today by bringing together findings and insights from theatre performance studies, history of art, critical heritage studies, cultural studies and international relations/geopolitics.

Another aim is to identify the complex patterns of contestation, collaboration, and solidarities surrounding the engagement of non-Western powers such as Russia, India and Turkey with China in Southeast Europe/Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia by examining the complex and dynamic forces that entwine there to create new Silk Road imaginaries.



Milija GLUHOVIC

How do you see the transnational dimension of EUTOPIA as a way to strengthen and open up your work?

The international dimension of EUTOPIA will enable us to show the relationship between local and global. Additionally, the commitment of the EUTOPIA partners to the alliance provides a great structure to grow and develop a stable network.