



# EUTOPIA 2050 Project

## Report on the EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy

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**Institutional Abbreviations**

Univerza v Ljubljani	UL
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	VUB
CY Cergy Paris Université	CYU
Göteborgs universitet	GU
Universitat Pompeu Fabra	UPF
University of Warwick	UoW

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## Executive summary

This report documents the progress made in the implementation of the EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy (YLA) and the outcomes to-date. The EUTOPIA Alliance was initially created by six partner universities and has been recently enlarged to ten members with the arrival of four new partners in late 2022. The first objective of EUTOPIA alliance regarding research is to support the integration of our R&I communities.

Within this framework, the YLA was launched in November 2021 and implemented as a programme transversal to all the partner universities in order to gather a new generation of promising and high potential early-stage researchers (PhD+2 to PhD+12). This Academy aims to train promising EUTOPIA early-stage researchers during a two-year appointment with a focus on leadership trainings as well as supporting research collaboration through a dedicated academic budget.

The specificity of the YLA can be summarized through the following three aspects: the fellows of the YLA are encouraged to collaborate in a research community at the scale of a European university, they are trained to become academic leaders and they are defined as ambassadors of the EUTOPIA alliance.

This report documents and discusses the implementation of this programme including the governance and the selection process as well as the individual and joint activities organised to-date for the YLA first cohort. Finally, this report presents the forthcoming plans for YLA upcoming cohorts and proposes recommendations for the programme's future.

# 1 Introduction and presentation of the Young Leaders Academy

The EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy (YLA) was launched in 2021, within the framework of the EUTOPIA 2050 ERAMUS + programme, by the six initial partners of the EUTOPIA Alliance, in order to train a new generation of creative, challenge-driven and innovative early stage researchers to become the academic leaders of the future.

The implementation of the YLA was led by CY Cergy Paris Université. The programme is, however, not implemented by a single institution but was jointly defined, steered and implemented with contributions from all EUTOPIA partners.

The YLA gathers promising early to mid-career selected researchers (PhD+2 to PhD+12) from all the EUTOPIA partner universities in order to create a European network of high potential researchers and offer them a two years appointment which includes leadership trainings and support for their research activities with a focus on scientific collaboration.

The fellows constitute a community of research leaders at the scale of the alliance who share and promote European values and the EUTOPIA vision of an interconnected academic environment. In short, three features reveal the specificity of the EUTOPIA YLA: the fellows of the YLA have the opportunity to exchange and collaborate in a research community at the scale of a European university, they are trained to become academic leaders and they work as ambassadors of the EUTOPIA alliance. All these three features offer the fellows a propitious environment for career development.

The fellows participate to the Academy's scheduled activities and trainings as well as to other activities within the framework of the EUTOPIA Alliance. Furthermore, in order to promote scientific exchange and ensure the development of new collaborations within the Alliance the fellows are also offered an individual budget for academic mobility activities.

The Young Leaders Academy objectives can be therefore summarised in the following way:

- to promote research excellence and talent through dedicated training programs;
- to develop scientific exchange and research collaborations among YLA Fellows and with the broader EUTOPIA research community;
- to promote the emergence of new and integrated cohorts of promising researchers who will actively contribute to development of the EUTOPIA Alliance and engender collaborative research projects;
- to foster an interdisciplinary and challenge-driven research agenda. This will allow YLA Fellows to address the major scientific and societal issues of our time;
- to contribute to the broader objectives of the EUTOPIA Alliance, to promote a student-shaped, research and challenge-driven integrated academic community.

These objectives have been established in accordance with EUTOPIA's central mission to promote a connected and inclusive academic community, addressing global and local challenges and geared towards impact. Likewise, the YLA encourages the fellows to support Open Science and to engage citizens and external stakeholders in order to bridge the gap between science and society.

This report firstly focuses on the implementation of the YLA after the approval of the EUTOPIA 2050 project. Secondly, the YLA joint activities as well as the fellow's individual activities including academic mobilities and their plans for career development are presented and discussed. This is followed by fellows' feedback survey and the future perspectives for the YLA. Recommendations have been included at the end of this document.

The present report covers the following deliverables:

WP3.2.1.1	Deliverable 30	Indicator 19, 29	YLA Fellows
WP3.2.1.2	Deliverable 70,99,137,168	Indicator 19, 29	YLA Workshops
WP3.2.1.3	Deliverable 218	Indicator 19, 21, 31	YLA visits
WP3.3.2.4	Deliverable 138,217	Indicator 18, 19, 30	YLA participant activity report
WP3.3.2.5	Deliverable 216	Indicator 20, 32	A catalogue of Research-led training modules

## 2 Implementation

This section focuses on the governance of the YLA at the EUTOPIA and the local level at each partner university, the implementation of the selection process for the YLA's first cohort and the academic mobility budget offered to each of the YLA's fellows. Regarding the implementation of the YLA see also the EUTOPIA TRAIN project's Deliverable 4.2, report on "Implementation procedure and work programme for the joint researcher mobility and Young Leaders Academy programmes".

### 2.1 Governance and management

The YLA was established as joint initiative of the six founding partner universities of the EUTOPIA Alliance: the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, CY Cergy Paris University, the University of Gothenburg, the University of Ljubljana, Pompeu Fabra University and the University of Warwick.

During the first 15 months of the EUTOPIA 2050 project, the development of the YLA was first discussed collectively, under the leadership of CY Cergy Paris Université, in numerous meetings of EUTOPIA 2050 WP3, to define its core principles concerning the objectives, the governance of the Academy, and the selection of the Fellows.

The implementation of the YLA is organised in the following **three levels**:

**First level:** the YLA Steering Committee is in charge of the overall governance of the academy. It is composed of six academic leads from each of the six initial partner universities. During the start-up phase covered in this report, the Steering Committee has been chaired by Arnaud Lefranc, Vice President of CY Cergy Paris Université and WP3 co-lead.

The main tasks of the Steering Committee are the following:

- strategic development;

- appraisal of the candidates nominated by each of the partner universities during the selection process;
- approval of the training sessions and joint activities;
- the approval of the reporting activities conducted by the coordination team.

**Second level:** the YLA coordination team is located at Cergy Paris University and is in charge of the overall coordination of the Academy, the communication, the organisation of the training sessions and the joint activities, and the reporting.

**Third level:** six Local Programme Managers (LPM) at each of the partner universities who work at a local level as support managers and are therefore the first local contact point for the fellows. The LPM represent the European liaison, the Research support Grant and Innovation, the International Scientific Development offices, and Research and Development centres or Institutes of Advanced Studies. In addition to the management of the application and selection procedures.

The YLA governance scheme is presented in the following figure (1). Information about the members of the Steering Committee, the Coordination Team and the Local Programme Managers is given in the Appendix.



Figure 1: YLA's three level governance

The YLA Steering Committee (SC) meets regularly in-person during EUTOPIA week and online during the academic year in order to fulfil its tasks. Information about the SC meetings to-date is given below.

Table 1: YLA Steering committee meetings

Steering committee meetings and dates	Location
SC1: 17/06/2021	Online
SC2: 15/07/2021	Online
SC3: 29/09/2021	Online
SC4: 29/06/2022	In-person and online
SC5: 29/09/2022	Online
SC6: 22/11/2022	In-person and online

## 2.2 Academic mobility budget

As one of the main objectives of the YLA is to promote scientific exchange and ensure the development of new scientific collaborations within the EUTOPIA Alliance so that a European network of high-potential researchers can be created, an individual mobility budget of 5k€ has been assigned for each of the fellows of the first cohort. This budget is available for the duration of their two years appointment, exclusively for academic mobility purposes within the EUTOPIA partner institutions. The fellows' individual mobility budget will be increased for the following second and third cohorts within the framework of the EUTOPIA MORE as it will be described in section number 5.

## 2.3 YLA first call and selection of candidates

This section describes the organization of the first call for applications to the YLA and the implementation of a decentralised selection process through all the six founding EUTOPIA partner universities. Regarding the YLA's first call and selection process see also the EUTOPIA TRAIN project's Deliverable 4.2, report on "Implementation procedure and work programme for the joint researcher mobility and Young Leaders Academy programmes".

### 2.3.1 Selection process

The YLA first call was launched in 2021, with a one-year delay, due to COVID 19 pandemic. The call was open from 30 April 2021 to 30 June 2021 and advertised on the [EUTOPIA YLA's website](#). All the EUTOPIA partners were also advertised internally by specific emailing to the research groups directors and laboratories.

This first call was implemented as a transversal procedure to all the members of the Alliance and opened for early to mid-career researchers from all the EUTOPIA universities, preferably between 2 to 12 years after PhD completion.

Candidates must hold a tenure or tenure-track position in one of the EUTOPIA Alliance partners universities and are selected for a period of two academic years. Applications from all disciplines are accepted. The YLA promotes, *inter alia*, research addressing six key research areas and societal issues: (a) Welfare and Inclusion, (b) Materials Engineering, (c) Data & Intelligence, (d) Health, e) Sustainability, (f) Culture & Heritage.

According to the ERASMUS+ EUTOPIA project, the YLA would select 12 candidates for the first cohort. This initiative was finally developed further: through to the EUTOPIA TRAIN Project the YLA was able to enrol 6 additional fellows. The enlargement of the YLA offered a more diverse programme of interactions and networking activities. Each partner university was therefore able to enrol 3 fellows. UL UoW, and VUB finally decided to enrol a fourth fellow through local national funding. GU and UPF enrolled 2 fellows due to the reduced number of applications.



*Table 2: Number of fellows per partner university*

Partner university	Number of fellows
CYU	3
GU	2
UL	4
UPF	2
UoW	4
VUB	4

The selection process was organised in a decentralised manner for the application step. It started in each of the six initial EUTOPIA partner universities and finished at the YLA Steering Committee. Firstly, each of the partner universities established their own selection committee and was allowed to nominate up to 5 candidates in accordance with the following common evaluation criteria:

- to be formally appointed with one of the Universities of the EUTOPIA Alliance;
- to hold a tenured or tenure-track position major research fellowship;
- to demonstrate leadership potential attested by an academic track record (this included research management and supervision).

Secondly, the group of nominated candidates from each partner university was analysed by the YLA Steering Committee and approved in accordance to the following criteria:

- gender parity;
- diversity of research domains;
- seniority;
- backgrounds.

### 2.3.2 Selection process key figures

As the selection process first stage was not centralised, information the number of applicants, their background and the gender distribution will be given in this section for each partner university.

It must be also reported that in the case of GU the selection process was organised in parallel with [Research Leader Initiative](#) (REAL), a programme designed by GU and open for nominations by the head of each the university's departments. From the pool of nominations, the most suitable candidates were selected. The nomination process was handled by the Grants and Innovation Office and the decision was taken by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research.

#### Applications per partner university

The applications distribution per discipline was balanced in spite of the predominant number of applicants from Applied Sciences. None of the four areas of study covering all the disciplines exceeded the 31% of the applications. The total of applications was also globally gender balanced: 42% of the applicants were female.

Table 3: Applications per discipline and per partner university

	Number of applications	Female applications	Applied Sciences	Natural Sciences	Arts and Humanities	Social Sciences
CYU	7	2	2	2	1	2
GU	2	2	1	-	1	-
UL	4	2	2	1	1	1
UPF	2	1	-	-	-	2
UoW	4	0	1	2	-	1
VUB	7	4	3	1	2	1
Total	26	11	9	6	5	7

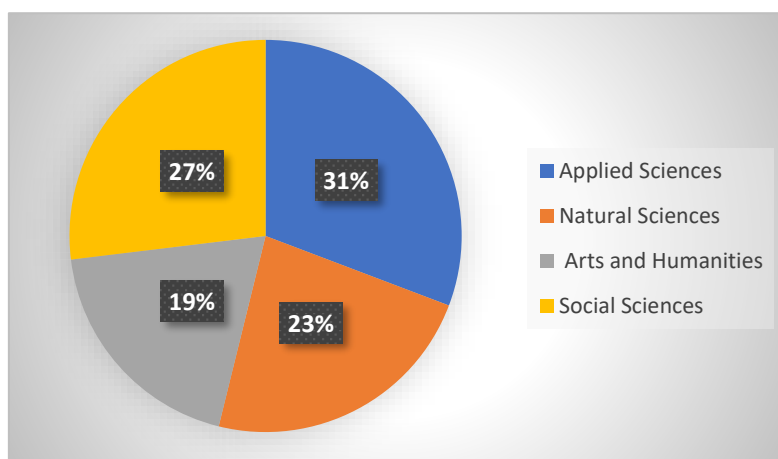


Figure 2: Applications per discipline

### Selection panel composition per partner university

The composition of the Selection panel for the first stage of the selection process in each partner university was globally gender balanced: 50% of the total of members were female. The representation of the 4 different areas of study in the total of jury members from the partner universities varied between 18 and 32%. Although all disciplines were represented, the 4 areas of study could be more equally distributed for the YLA next calls through a centralised and commonly agreed experts committee. Detailed information about the Selection Committee in each partner university and at a EUTOPIA level is given in the following table and chart.

Table 4: Selection Committee composition

	Date of Selection Committee	Number of members in the local jury	Female members	Applied Sciences	Natural Sciences	Arts and Humanities	Social Sciences
CYU	09/07/2021	6	2	1	2	1	2
GU	30/06/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UL	14/07/2021	4	4	-	-	2	2
UPF	27/10/2021	3	1	-	1	1	1
UoW	14/07/2021	3	1	-	1	1	1
VUB	25/08/2021	6	3	3	1	1	1
Total	-	22	11	4	5	6	7

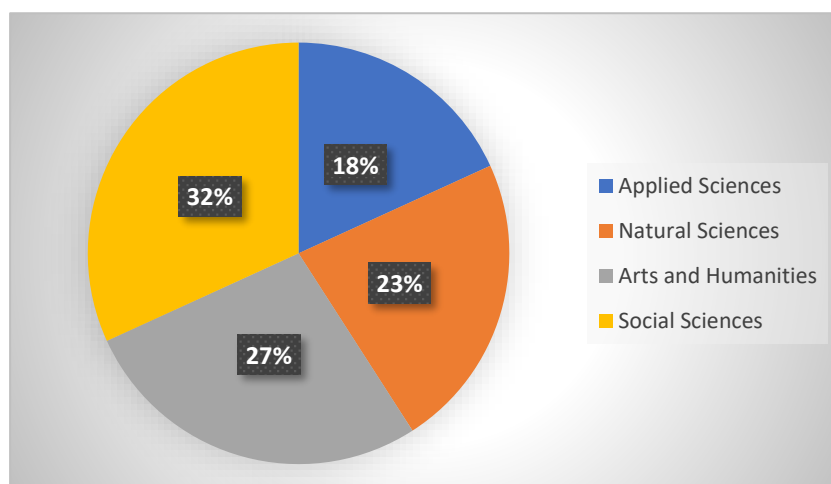


Figure 3: representation of areas of study in the local selection juries

### 2.3.3 Selection results

Nineteen fellows were selected from all the EUTOPIA universities and from all disciplines. The variation in the number of awarded candidates from 2 to 4 fellows per partner university is explained above in 2.3.1. The selection results were gender balanced: 42% of the awarded candidates were female.

All areas of study are represented in the first cohort's awarded candidates as it is showed below in the following tables and chart. However, the Applied Sciences and Social Sciences are predominantly represented as they cover 32% and 37% of the awarded candidates. Actions could be undertaken in the next calls in order to guarantee a more balanced representation of all study areas.

Table 5: YLA first call's awarded candidates and first cohort 2021

University	Name	Surname	Research area	Gender
GU	Margit	Alt Murphy	Applied Sciences	F
VUB	David	Beckwee	Applied Sciences	M
UL	Nejc	Bezak	Applied Sciences	M
UL	Jaka	Cepec	Social Sciences	M
UPF	Ivo	Coca	Social Sciences	M
UL	Anna	Dragoš	Natural sciences	F
UoW	Ahmied	Eissa	Natural sciences	M
CYU	Muriel	Epstein	Social Sciences	F
VUB	Cleo	Goyvaerts	Applied Sciences	F
CYU	Hippolyte	Gros	Social Sciences	M
UoW	Andi	Hoxhaj	Social Sciences	M

GU	Helena	Kraff	Arts and Humanities	F
UoW	Subhash	Lakshminarayana	Applied Sciences	M
UL	Natalija	Majsova	Arts and Humanities	F
UPF	Lela	Melon	Social Sciences	F
UoW	Stefan	Roesner	Natural Sciences	M
VUB	Birgit	Van Puymbroeck	Arts and Humanities	F
VUB	Jeroen	Van Schependom	Applied Sciences	M
CYU	Suhao	Wang	Natural Sciences	M

Table 6: YLA first call's award recipients per study area:

Applied Sciences	Natural Sciences	Arts and Humanities	Social Sciences
6	4	2	7

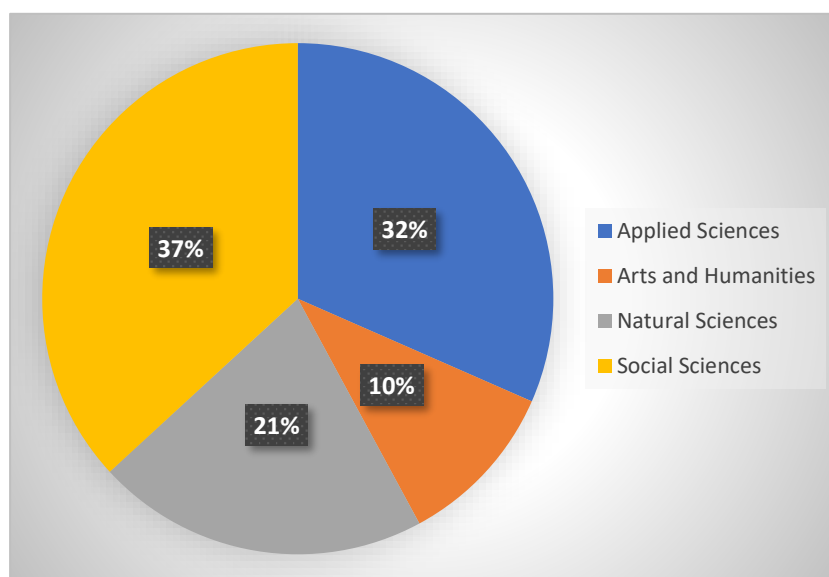


Figure 4: award recipients per study area

### 3 Activities

In order to accomplish its objectives, which include the training of a new generation of creative, challenge-driven and innovative early stage researchers and the creation of a European network of high potential researchers, the Academy offers its fellows a yearly programme of activities which focuses on

interdisciplinary scholarly exchange through specific research networking activities. These activities include: events, meetings, symposiums, workshops and dedicated training sessions.

Moreover, as explained in the previous section, the Academy also supports the fellows through a dedicated academic mobility budget for scientific exchange and scientific collaborations purposes within the EUTOPIA partners.

In this section, all the joint activities will be firstly presented and will then be followed by the fellows' activities including their academic mobilities, their future plans for career development since their appointment in the YLA, their participation to other EUTOPIA activities and their role as EUTOPIA ambassadors.

### 3.1 YLA joint activities

The following joint activities include the events and meetings organised by the fellows during EUTOPIA week with the support of the local programme managers as well as the activities and trainings organised by the YLA coordination team and approved by the YLA Steering Committee.

#### 3.1.1 Yearly activity calendar

The following yearly joint activities calendars have been defined for the fellows' first- and second-year appointments (more details about the activities are given below in 3.1.4) :

*Table 7: Joint activities calendar 2021/2022:*

Month	November 2021	January 2022	May 2022	June 2022
Events	<b>YLA kick-off</b> , in-person Two-full days event, 25-26/11			<b>EUTOPIA Week VUB</b>  <b>YLA symposium</b> Half-day, 30/06 <b>YLA meets GLENN office</b> Half-day session, 30/06
Training sessions		<b>Leadership 1</b> Two-half-days session, 27-28/01	<b>Leadership 2 (first part)</b> One-half-day session, 26/05	<b>Leadership 2 (second part)</b> One-and-a-half-day session, 29-30/06

Table 8: Joint activities calendar 2022/2023:

Month	November 2022	January 2023	March 2023	May 2023	June 2023
Events	<b>EUTOPIA Week UL</b>  <b>YLA fellows' workshop</b> Half-day, 24/11				<b>EUTOPIA week NOVA University Lisbon</b>  <b>YLA symposium</b> Precise dates to be confirmed
Training sessions	<b>Leadership 3</b> One-and-half-day session, 23-24/11	<b>PhD supervision</b> half-day session, 27/01	<b>Introduction to Impact - Measurement &amp; Evaluation of Impact</b> One-full-day session, 24/03	<b>Research ethics &amp; Open Science</b> Two-days, 25-26/06	<b>ERC &amp; Grant Writing</b> Precise dates to be confirmed

### 3.1.2 Inauguration ceremony and related activities

A kick-off session in-person was organized on 25 and 26 November 2021 (see the programme in the Appendix below) during the EUTOPIA week in Barcelona at UPF.

This two full day event included the following activities:

#### Inauguration activities:

- presentation and overview of the YLA;
- presentation of the YLA governance: Steering Committee, Coordination team and Local Programme Managers;  
individual presentation of the fellows.
- presentation of the EUTOPIA Alliance and the EUTOPIA research programmes.

#### Academic activities:

- introduction to academic leadership and discussion about the fellows training needs;
- two round tables about interdisciplinary research and inspiring examples.

### 3.1.3 Meetings, workshops and symposiums

The following meetings and events have been organised in-person during the EUTOPIA week event in VUB in June 2022 and in UL in November 2022.

#### YLA meets GLENN (EUTOPIA Grants, Legal, and Innovation Office)

During EUTOPIA Week in VUB (Brussels) a meeting and discussion was organised between EUTOPIA Grants, Legal, and Innovation Office (GLENN) and the Young Leader Academy Fellows on 29/06/2022. The EUTOPIA GLENN office was created within the framework of the outgoing EUTOPIA TRAIN project Work Package 5. The ten GLENN officers from the current ten EUTOPIA partners universities attended to this meeting. The format of this meeting was an interactive workshop about how to foster new research collaborations. All fellows were able to meet all the GLENN officers together for the first time.

Some of the key findings attained during the YLA meets GLENN office workshop were later presented by the fellows to the EUTOPIA vice-rectors also during EUTOPIA week in VUB in June 2022. These key findings included the following propositions:

- The ideation workshop YLA “Idea Factory”. This 2-day workshop would include:
  - Attendees coming from different disciplines
  - One topic (preferably aligned with EU Mission / Research Agenda)
  - Small groups (n = 10-12)
  - Sharing fields of interest / current research activities
  - Facilitated Brainstorming on future research questions & projects
- Extended financial support to the YLA fellows, to fund e.g. common activities, publications developed as part of the YLA activities
- Matchmaking for research collaboration. In order to facilitate the matchmaking for research collaboration the following EUTOPIA tools should be improved:
  - Database with profiles
  - Thematic newsletters
  - Researchers profiles update

### **YLA first symposium**

The first YLA Symposium “Impact in Research: A European Perspective” was organised by the VUB’s fellows and held on 30/06/2022 within the framework of the YLA activities during EUTOPIA week in VUB in Brussels. As impact is an important criterion in most European funding applications, the objective of this symposium was to reflect on different meanings and types of impact, ways of measuring impact, and the potential role of EUTOPIA in fostering impact in research. See the programme in Appendix below.

The event was open to anyone interested in this subject. The symposium was organised as an in-person event with a live transmission via TEAMS.

### **YLA fellows’ workshop**

The YLA fellow’s workshop “Towards sustainable work life balance in academia”, was organised by UL within the framework of the YLA activities as a half-day in-person session during EUTOPIA week in UL on 24/11/2022 in Ljubljana. The event was in-person with a with a live transmission via zoom. See the programme in Appendix below. 48 registered for this event.

### **YLA second symposium**

A second YLA symposium is planned during the seventh EUTOPIA week scheduled for June 2023 in Nova University Lisbon. The precise dates are yet to be confirmed. The symposium will focus on a topic transversal to all the fellows’ research areas.

#### **3.1.4 Trainings**

The skill development and training session are aligned with the YLA objectives presented above (see 1) and focus on tools and methods that are applicable by the fellows in their role as research leaders.

In order to guarantee that the training sessions could respond the fellows needs et could also be based on their suggestions, a survey form was sent to the fellows in July 2022 by the VUB’s YLA team. The training sessions for the academic year 2022/2023 were therefore defined by the Steering Committee

and scheduled by the YLA coordination team according to the feedback received from the fellows after their first's year appointment. The YLA feedback survey will be discussed in section 4.

### YLA first year appointment

- Two training sessions on **Leadership** organised by GU (a third session was scheduled for the fellows' second year appointment):
  - The first module consisted in a two days online session on 27-28/01/2022, online, via zoom.
  - The second module's first part was held online, via zoom on 26/05/2022; the second part was organised in-person during EUTOPIA Week in VUB (Brussels) on 29-30/06/2022.

### YLA second year appointment.

- **Leadership 3:** third and last module on Leadership organised by GU. One and half-day session in-person on 23-24/11/2022 during EUTOPIA week in UL (Ljubljana).
- **PhD supervision:** half-day session online organised by VUB scheduled for 27/01/23.
- **Introduction to Impact - Measurement & Evaluation:** one full day session online organised by UoW scheduled for 24/03/23.
- **Research ethics & Open Science:** two days session online organised by UPF, schedule for 25-26/06/23.
- **ERC & Grant writing:** training session scheduled for EUTOPIA week on June 2023. Precise dates and schedule to be confirmed.

## 3.2 YLA fellows' activities

As it has been explained in the introduction to this report, in addition to the joint activities, the Academy aims to offer the fellows a propitious environment for the creation of a European network of high-potential researchers which could expand their opportunities for career development and will contribute to the development of the EUTOPIA alliance. Within this framework, an activity report form was completed by the fellows at the end of their first year's appointment.

The fellow's activity report allowed the YLA coordination team to gather updated information about:

- the objectives and the outcomes of the fellows academic mobilities till November 2022;
- the fellows past and planned applications to ambitious and innovative research funding like ERC grants, Horizon 2020, as well as to other type of funding since their awarded application to the YLA till November 2022;
- the fellows' implication or participation in other EUTOPIA programmes and their role as EUTOPIA ambassadors.

This section will thus focus on the results of the activities conducted by the fellows during their first year's appointment.

### 3.2.1 Academic mobilities

To-date, after their first year's appointment, the 19 fellows of the YLA have reported 12 academic mobilities within the EUTOPIA alliance partner universities. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, certain fellows



were not able to organise any academic mobility. Likewise, some other fellows found it difficult to identify new EUTOPIA collaborators in this context. In spite of these constraints, during their first year in the Academy, 32% of the fellows finished an academic mobility, 47% finished and academic mobility or hosted another YLA fellow and 21% of the fellows were able to organise two or three academic mobilities. Recommendations based on the results of this first part of the programme will be made at the end of this report.

In terms of time, the sum of all these visits is equal to 86 mobility days. Moreover, to-date 7 more academic mobilities are already planned for the next months. Thanks to the recent suppression of the Covid-19 restrictions and the collaborations already established, the number of fellows able to undertake academic mobility should increase during the fellows second year’s appointment in the YLA. Information about the total number of academic mobilities and the total number of academic mobility days is given in the following charts.

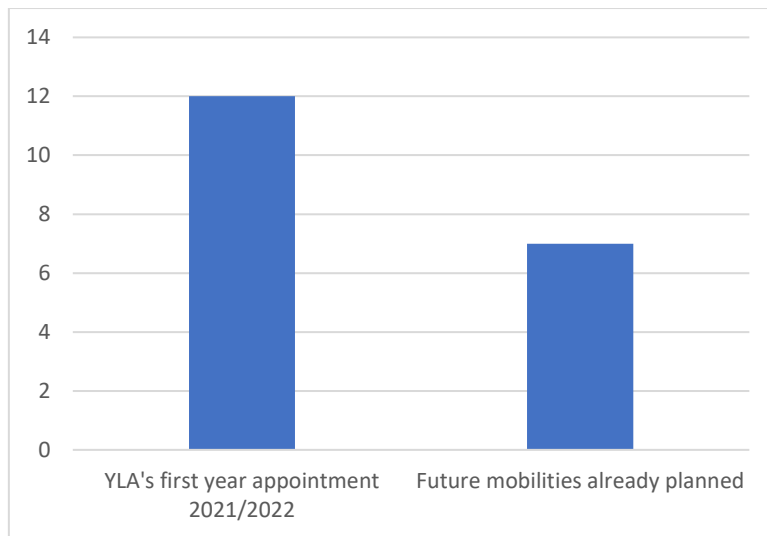


Figure 5: Number of academic mobilities 11/2021-11/2022

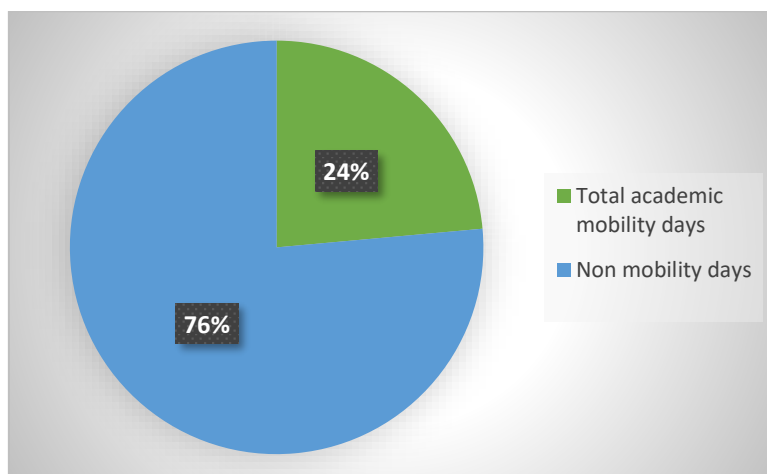


Figure 6: Total of academic mobility days during the fellows first year of appointment (11/2021-11/2022)

The total of mobility days to-date shows a ratio of 1,63 mobility days per fellow during the first year of the YLA.

### 3.2.1.1 Academic mobilities main objectives and outcomes

Two main objectives have motivated the fellows' academic mobilities already finished or planned to-date:

- the development of new scientific collaborations: 53%;
- the common work on a research project 37%.

While most of the visits were motivated by the first of these objectives, only 21% of the fellows that have organised a mobility affirm their objective was to consolidate or expand an already existent scientific collaboration. The recurrence of the first objective over the possibility of the enlargement of an existent collaboration can be explained by the fact that the fellows have only finished the first year of their appointment. The opening of new calls for applications of the YLA and the appointment of new cohorts in 2023 and 2024 will also allow to enlarge the YLA community so that new possibilities of expansion of existent scientific collaborations can be ensured.

Furthermore, as the following chart shows, the fellows' academic mobilities were also motivated by other objectives that included the participation to scientific events, workshops or conferences, and the preparation of joint publications, all of which have led to the corresponding outcomes.

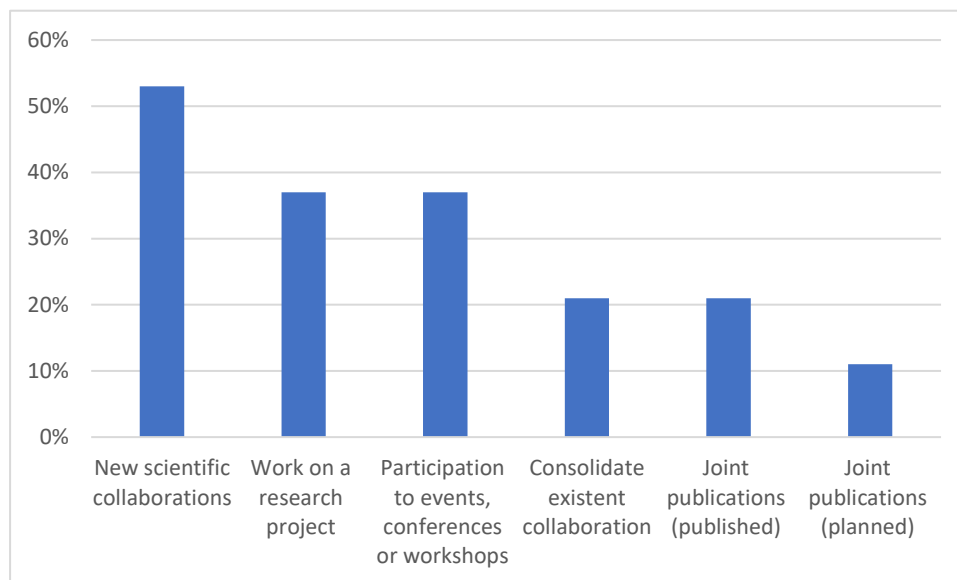


Figure 7: Academic mobilities objectives and outcomes

### 3.2.2 Career development

In accordance with YLA objectives, the Academy aims to encourage its fellows to apply to ambitious research funding at a European level. The activity 'YLA meets Glenn' which took place in June 2022 in EUTOPIA week (see 3.1.3) and the ERC & Grant writing training session scheduled for June 2023 were organised for this purpose. As a result of their first year's appointment the fellows have started to apply to this type of funding.

Since the YLA first cohort has recently finished its first year's appointment in November 2022, only 26% of the fellows have already applied to research funding programmes at a European level like ERC, Horizon and Cost. However, 42% of the fellows is already planning to apply to one of these programmes since their position in the YLA. Furthermore, it is worth noting that besides ERC, Horizon and Cost, 21 % of the fellows have also applied to other types of funding at a national or transnational level.

This information is presented in the following charts. The applications to other programmes or fellowships refers to national funding and transnational funding like [CELSA](#).

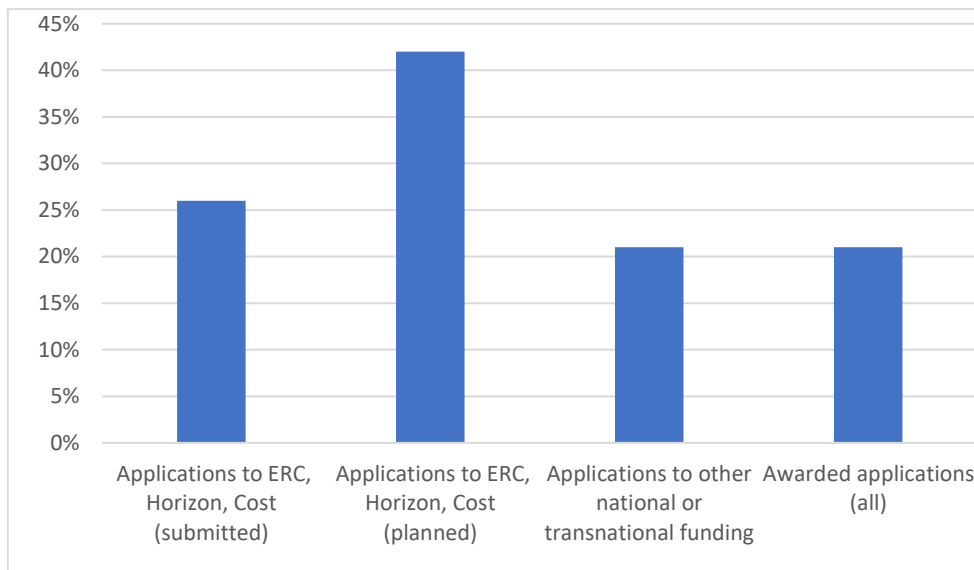


Figure 8: Percentage of YLA fellows having applied or planning to apply to external research funding programmes

In line with the Academy’s objectives the applications to European funding like ERC, Horizon and Cost are the most sought after by the fellows. The number of applications for this type of funding by the YLA fellows should increase in the next years after the end their appointment and the arrival of the new cohorts. The distribution of the different funding applications of the fellows and the number of applications per type are given below.

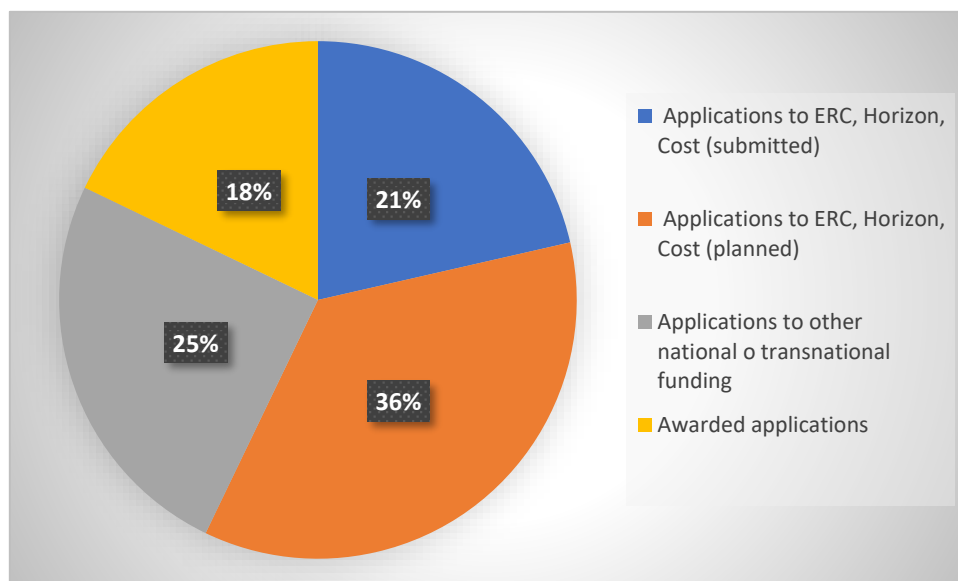


Figure 9: External applications for research funding distribution till November 2022

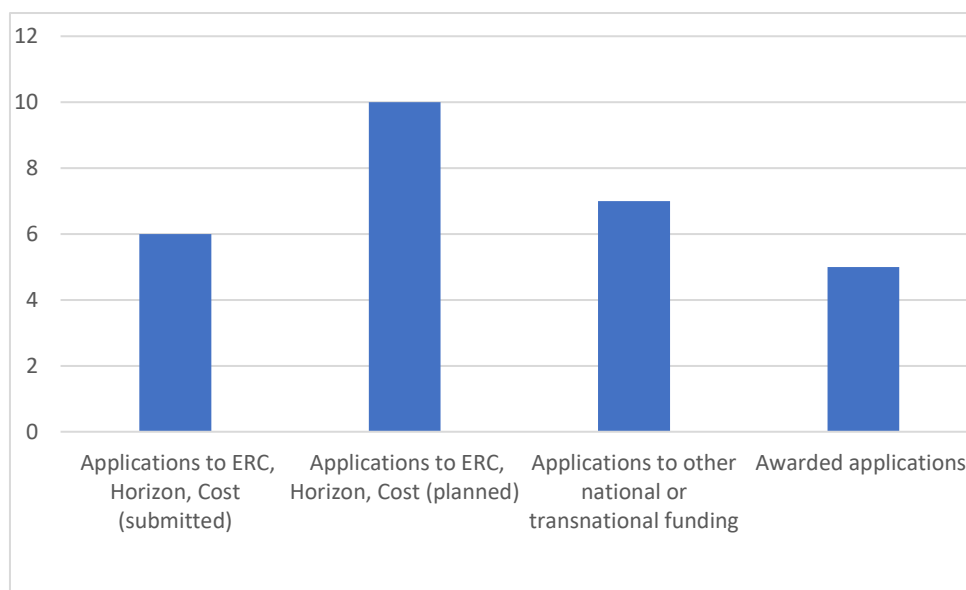


Figure 10: Number of external applications for research funding till November 2022

### 3.2.3 Participation in other EUTOPIA programmes

#### EUTOPIA Co-tutelle and EUTOPIA SIF MSCA Post-doctoral fellowship

The framework of the YLA and the EUTOPIA Alliance have also helped the fellows in their plans for **PhD and Post-doctoral supervision**. Certain fellows have already started to apply as supervisors for the EUTOPIA PhD and post-doctoral programmes. The fellows' activity reports have confirmed that the PhD and Post-doctoral supervision is an activity of major interest for the members of the Academy. Before the beginning of their YLA appointment, three fellows had already started working as supervisors in the EUTOPIA Co-tutelle programme in 2021.

After YLA's first year appointment and the academic mobilities already done, the following outcomes have been attained regarding this aspect:

- 8 applications as supervisors for EUTOPIA SIF MSCA post-doctoral programme or for other MSCA post-doctoral fellowships have already been planned.
- 3 other fellows are already planning to supervise a PhD student, 2 of them within the framework of the EUTOPIA Co-tutelle programme with a EUTOPIA partner university.

It is also worth noting that, as the activity reports have showed, the availability of an individual mobility budget allows the fellows to establish new scientific collaborations within the EUTOPIA Alliance. The development of these new collaborations gave also another opportunity to the fellows willing to supervise PhD students and Post-doctoral researchers, since they were in this way able to prepare and plan joint applications as supervisors or co-supervisors for the EUTOPIA Co-tutelle and SIF programmes.

#### EUTOPIA Connected research communities

[The connected research communities \(CRC\)](#) is a EUTOPIA programme already implemented to connect researchers across the alliance with a focus on activities related to a global challenge or SDG to boost societal, economic, political and/or scientific impact. The programme aims at the development of sustainable research networks within EUTOPIA. The programme's funding must be destined to networking purposes.

As a result of CRC's first call in 2020, 17 CRC have been awarded, 4 fellows of 19 the YLA are already participating to the following projects (2 of them are leading the first two projects):

- Research for Inclusive Education
- EUTOPIA for Planetary Wellbeing: Sustainable Partnerships
- Tourism and Experience

Since the participation to the CRC allows the fellows to work together with other EUTOPIA researchers, this programme is also an opportunity for them to fulfil their commitments to the Academy: 1) the work done within the frame of the CRC can be preparatory for the application for ERC or Horizon projects; 2) the fellows can therefore act as EUTOPIA ambassadors, advertise about the EUTOPIA opportunities within their CRC, and develop the EUTOPIA research network. Moreover, the CRC are also aligned with the YLA objectives, in particular with the development of research collaboration amongst the EUTOPIA research community and the promotion of interdisciplinarity and a challenge-driven research agenda.

### **EUTOPIA Connected Learning Communities**

The [EUTOPIA Connected Learning Communities \(CLC\)](#) are inter-university networks within the alliance connecting students, professors, staff and stakeholders in order to develop course material, innovative learning and teaching practices, which address real-world challenges.

To-date two YLA fellows are currently participating to this programme and working specifically on:

- [Citizenship, social values and ethics in sustainability education](#) (starting in 2021)
- [Urban education](#) (starting in 2022)

The participation of the fellows to this programme is coherent with the EUTOPIA educational model which follows a bottom-up educational leadership and promotes a challenge-based approach to learning.

#### **3.2.4 Ambassador activities**

As part of their commitment to the Academy the fellows are supposed to act as EUTOPIA ambassadors. This means that the fellows represent the EUTOPIA Alliance as members of the YLA and highly promising early-stage researchers in events, meetings or scientific activities at a local level in their laboratories and faculties as well as at an international level within the alliance and outside the alliance. The fellows' ambassador role is therefore designed to ensure the visibility of EUTOPIA at a local and external level.

Because the role of the fellows as EUTOPIA ambassadors is essential to consolidate the network of the EUTOPIA alliance, actions should be taken notably at a local level in each partner university in order to ensure that all the fellows are able to perform this role successfully. Recommendations regarding the fellows' role as EUTOPIA ambassadors are included at the end of this report.

After the first academic year of the YLA first cohort, 58% of the fellows have already accomplished an activity as a EUTOPIA ambassador or promoted the visibility of the Alliance within the framework of their activities as researchers and fellows of the academy. These activities have to-date mostly consisted in:

- The presentation of EUTOPIA alliance during scientific meetings, events, presentations or conferences (42%).
- The advertising of the EUTOPIA programmes and opportunities to other members of the alliance partner universities including PhD students and researchers (47%).

It is also worth mentioning that in addition to the activities below, two other fellows have promoted the visibility of the Alliance through:

- the participation to the creation of [ECOTOPIA](#), a series of common EUTOPIA trainings for bachelor students on sustainability;
- the organisation by a fellow of a dedicated meeting in CYU for researchers who wish to connect with other researchers within EUTOPIA on 07/11/2022.

## 4 Fellows' feedback

As the current cohort first year appointment was attaining its end a feedback form was sent to all the fellows on 05/07/2022 in order to gather their remarks and suggestions regarding their experience in the programme. The YLA Steering Committee and Coordination team took into consideration the feedback and suggestions received in order to define the training and activity programme for 2022/2023 as well as the action plan for the YLA next calls.

The main conclusions obtained from this feedback will be presented in this section in four parts.

### 4.1 Programme highlights

**YLA interdisciplinary framework:** fellows have underlined that the YLA programme's framework gives them the opportunity of meeting and exchanging with peer fellows who are at the same career stage and come from different universities and academic areas.

The positive feedback about the YLA framework regards also the fact that fellows were able, in spite of pandemic, to meet both in-person and online. This complementary approach of both types of meeting (in-person and online) has allowed them to adapt their own professional schedule with to the YLA activity calendar.

### 4.2 Programme weaknesses and suggestions for improvement

Some fellows have underlined that the communication could be improved and they should be informed sufficiently long well in advance.

Some fellows have reported a lack of visibility and support of their participation in the YLA at the level of their local university.

### 4.3 Training and activities

The overall feedback about the leadership training sessions was positive on average. Some fellows indicate that they would be interested in additional and more advanced content. Some suggests that some topics could be covered more quickly. Fellows have also confirmed their positive general feedback about the YLA meets GLENN(EUTOPIA Grants, Legal, and Innovation Office) workshop as it allowed them

to make direct contact with officers from the different universities and to get ad hoc support for their ongoing funding applications.

The fellows also appreciated the possible to take part in and, for some of them, organize the YLA Symposiums during EUTOPIA week.

## 4.4 Suggestions

The fellows also shared the following suggestions:

- to continue to encourage the connection between the different EUTOPIA programmes;
- the implementation of the suggestions that came out during YLA meets GLENN workshop;
- more trainings on leadership skills, team management, time management and grant application.

## 5 Future perspectives

The first YLA cohort will be followed by two new cohorts within the framework of the EUTOPIA MORE WP 3.3 ERAMUS+ project awarded in 2022: the first one in 2023 and the second one in 2025.

### 5.1 Implementation

The new cohorts will be composed by fellows from the current 10 partner universities in EUTOPIA MORE project: Babes Bolai University, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Venice Ca Foscari University, Technic University of Dresden, Nova Lisbon University, CY Cergy Paris University, the University of Gothenburg, the University of Ljubljana, Pompeu Fabra University and the University of Warwick.

For each new cohort two fellows will be selected per partner university. Forty new researchers in the early stages of their career (typically PhD+2 to PhD+12) will then join the YLA between 2023 and 2025. The YLA programme will be leaded by CYU and co-leaded by GU. VUB will lead the EUTOPIA MORE WP 3 where the YLA will be implemented in this project.

Just as the first cohort, the selection of future fellows will focus on gender parity, diversity of research domains, seniorities and backgrounds. The fellows will be offered trainings on leadership, transversal and interdisciplinary skills so that they can build their scientific network and become key agents of the EUTOPIA alliance.

### 5.2 Activities

As the first cohort, in addition to the training programs based on the fellows needs, the YLA awarded candidates will participate in transdisciplinary scientific events and act as EUTOPIA ambassadors within all the partner universities and organisations. Finally, each group will transmit their findings to the next in order to advance the YLA concept. The continuity of the YLA programme will then contribute to the construction of EUTOPIA as an alliance promoting excellence and training the leaders of the future.

### 5.3 Provisional calendar

A provisional calendar for the YLA second call has already been defined:

1. March-May 2023: call opening and applications;
2. May-June 2023: selection process;
3. October 2023: enrolment;
4. November 2023: YLA second cohort kick-off session.

## 6 Conclusions and recommendations

The outcomes of the EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy's first cohort and pilot case to-date show that this initiative is central for the development of the Alliance as a European research network and a connected community of researchers. The YLA programme is of a great potential for the EUTOPIA Alliance because it provides a framework for promising researchers that can collaborate at a European level within the alliance and outside the alliance through their engagement in ambitious research projects and funding like ERC. Still, a few measures could be implemented so that the Academy can fully attain its objectives.

Recommendations based on the outcomes of the programme to-date and the feedback survey completed by the fellows are presented in this section. These recommendations could be implemented for the first cohort's second year appointment and the upcoming cohorts and activities.

#### Governance and staff

- Since the YLA is a joint initiative of the EUTOPIA Alliance, it is essential to ensure the active involvement of all partners in the academic steering of the Academy. The appointment of academic representatives with appropriate experience and level of seniority to the Steering Committee is indeed paramount to guarantee the relevance and legitimacy of the Academy to address promising young scholars from diverse institutions.
- The chair of Steering Committee plays a crucial role in driving the activities of the Academy, representing the Academy in various circles (both within and outside EUTOPIA) and securing the actual involvement and participation of all partners in the implementation of the Academy. The recent experience suggests that:
  - the chair of the YLA steering committee should concentrate on this sole mission rather than being involved in numerous other EUTOPIA-related missions to favour an ambitious development of the activities of the Academy;
  - the responsibility to chair the Academy should rotate every two years between the partner universities of EUTOPIA
- An ambitious development of the Academy would also require one person hired full time for coordination and general management purposes.

#### Funding and sustainability

- YLA has been developed as a pilot program, under the project EUTOPIA 2050 and will continue in project-mode under the EUTOPIA MORE Erasmus project. The development of Academy would however benefit from a longer-term horizon that would create more incentives for a sustainable development of the Academy.



- Financial sustainability is also a concern. YLA has so far benefited from a limited budget obtained through the Erasmus+ project EUTOPIA 2050. In the longer-run, the development of the Academy would greatly benefit from a multi-year commitment of the partner universities to guarantee sufficient resources. Additionally, the Academic should also investigate the possibility to raise external resources originating from competitive calls (such as the COST action at the European level).

### **Communication and visibility**

- A communication channel for all fellows should be created in order to encourage exchanges between all the fellows as unique group transversal to all the EUTOPIA partners.
- The Coordination team should provide the fellows with more updated information about EUTOPIA programmes and the different WP activities more regularly.
- A special information channel about all the EUTOPIA programmes should be created in order to encourage the fellows to participate more actively in all the Alliance's programmes.
- Information sessions and dedicated meetings for researchers and staff of each of the EUTOPIA partners should be organised by the Local Programme Managers in order to guarantee the visibility of the YLA within the alliance.

### **Implementation of the programme**

- The duration of programme should be extended from 2 to 3 years or the fellows should remain as honorary members of Academy or as alumni after their appointment so that they can completely fulfil their role of EUTOPIA ambassadors and act as academic leaders of the EUTOPIA Alliance:
  - The experience of the first YLA cohort and pilot case has revealed to-date that fellows can only start to fully enlarge their scientific network and act as EUTOPIA ambassadors after their first year in the Academy, that is why a two-year programme does not enable the fellows to attain their mission and the objectives of the Academy.
  - A longer programme or a YLA's alumni group could also allow the fellows to share their experience with the new cohorts, and to work as mentors of the new fellows. The YLA community could therefore be consolidated in this way.
- A more balanced representation of all areas of study in the YLA next cohorts awarded candidates could guarantee that all the fellows are able to attain the objectives of the academy regarding the development of new scientific collaborations and a scientific network across the EUTOPIA alliance.

### **Research and collaboration**

- The organisation of different workshops overlapping all disciplines would be useful to encourage research collaboration and scientific exchange between the fellows. Fellows from all the cohorts could be invited to these workshops.
- Thematic groups according to the fellows' research areas and interests within the Academy could be organised in order to encourage research collaboration between the fellows who have not found new scientific partners within EUTOPIA yet.

### **Ambassador role**

- The fellows' ambassador role should be more clearly defined and presented at the kick-off session as well as reminded during the duration of the programme so that the fellows can fully understand their mission and align their activities with the objectives of the Academy.

## 7 Appendix

### 7.1 YLA Governance in three levels

Table 9: YLA Governance and staff

Level	Name	Surname	University	Role
1	Arnaud	Lefranc	CYU	Academic Chair
	Flora	Koukiou	CYU	Steering Committee
	Sigridur	Beck	UL	Steering Committee
	Tjasa	Nabergoj	UL	Steering Committee
	Mohan	Balasubramanian	UoW	Steering Committee
	Enric	Vallduvi	UPF	Steering Committee
	Mieke	Gijsemans	VUB	Steering Committee
2	Sylvie	Niessen	CYU	YLA Coordination Team
	Agustin	Dei	CYU	YLA Coordination Team and Local Programme Manager
3	Henrik	Lindskog	GU	Local Programme Manager
	Tjasa	Nabergoj	UL	Local Programme Manager
	John	Burden	UoW	Local Programme Manager
	Eva	Martin	UPF	Local Programme Manager
	Angélique	Broux	VUB	Local Programme Manager

## 7.2 YLA first cohort kick-off session's programme



**Programme EUTOPIA YLA Kickoff meeting**  
Thursday and Friday 25 & 26 November 2021

EUTOPIA WEEK 22-26 NOVEMBER

Location	Start	End	Duration	Session	Outline	Presenters and moderators	Session organizers	Attendants
Thursday 25 November 2021  Ciutadella Campus, Mercè Rodoreda Building, Room 24.518 (Sala Polivalent)  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89245157143">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89245157143</a>	2:00 PM	2:10 PM	00:10	Welcome			CYU - UPF	Fellows + YLA committee
	2:10 PM	3:40 PM	01:30	<b>EUTOPIA and the Young Leaders Academy</b>	1. Overview of the Young Leaders Academy and presentation of the YLA steering committee; 2. Research activities of the Alliance; 3. Educational activities of the Alliance	1. Steering committee 2. Arnaud Lefranc Vice President CYU, co-lead of EUTOPIA Research Work Package 3. Jan Danckaert Vice Rector VUB, lead of EUTOPIA Education Work Package	CYU - UPF	Fellows + YLA Steering committee + Guest speakers
	3:40 PM	3:50 PM	00:10	Break				
	3:50 PM	4:50 PM	01:00	Meet the Fellows	3-4 min presentation by each fellow	Fellows		Fellows + YLA Steering committee
	4:50 PM	5:00 PM	00:10	Break				
	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	01:30	Introduction to academic leadership & training needs		Sigridur Beck, Head of the Grants and Innovation Office, UGOT & Magnus Akesson, Development Manager, UGOT	UGOT - VUB	Fellows + YLA Steering committee + Guest speakers
	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	02:00		Cocktail reception of the EUTOPIA alliance			
	8:30 PM	10:30 PM	02:00		Dinner at Agua			
Friday 26 November 2021  Ciutadella Campus, Mercè Rodoreda Building, Room 24.518 (Sala Polivalent)  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83983044878">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83983044878</a>	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	01:00	<b>The EUTOPIA Alliance in depth</b>	1. Eutopia Connected Learning Communities 2. The future of the Alliance	1. Jo Angouri (UW) & Rosette S'Jegers (VUB) coordinators of EUTOPIA Connected Learning Communities 2. Luciana Radut-Gaghi Vice President EUTOPIA CYU, lead of EUTOPIA Sustainability Work Package	CYU - UPF	Fellows + YLA Steering committee + Guest speakers
	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	00:15	Break				
	10:15 AM	11:15 AM	01:00	Inspiring examples : interdisciplinary and engagement	Keynote presentations and discussion with the fellows	François Taddei INSERM senior research fellow and founding director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Paris & Xavier Serra Full Professor of the Dept. of Information and Communication Technologies	CYU - UPF	Fellows + YLA Steering committee + Guest Speakers
	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	00:15	Break				
	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	01:00	Interdisciplinarity and engagement sandpit	Discussion of Fellows interdisciplinary perspectives and engagement projects		CYU - UPF	Fellows + YLA Steering committee
	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	01:30	Fellows Business Lunch		Fellows		Fellows
	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	00:30	Closing and next steps	Next steps : Seminars; Symposium; Connected Research Communities and Learning Units	Steering committee + Fellows		Fellows

### 7.3 YLA first symposium programme



#### Symposium EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy Impact in Research: A European Perspective

30 June 2022 – 15:00 – 18:00

Building I, auditorium 2.03, Campus Etterbeek, VUB/Live-streaming

The Young Leaders Academy (YLA) of the EUTOPIA European University Alliance invites you to a symposium on impact in research. Together with excellence and implementation, impact is an important criterion in most European funding applications. However, a project's expected or aspired impact can vary from immediately tangible results to more abstract forms (e.g., critical thinking about society, enhancement of innovation capacity). With this symposium, we aim to reflect on different meanings and types of impact, ways of measuring impact, and the potential role of EUTOPIA in fostering impact in research.

To attend this session, in-person or online, kindly to register on the EUTOPIA Week website [here>>>](#). The online streaming can be accessed [here>>>](#).

#### Programme:

- 15:00-15:10 **Introduction**  
Jeroen Van Schependom, YLA fellow, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- 15:10-16:00 **Young Leaders Academy on Research Impact**  
Members of the Young Leaders Academy discuss how they perceive impact in research. They highlight several types of impact and discuss various challenges and opportunities.
- Presentation: Muriel Epstein, YLA fellow, Cergy Paris Université
  - Testimonials: Stefan Roesner, YLA fellow, University of Warwick; Helena Kraff, YLA fellow, University of Gothenburg; Lela Melon, YLA fellow, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
  - Q&A
- Moderator: Cleo Goyvaerts, YLA fellow, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

- 16:00-16:50 Europe's Vision on Research Impact**  
This session examines how impact is assessed in European funding schemes. The focus is on collaborative projects, individual grants and scientific networks.
- Angelica Marino, Policy Analyst DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
  - Angela Liberatore, Head of the Scientific Management Department, European Research Council (ERC)
  - Monica Dietl, Research Director, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
  - Q&A
- Moderator: David Beckwée, VUB YLA fellow
- 16:55-17:10 Break**
- 17:10-18:00 Roundtable: What can EUTOPIA do to enhance impact in research?**  
Members of the EUTOPIA European University Alliance debate how EUTOPIA can help to increase or facilitate impact in research.
- Karin Vanderkerken, Vice-Rector Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
  - Arnaud Lefranc, Programme director of the EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy, Cergy Paris Université
  - Wendy Coy, Director of Operations, Innovation Group, University of Warwick
  - Camilla Pettersson, Innovation Advisor, Grants and Innovation Office, University of Gothenburg
  - Anna Dragoš, YLA fellow, University of Ljubljana
  - Q&A
- Moderator: Birgit Van Puymbroeck, YLA fellow, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- 18:00-18:10 Concluding remarks**  
Jeroen Van Schependom, YLA fellow, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

## 7.4 YLA activity programme during EUTOPIA WEEK at UL

### Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022:

- YLA Dinner, @19:30, [Gostilnica 5-6kg](#), Eipprova ulica 17, 1000 Ljubljana

### Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022

- Leadership Training 3

([Grand Hotel Union](#), Miklošičeva 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Room 4, 9:00-17:30)

### Thursday, November 24th, 2022:

- Leadership Training 3

([Grand Hotel Union](#), Miklošičeva 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Room 4, 9:00-13:00)

- **YLA Fellows' Workshop on Sustainable Work-Life Balance in Academia**

([Grand Hotel Union](#), Miklošičeva 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Room 4, 15:30-18:00)

### YLA Fellows' Workshop Description:

Sustainable work-life balance is increasingly pointed out as an important modern-day challenge across all labour sectors, and academia is no exception. This event, organised within the EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy activities, interrogates the idea of academic work-life balance with a special emphasis on its relationship to sustainability. The interactive activity consists of two parts. Two invited experts will first contextualize the issue within the latest empirical and theoretical findings, and provide their own insights. A round table will follow, inviting the speakers to engage with practice-based reflections on work-life balance, shared by YLA members from different disciplines.

### Programme:

#### Invited Lectures:

15:30-16:00 Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc, PhD, SRC SASA: **Different perceptions of gender equality in time of *projectariat***

16:00-16:30 Andreja Gomboc, PhD, University of Nova Gorica: **Work-Life Balance - Mission Impossible?**

Moderators: Nejc Bezak and Jaka Cepec

16:45-18:00 Round table: **Sustainable Work-Life Balance in Academia: Practical Perspectives**

Speakers: Andreja Gomboc, Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc, and YLA Fellows: Lela Mélon, Birgit Van Puymbroeck, Suhao Wang

Moderators: Anna Dragoš and Natalija Majsova

**Speakers' Bios:**

**Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc** is a political scientist dealing with political issues from perspective of culture studies. Her primary research field is the politics of the past and public memory of the crimes which happened during the dissolution of Yugoslavia and during the Second World War. She is especially focused on the impact of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on the post-Yugoslav states, as well as the reproduction of the historical narratives in the school textbooks. Another line of her work deals with issues of gender equality in academia, position of women scientists from socialism until today and integrating gender dimension into research. She is a member of the Commission for Equal Opportunity in Science, a consultative expert body nominated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia.

**Andreja Gomboc** is a Professor of Astronomy at the University of Nova Gorica. She previously worked at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and at the Astrophysics Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, UK. Her main fields of research are tidal disruption of stars in vicinity of massive black holes, gamma ray bursts, electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational wave events, and relativistic navigation satellite systems. She teaches astronomy courses at undergraduate and graduate levels. She is also the editor in charge of the Portal v vesolje, president of the Slovenian national competition in astronomy, and president of the IAU National Committee of Astronomy of Slovenia. Since 2018, she has been the president of the Slovenian Commission for Equal Opportunities in Science and since 2019 president of the Council for Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia.

**Lela Mélon** is an associate professor at ESCI-UPF (Barcelona). Mélon is a former Marie Curie Research Fellow with a legal and economics background. She is currently executive director of the Planetary Wellbeing Institutional Framework at UPF and teaches Sustainability in Business Law at ESCI-UPF. She specialises in EU law, with a focus on corporate conduct and sustainability, and is currently researching policy coherence for sustainability at EU level, with particular interest in corporate law policies. Besides being active in the academic field, she created and implemented a three-step systemic approach towards sustainability, which entailed the insertion of separate sustainable corporate law courses in academic curricula and a simultaneous sustainable revision of the existing and well-established academic curricula in economics and law. She is currently the executive director of the Planetary Wellbeing Institutional Framework at Pompeu Fabra University and a professor of Sustainability in Business Law at ESCI-UPF.

**Birgit Van Puymbroeck** is assistant professor in Literature in English and Research Methodology at VUB (tenure-track). She received her PhD in Literary Studies from Ghent University in 2012. She has held postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University, funded by the Belgian American Educational Foundation (2013-2014), and at Ghent University, funded by the special research fund (2013-2015) and the Research Foundation – Flanders (2015-2018; 2018-2021). Van Puymbroeck works on various aspects of late nineteenth- and twentieth-century Anglophone and Francophone literature and culture. Her expertise includes modernism, network theory, transnational relations, periodical studies, print culture, radio studies and sound studies. She is affiliated with the Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings (CLIC) at VUB. She is the co-founder of the 20cc research group at Ghent University and a member of the interdisciplinary 'Writing 1900' network.

**Suhao Wang, PhD** has been a principal investigator at LPPI of CY Cergy Paris Université since 2020. He is currently leading the research of designing conjugated polymers for thermoelectric green energy conversion. During the past decade, his research activities have been cross-disciplinary, spanning polymer chemistry, solid-state physics, organic electronics, organic energy materials, etc. In 2019, he was selected by Synthetic Metals as an “early career research leader” and was invited to contribute a

review paper on the role of short-range order in conjugated polymers. Up to date, he has gained extensive experience in conjugated polymers and published 28 papers on highly ranked peer-reviewed journals, such as PNAS, JACS, Advanced Materials, Chemistry of Materials, etc. According to Web of Science, Dr. Wang's papers have been cited >1600 times, with an H-index of 19 (average citations per item > 50).

Organizing team: Haris Agović, Nejc Bezak, Jaka Cepec, Anna Dragoš, Natalija Majsova, Tjaša Nabergoj, Lori Šramel Čebular