



Report on WP3.3: Integrating and opening research, innovation and knowledge creation in EUTOPIA: **The promotion of innovation**

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Summary

The Eutopia partners have developed a pilot Innovation mobility programme, targeting innovative researchers, students and staff. We have implemented it in two streams:

Stream A: The innovation mobility programme for researchers and students is a short-term mobility program pilot (4-day individualised visit organising meetings with potential industrial partners) was aiming at allowing promising students, student start-ups and innovators to reach new regional markets. The aim of the mobility was to give them opportunities to present their ideas to external actors and get useful feedback and contacts for developing them further and/or knowledge transfer.

Stream B: The innovation staff mobility was aiming at motivated innovation support staff, delivering support to researchers and students. The aim of the mobility was to create the network of Eutopia IKTT (Innovation, Knowledge and Technology transfer staff) exchange good practices and to promote the sharing of their knowledge and experiences.

In order to achieve the biggest impact of the mobility pilot, we chose to focus on the highly motivated researchers, students and staff already involved in the innovation processes and schemes of Eutopia partners. The pandemic situation did affect strongly on our plans; we were able to ensure safe-to-travel mobility between November 2021 and November 2022, but during a lot of that time hesitation towards planning trips abroad existed due to both the risk of another Covid wave and the war in Ukraine. Still, during this period, 69 out of planned 72 mobilities were implemented. 34 mobilities were implemented by researchers and students and 35 mobilities by innovation staff.

The results show both streams of the pilot mobility programme were successful in the majority of Eutopia universities. VUB, UL, UGOT and UPF were successful in implementing both streams and UoW and CY tested the stream B (Innovation staff mobility). The difficulties in implementing stream A can be attributed to the pandemic, to the war, to difference in innovation support environment and to the relatively small budget for the mobilities – especially for these two countries.

Nevertheless, the results are good: Many **researchers and students** involved in the innovation mobility programme have had the opportunity to meet with relevant stakeholders. Some mobilities resulted in development of very concrete business ideas and possible cooperation, others resulted in potential future research collaborations. In general the mobility created an opportunity to meet peers and create in person encounters that otherwise would probably not have occurred. Researchers stated that these in person encounters have created a positive effect on their current research status and that they will probably benefit from this on the short and long period.

The mobility of innovation staff resulted in the creation of the Eutopia innovation support network, building trust, exchanging information, experiences, advice and connections. The mobilities and knowledge that derived from them, have allowed the Eutopia universities to evaluate their internal innovation processes in order to become more efficient. We've got inspirations and concrete activities to experiment with. We've built relationships between participants with the wish to continue an active exchange about various topics in the future (GLENN Innovation focus group lead by UGOT, MIRO board, MS Teams channel – innovation staff mobility).

0. Introduction

The Eutopia partners have developed a pilot for EUTOPIA's Promotion of Innovation, which was delivered through two main activities:

- National Startup, Innovation, Proof of Concept Competitions and schemes as qualifiers and the Eutopia Mobility Programme (for students, researchers and staff),
- Innovation Support Network and Mentoring of staff.

We've strongly cooperated with WP7.2.3 in the promotion of research and potential innovation through the Science fairs.

The present report covers the deliverables:

WP3.3.1.1	Deliverable 21	Impact indicators 17, 22, 34, 36, 50	Start-up and Innovation Competition and Mobility Programme: Start-up competitions
WP3.3.1.3	Deliverable 78, 96, 128, 129, 214	Impact indicators 17, 22, 34, 50	Start-up and Innovation Competition and Mobility Programme: A report on mobility visits to identify good practice and capture details of learning.
WP3.3.2.1	Deliverable 211	Impact indicators 17, 34, 50	Eutopia Innovation Support Network and Mentoring Programme: Study visits
WP3.3.2.2	Deliverable 224	Impact indicators 17, 18, 34	Eutopia Innovation Support Network and Mentoring Programme: A best practice report

1. Start-up & Innovation Competition and Mobility Programme (SWP 3.3.1.)

Eutopia universities are strongly involved with our regional innovation ecosystem. This helps us to promote research impact, still, individual innovation efforts remain largely disconnected from the larger ecosystem. Innovation, developed in one university, therefore need to be seen in a wider environment.

1.1. Start-up & Innovation Competitions (SWP 3.3.1.1.)

Various competitions and idea selection processes are annually organised in countries of Eutopia partners. We've prepared an overview of annual national events, related to innovation, start-ups, meetings between researchers and companies/investors.

But due to financial rules of the Eutopia project (Erasmus) we've decided to focus on competitions, organised or co-organised by the Eutopia partners and targeting the Eutopia students, researchers and staff. We've used these existing events and competitions as a tool to identify relevant innovative researchers, students, student start-ups to offer them the possibility of innovation mobility, as they have already started to formulate their idea, have a hypothesis for a value proposition, and a notion of what actors might be relevant to meet, and therefore they would reasonably benefit the most from an innovation mobility-

List of Start-up, POC, Innovation competitions and innovation support offering of Eutopia universities

Eutopia universities organise various competitions and POC calls for proposals. The aim and results of these activities are researchers with innovative research/ideas, more or less ready to be taken up by the industrial partners. Below is the list of such activities.

Table 1: List of events, competitions, schemes, related to innovation support at Eutopia universities

Title of the event/competition & web page	Target groups	Country and organiser	Sectors
Rector's award for best innovation www.uni-lj.si	Researchers, students with innovative ideas	Slovenia. University of Ljubljana	All sectors
Innovation fund of the UL https://ppz.uni-lj.si/en/ul-innovation-fund/	Researchers	Slovenia. University of Ljubljana	All sectors

Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research (ICURe) https://warwick.ac.uk/services/ventures/midlandsicure	Early career researchers – postdocs	United Kingdom. Warwick provides the Midlands ICURe scheme	All sectors
Venture Cup. https://www.venturecup.se/en/	Researchers or entrepreneurs with early-stage business ideas.	Sweden. University of Gothenburg is one of the co-organisers.	All sectors
Verification for Implementation “VFT” https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/forskningsochinnovationskontoret/innovation/vft/?languageId=100001	PoC scheme for researchers or students with early-stage ideas for value creation	Sweden. Vinnova, through the University of Gothenburg	All sectors
Knowledge-Based Entrepreneurship https://www.gu.se/en/study-gothenburg/master-of-science-in-knowledge-based-entrepreneurship-s2ken	MSc programme in entrepreneurship including practical idea development	Sweden. University of Gothenburg	All sectors
UPF INNOValora https://www.upf.edu/web/innovacio/upf-innovalora	UPF researchers	Spain. University Pompeu Fabra	All sectors
EXPLORER - Jóvenes con ideas https://en.explorerbyx.org/	Students / alumni aged 18-31	Spain. Santander Universidades - Universitat Pompeu Fabra	All sectors
CY Cergy Paris Université’s Open Innovation Labs	Students / researchers	France, CY Cergy Paris	Add sectors
CIREX, https://www.cyu.fr/innover-et-valoriser	Researchers	France, CY	All sectors
Business developers’ Network	Researchers	Belgium, VUB	All sectors
Industrial Research Fund for Proof of Concept projects	Researchers	Belgium, VUB	All sectors
Innoviris - Nieuwe editie Prijs voor Beste Scriptie in Circulaire Economie https://research-funding.vub.be/projects/innoviris-nieuwe-editie-prijs-voor-beste-scriptie-circulaire-economie	Students and researchers	Belgium, VUB, Brussels, Innoviris	All sectors
POC call	Researchers	Belgium, VUB	All sectors
Innovatie mandaten	Researchers	Belgium, Vlaio	All sectors
VUB funding opportunity to accelerate the development of the Eutopia Connected Research Community https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/opportunities/research/vub-funding-opportunity-to-accelerate-the-development-of-the-eutopia-connected-research-community	Researchers	Belgium, FWO	All sectors

For the purpose of identifying the innovative researchers and students, we've look into the above listed events/competitions.

Table 2: Implementation of Start-up and Innovation Competitions (Impact indicator 36)

	UGOT	VUB	CYU	UL	UPF	OuW
Implementation of Start-up and Innovation Competition or relevant competitions/events (POC, grants for start-ups):	VFT Programme-open. KBE programme 1 annually.	2x2 calls/ annually	8 in total	2/annually 6 in total	2/annually 6 in total	Open: Warwick Impact Fund Warwick Venture POC

Among the researchers and students, who participated in the events, competitions, we've invited the most motivated ones to use the opportunity for innovation mobility.

Table 3: Numbers of engagement in competitions (Impact indicator 22)

	UGOT	VUB	CYU	UL	UPF	OuW	TOTAL
No. of engagement in competitions (researchers):	7	12	8	43	20	150	240
No. of engagement in competitions (students):	4	/	/	137	40	30	211
SUM	11	12	8	180	60	180	451

1.2. Innovation mobility program – the concept and process

The purpose:

Short-term mobility program, aiming at allowing promising student start-ups and innovators to reach new regional markets.

4-day individualised visit organising meetings with potential industrial partners.

We chose to focus on the researchers and students already involved in the innovation processes/projects of Eutopia partners, i.e. in our PoC programmes, Rector's award recipients, incubators or in the entrepreneurial masters programmes, as we thought that the threshold for non-initiated researchers and students would be too high for the short time frame.

The goal:

Meetings with potential industrial partners, clients and other relevant stakeholders. Development of the research – potential innovation and bring it closer to the market.

Target group:

Winners of competitions of Innovation awards / POC recipients or similar schemes of the Eutopia partners.

The process:

Activity	Aim of the activity	Document	Responsible
Preliminary interview with the researcher	prepare an overview of needs and goals of the researcher/student (potential business applications, potential clients, potential sectors).	Innovation mobility interview template.	“Origin” Eutopia UNI
Preparation of the draft mobility program	Individualised mobility programme prepared in cooperation with the researcher/student and with info from the Eutopia partners (industrial events, other networking event, propulsive sectors, info about the companies, if applicable. Jointly set the target of the mobility: e.g. participate at “the best” industrial networking event; meet 3 industrial partners – potential research partners, etc.	Innovation mobility plan template Propulsive sectors in Eutopia countries List of industrial and other relevant events	“Origin” Eutopia UNI Other Eutopia partners help the “origin” Eutopia UNI with info and advice on industrial events, fairs, other relevant events; with info about propulsive industrial sectors and if applicable, with info about relevant companies.
Preparation for the mobility	Prepare the researcher/student for the mobility programme. Review Value Proposition of technology, and assumptions made of the value to the industrial partner. Prepare questions to validate those assumptions. Practice how to ask such questions. Help prepare the promotional materials, pitching to the industrial partners, preparation of NDAs, ...	Trainings*/mentoring, offered to researchers/student by Eutopia members or other organisations *see Eutopia Train WP4 – Trainings & Trainings, offered to researchers/students by Eutopia partners	“Origin” Eutopia UNI
Implementation of the mobility	Researcher/student goes on the visit	/	Researcher/student
Final report	Researcher/student prepares the report about the mobility. What were the activities, whom did he/she meet, what are the results ...	Final report template	Researcher/student
Follow up	What are the steps taken after the visit – are there any joint projects, further cooperation talks ...		“Origin” Eutopia UNI

1.3. The results of the researchers’ and student innovation mobility

The mobility programme has been positively evaluated by all participants. In the case of researchers, it is a good chance to step out from the "comfort zone" to pitch to different audiences, in search for partners and commercialization opportunities. A more oriented and effective approach has been seen in those with more mature ideas, although it has been also used by those with less developed projects to explore options of development.

Table 6: Number of engagement in the innovation mobility scheme (Impact indicators 17 and 34)

	UGOT	VUB	UL	UPF	Sum
No. of engagement in Innovation mobility scheme of researchers	0	12	11	6	29
No. of engagement in Innovation mobility scheme of students	1	0	1	3	5
Total engagement	1	12	12	9	34

Innovation mobility opportunity has been taken up by the following researchers and students:

Table 4: List of researchers and students, participating at the innovation mobility programme

University and faculty	Name and surname	Field of research	Events/fairs/companies visited
UGOT, Economics and Law	D. C. Ruvini De Silva	Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Stoffen spektakel fabric fair
VUB, Faculty of engineering	Waldo Galle, prof. dr. ir. ach	Life cycle design and circularity	UK mission, Cleantech sector visits: Maxwell centre & Cavendish laboratory, Simon Braun, Bopro CST, Dees&Sommer, Homegrade, Sural.
VUB, faculty of science and bioengineering	Tan Lu	Intelligent Document Processing	visited Prof. Horacio Saggion who is the chair in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence and Head of the Large Scale Text Understanding Systems Lab in the TALN Group at the Department of Information and Communication Technologies, UPF.
VUB, Faculty of Physical education and physiotherapy	Koen De Brandt	Sport Psychology and Mental Support (SPMB)/Movement & Sport Science (MOSS)	1. Stellenbosch University(SUN), three Sport Science divisions (prof. dr. Heinrich Grobbelaer, prof. dr. Wilbur Kraak, dr. Shaundre Jacobs) i. Sport Science. ii. Movement Science & Exercise Therapy. iii. Institute for Sport & Exercise Medicine (ISEM; campus Capetown; Maaik Eken). MATIES Sport High Performance (student-athlete department; Sean Surmon, Grant Van Velden)c. Dpt. of Psychology (prof. dr. Lou-Marie Kruger).

			<p>2. Western Cape University (UWC)a.SRES, Dept Psychology and UWC Sport (Prof. Travill, Prof. Andrews).</p> <p>3. Stellenbosch Academy of Sport (SAS)a.Jose Cabral and Rob Benade. 4. Stellenbosch Football Club (SFC)a.Ruan Rust; Sinduso Dube; coaches. 5. Local social projects and high schools.Outreach programme WOW Western Cape on Wellness in Cloetesvilleb. AITSA! Aftercare Centrec.Kylemore High Schoold. Stellies Shake Out (trail running group)</p>
VUB, Faculty of Engineering	Seyed Hossein	Separation Science and Technologies	ZELLMECHANIK DRESDEN (Ascenion GmbH) , (Maikowski & Ninnemann) , (Noerr LLP) , (HHL Leipzig) ,(dresdenlexists), Biosaxony , MPI CBG, MBG Sachsen , DyNaBIND
VUB, Faculty of Physical education and physiotherapy	David Beckwee	Rehabilitation Research group	Medica Fair Kuka innovation award Achilles Design (Carl Jans) COSIMED (Lennart Stabenow) U&O (Andrea Santi) Bionic Power
VUB, Faculty of engineering (Brubotics)	Joost Geeroms	Wearable robotics (from design to evaluation)	ExoBerlin: Agade, Unhindr, Auxsys, Leavo, Innophys, Japet
VUB, Faculty of engineering (Brubotics)	Vincent Ducastel	Investigation of wearable robotics devices (orthoses and prostheses)	ExoBerlin: Innophys, Agade, Japet, Tachnaid, German Bionics, Unhindr,
VUB, Physical Education and Physiotherapy (Brubotics)	Sander De Bock	Human movement Sciences and Wearable robotics	ExoBerlin: Innophys, Japet, Tachnaid, German Bionics, Unhindr,
VUB, faculty of science and bioengineering	Ante Ivcevic	Interdisciplinary: Physical Geography – Coastal Risk Management – Governance	Athens, MedProgramme Annual Stakeholder Meeting, integrated coastal zone management and climate change adaptation (2-3 November 2022)
VUB, faculty of science and bioengineering	Luiza Teixeira	Ecology and biodiversity	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris). A visit to London was also programmed but had to be cancelled by the company due to last-minute commitments. Still, I met with the company online and delivered a successful pitch.
VUB, Faculty of law	Johannes Thumfart	Applied Ethics, Legal Philosophy, Philosophy of Technology, Political Philosophy	Smart City expo world congres: Cisco Systems ,Deloitte, 5G Synergiewerke ,7 Places UG ,Alcatel Amazon Web Services, Bee Smart City
VUB, Faculty of Physical education and physiotherapy	Nelen Adriaensens	(p)rehabilitation of people living with and beyond cancer, with	Eutopia week sessions in Ljubljana The Oncologic Institute of Ljubljana (3 different experts: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in oncology, Clinical Nutrition in

		or without lymphedema	oncology and Onco-psychology/-psychiatry)
UPF	Jordi Mill Tena	Department of information and communication technologies	Liverpool heart and chest hospital
UPF	Aaron Fernández Sánchez	Economy and Business	Meat Dairy Frozen (MDF) Expo, Athens
UPF	Andy Luis Olivares Miyares	Department of Information and Communications Technologies	Rigshospitalet Hospital, Copenhagen
UPF	Carlota Albanell Sais	Law	5th Legal AI Summit, Berlin
UPF	Carla Altés Mas	International Business and Marketing	Maison&Objet fair, Paris
UPF	Sira Mogas	Medicine and Life Sciences	XVIII Congreso Nacional de Acuicultura, Cádiz
UPF	Anna Boronat	Medicine and Life Sciences	Mediterranean Diet and Health conference, Crete
UL, Faculty of pharmacy	Martina Hrast, researcher	Antibiotics	ESCMID/ASM Conference on Drug Development: Meet the challenge of antimicrobial resistance
UL, Faculty of pharmacy	Lucija Peterlin Mašič, researcher	Antibiotics	GRC – New Antibacterial Discovery and Development: Disruptive Antibiotics and Non-Antibiotic Therapies to Combat Drug-Resistant Bacterial Infections
UL, Faculty of pharmacy	Urban Košak, researcher	Animal health	BioFIT 2022 Fair.
UL, Faculty of electrical engineering	Tjaša Jereb, researcher Matej Rabzelj, PhD Student	Cybersecurity	Infosecurity Europe 2022
UL, Faculty of mechanical engineering	Luka Lorbek, researcher	HVAC- Refrigeration and District Energy	PCIM 2022
UL, Biotechnical faculty	Anja Klančnik, Neža Čadež, researchers	Food security technologies	Individual visit of a company in Slovenia. Visit of the Centre for Advanced Process Technology for Urban Resource recovery (Belgium)
UL, Faculty of mechanical engineering	Mojca Zupanc, researcher	Clean water technologies - cavitation	IFAT, Munchen
UL, Faculty of mechanical engineering	Damir Grguraš, researcher,	Manufacturing technologies	AMB fair

	Luka Sterle, researcher		
UL, Faculty of electrical engineering	Matej Reberšek, researcher	ICT in medicine, electroporation	4th World Congress on Electroporation 2022

Researchers and students involved in the innovation mobility programme have had the opportunity to meet with relevant stakeholders (companies, incubators, various organizations, also general public through expert lectures/presentations of innovation) from various sectors and to present their research projects, innovative technologies and solutions. Some of them have been able to talk on very concrete business ideas and possible cooperation, others have been able to establish possible research collaborations that might in the future result in a joint spinoffs and joint European Innovation Funding. Through conversations with the potential partners from industry, researchers / students received valuable feedback:

- Clear instructions what they need to improve, so that their innovation will be interesting for the companies.
- The importance of design and the difference in regional market anticipations.
- Information of competitive techniques and solutions, which helped them identify the added value of their own technologies/solutions.
- Widening the business networks of researchers/students, for future innovative projects.

Some of the researchers and PhD students also used other available platforms for presenting their research: In-part platform (<https://in-part.com/>), Innoget platform (<https://www.innoget.com/>). Companies from various continents approached the researchers for further information and received valuable feedback in the market potential in other regions, companies' needs.

The researchers and PhD students also participated in the Eutopia Science fair 2021 and Eutopia Science fair 2022 and in the Eutopia Science Slam in 2022.

In general this mobility created an opportunity to and enabled meeting peers and create in person encounters that otherwise probably would not have occurred. Researchers stated that these in person encounters have created a positive effect on their current research status and that they might benefit from this on the short and long period.

Table 5: Results of the mobilities (researchers, students)

Activity	UL	UGOT	UPF	VUB	TOTAL
Meetings with companies	69	10	36	43	158
Meetings with incubators	1	1			2
Meetings with other organisations	1	1		13	15
Innovation pitches to interested companies, incubators, organisations.	39	10	19	56	124
No. of presentations to expert public	2				2

No. of poster / innovation presentations for expert public	2				2
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1.4. Lessons learned

Due to short 'safe to plan travels' timeline it has been challenging to find the researchers and students who are willing to go. All universities faced the same challenge: more interested researchers and less actual mobilities (these issues were especially difficult for CY and UoW).

Through the Innovation staff mobilities we have learned the following:

- A great opportunity for those who took the chance to do the mobility.
- The power of a physical encounter cannot be underestimated. The physical meeting between individuals or groups proves to be an important accelerator for further collaboration.
- A financial incentive creates the push for researcher to take action and to encourage them to engage and initiate in collaborations.
- Comment from one student that went on the mobility: Students at the university seem to be split up in two main categories; category A focuses on studying, and category B focuses on extra-curricular activities. These types of mobility activities are more suitable/attractive for students in category B.
- In the future, using the results of this pilot and assuming we will have more time to dare to prepare for mobilities: it will be probably easier to motivate the researchers/students to take part in activities they are not used to.

2. Eutopia Innovation Support Network and Mentoring Programme (SWP 3.3.2.)

Innovation and knowledge & technology transfer offices (IKTT offices) of the Eutopia institutions each offer significant resources for supporting translational research, impact-driven research and innovation, through for example, project coaching, funding, and intellectual property management.

Working on different cases, IKTT offices face the challenge of finding the right partners, coaches, mentors, business developers, etc. for the researchers, PhD students, and students. In such cases, staff from IKTT office can consult other Eutopia IKTT office either in terms of good practice, experience sharing and advice, or opening doors to local innovation support organisations and even to companies.

Through the innovation staff mobilities performed within or in addition to Eutopia weeks, we have created a network of Eutopia IKTT staff (Innovation Support Network), who can now help and support each other, exchange good practices, and share their knowledge and experiences, in order to improve and excel the innovation support of the Eutopia alliance.

2.1. The list of innovation staff mobilities

Table 7: List of Eutopia innovation staff, participating at the innovation mobility programme

University and department	Name and surname	Event/University visited	The topics (good practices, experiences, trainings ... discussed)
UGOT	Camilla Pettersson	VUB-Eutopia week Brussels, innovation visits	Presentation of the processes and setup of the TTO. Good practice presentation: Business developers network. Meet the innovation staff and talk about common challenges.
UGOT	Camilla Pettersson	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR). Eutopia visit of the company Cosylab (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of cancer treatment, fusion energy and space technologies).
UGOT	Camilla Pettersson	Warwick visit to UGOT, May 2022	Discussions about differences and similarities in our setup of innovation (and impact) support, including visits to two science parks in the region.
UGOT	Tina Verolin	Warwick visit to UGOT, May 2022	Discussions about differences and similarities in our setup of innovation (and impact) support, including visits to two science parks in the region.
UGOT	Andrea Astalan	UGOT – innovation mobility with UoW and UL	Exchange of good practices, tools, routines and frameworks applied in our daily work. The utilization of humanities, social science and arts research.
UGOT	Marcial Franze	UGOT – innovation mobility with UoW and UL	Exchange of good practices, tools, routines and frameworks applied in our daily work.

			The utilization of humanities, social science and arts research.
UGOT	Cyril Stahl	UGOT – innovation mobility with UoW and UL	Exchange of good practices, tools, routines and frameworks applied in our daily work. The utilization of humanities, social science and arts research.
UGOT	Jonas Rimbäck	UGOT – innovation mobility with UoW and UL	Exchange of good practices, tools, routines and frameworks applied in our daily work. The utilization of humanities, social science and arts research.
UGOT	Gia Kourouklidou	CY visit to UGOT, Sept 2022	Differences in organisation of and collaboration between our respective grants and innovation support, teachers' exemption, internal funding for PoC.
UGOT	Tina Verolin	UPF - Innovation focus group	Establishing Innovation Focus group: activities, support, exchange of information, experiences and good practices.
UGOT	Tina Verolin	VUB-Eutopia week Brussels, innovation visits	Presentation of the processes and setup of the TTO. Good practice presentation: Business developers network. Meet the innovation staff and talk about common challenges.
UGOT	Tina Verolin	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR). Eutopia visit of the company Cosylab (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of cancer treatment, fusion energy and space technologies).
UGOT	Tina Verolin	UPF – Innovation staff week	Research & Innovation Staff week – Research support. Technology development, knowledge valorisation, innovation support.
VUB	Tuur Roels	UPF – Innovation staff week	Research & Innovation Staff week – Research support. Technology development, knowledge valorisation, innovation support.
VUB	Tuur Roels	VUB-Eutopia week Brussels, innovation visits	Good practice presentation: Business developers network
VUB	Tuur Roels	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR).
UL, Knowledge Transfer Office	Nadja Viharev	UPF – Innovation staff week	Research & Innovation Staff week – Research support. Technology development, knowledge valorisation, innovation support.
UL, Knowledge Transfer Office	Simona Rataj	UPF – Innovation staff week and UPF - Innovation focus group	Research & Innovation Staff week – Research support. Technology development, knowledge valorisation, innovation support. Establishing Innovation Focus group: activities, support, exchange of information, experiences and good practices.
UL, Knowledge Transfer Office	Peter Alešnik	UGOT – innovation mobility with UoW and UGOT	Exchange of good practices, tools, routines and frameworks applied in our daily work. The utilization of humanities, social science and arts research.
UL, Knowledge	Simona Rataj	VUB-Eutopia week Brussels, innovation visits	Good practice presentation: Business developers network

Transfer Office			
UL, Knowledge Transfer Office	Andrej Černetič	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR). Eutopia visit of the company Cosylab (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of cancer treatment, fusion energy and space technologies).
UL, Knowledge Transfer Office	Peter Alešnik	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR).
UL, Knowledge Transfer Office	Simona Rataj	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR). Eutopia visit of the company Cosylab (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of cancer treatment, fusion energy and space technologies).
UPF	Ana Sagardoy	VUB-Eutopia week Brussels, innovation visits	Good practice presentation: Business developers network
UPF	Ana Sagardoy	UPF - Innovation focus group	Establishing Innovation Focus group: activities, support, exchange of information, experiences and good practices.
UPF	Eva Martin	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visit of the company Cosylab (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of cancer treatment, fusion energy and space technologies).
UoW	Hattie Hine	VUB-Eutopia week Brussels, innovation visits	Good practice presentation: Business developers network
UoW	Wendy Coy	VUB-Eutopia week Brussels, innovation visits	Good practice presentation: Business developers network
UoW	Hattie Hine	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR).
UoW	Wendy Coy	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR). Eutopia visit of the company Cosylab (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of cancer treatment, fusion energy and space technologies).
UoW	Matt Rogers-Draycott	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visits the Ljubljana technology park (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of digital, VR and AR).
UoW	Sam Cole	UL-Eutopia week Ljubljana, innovation visits	Eutopia visit of the company Cosylab (establishing contacts for potential project cooperation in the fields of cancer treatment, fusion energy and space technologies).
UoW	Emma Roberts	UGOT – innovation mobility with UL and UGOT	The utilization of humanities, social science and arts research

UoW	Carolyn Silvester	UGOT – innovation mobility with UL and UGOT	The utilization of humanities, social science and arts research
CY	Pierre Viste	CY visit to UGOT, September 2022	Differences in organisation and collaboration between our respective innovation support and researchers

2.2. The results

Even though the pandemic limited the mobilities to the period between November 2021 and November 2022, we managed to implement 35 innovation staff mobilities. Personal contacts allowed us to form personal connections, to start building trust, and offer each other exchange of information, experience, and support.

Table 8: Number of engagement in the innovation staff mobility scheme (Impact indicators 17 and 34)

	UGOT	VUB	CYU	UL	UPF	OuW	TOTAL
No. of engagement in Innovation mobility scheme of staff	13	3	1	7	3	8	35

Meeting colleagues from different backgrounds and cultures were enriching experiences. We had the opportunity to share case studies and to discover various innovation support structures, tools, templates, routines, frameworks and good practices used in our daily work (**VUB's** Business developers network, **Warwick's** Impact office, impact case study database and policy engagement opportunities, **UGOT's** Innovation Journey, Impact Planning Canvas, and Idea/Innovation Readiness Levels, **UL's** experiences with the international incubators and Commercialization Reactor, the market opportunity navigator tool – Where to Play, and the source of evidence-based spin-out company Fast Track Impact, etc.). We've piloted joint Eutopia visits of science parks and innovative companies – promoting the Eutopia alliance and Eutopia universities for future research cooperations. We've discussed the differences between national contexts (differences in the Intellectual Property ownership – professor's privilege in Sweden vs. other countries, different approaches in utilisation of Humanities and Social sciences, differences between national frameworks around impact agendas and a national level as well for the specific universities). We touched on the differences between impact and innovation in regards to our Innovation office function vs. TTOs. Experience has been shared regarding the, that supports researchers who want to generate impact from their research.

The best practice analyses and tools, routines presentations allowed the Eutopia universities to evaluate internal innovation processes in order to become more relevant, efficient and impactful. We have gained inspirations and concrete activities to experiment with. We have built relationships between participants with the wish to continue an active exchange about various topics in the future (GLENN Innovation focus group lead by UGOT, MIRO board to structure and co-develop further exchanges, MS Teams channel – innovation staff mobility).

2.2. Lessons learned

Through the Innovation staff mobilities we have learned the following:

- In order to promote the innovation cooperation/mobility of the Eutopia researchers in our different innovation ecosystems, we first needed to visit the other Eutopia universities, get to know our respective ecosystems and organisations. And foremost, we needed to build trust.
- Even short visits are useful – new people, new information, new interactions foster new inspiration and new ideas. They bring more than a face to a function . They bring an understanding of who your ‘most relevant peers’ are. The exchange and use of those connections overpowers the distance, it makes the online communication easier.
- The opportunity to discover and explore other internal structures, ways of working and best practices, allows for revision of our internal processes. These foster ”food for thought”, trigger us to question and evaluate internal processes and compare them to other institutions, with the purpose of create more effective (internal) processes. This is also an enabler (or even a prerequisite) for any alignment taking place on the back of the Train GLENN office and the cross-institution innovation strategy to actually happen.
- A successful mobility exchange requires a good mix between prepared presentations from all participants (for pedagogical understanding and comparisons) and open discussions (for finding common ground and development possibilities). Such format enables better understanding how different offices are set up, what kind of support structures exist and how to align other partners’ good practices to internal structure and offering.
- We’ve learned that future mobilities shall include the following steps and elements:
 - Mobility partners prepare a short presentation and offer of potential topics of cooperation before planning the schedule for a mobility exchange, to be able to include the relevant people in the mobility.
 - Gather feedback and identify potential mutual interests or specific areas of interest. Manage expectations.
 - Prepare the programme of the innovation mobility. Focus also on analysing failures and really good success stories of the Eutopia universities (e.g. how to better engage researchers and summarize good practices for engagement).
 - Present the knowledge valorisation tools Eutopia universities use (and together test specific tools after the mobility – e.g. Impact planning canvas, Where to play model, Impact knowledge from Warwick,...)
 - During the mobility, also include social activities (makes further connections and trust building easier).
 - A combination with study visits to other actors in the support system is good (e.g. Lindholmen Science Park Visual Arena in Gothenburg).

During the development of the pilot Innovation mobility programme, we have prepared and successfully submitted the additional project TRAIN (Transformation of Research and Innovation), aiming at developing additional pilot support actions and tools for research and innovation and a joint innovation strategy for the alliance.

We are also preparing a new project (EIT HEI) Initiative, which is aiming at further development of Eutopia entrepreneurship and innovaton support services and tools, deriving from good practices and new ideas, created during the last years.

Impact indicator 18: Number and type of Eutopia collaborative research bids generated via workshops and number of successful bids

Number and type of Eutopia collaborative research bids generated via workshops and number of successful bids

- Successful project: TRAIN project (Horizon 2020 programme)
- 1 project in the process of submitting (EIT HEI Initiative)

2.3. Future steps

We will continue to expand the Eutopia innovation support for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers in the translation of research for economic, societal or cultural benefit through

- Joint trainings for PhD candidates, for researchers, especially in the field of impact and cooperation between academia and industry.
- Supporting new collaborations between Eutopia researchers and with external, non-academic actors through Connected Research Communities.
- Exchange of experience and information on training, suitable mentors, business developers, international incubators, development partners (companies), potential investor funds.
- Mobilities of innovative researchers, students and staff
- Look into the possibility of co-financing of technological development projects resulting from Eutopia joint research projects