



Seed Funding, 2020 Call for Applications

Title: Knowledge hub to promote the transition towards resilient cities and communities

Abstract

Extreme events caused by climate change have progressively increased in frequency and severity strongly affecting our cities and regions. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated that our communities are not resilient: the economic and social systems struggle in mitigating the effects of lockdowns. Thus, a crisp change would be required in all sectors to build a resilient society and economy able to tackle pandemic and climate change threats. among others: economics, energy, social relationship, preservation of biodiversity, buildings, mobility, sustainable production and consumption cycle. This revolutionary change needs a cultural revolution, grounded on strong, shared, and inclusive education system.

In this framework, the project aims at making a survey on the existing education activities within the Universities of the UNA Europa network that apply to resilience, climate change and circular economy related concepts and approaches.

A selection of existing initiatives could be used to seed a new UNA Europa multidisciplinary knowledge hub on resilient communities. Specifically, University of Bologna are running a number of MSc programs labelled by EIT Climate-KIC. These MSc have a common methodological root: learning by doing, multi-disciplinary approach, strong focus on open innovation and entrepreneurship.

The main goal of the proposal is therefore to design a knowledge hub within UNA Europa to support the transition to resilient communities.

Expected outcomes

- 1) Survey on the existing education activities in the Universities of UNA Europa Network applying sustainability, resilience, climate change and circular economy approaches.
- 2) Selection of required learning agreements required for a joint education program.
- 3) Design of a specific joint education program (MOOC, summer school, PhD)
- 4) Creation of a platform (or network) to support students in the preparation and foundation of Start-Ups/Spin-Offs considering in particular the following topics resilience, climate change, sustainability and circular economy.

These outcomes will be a base to set-up a fund-raising leading to the realization of new education activities, starting from 2022. Potential source of funding can be found either at local or national level or proposing a program to EU Green Deal calls.

Potential partners

The consortium partner of eCircular, the EIT Flagship on circular economy, are planning to submit a proposal to EU Green Deal calls. Strong synergies can be found between this partners and UNA Europa network, with the common goal of knowledge hub for resilience.