

# 1 The CUSU Position Paper on the current 2 Strategy and Proposal for Circle U

## 3 Inclusive and Accessible Activities for our Students

4 The Circle U Student Union (CUSU) want the second proposal of Circle U to focus on activities that will  
5 include as many students and learners as possible. We recognize that Circle Us activities must include  
6 physical mobility as well as other internationalization offers.

## 7 The Circle U Open Online Academy

8 We recommend that the The Circle U Open School choose a more focused approach to keep the concept  
9 more stable. We suggest that we call it the Circle U. (Open) Online Academy to reflect the level of  
10 qualifications and types of activities it will encompass. We envision it having two legs, the output section  
11 where activities are published and accessed, and the back-office section which will be the management  
12 part and where templates and best practices are shared for the development of activities.

13 We propose that the activities offered include digital courses that can both be embedded in the study  
14 regulations, but also be followed by students or learners 'that just want to learn'. To ensure room for both  
15 types of learners there should be allocated a number of seats that are reserved for 'curious learners'.

16 The Circle U Open Online Academy should be a public database of open lectures, they could be named  
17 Circle U Conversations. We also suggest that Circle U has an aim that every member university provides 5  
18 digital courses, 2 of which aimed towards the bachelor level, 2 are aimed at the master's level and 1  
19 towards the PhD level. We suggest they start within the themes of the knowledge hubs.

20 The Circle U Open Online Academy could also provide language courses where the participants will receive  
21 certificates for participation.

22 All activities from the Circle U Open Online Academy should be credited and compatible with the Europass.

23 Besides the activities the Circle U Open Online Academy would be a good online portal for the entry into  
24 Circle U, and there could be a meet the university section, where potential physical activities are described.

25 We hope that the Circle U Open Online Academy will be a flagship that will support existing Erasmus+  
26 agreements and summerschools.

## 27 In-CU-bator

28 CUSU applauds the initiative to give tools to students who wants to pursue independent projects. Although  
29 the In-CU-bator seems very promising, and that we know local similar offers are very popular, we do not  
30 see this as the most pressing initiative for Circle U. We see this as a singular offer for students. While that is  
31 applaudable it is not what CUSU sees as highest priority.

## 32 Knowledge Hubs

33 CUSU understand the Knowledge Hubs as the core of the alliance, and for now we see the original three  
34 hubs - democracy, global health and environment - as enough and very relevant. We do not think it is wise  
35 to dilute the concept of the Knowledge Hubs for the sake of administrative considerations.

36 On the note of Diversisty we acknowledge it as an important subject, but we see it as essential to all  
37 activities and should not be made to a separate subject. The other activities and Knowledge Hubs cannot  
38 work completely without taking diversity into considerations as well.

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## 40 Student Chairs

41 The inclusion of student is always applauded, but their roles should be clearly defined, and it should be  
42 described what resources are given to them.

43 We would like to see between 2-4 students chairs in each Knowledge Hub. Besides the positions in the  
44 Knowledge Hubs we would like to have Student Chairs included meaningfully in other activities in Circle U –  
45 Such as The Online Academy, the In-CU-bator and physical activities.

46 Furthermore we believe keeping the title of Student Chair matters, since the position caries the  
47 responsibility to represent their fellow students in the activities of Circle U and to co-create them.

48 In this regard we want the Student Chairs to have the agency to create initiatives in collaboration with the  
49 Knowledge Hubs and other elements of Circle U..

50 We think the appointment of the Student Chairs should be kept as open as possible, although we recognize  
51 that a relevant academic background can be required. Motivation and personal interest as well as  
52 competences should be considered.

## 53 Conclusion

54 Altogether we see the potential of the second proposal of Circle U. to implement further elements and  
55 offer to students and staff that will enable activities across our nine excellent universities in an inclusive  
56 matter. We would hopefully be creating initiatives that would be valuable to all our students, but also the  
57 public surrounding our universities with our Circle U Open Online Academy, as well with the bottom-up  
58 initiatives of the Student Chairs. Overall, we believe in an even more ambitious Circle U.

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