



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore

# NEAR (NEwly ARrived in a common home)

Work Package 6

Improving the experience of newly arrived university students.



# Working group



Leader:  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore



Partners involved:  
TAMAT  
AIDGLOBAL  
CARDET



4 poles: **Milan, Perugia, Nicosia and Lisbon**



# The project

Duration of the project: **24 months** (March 1st 2021 – February 28th 2023)

General objective:

to propose and test a model and a methodology **for fostering and facilitating the social orientation of migrant people** (adults and minors) in the initial period of arrival and settlement in the local communities.

Specific objective for WP 6:

to **facilitate access to the university's educational and extra curricular activities for international students**. The WP aims to promote opportunities for students to meet and to encourage their integration within local communities. The expected outcome of this WP is a stronger engagement in university and local life on the part of newly arrived university students.

Target group: **180 university students - 45 for each partner**

## Activities:

1. creation of an **on - campus map** of the services offered by the university to international students;
2. creation of an **off - campus map** of places of interest and meeting points for international students;
3. production of a **handbook**;
4. establishment of **networking and integration activities** among the students involved.

Università Cattolica will act through its Centre for International Solidarity, International Office and the Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation



## **June – September 2021**

### *Preliminary activities and identification of the target*

- set up of a working group to lead activities and support the project's partner (Università Cattolica);
  - building contact with the other universities involved (Tamat, AidGlobal and Cardet) - 1 university for each NGO;
  - identification of students - 45 for each;
- Università Cattolica will organize a meeting to present the NEAR project to international students and interest them in joining the project's activities.



## **October - December 2021**

### *On - campus Map*

The map will offer an overview of each university's services for international students.

- Università Cattolica will gather information from its services for the creation of the map.



## **December 2021 - February 2022**

### *Off campus - map*

The map will offer an overview of the places of interest and meeting points for international students (networking sites, cafés, musical and sporting groups, language courses, cultural options...)

- Università Cattolica will organize 3 focus groups with international students who, with the support of leaders and facilitators, will collect information (representatives of student associations and international student networks will also be invited to attend the meetings).



## **March - May 2022**

### *Production of a handbook*

With data collected in the previous activities a handbook will be created with the aim of facilitating access to basic information about practical matters and providing information about extra-curricular experiences.

- Università Cattolica will draft a template of the handbook.





## **June 2022 - February 2023**

*Implementation of networking and integration activities among students*

Students will be invited to participate in several meetings, events, workshops and sports activities promoted on and off campus. Moreover, they will have the chance to participate in a “treasure hunt”.

March 1st 2021 – February 28th 2023

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>WP6. University's strategies for the inclusion of students</b>																								
6.1. Identification of beneficiaries (students)					■	■	■																	
6.2. Creation of an on-campus map on the services offered by the university to international students								■	■	■														
6.3. Creation of an off-campus map of places of interest and gathering spaces for international students										■	■	■												
6.4. Production of a handbook													■	■	■									
6.5. Establishment of networking and integration activities among the students																■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

### **5 on line meetings**

with other partners/university: Università Cattolica will act as coordinator and supervisor of the activities to be carried out by other universities.

At each partner/University:

- **3 meetings** for the production of an on-campus map (data collection and design of the map);
- **1 meeting/open day** with international students to present the NEAR project and activities in which they may be involved;
- **3 focus groups** for the design of an off-campus map;
- **3 meetings** for the production of an handbook.

From each partner/university:

- **1 on - campus map;**
- **1 off - campus map;**
- **1 handbook.**

For all these items Università Cattolica will provide guidelines and models so that each partner will have a common framework to refer to.

## Enablers

Partnership among different centres and offices within the university: Centre for International Solidarity, International Office, Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation.

Cooperation with ISMU Foundation, the NEAR project leader and international NGOs. Exchange of ideas and open and transparent communication.

## Obstacles

Covid-19: difficult to plan intervention with students and establish student cohort in uncertain times.

Each partner NGO has its own challenges. UCSC is the only university in the consortium. Overcome by sharing models and tips on fact-gathering and research.

## Advice for future projects

When writing and planning the project, involve the people who will carry it out to ensure clarity and continuity. Be flexible!

- Laura Bossini
- Giovanni Brambilla
- Amanda Murphy
- Olivia Mair
- Ilaria Porta
- Léa Senn