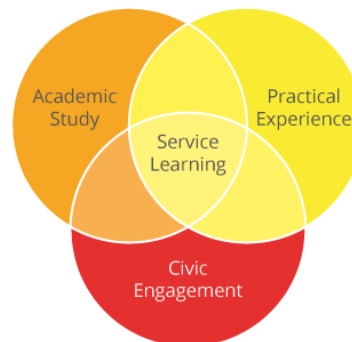


IHES Virtual Conference 2021

# “Service learning and volunteering”: University of Cyprus (UCY) Civic Engagement Activities under the YUFE project

9 DECEMBER 2021, 09.00-09.45



University  
of Cyprus

# YUFE Alliance:

An alliance of **10 universities** and **4 non educational partners**, created under the **European Universities initiative**, which aims at becoming a leading model of a **young, student-centred, non-elitist, open and inclusive European University**

- The partners:

*Maastricht University (Holland)*

*University of Antwerp (Belgium)*

*University of Bremen (Germany)*

*University Carlos III of Madrid (Spain)*

*University of Cyprus (Cyprus)*

*University of Essex (UK)*

*University of Rome “Tor Vergata” (Italy)*

*University of Rijeka (Croatia)*

*Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torún (Poland)*

## YUFE in Our Cities

An action of the **YUFE project**, under which **Civic Engagement activities** are developed in order to connect the **10 YUFE universities** with the **10 YUFE cities** in which they are located

*We want to .....connect **150.000 students and 25.000 faculty and staff members** with the **10 million citizens** living in the YUFE cities.....*

*With the .....**philosophy of ‘Giving and gaining’** .....*

In order to.....**build strong university-citizens communities** .....

# YUFE Civic Engagement Activities (CEA)

- YUFE Help Desks
- YUFE Community Volunteering Programme
- YUFE@Home



*Help Desk*



*Volunteering*



*@Home*

# YUFE Help Desk@ UCY – Help Desk in Entrepreneurship:

1 local student and 1 student from the YUFE Alliance are selected to work together in the YUFE Help Desk and are under the supervision of their UCY Academic Mentor to provide information about Entrepreneurship to the local citizens

## *Citizens ask and students reply*

**Stakeholders:** Students  
UCY Academic Mentor  
Activity Supervisor at UCY  
Municipality of Nicosia  
Citizens



# YUFE Community Volunteering at UCY

2 volunteering activities developed with the non Governmental Organization CARITAS Cyprus Migrant Centre, working with migrants and refugees in Nicosia

- **Online Survival English**
- **Volunteering in the CARITAS Migrant Services**

**Stakeholders:** Students, local and of the YUFE Alliance  
Mentor at NGO (external)  
Activity supervisor at UCY  
Municipality of Nicosia  
Citizens: Refugees, Migrants



# YUFE@Home at UCY

Students of the YUFE Alliance, taking advantage of the Erasmus physical mobility, **can get a room at the UCY Student Halls but need to engage in at least 20 hours of volunteering activity per month.**

This activity was developed at UCY with the Research Centre FOSS for the **saving of energy in the Student Halls**

 contributes to the effort to **support the environment and sustainability**



# YUFE Help Desk and Volunteering Activities

## Main Obstacles and Problems

- **Limited student interest** for participation
- Something **very new for the citizens (Help Desk)**
- Something **new for the migrants and asylum seekers**



## Solutions

- **Design and launch campaigns** to attract the students, both the local and from the Alliance
- **Inform the citizens better** with the help of the Municipality of Nicosia
- **Inform the migrants and asylum seekers better** with the help of CARITAS





# Why these are these activities important?

It is very important for societies to stay connected with the universities!

**10** YUFE Universities, **150.000** students, **25.000** faculty and staff members **and** **10** million citizens living in the **10** YUFE cities

## **We want to:**

- Develop global and active citizens
- Support the European identity
- Support social integration
- Fight xenophobia

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