aUPaEU

Key outcomes and synergies

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A pan-European initiative accelerating institutional transformation in HEIs through digital collaboration via the Agora platform.

aUPaEU Project Overview

Project: aUPaEU – A University Partnership for Acceleration of European Universities

Grant Agreement: 101095314

Topic: HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-51 - Acceleration Services in support of the institutional transformation of Higher Education Institutions

Duration: 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2027

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Context for this event:
Advancing the European Research Area (ERA) Together: A Focus on Institutional Transformation.

Key Connections

1. ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027
   Renewed focus on strengthening HEIs' roles in research, talent, and innovation

2. Institutional Transformation
   Modernizing HEIs to align with ERA's vision, integrating research and education.

3. Key Projects
   CATALISI, Accelerate Future HEI, and aUPaEU

4. INSPIRING ERA
   Bridging policy and practice to connect policymakers with universities for effective ERA implementation.

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Key Outcomes So Far

(Agora platform in action across HEIs)

- 12 Agoras developed for diverse university alliances
- Minimum Viable Solution (MVS) of Agora platform
- First version of Acceleration Services Portfolio (Golden Image)
- ~20 signed Agora User Agreements with HEIs
- Agora testing strategy
- Dissemination across major HE conferences and alliances
- Technical infrastructure and sustainability roadmap
- Conceptualisation of the open agora: Metagora

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Agora overview video

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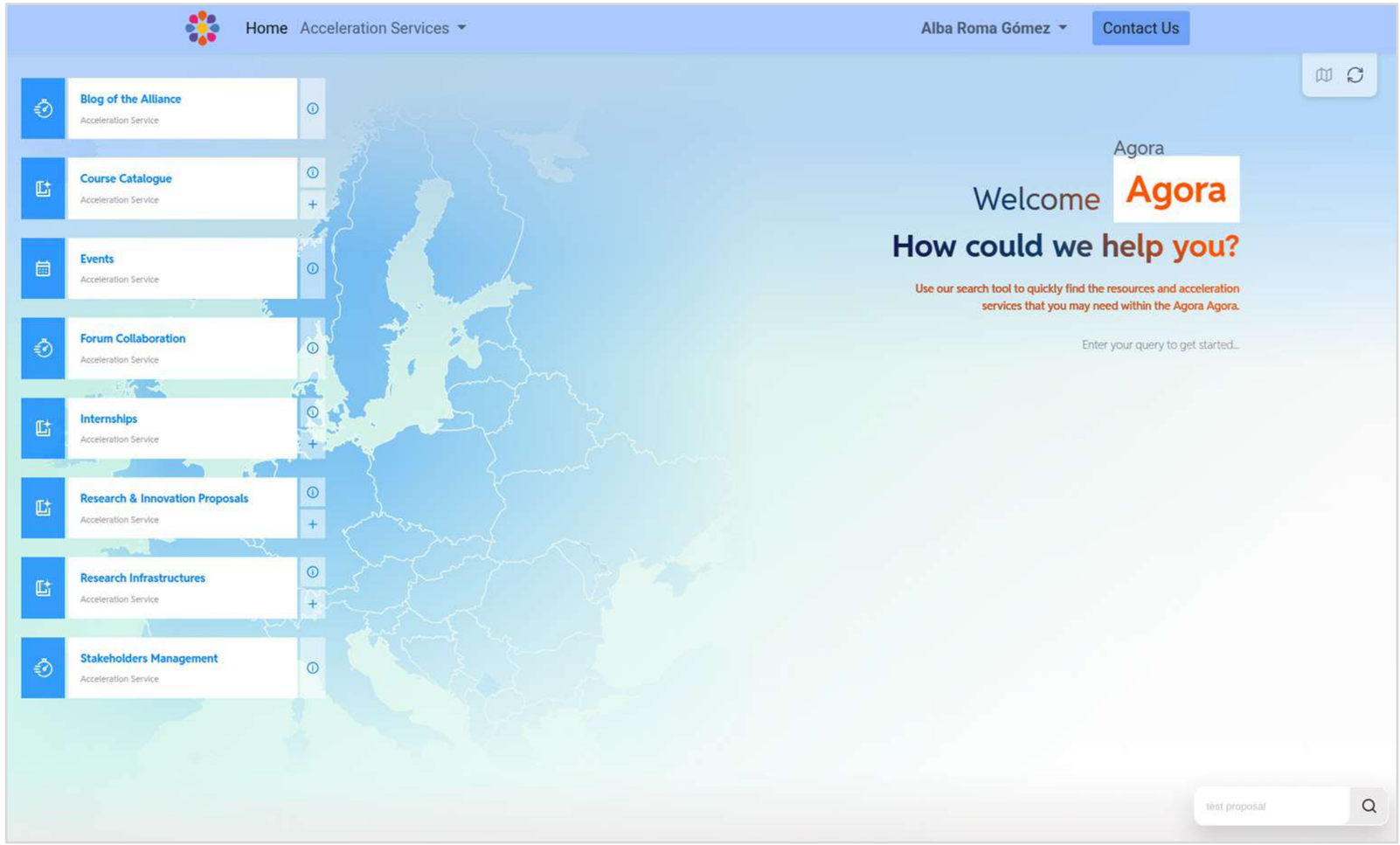
Minimum Viable Solution

Golden Image

- Research Infrastructures
- Course Catalogue
- Research & Innovation Proposals
- Internships
- Events
- Forum Collaboration
- Blog of the Alliance
- Stakeholders Management



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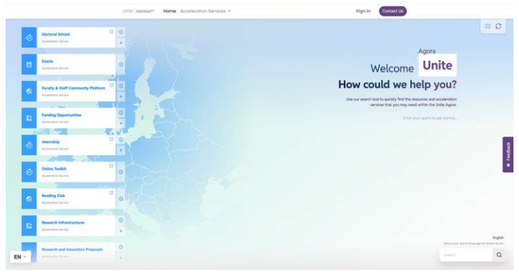
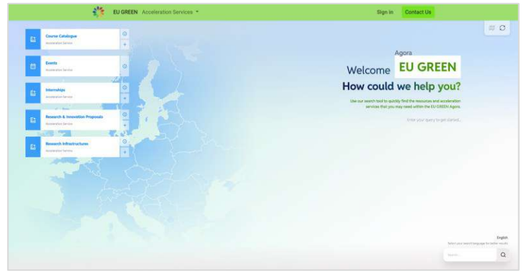
→ 12 Agoras developed for diverse university alliances



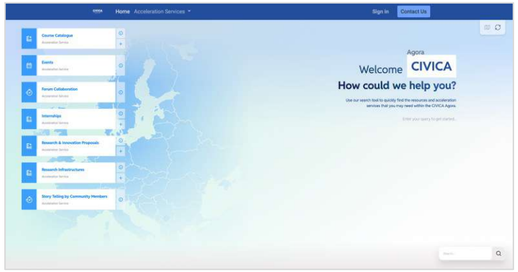
Unite! Agora

EPICUR Agora

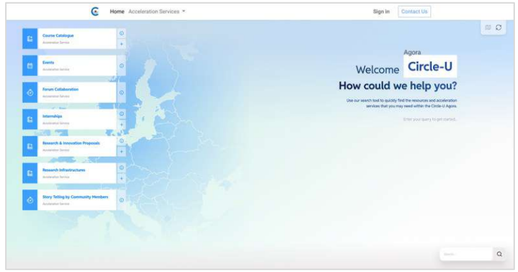
CIVIS Agora



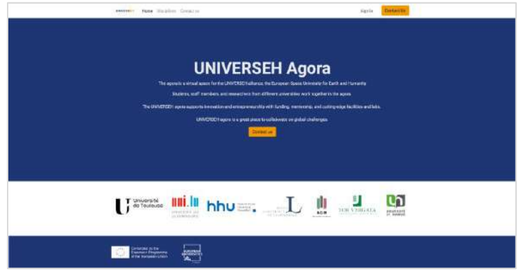
EU GREEN Agora



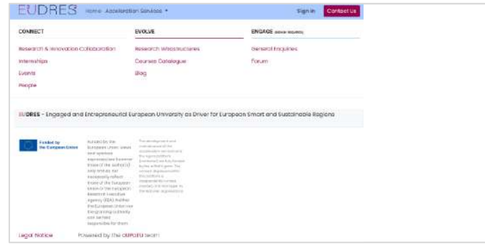
CIVICA Agora



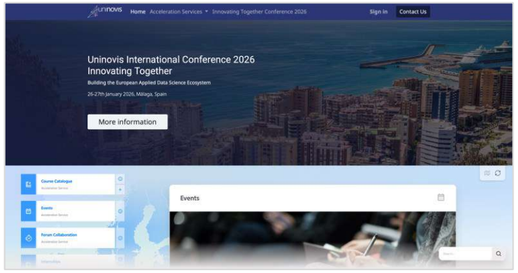
Circle-U Agora



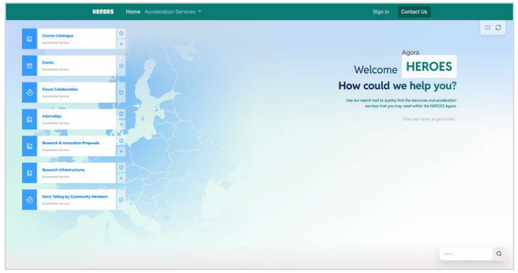
UNIVERSEH Agora



EUDRES Agora

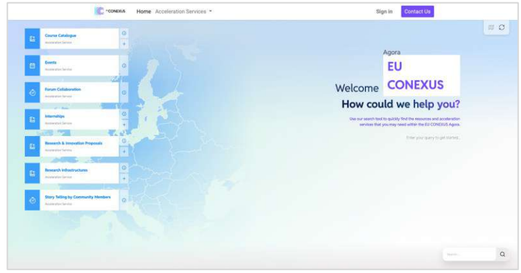


Uninovis Agora



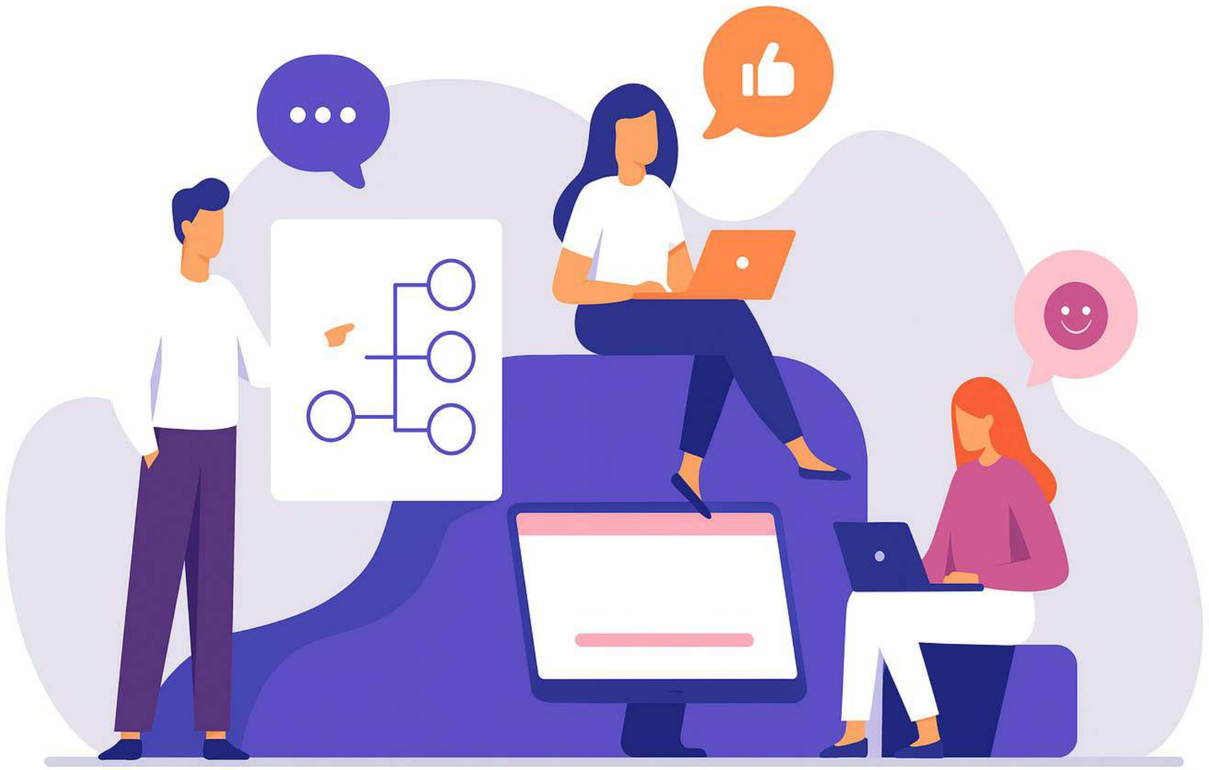
HEROES Agora

EUTOPIA Agora



EU CONEXUS Agora

Shared Digital Services as Enablers



- Agora Acceleration Services:
  - Knowledge & Resource Hub
  - Collaboration & Community Network
  - Learning & Capacity Building Hub
  - Engagement & Events Hub
  - Visibility & Impact Showcase
  - Communication & Outreach Tools
  - Monitoring & Intelligence Dashboard
- Bespoke, open-source, multilingual
- Promotes reuse, flexibility, and digital sovereignty

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CHALLENGE : Fragmented joint infrastructures

Problem	Evidence	Recommendations	Next steps
• **Fragmented** platforms and digital governance create **barriers**, combining internal limitations within HEIs and the **lack** of shared frameworks at European and national levels	• aUPaEU project revealed **gaps** in interoperability and shared mechanisms for collaboration across alliances and systems	• Develop **interoperable, user-friendly platforms** for better integration. • **Link existing platforms** with common access across alliances. • Improve **design**, raise **awareness**, and offer **user guidance**. • Ensure **sustainable resourcing** and institutional support.	• Move towards **co-designed, interoperable infrastructures** to enable scalable, sustainable transformation across HEIs and the broader European ecosystem.

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CHALLENGE: Limited monitoring and evaluation capacity

Problem	Evidence	Recommendations	Next steps

• **Limited** monitoring and evaluation capacity within HEIs. There is a **lack** of common indicators, benchmarks, or evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of transformation initiatives, making it hard to measure progress and impact consistently	• **Absence** of common indicators, benchmarks, or evaluation **frameworks**.
	• HEIs action plans' definition and KPIs identification occurred **late**
		• EU level
		  • Develop shared ERA **indicators** for HEI **transformation** and **valorisation**.
		  • Open M&E **dashboard** template for ERA-related institutional **transformation**.
		• HEIs/Alliances:
		  • Provide digital M&E **tools** and **training** for partners
		  • Adopt **harmonised** M&E **practices** and integrate **impact tracking** into institutional systems
			• Adopt an **open M&E dashboard template** to ensure data comparability and transparency, building digital monitoring capacity within HEIs for effective decision-making.

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Conclusions

➔ Interconnected Challenges with ERA Goals

HEIs face interconnected challenges that are crucial to advancing the broader goals of the European Research Area (ERA), aligning their **transformation** with ERA's long-term vision

➔ Agora Platform: A Collaborative Solution

The **Agora platform** is a scalable, collaborative tool designed to accelerate institutional transformation and ensure alignment with ERA priorities.

➔ Collaboration Between Policymakers and HEIs

Strong collaboration between **policymakers** and **HEIs** is key to reinforcing digital infrastructures, improving evaluation frameworks, and ensuring strategic alignment with ERA goals.

Next Steps

➔ Advocating for Policy Development

Policy development should be driven by shared insights and recommendations from collaborative projects to ensure effective institutional transformation.

➔ Ensuring Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

Sustainability and **long-term impact** in HEIs require continued transformation, collaboration, and alignment with European research and innovation ecosystems.

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