

MAGNA CHARTA OBSERVATORY

World Café Topic 2

European Universities and the creation of a truly European innovative ecosystem of post-industrial cities

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Focus:

Innovative forms of collaboration are emerging between universities, not only in terms of research, but also education and impact. The European Union's initiative around European Universities is one example of this. The core focus of this world café topic is how such collaborations can contribute to the broader urban settings in which the universities are located. Can European universities provide a truly European innovative ecosystem that foster post-industrial transitions?

European universities, as various other forms of international inter-university collaboration, provide innovative spaces for new forms of student mobility, research collaboration and sharing and impact. These provide unique opportunities for shaping truly European innovative ecosystems that connect cities with similar needs and resources, such as post-industrial cities. For instance, they can provide resources for knowledge-driven economic innovation, upscaling, technological innovation for sustainability, and the sharing of practices on how to address common social topics such as superdiversity, inequality and poverty. The core objective of this world café is to discuss how to make European University alliances work and how to maximize their impact on society.

Key questions:

- How can we make European Universities work, and what can we learn from European universities for other university collaborations?
- How can European Universities benefit transitions in postindustrial cities?
- How should European Universities engage with societal actors, communities and enterprises that make up our cities?
- What is the potential of European Universities for postindustrial cities in particular?
- How can European Universities contribute to a truly European innovative ecosystem of cities?
- How can European Universities provide a space for sharing values and practices between European Universities?
- What can European Universities contribute to European values?