

NEAR

NEwly ARrived in a common home

AMIF NUMBER: 957999

CONVENTIONAL MAP OF THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Work Package 6: University's strategies for the inclusion of students through access to academic paths

Activity 6.1

Deliverable 6.1

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1





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Contents

Introduction	4
NEAR WP6 - University's strategies for the inclusion of students through academic paths	cess to
Objectives	
Activities	4
Deliverable 6.1 – Conventional "on campus" maps of the services of university to international students	5
Methodology	5
Categories of on campus services	<i>6</i>
Next steps	
Annexes	
Annex 1 – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan conventional map	
Annex 2 – Iscte-IUL University; Lisbon conventional map	9
Annex 3 – KES College, Nicosia conventional map	10
Annex 4 – Università per Stranjeri, Perugia conventional man	1.1















Introduction

NEAR WP6 - University's strategies for the inclusion of students through access to academic paths

Near WP6 focuses on universities, recognising their key role in the integration process of international students, in particular of newly arrived students in the host countries. Universities act as key players in young migrants' and, more generally, international students' integration paths as they are not only the major institutions for spreading education and scientific knowledge, but also as a tool for young people to understand the reality and meet the society they live in. University experience, indeed, is not only made up by classes and training: human relationships flourishing inside and outside the classroom are an essential part of university life. Indeed universities are privileged contexts for students to create a network of contacts and relationships, especially thanks to the distinctive environment of openness, encouraging mutual knowledge and the enhancement of each individual.

Objectives

The WP6 aims at facilitating the access to the university educational and training offer for international students. This WP aims at orienting and promoting opportunities for students to meet and to encourage their integration within local community. The expected outcome of this WP is that newly arrived students will increase their knowledge of on-campus services and activities, as well as those in the local area, leading to their increased involvement and inclusion in university and local life.

Activities

The activities planned for WP6 involve international students, teachers and researchers and administrative staff in the four poles of NEAR project. The activities are the following:

- Creation of an on campus map of the services offered by the university to international students. The activity forecast a mapping of the orientation services offered by the universities partner of NEAR in Perugia, Portugal and Cyprus as well as places of interest and gathering spaces for international students.
- Creation of an off campus map of services, places of interest and gathering spaces for international students.















- Production of a handbook, based on the data collected with the two previous activities.
- Networking and integration activities among the students.

Deliverable 6.1 – Conventional "on campus" maps of the services offered by the university to international students

Partners, cities and universities involved in WP6

The leading partner of WP6 is Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) in Milan. UCSC set up an interdisciplinary working group to coordinate and supervise the project's partners in the activities with their own universities and with newly arrived international students.

The partners involved in WP6 are:

- Aidglobal
- Cardet
- **Tamat**

Each partner involved in this WP worked with a university in their city to carry out the activities and produce an on campus map:

- Aidglobal worked with Iscte-IUL University in Lisbon, Portugal;
- Cardet worked with KES College in Nicosia, Cyprus;
- Tamat worked with the University for Foreigners in Perugia, Italy.

Methodology

In order to map services and opportunities offered by universities to international students a wide involvement of the academic community is essential. WP6 activities want to engage students, professors, researchers, administrative and technical staff. The services offer by a university do not only concern the educational level: internship and job opportunities, sport, volunteering, cultural and social projects are part of university life as well.

In this first phase of WP6, professors and administrative and technical staff were mainly involved, with the aim of gathering the information needed to produce the on campus map. For this reason the NEAR WP6 partners interviewed staff members responsible for the different administrative and educational areas. This approach allowed the researcher to have an overview of the services that













5





already exist for international students. At the end of the interviewing phase the researcher organized the information collected into different categories, selecting the most useful information for international students' integration.

Students will be involved in the second phase of WP6, when the universities will produce the off campus map.

Categories of on campus services

To create the on campus maps, the working groups identified different categories of services offered by universities to international students:

- Student services and academic career;
- International admission office and international opportunities;
- Language courses;
- Internships and job opportunities;
- Cultural activities and sport;
- Library, bookshop and merchandising;
- Volunteering opportunities.

These categories were identified thanks to the internal research conducted by the UCSC researcher working on the NEAR project and proposed to all the partners. Maximum flexibility has been given to the partners to adapt the framework to the different organisational structures of the universities involved.

Together with the partners, the universities and the communication agency, the four maps have been produced, pointing out the services location within the campuses.

To be useful to international students, especially in their process of integration into the academic community and in the hosting society / environment the maps are both in the local language and in English. They will be disseminated both as printed maps and online. In particular they will be available on NEAR project website and will be disseminated by NEAR's and partners' social networks.

















Next steps

WP6 partners and the universities involved are now working on planning and implementing the next activities planned for the WP:

- Creation of an off-campus map of services, places of interest and gathering spaces for international students. The universities will organize a meeting to present NEAR to international students. These students will have the chance to sign up for the participation in 3 focus groups to create a map of the cities involved in the project. Representatives of student associations and international student networks will also be invited to attend the meetings. The off campus maps will provide unconventional information such as: networking cafés, sports offer, language courses, cultural places, advices for cohousing solutions etc.
- Production of a handbook, based on the data collected with the two previous activities. The working group of the university will draw up a handbook to facilitate the access of basic information about bureaucratic and administrative procedures to be carried out and to show them extracurricular experiences.
- Networking and integration activities among the students. Students are invited to participate in events, workshops and sports activities promoted inside and outside the Campus. Moreover, they will have the chance to participate in the "treasure hunt" organized in WP2. On these occasions, students will have the possibility to interact between international and local communities and get in touch with other cultures.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan conventional map

Annex 2 – Iscte-IUL University; Lisbon conventional map

Annex 3 – KES College, Nicosia conventional map

Annex 4 – Università per Stranieri, Perugia conventional map







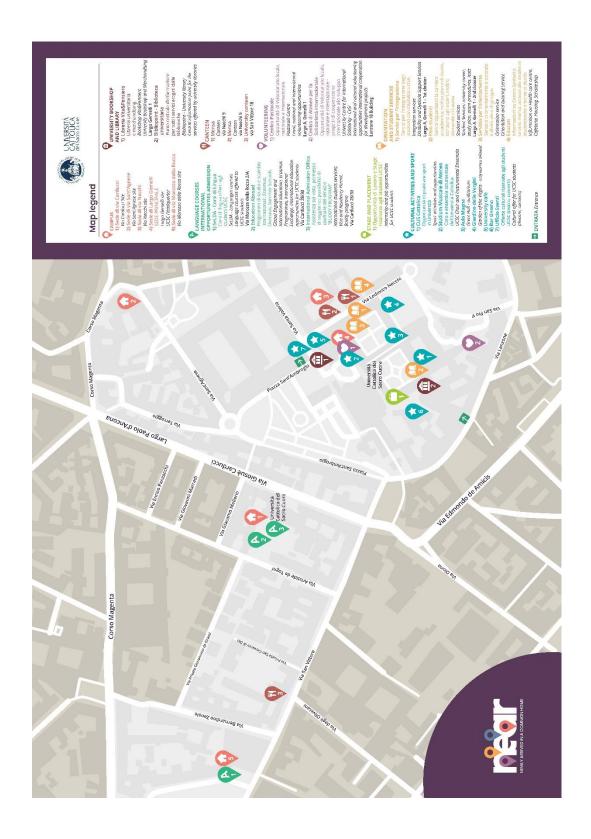








Annex 1 – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan conventional map









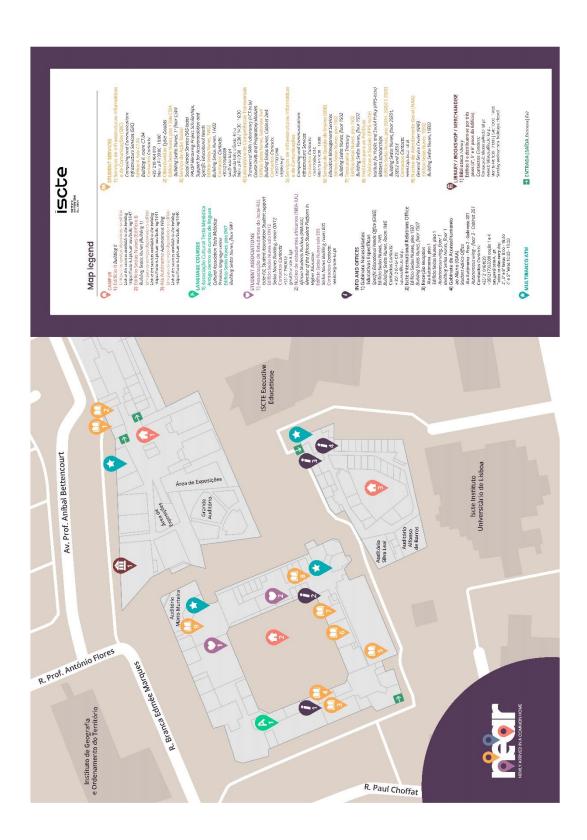








Annex 2 – Iscte-IUL University; Lisbon conventional map









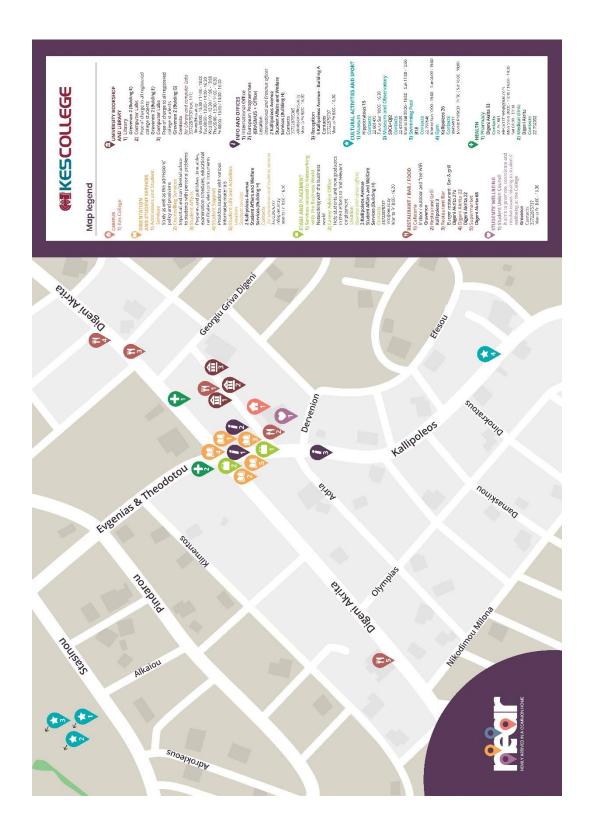








Annex 3 – KES College, Nicosia conventional map

















Annex 4 – Università per Stranieri, Perugia conventional map

