

**NEAR**

**NEwly ARrived in a common home**

**AMIF NUMBER: 957999**

## **UNCONVENTIONAL MAPS OF PLACES OF INTEREST AND GATHERING SPACES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

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

**Activity 6.2**

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**Deliverable 6.2**

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## 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. 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. Therefore 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. Furthermore, and thanks to the relationships developed within the university, international students can find informal tools to become part of society and fully experience the spaces and opportunities offered by cities.

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### 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 and information collected by university staff and WP partners.
- Networking and integration activities among the students.

## Deliverable 6.2 – unconventional maps of places of interest and gathering spaces for 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

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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 create a useful tool for international students to find their way in their new cities, WP6 activities engaged students, professors, researchers, administrative and technical staff. Universities can act as facilitators of the integration process of international students, being deeply rooted in the cultural and social contexts of their cities. Thanks to presentation events and newsletters, students in the four universities have been involved in focus groups, functional to start collecting info to create the unconventional off-campus maps. Involving international students already attending the four universities, the NEAR project aims at creating four unconventional maps to inform upcoming

students on the opportunities and the social life of their new context. At the same time, students participating in the focus groups had the chance to deepen their knowledge of the city and the society and to widen their network of contacts. The focus groups gave also the chance to hear students' voices about opportunities, challenges and needs they met when firstly arrived.

The unconventional maps complete the set of complementary tools designed by the NEAR project to welcome and support newly arrived students in the cities of Milan, Nicosia, Perugia and Lisbon, namely the conventional on-campus maps on the services offered by the universities, the handbooks on administrative and bureaucratic procedures and on campus life and the unconventional off-campus maps of places of interest and gathering spaces. These tools, working together, can play an important role in the period of first arrival of newly arrived students, supporting them in their integration process not only through access to academic paths, but also giving them a bigger picture of the chances in their new home.

## Contents of the unconventional maps

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Each map has been adapted to the context and the different needs and opportunities reported by the students during the focus groups. The four maps collect the places of interest such as monuments, museums and other cultural places; particularly lively districts and neighborhood interesting for international students in order to get involved in social life and find their way in their new cities. Some maps are more focused on gathering places connected to social life, such as parks, bar and clubs, spaces specifically dedicated to young people. Other maps includes students' and cultural associations, volunteering opportunities and other civic society components. In some cases also administrative offices and services are included.

## Next steps

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

- Networking and integration activities among the students: students 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 – unconventional map

Annex 2 – Iscte-IUL University; Lisbon - unconventional map

Annex 3 – KES College, Nicosia - unconventional map

Annex 4 – Università per Stranieri, Perugia - unconventional map

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## Annex 1 – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan – unconventional map







## Annex 2 – Iscte-IUL University; Lisbon - unconventional map







## Annex 3 – KES College, Nicosia - unconventional map







## Annex 4 – Università per Stranieri, Perugia - unconventional map

**WELCOME**

Perugia is a pattern of alleys and ancient streets that creates a sort of "travel" through the Story: merging flavors, colors, emotions between Etruscan city, Roman "civitas", medieval municipality, Renaissance and papal age. A creative and lively city, opened to typically Italian culture, taste and beauty. This is the real experience of the international students of NEAR project who in this map show us how beautiful, good and useful can offer a cosmopolitan city that in the same place keeps together Memory and Future thanks to Art and Culture. Welcome and have a nice stay in Perugia!

**PERUGIA**

Perugia è un intreccio di secoli e antiche vie che formano viaggiare nel tempo fondendo sapori, colori, emozioni tra città etrusca, civitas romana, Comune medievale, splendore rinascimentale e papale. Una città creativa e viva, aperta alla cultura, al gusto e alla bellezza tipicamente italiana. Questa è l'esperienza che colorisce e affiora gli studenti internazionali di NEAR che in questa mappa ci segnalano quanto di bello, di buono e di utile può offrire una città cosmopolita che sa tenere insieme Memoria e Futuro grazie all'Arte e la Cultura. Benvenuti e buona permanenza a Perugia!

**WE RECOMMEND**

**Luoghi da visitare**

**Mezzi di trasporto**

**Perché e luoghi di relax**

**Aree commerciali**

**PERUGIA**

**OFF CAMPUS MAP**

**FROM STUDENTS TO STUDENTS**

**FIND OUT MORE**

**PERUGIA**

**OFF CAMPUS MAP**

**FROM STUDENTS TO STUDENTS**

**FIND OUT MORE**

**WE RECOMMEND**

**Luoghi da visitare**

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