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CIVIS Days

CIVIS – a European Civic University

Erasmus+: European Universities

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CIVIS Days

CIVIS Days are annual events organised both at the local and global level, targeting internal and external audiences. Their objective is to publicise the work of the Alliance and to generate a strong global dynamism around themes related to education, research, and innovation, with a link to the five CIVIS Hubs.

The CIVIS Days involve participation by teachers, researchers, students, staff, and partners with a focus on the interactions of the Alliance with the city and the regions. A large-scale Global CIVIS Day is organised by the member university chairing the six-month presidency of the Alliance, while each member university is encouraged to hold a Local CIVIS Day.

Two editions of the Global CIVIS Days were planned to be organised during the first 18 months of the project (May 2020 and March 2021), however due to the global sanitary crisis their organisation had to be postponed and only one edition was organised – in a virtual format - between October 2019 and March 2020. The next two editions of the Global CIVIS Days are planned to take place during autumn 2021 (mixing virtual and physical activities, the international context permitting) and spring 2022 (physical event).

November 2020 saw the celebration of the first Global CIVIS Days, CIVIS's annual event where students, university staff, civil society, innovators and local representatives across Europe come together to connect, discuss and team up to find innovative solutions on major societal challenges.

Date & Location:	Monday 9 th – Tuesday 10 th November 2020, online event
Organiser(s):	Stockholm University, ULB, Aix-Marseille Université
Participants:	Researchers and academics from all eight CIVIS member universities and beyond Leading experts

For its first edition, the Global CIVIS Days were centred on Green Education with a focus on green mobility, transdisciplinary education and digital transformation. The online event consisted of a 24-hour student hackathon and a day-long conference.

Over 530 participants registered to the online conference and 155 students composed of 40 teams from all eight CIVIS Universities participated in the hackathon.

The event was a genuine cornerstone for a successful collaboration between its university community and higher education organisations across Europe. The Global CIVIS Days 2020 had two main purposes: on the one hand, to create a sense of belonging to the CIVIS European University initiative and on the other hand, to foster collaboration and tackle societal challenges in climate, environment and energy, one of CIVIS's five focus areas.

As underpinned in the 2020 World Economic Forum Global Risk report, and for the first time in history, climate, environment and energy were central themes to the challenges the world will face in the near future. The European Commission also alerted of these risks and developed its Green deal to provide a policy response to complex and interlinked climate and environmental challenges.

Building an inclusive, sustainable and civically engaged European University, CIVIS saw an opportunity to address those challenges and opportunities by bringing together leading experts in the field and challenge students to find solutions for this global societal problem.

Education for a sustainable future: addressing the needs for problem-solving competences in Climate, Environment and Energy

The online conference: *Education for a sustainable future*, brought together researchers and academics from all eight CIVIS member universities and beyond with leading experts from UNESCO-MGIEP, **Prof. Dr. Anantha Duraiappah**, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, **Prof Linda Barman** and Stockholm University, host of the event, **Prof Georgia Destouni** and **Prof Kevin Noone**.

The conference explored the challenges and opportunities Higher Education is facing today to address the World Economic Forum's "wicked problems" and offered analyses and constructive ideas for solving these issues through sustainable innovation.

The event consisted of a series of keynotes and roundtable talks to address most emerging topics in climate, environment and energy through transdisciplinary education and digital transformation with the aim to find solutions in developing the problem-solving competences the World Economic Forum feels the Higher Education sector lacks to solve those issues.

Links to videos from the conference: <https://civis.eu/en/global-civis-days-2020-videos>

- Welcome speech by **Prof. Astrid Söderbergh Widding**, President of Stockholm University
- Guest speech by **Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot**, Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+ at the European Commission
- Keynote address: "Wicked" water problems by **Professor Georgia Destouni**, Stockholm University
- Round table talk on Education for "wicked" problems. Keynote speaker: **Professor Kevin Noone**, Stockholm University
- Round table talk on Transdisciplinary education. Keynote speaker: **Prof. Dr. Anantha Duraiappah**, Director of UNESCO-MGIEP

Hacking today for a sustainable tomorrow in Higher Education

During the Global CIVIS days, students were challenged to solve three problems by bringing bold and creative ideas during a 24h online hackathon on Green Erasmus, Green Campus and SDGs in Education.

- *Green Erasmus* - rethink student mobility: how can I make my Erasmus+ exchange carbon neutral?
- *Green campus* - reinvent the campus of tomorrow: how can university campuses reach carbon neutrality?

- *SDGs in Education* - rewire education for a sustainable future: how can we use the SDGs to help guide more solution-oriented educational programmes?

All three challenges addressed the needs highlighted in the EU Green Deal for a low-carbon and sustainable future and were interlinked with CIVIS's main goals to develop challenge-driven study programmes and take actions in climate change both at local and European level. Academics, researchers and project managers involved in CIVIS also participated in the event as mentors to guide and assist the students with their project ideas.

32 teams reached the first round of evaluation with very interesting ideas such as a mobile app providing green tips to live in a university sustainable environment, sustainable festivals with interactive and immersive educational talks and an e-platform gathering all green projects which can be replicable to all university campuses.

Out of those 32 projects, six teams were selected for the final round of the event (two in each challenge category) to pitch and defend their project idea in front of a grand jury including:

- **Prof. Mariane Domeizel**, Vice-president for sustainable development, Aix-Marseille Université
- **Prof. Romita Iucu**, President, Board of Trustees, University of Bucharest
- **Dr. Frank Mattheis**, Researcher at the Institute for European Studies, Université libre de Bruxelles
- **Prof. Mats Danielson**, Senior advisor to the president on collaboration and IT, Stockholm University
- **Prof Frank Alasdair**, Professor of Geochemistry and petrology, Chair of CIVIS HUB 1: Climate, Environment and Energy

After deliberation, the jury awarded Team Ecooo and their search engine project: an e-platform that sorts out the modes of transport by CO₂ emissions and gather sustainable solutions to make the student Erasmus+ exchange as green as possible. Whilst only one winning team was crowned, all teams were saluted for their innovation-driven projects and out-of-the-box thinking, proving once again that pooling out students' expertise is a force to reckon with.

For full details on the 6 finalist projects, see Annex 1.

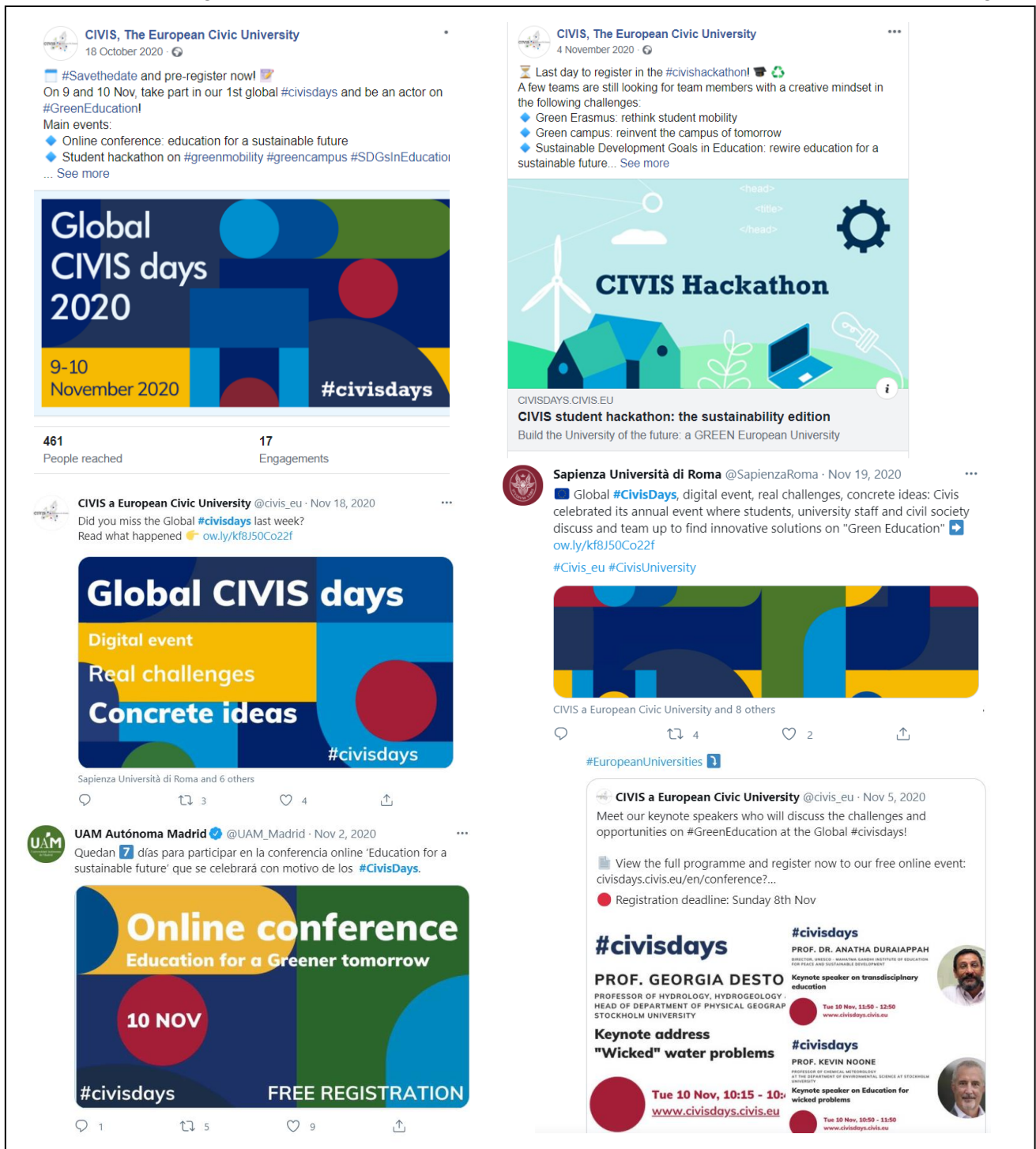
The Global CIVIS days in a nutshell?

Students from various study backgrounds joining forces to come up with innovative solutions to current challenges, academics and university staff supporting them with their ideas, and experts and researchers sharing their knowledge and debating on most emerging topics through sustainable innovation showcased the "CIVIS feeling", proving that together, we go further.

As **Johan Kuylenstierna**, Vice-chair of the Swedish Climate Policy Council at Stockholm University and moderator of the event affirmed:

"This collaboration demonstrates very well (...) that new borders are coming up and was a genuine tour de force in bringing together the entire CIVIS academic community to solve the wicked problems but also to harness opportunities offered by the EU Green Deal. The Academic community and Universities in Europe play an instrumental role in sustainable development. They are one of the foundations for a sustainable society and this has clearly been demonstrated here today."

Figure 1.1 Examples of communication on the event – Facebook/Twitter/Instagram



CIVIS, The European Civic University
18 October 2020 · 🌐

#SaveTheDate and pre-register now! 🗓️
On 9 and 10 Nov, take part in our 1st global #civisdays and be an actor on #GreenEducation!

Main events:

- ◆ Online conference: education for a sustainable future
- ◆ Student hackathon on #greenmobility #greencampus #SDGsInEducation ... See more

Global CIVIS days 2020
9-10 November 2020 #civisdays

461 People reached 17 Engagements

CIVIS a European Civic University @civis_eu · Nov 18, 2020

Did you miss the Global #civisdays last week? Read what happened 🌟 ow.ly/kf8J50Co22f

Global CIVIS days
Digital event
Real challenges
Concrete ideas
#civisdays

Sapienza Università di Roma and 6 others

UAM Autónoma Madrid @UAM_Madrid · Nov 2, 2020

Quedan 7 días para participar en la conferencia online 'Education for a sustainable future' que se celebrará con motivo de los #CivisDays.

Online conference
Education for a Greener tomorrow
10 NOV
#civisdays FREE REGISTRATION

CIVIS, The European Civic University
4 November 2020 · 🌐

Last day to register in the #civishackathon! 🗓️ 🌱
A few teams are still looking for team members with a creative mindset in the following challenges:

- ◆ Green Erasmus: rethink student mobility
- ◆ Green campus: reinvent the campus of tomorrow
- ◆ Sustainable Development Goals in Education: rewire education for a sustainable future... See more

CIVIS Hackathon
CIVISDAYS.CIVIS.EU
CIVIS student hackathon: the sustainability edition
Build the University of the future: a GREEN European University

Sapienza Università di Roma @SapienzaRoma · Nov 19, 2020

Global #CivisDays, digital event, real challenges, concrete ideas: Civis celebrated its annual event where students, university staff and civil society discuss and team up to find innovative solutions on "Green Education" 📌 ow.ly/kf8J50Co22f

#Civis_eu #CivisUniversity

CIVIS a European Civic University @civis_eu · Nov 5, 2020

Meet our keynote speakers who will discuss the challenges and opportunities on #GreenEducation at the Global #civisdays!

View the full programme and register now to our free online event: civisdays.civis.eu/en/conference?..

Registration deadline: Sunday 8th Nov

#civisdays

PROF. DR. ANATHA DURAIAPPAH
ASSISTANT VICE-CHANCELLOR (DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF) FOR RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Keynote speaker on transdisciplinary education

PROF. GEORGIA DESTO
PROFESSOR OF HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

Keynote address "Wicked" water problems

PROF. KEVIN NOONE
PROFESSOR OF CHEMICAL METEOROLOGY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AT STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

Keynote speaker on Education for wicked problems

Tue 10 Nov, 11:50 - 12:50
www.civisdays.civis.eu

Tue 10 Nov, 10:15 - 10:30
www.civisdays.civis.eu

Tue 10 Nov, 10:50 - 11:50
www.civisdays.civis.eu

List of Annexes

Annex 1 – Global CIVIS Days 2020 Hackathon Finalists

Annex 2 – Report on Global CIVIS Days 2020

