

**European Universities :**  
Challenges for creating sustainable  
cross-border collaborations in the European landscape

Coimbra Group Webinar

10 June 2020

**Vincent Blondel**  
**University of Louvain**



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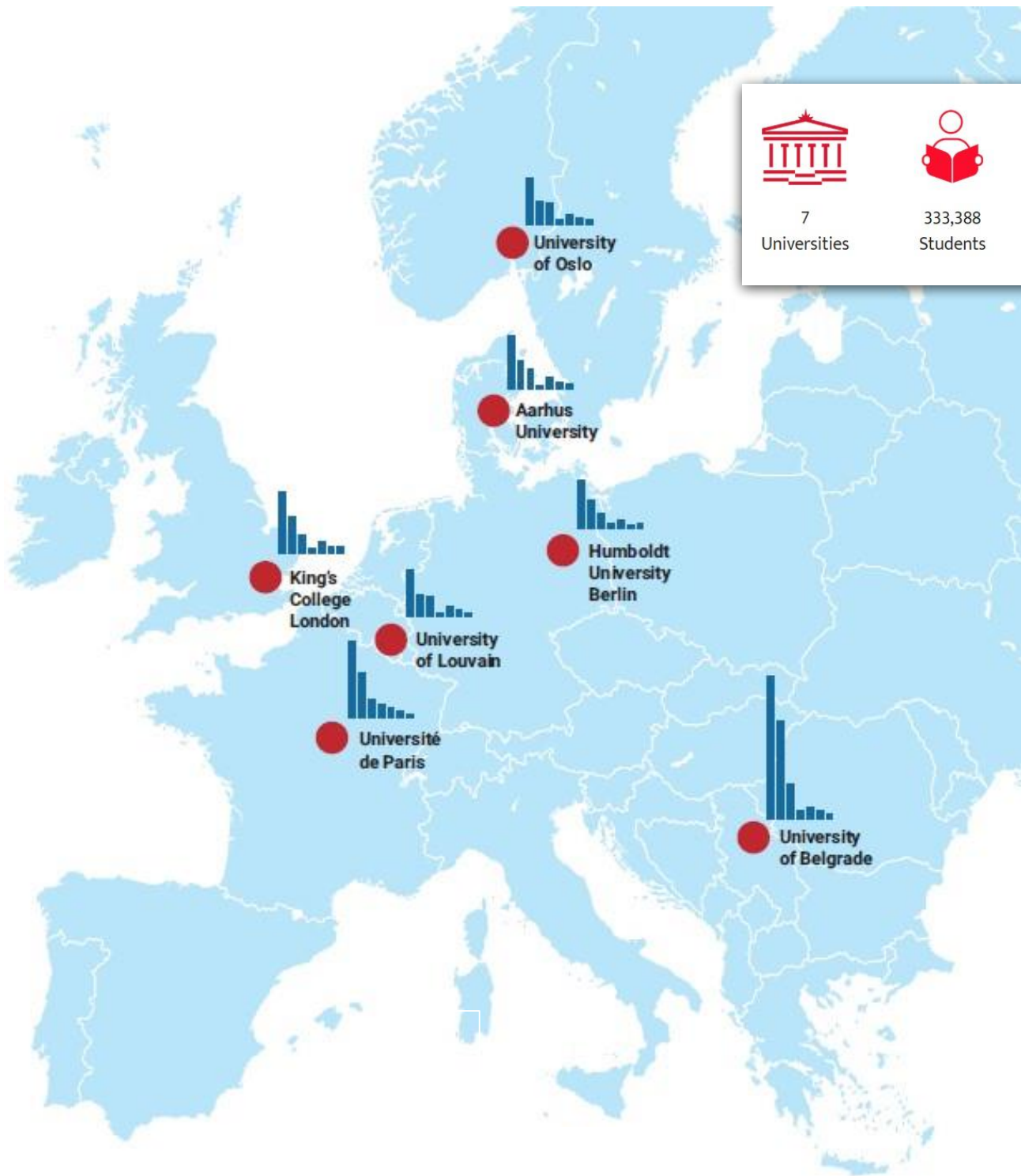
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**Circle U.**  
European University Alliance





7 Universities	333,388 Students	50,967 Staff	79 Faculties	2,216 Study programmes	1 Vision



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## Our vision:

By 2025, Circle U. is an **inclusive, research-intensive and interdisciplinary European university**. Students, staff and partners from civil society, businesses and the public sector collaborate to jointly develop competencies and solutions for **keeping Europe and our planet healthy, peaceful, democratic and prosperous**.

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# COVID-19 ?

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**PROBLEM**

**SOLUTION**

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**Lab research interrupted**

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**Possible long-term financial impact on publicly-funded universities**

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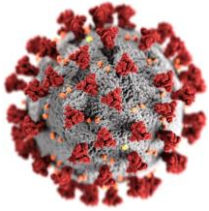
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## Confirmation of the universities' essential roles in society

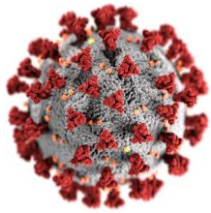
- Helping the public understand
- Helping policy making
- Offering solutions to protect everyone's health
- Role model

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Global health, climate, democracy

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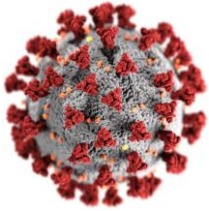
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## Tackling global scale societal challenges requires:

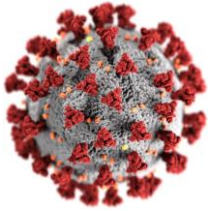
- Crossing disciplinary boundaries
- Strong synergies between research and teaching, at the training, policy and funding levels
- Strong links with academic and non-academic stakeholders, not only for co-creating innovative solutions but also co-constructing policies

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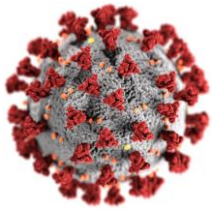
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## Importance of bringing Europe closer together

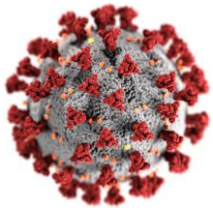
- Contributing to the building of a broader European identity
- Fully embracing diversity of views including about Europe.
- Keeping strong relations with non-EU partners

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Develop models that respect specificities and build on our diverse relationships with the EU (France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, UK, Norway, Serbia)

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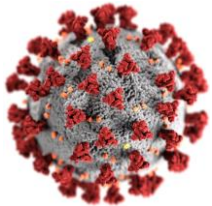
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## Distance learning: opportunities but also a strong disruption...

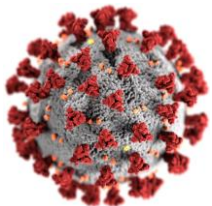
- Reliability of IT infrastructures
- Loss of rich human interactions between teachers and students
- Loss of extra-academic student activities
- Forced IT gap for teachers and students
- Reduced international mobility

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Reinvent mobility. Develop joint mobility policies to foster environmentally and inclusive mobility as well as quality standards for virtual learning.

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