



PRESENTATION

LUSATIA GLOW

8 FEBRUARY 2022

BRUSSELS

ETULIS

EUROPEAN TRANSLATIONAL UNIVERSITY LAUSATIA JAN SKALA
EUROPSKA TRANSLACIONALNA UNIVERSITA ĽUŽICA JAN
SKALA

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This presentation is illustrated by examples of landscaping and architecture that
inspires our vision of the university campus in Jindřichovice pod Smrkem.

Before we talk about the university...

- In 2015, the team of the association Lunaria founded the “Free Elementary School Ronja” in Jindřichovice pod Smrkem, one of the first free schools in the Czech Republic.
- We currently provide education for 40 Czech, Polish and German children aged 5 to 15 and we work on increasing the capacity in order to meet the high demand.
- We work with principles such as self-directed learning, self-motivation and creativity based on holistic approaches.



Free Elementary School Ronja

- The children are not forced to take compulsory subjects; they do not get grades; they are not divided by age; they all learn together.
- They learn gladly and voluntarily because their curiosity and creativity are stimulated.
- The best we can do for children is to pass on our interest and enthusiasm.
- All subjects are holistically interconnected.



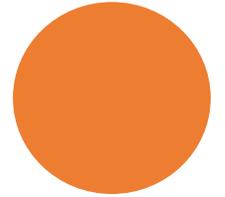
High school project

- As part of the Lusatia Glow project we would like to build a high school inspired by liberal arts, human ecology and other profound approaches.
- Apart from fine arts, music and theatre, the school will cultivate crafts and local traditions.
- The school will also teach languages, financial literacy and other subjects for real-life application.
- The curriculum will focus on self development, opening the mind, heart and will.
- Students learn to co-create projects and to develop deep and lasting friendships.
- Following the example of Ronja, our high school will welcome pupils from the border areas of Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland. We expect to attract pupils also from other areas.



The next step

- After the primary school and the high school, the university is the next logical step toward a comprehensive educational offer in this region.
- Our educational philosophy is wider than only the “free school movement”, including also other holistic approaches.
- We can build on our experience with these approaches.



Why do we need a new university in the EU?

- We need a systemic redesign of all dimensions of higher education - a new concept built on fresh foundations.
- Current universities can't be transformed as they are so firmly set in their ways.
- We need an external impulse to show that a new approach to education is possible.



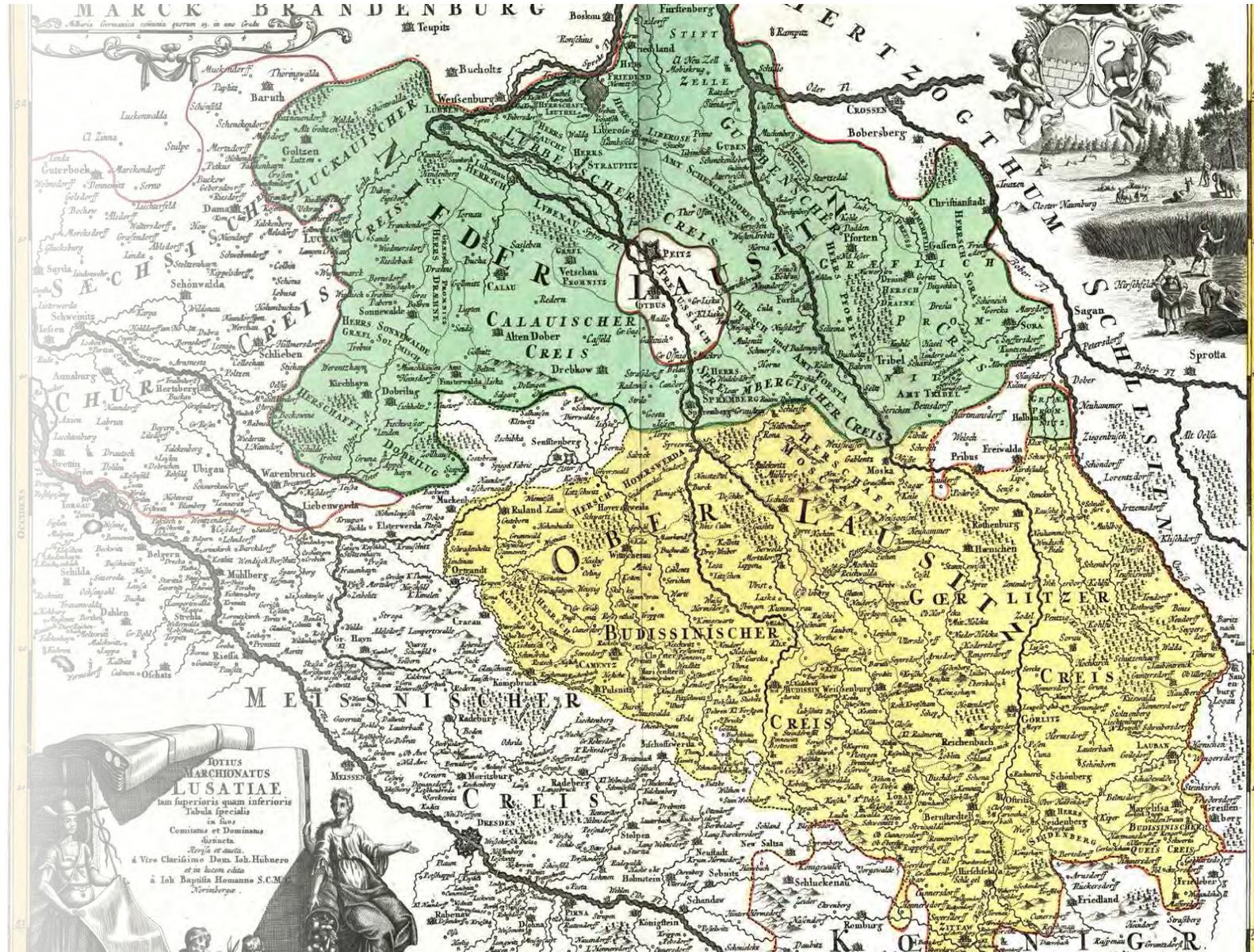
ETULIS – the vision

- We imagine ETULIS as a true European university inspired by the roots of European culture and the vision of a Next Renaissance.
- Its initial location would be in 3 EU countries, but it can spread and scale to other countries.
- The university is firmly based on ideals such as deep sustainability, freedom, non-violence, democratic values and respect to human rights.
- We educate global citizens and we welcome students from all over the world.
- We expect great interest from students from countries like Belarus and Russia as we enable them to experience studies in a democratic environment.



ETULIS – the vision

- The university prototypes a new approach to minorities with the goal of promoting friendship between people and nations.
- ETULIS gives space for the self-realisation of Lusatian Serbs (Sorbs), who are a connecting element for the countries who divided their territory in the past.



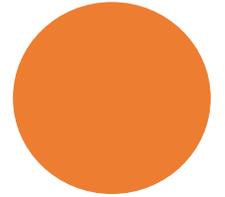
ETULIS – the vision

- Translational university - focused on the practical application of discoveries for the common good.
- Transdisciplinary orientation.
- Innovative teaching and learning methods.
- Our orientation is toward regenerative futures: “Planting seeds” for the future.



Green deal

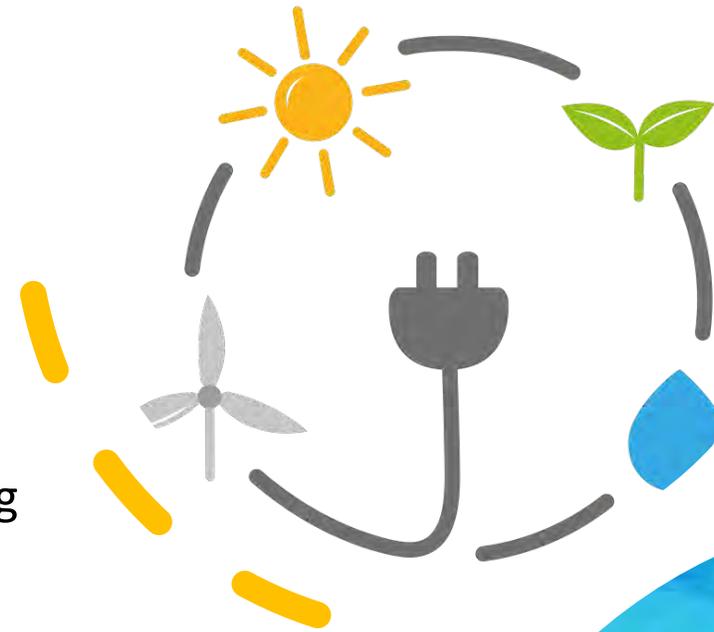
- Our university seeks to contribute to the Great Transition in the 21st century – the transition towards a sustainable, inclusive and wise civilisation in the EU and beyond.
- Deep sustainability is not a slogan; it is the heart of our approach to higher education.
- Students learn how to mitigate and adapt to climate change and how to tackle many other Grand Challenges.



lené střechy

Education for sustainability

- Working with the conditions and materials given by the local ecosystem
- Making the world carbon positive, absorbing more greenhouse gases than emitting
- Moving toward self-sufficiency in terms of energy, water, food, etc.
- Minimising waste and recycling it on site
- Sustainable architecture and transport
- Organic agriculture and the kind treatment of animals
- Healthy nutrition with a low ecological footprint
- Voluntary simplicity instead of consumerism



New European Bauhaus

- The architecture of the new university will be inspired by various approaches to ecological and artistic architecture.
- It will also integrate insights from new initiatives such as the NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS.
- We become a showcase for connecting the European Green Deal with our living, learning and working spaces.



Rodinný dům, Linkebeek, Belgie; architektonický ateliér Samyn and Partners

beautiful | sustainable | soulful

The New European Bauhaus initiative calls us to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future.

However, Bauhaus is not our only inspiration. For instance, we appreciate organic architecture, see the picture on the right.

We need to move on from the cold, technician, boxy, modernist architecture toward an artistic model that is beautiful for the eyes, healthy for the body and nourishing for soul.

- **Artistic**, reviving mastery of crafts.
- **Enriching**, responding to needs beyond functionality.
- **Sustainable**, energy efficient and in harmony with nature.



Rodinný dům, Chrustenice, ČR; architekt O. Hozman

International, intercultural university

- International experiences and intercultural learning will help educate global citizens.
- Students can participate in travel-learning programmes to get international exposure and to experience systemic change initiatives in various countries.
- Students will co-create transformation projects focused on regenerative futures.





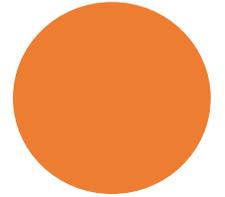
Design features

- The university will be neither purely virtual nor purely campus-based. Higher education can take place anywhere.
- The university can be a single institution spread across several countries or it can be an ecosystem of organisations and initiatives dedicated to transformative learning, research and action. Such an ecosystem could include education providers, non-governmental organisations, innovative businesses and public institutions.

3 models of innovation

Each faculty innovates teaching, research and real-life action in their own ways:

- **Budyšin = Bautzen** pioneers a practice-based model, collaborating with top laboratories and clinics.
- **Leśna** focuses on the revival of local culture based on an intensive exploration of Łužica = Lusatia, its language, traditions and possible futures.
- **Jindřichovice pod Smrkem** prototypes a new approach to education called “transformative education”. This educational philosophy does not focus on the quantity of information, but on the ways of thinking and experience, the quality of character and the ability to see the needs of the whole as personal needs.



Cross-border connections

- Unique model of differentiating the university across different countries
- Students can attend lectures, seminars and workshops in all faculties
- Students are encouraged to co-create their curriculum and pursue self-directed learning.
- We connect the faculties in Lešna and Jindřichovice (10 km distance) by a cycleway and cross-country skis in the winter.
- The faculty in Budyšin – Bautzen will be connected by a minibus based on the most advanced ecological technologies available in the future.



The final part of this presentation focuses
on the Faculty of Holistic Studies

We plan to have a **nature-based campus** in Jindřichovice pod Smrkem as well as a
smaller **city-based campus** in Prague.

(Other faculties have their own presentations but some principles applied in
Jindřichovice may be replicated by the sister faculties)



ECO CENTRE

**EXAMPLES
OF
EXISTING
SUSTAINABLE
ARCHITECTURE
IN
JINDŘICHOVICE**



ECO HOUSE



Faculty of holistic studies
Designing regenerative futures
in Jindřichovice pod Smrkem and Prague

Rodinný dům, Rothbury, Northumberland, UK; architekt Reid Jubb Brown

What we want to offer to the EU

Addressing local and global challenges based on holistic, integral, transdisciplinary approaches



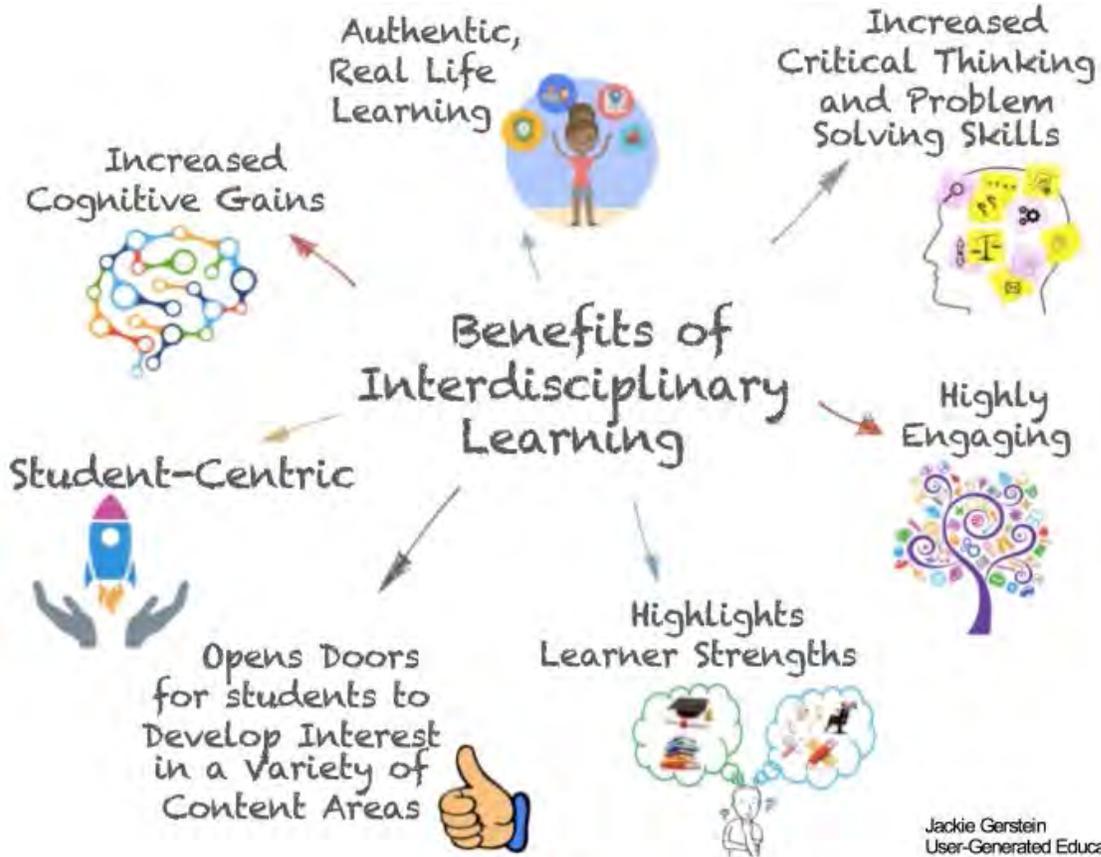
Students will not be divided into disciplines, but given insights into the connections between disciplines, thus gaining a transdisciplinary understanding



Education, research and action are not separate activity streams



Education and real life are integrated



What we want to offer to the EU

Fresh waters in education

- Key characteristics of transformative education are transdisciplinarity, direct applicability to real life, creativity, emphasis on artistic and experiential dimensions.
- Transformative education goes beyond stimulation of the intellect. The goal is to educate the mind, heart and will in equal measure.
- Students work on projects of societal renewal.
- Complementing these projects, students also engage in community service, service learning, non-profit work, internships, volunteering, and social activism.



Transformative education involves all dimensions of human beings

- **consciousness** (e.g. wisdom, mindfulness, self-awareness, the capacity to experience unity-in-diversity)
- **heart qualities** (e.g., emotional intelligence, kindness, gratitude, forgiveness, dedication to others)
- **will power** (e.g., self-discipline, resolve, persistence)
- **physical health** (e.g., balancing the impact of intellectual work through sports, martial arts and subtle forms of body work)



Our nature-based campus

- Our nature-based campus in Jindřichovice pod Smrkem will combine organic, living and enchanting architecture with interior designs that please the senses and foster creative human abilities.
- Rather than anonymous lecture halls with straight rows of chairs, there will be spaces tailor-made to different types of learning, research and action.
- Shapes, sizes, themes, colours, and equipment will foster arts, crafts, transdisciplinary education and practical pursuits.
- Each building and each room will have a different look and feel.
- The main structures will be made from natural materials taken from the region.



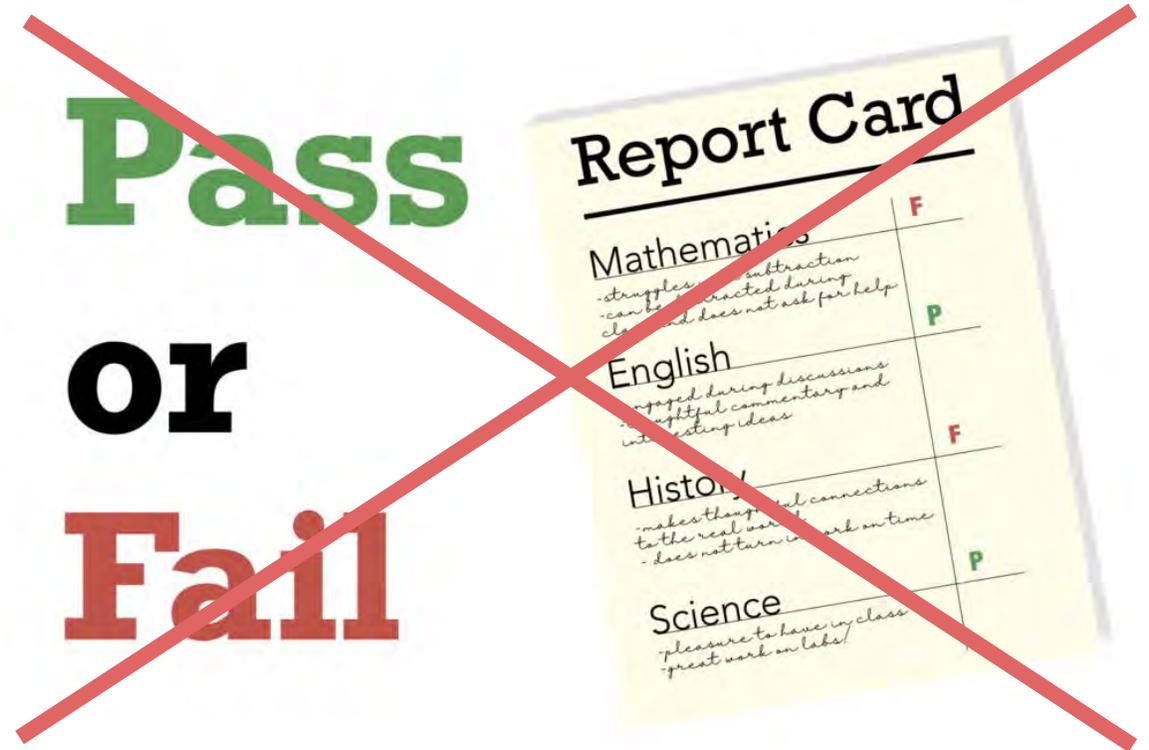
Beyond the Ivory Tower

- The faculty will link to existing networks of NGOs, businesses and government institutions, thus avoiding the Ivory Tower syndrome.
- The „Ivory Tower syndrome“ refers to a state when the university becomes increasingly out of touch with societal development and when teachers, researchers and administrators become out of touch with the people they serve.



Self-directed education

- Students have the freedom to design their lives, education and careers according to their vision.
- Students have a desire to improve and achieve mastery .
- Students will develop a sense for quality.
- Students evaluate themselves how they are progressing.
- They will not care about grades and credits but about self-improvement and service to society.



- Instead of grades, there will be peer-review, 360 degree feedback, etc.
- Instead of standard memorisation in exams, there will be transformation projects based on the students' individual vocation in relation to societal needs.



- Instead of inflexible study programmes, students will co-design their educational pathways.
- Instead of early disciplinary specialisation, students will be first exposed to a big picture curriculum.
- Students will decide themselves when and how to specialise.

Diversity

- The programmes will not be limited to young adults; they will be open for everyone.
- Our faculty will offer opportunities for intergenerational, intercultural and cross-sector collaboration involving students, teachers, professionals and others.



University for the future

- The University will not educate people for jobs that may no longer exist a few years down the road.
- Instead, students will learn strategic foresight (futures studies and futures research)
- Students explore the potential of ecological technologies.
- Our alumni will be cultural creatives: self-motivated, creative and entrepreneurial individuals who focus their energies to help societies during the Great Transition.



A common element in all these designs
is a “total integration philosophy”

INNER LANDSCAPE
a new type of pedagogy
new content
new methodologies

CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT
a new type of architecture
soulful interiors
new landscaping



Interiér restaurace Maitrea, Praha, ČR; architekt O. Hozman



Interiér restaurace Maitrea, Praha, ČR; architekt O. Hozman

New educational paradigm

- The new educational paradigm begins to be noticed in the world of education but no university has chosen to put it into practice.
- The best way is to build a new university from scratch.



High-level policy inspirations

Ultimately, higher education should aim at the creation of a new society — non-violent and non-exploitative — consisting of highly cultivated, motivated and integrated individuals, inspired by love for humanity and guided by wisdom.

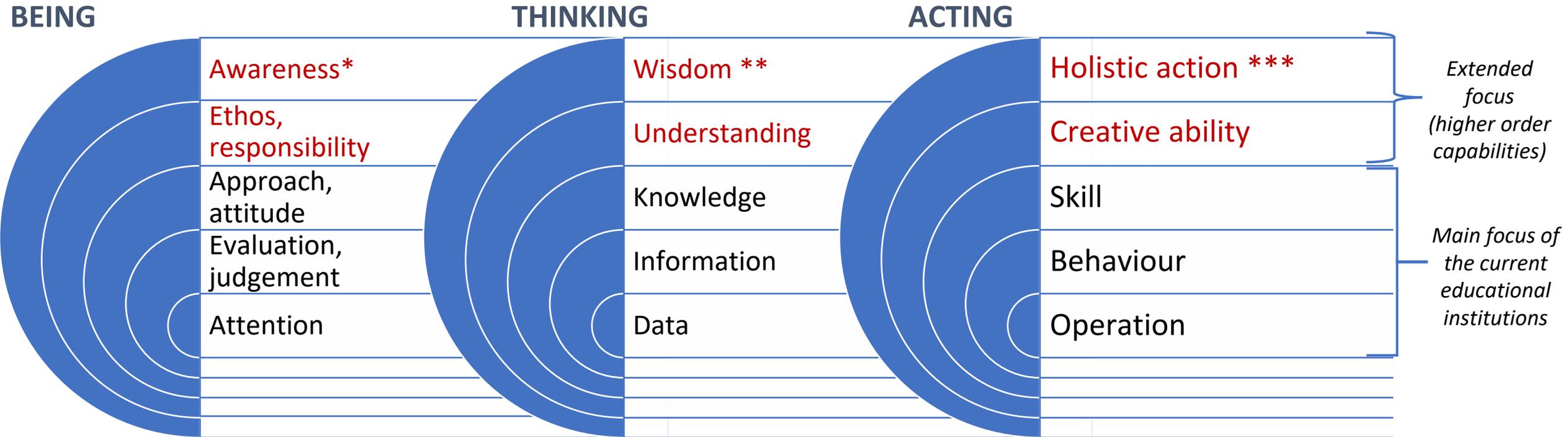
UNESCO World Declaration on Higher Education for the 21st Century (1998, §6d)

“As we move toward nine billion people on one planet, many of our familiar patterns of society will have to change... [This] calls for a paradigm shift in how we think, live and interact together, as well as a paradigm shift in what the role and place of science should be. A new, holistic way of thinking is required... Science and research have to look at the systemic effect of any action... We will need to harness our talent much better to solve the Grand Challenges of our age.”

European Research Area Board (2009). Preparing Europe for a New Renaissance. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Transformative education
develops higher human potential

Higher Self
|
Consciousness, Love



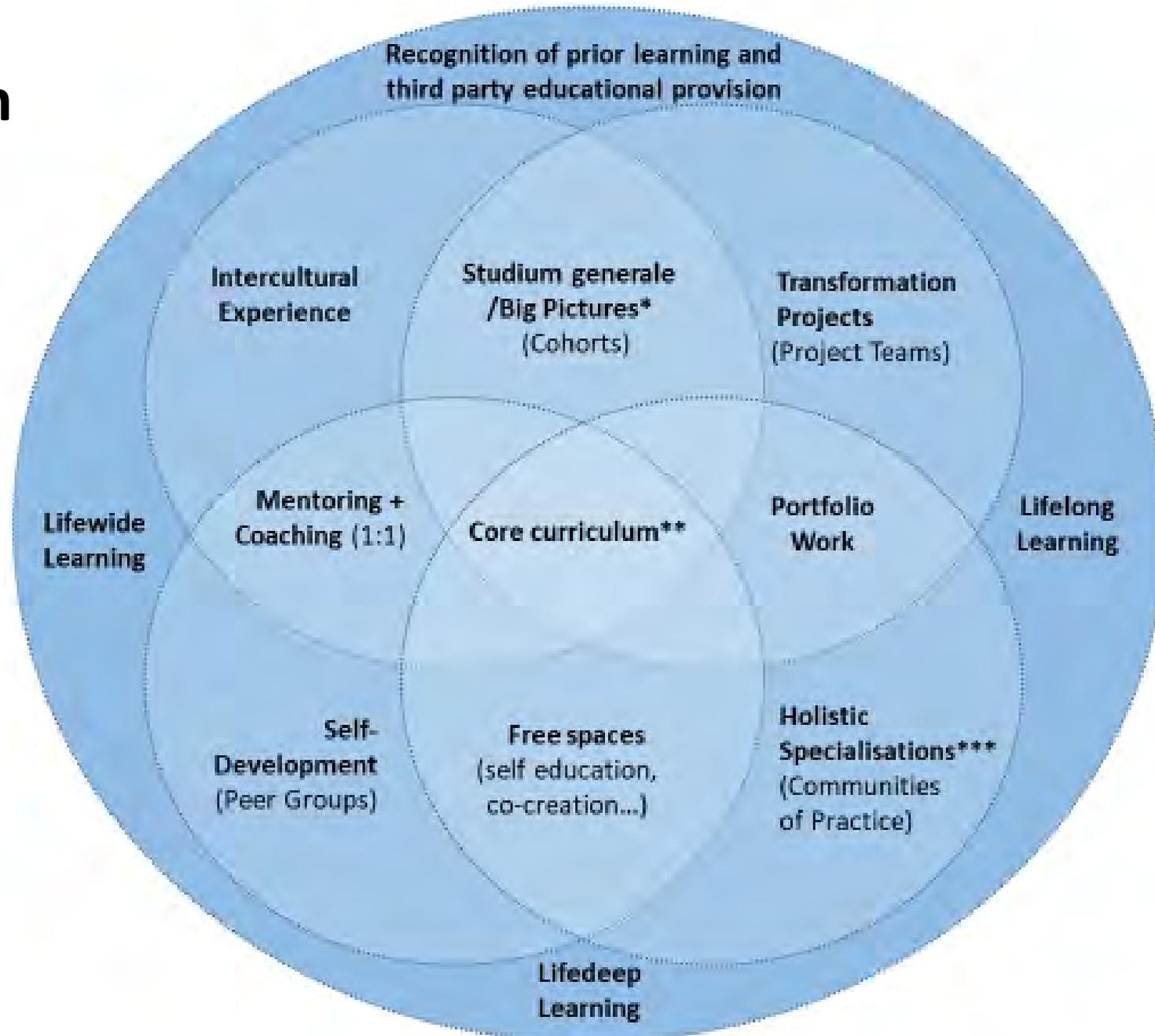
* Another possible word for **awareness** is consciousness. It embraces elements such as mindfulness, imagination, inspiration and intuition (all meant in their deepest meanings, not their common language definitions).

** **Wisdom** is the highest form of cognition, but at the same time it transcends this category and connects it with other higher order capabilities. Wisdom includes, for instance, includes knowing what is of value for yourself and others. Other close terms are “primary knowing” and “insight” (vhled).

*** **Holistic action** is oriented at the highest level of change, that is transformation. This ranges from individual transformation up to system transformation. An example is hosting co-creation of transformative endeavours.

Together, awareness, wisdom and holistic action enable living and working according to high level ideals, values and the fulfillment of individual and collective vocation in service of others in ever widening circles of compassion.

Curriculum design



Structure – B.A. (7 modules)

01

New
paradigms

02

World
Development

03

Self
Development

04

Truth,
Beauty,
Goodness

MODULE 5

Praxis

- Transformation projects
- (Action) Research
- Storytelling
- Financial skills
- Presentation skills
- Co-creation skills

MODULE 6

Portfolio work

MODULE 7

Vertical curriculum

- Biography work as a spiritual practice
incl. development of vision, values, vocation
- Sense development
- Writing
- Rhetoric
- Communication
- Co-creation of transformation projects
- Group work
- Arts, social arts
- Artistic crafts
- Fairytales & myths
- Gardening & agriculture
- Rites of passage

Option:

- Body arts
- Fighting arts
- Music
- Languages
- Psychotherapy, trauma work
- Mentoring, coaching
- Survival training and wilderness experience
- Building ecological homes

+ optional practice-based subjects.

Structure – M.A. (9 modules)



MODULE 6

Free space for creative collaboration

MODULE 7

Praxis

- Transformation projects
- (Action) Research
- Storytelling
- Financial skills
- Presentation skills
- Co-creation skills

+ optional practice-based subjects.

MODULE 8

Portfolio work

MODULE 9

Vertical curriculum

- Biography work as a spiritual practice
incl. development of vision, values, vocation
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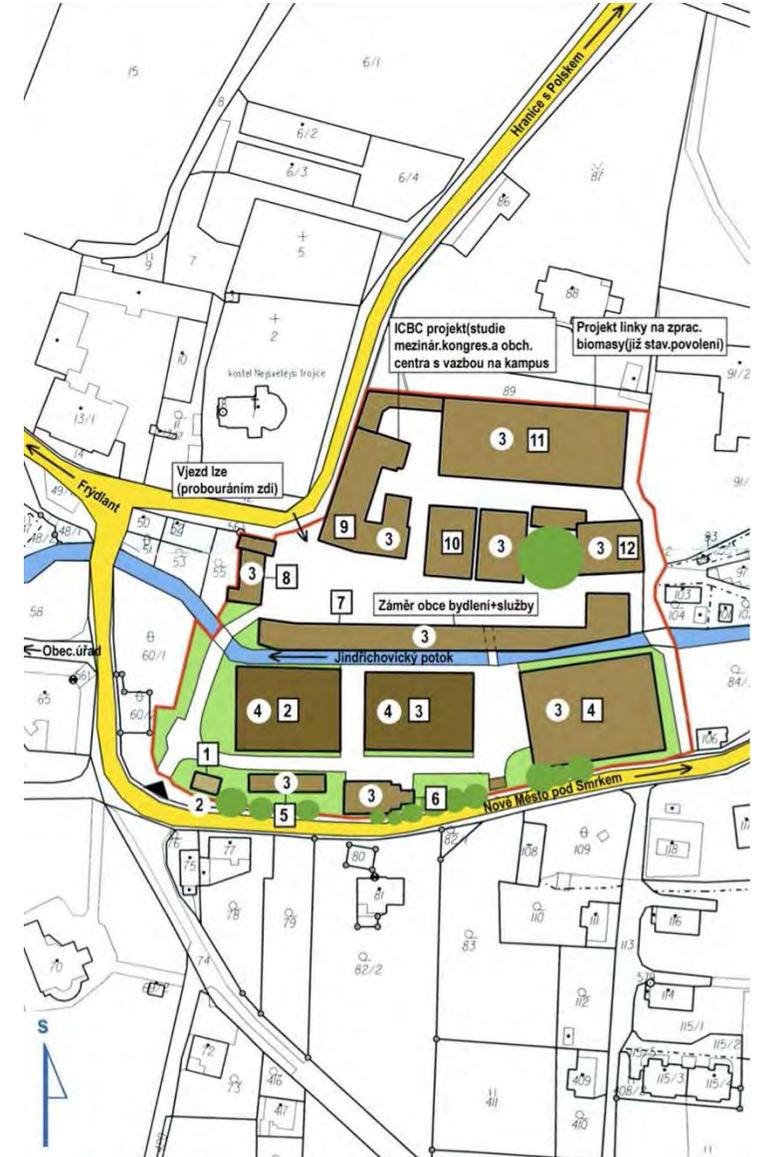
- Body arts
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Brownfield transformation

- The faculty in Jindřichovice (and the faculty in Lešna) will come to life by reconstruction of old factories that used to give work to local people but today they are brownfields.
- We will create a competition for visionary redesigns of these buildings.
- If none of the proposals create inspirational and soulful learning spaces, we must count with demolition and new construction on regenerated grounds.
- The university creates job opportunities for local people in an area with a high rate of unemployment (from professors and lecturers to maintenance men, gardeners and cleaners, etc.)



5102-35 Areál UNITEX Jindřichovice pod Smrkem

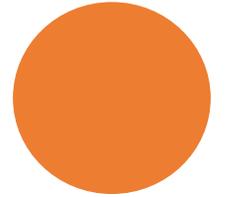




Nature-based campus

Aim high, start small

- It will take years to transform the brownfield site into a green university campus and to get accreditation.
- Until then we can start without accreditation as an academy in smaller spaces.
- The programmes of the academy will become B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. programmes of the universities.
- For the academy, we envisage reconstruction of one building, which would be much cheaper than a brownfield transformation.
- The academy would serve the first generation of students.



Thank you for your attention

Team of the association Lunaria, the Free School Ronja and the nextRenaissance initiative

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