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WE DISCOVER DAYS BARCELONA: EUTOPIA AND THE CHALLENGE OF EUROPEAN CITIES

One of the main missions of [EUTOPIA](#) is to prepare future generations to face the constant changes and challenges that our society is experiencing. Higher education is undergoing radical transformations to adapt to the university of the future. EUTOPIA intends to prepare students, staff, teachers and researchers to become empowered European citizens for today's disruptive world.

The Pompeu Fabra University organises the WEDISCOVER DAYS BARCELONA on 28, 29 & 30 October 2020, as the first step of the Open Innovation Challenge initiative, which forms the axis of the Place Making policy of EUTOPIA.

This virtual event will be achieved thanks to the joint work, efforts and close collaboration with experts, institutions, cultural centres and local entities and industries. The objective is to discuss the current social problems that the main European cities are going through today.

The WEDISCOVER DAYS BARCELONA will help students to start a discovery and research process to acquire knowledge beyond the university campuses. With the motto "from local to global", the idea is that students find inspiration in common problems and concerns of our societies, seeking practical solutions to issues that could also be implemented on a global scale.

With a [programme](#) that includes conferences, talks, seminars, screenings, debates, visits and workshops, the WEDISCOVER DAYS BARCELONA intend to familiarize students with an array of contemporary issues related to the main Sustainable Development Goals: Climate Emergency, Transport and Mobility, Healthy Food and Sustainable Food Production and Consumption, Social Inclusion and Fighting Inequality, Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable.

The event will merge students from the six universities that have previously focused on the effect of the world emergencies at a local level. They will meet with some of UPF's public and private partners, academics and journalists, bringing a plurality of voices to the idea that European cities are confronting similar difficulties.

The WEDISCOVER DAYS BARCELONA are open, not only to EUTOPIA students who will be able to participate further in the challenge, but also to college students from all around Europe. High schoolers of Catalonia are also invited to engage and discover what the university of the future will look like.

Given the evolution of the pandemic, the event will be entirely digital this time. The WEDISCOVER DAYS BARCELONA will be broadcasted live through the following link: <https://www.upf.edu/web/eutopia/wediscover-live>.

Challenges are one of the attractive peculiarities of the EUTOPIA methodology of co-construction of answers to global problems that Europe is about to face in the near future, for students, helped by academic staff and public-private partners, are impelled to work collectively. With its four stages, in four different cities, the Open Innovation Challenge is a good example of it. After Barcelona, the students should meet again in Brussels next spring, hosted by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where the team's projects will be outlined. The University of Gothenburg should then organize a European hackathon by the end of 2021, selecting the teams that will go to the finals hosted by the University of Warwick at the commencement of 2022.

For further information, visit the Pompeu Fabra University website (www.upf.edu) and the EUTOPIA website (www.eutopia-university.eu). [Download](#) in high-resolution the banners and A2 posters of the WeDiscover Days.

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EUTOPIA is an alliance of six leading, like-minded, European universities creating a connected and inclusive community, to address local and global challenges, ultimately contributing to a new model for higher education in Europe: VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (Belgium), CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ (France), GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET (Sweden), UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI (Slovenia), UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA (Spain) and UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK (United Kingdom). In June 2019, EUTOPIA was chosen as one of the 17 first winning projects throughout Europe in the new European Universities Initiative competitive call to build a European Education and Research Area.