

Empowering Children and Young People within Higher Education

The concept of Children's Universities

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Enrico Balli
Chris Gary
Cyril Dworsky

Moderation by Ayah Younis



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We are going to talk with you about:

- ❁ ... Who we are
- ❁ ... What it is
- ❁ ... What you think
- ❁ ... What we do
- ❁ ... What you can do now

Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mines, that a child of farm workers can become president of a great nation.

What is a Children's University?

eUCU.net

What is a Children's University?



Children

+



University

What is a Children's University?



What is a Children's University?



KinderuniWien / AT



What is a Children's University?



KinderuniWien / AT



Ulm/Germany



What is

iversity?



Žilina /Slovakia



KinderuniWien / AT



Ulm/Germany

What is

iversity?



Kinder



Kinderuni OnTour, Vienna / AT





iversity?



Zürich/Switzerland



Kinderuni OnTour, Vienna / AT



Kinder

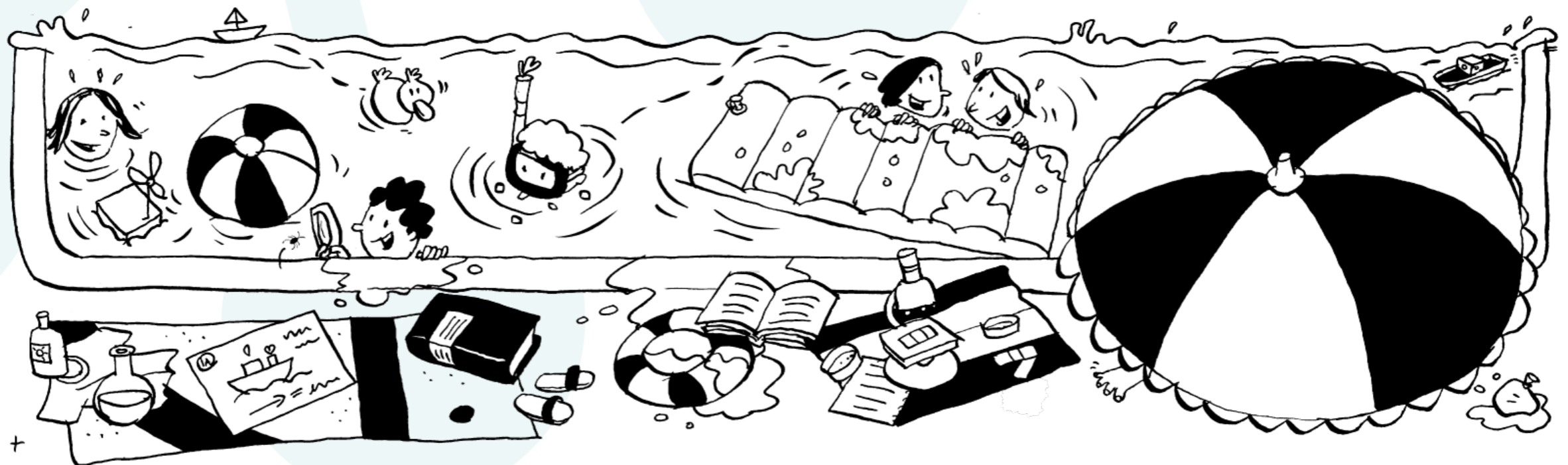
And what is the best model?

**Children's Universities may appear similar,
but there are different concepts inherent.**

**There is no ONE model of Children's
Universities!**



Taking part at a Children's University doesn't necessarily lead to an academic career, but shall enable reflected decisions!





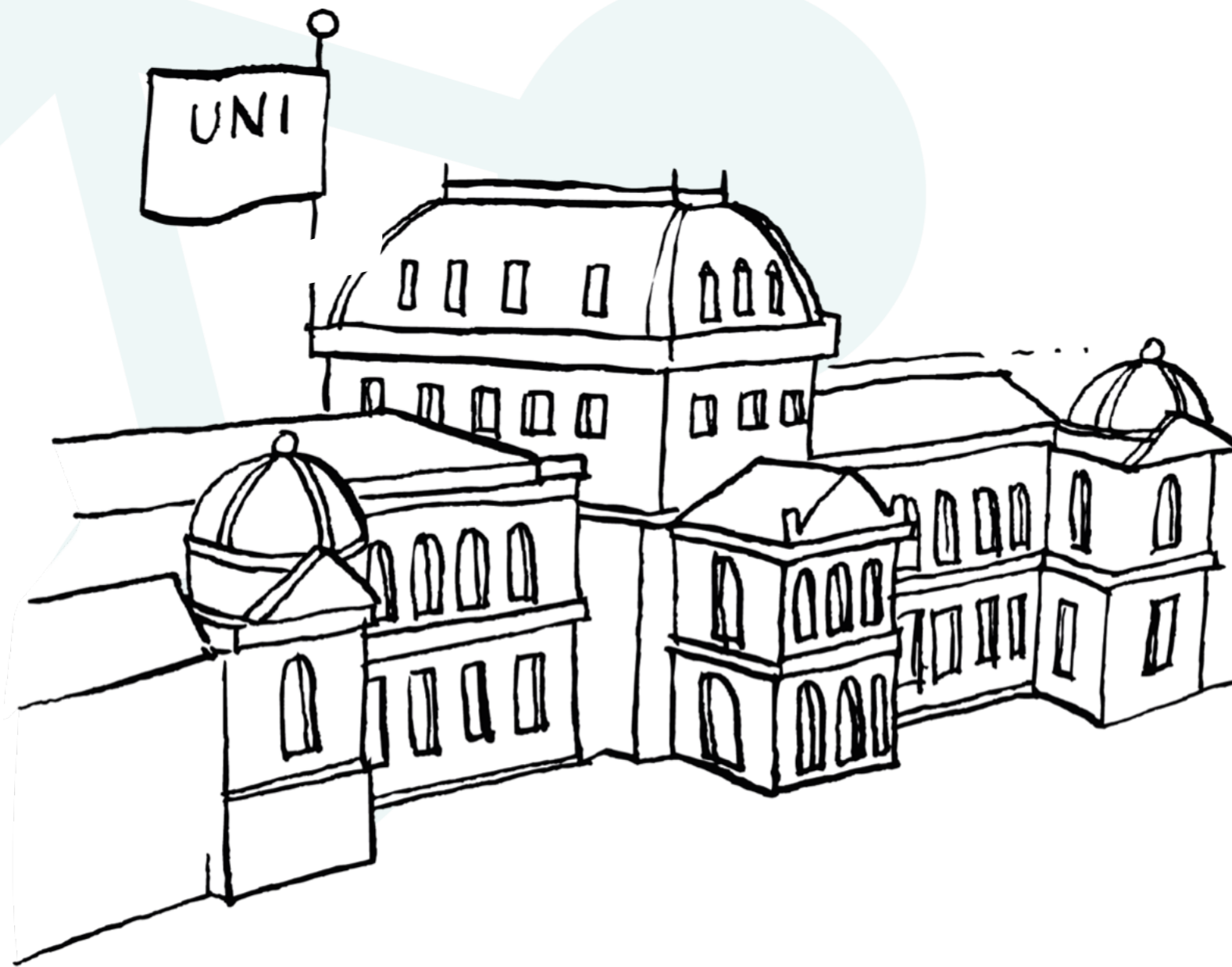
“Children’s Universities represent
the most radical approach to open universities
towards the general public“

(EUCU.NET Evaluation Report EU-Commission)

HE-Institutions and Children's Universities

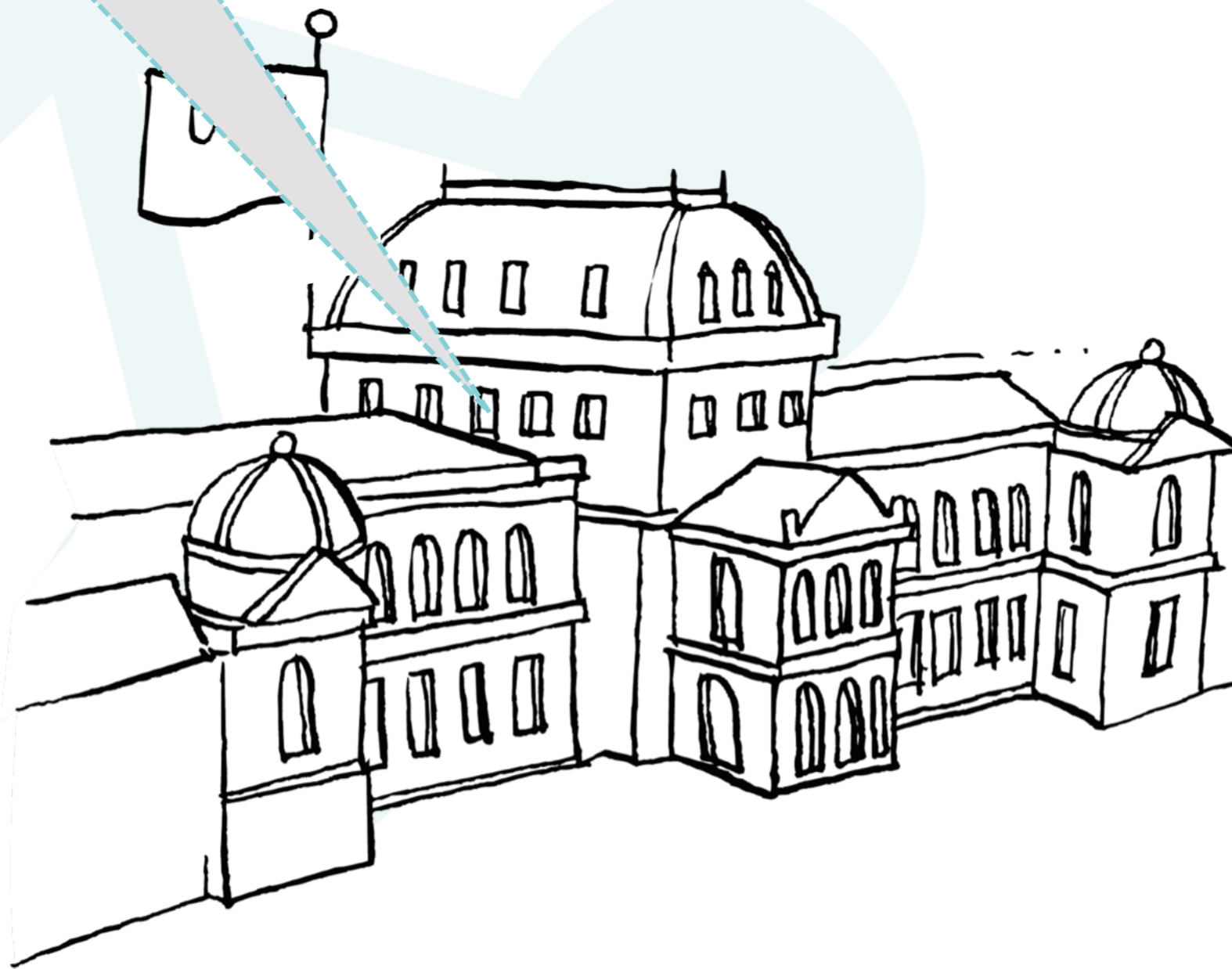
eucunet

Driving Motivation For Universities



Driving Motivation For Universities

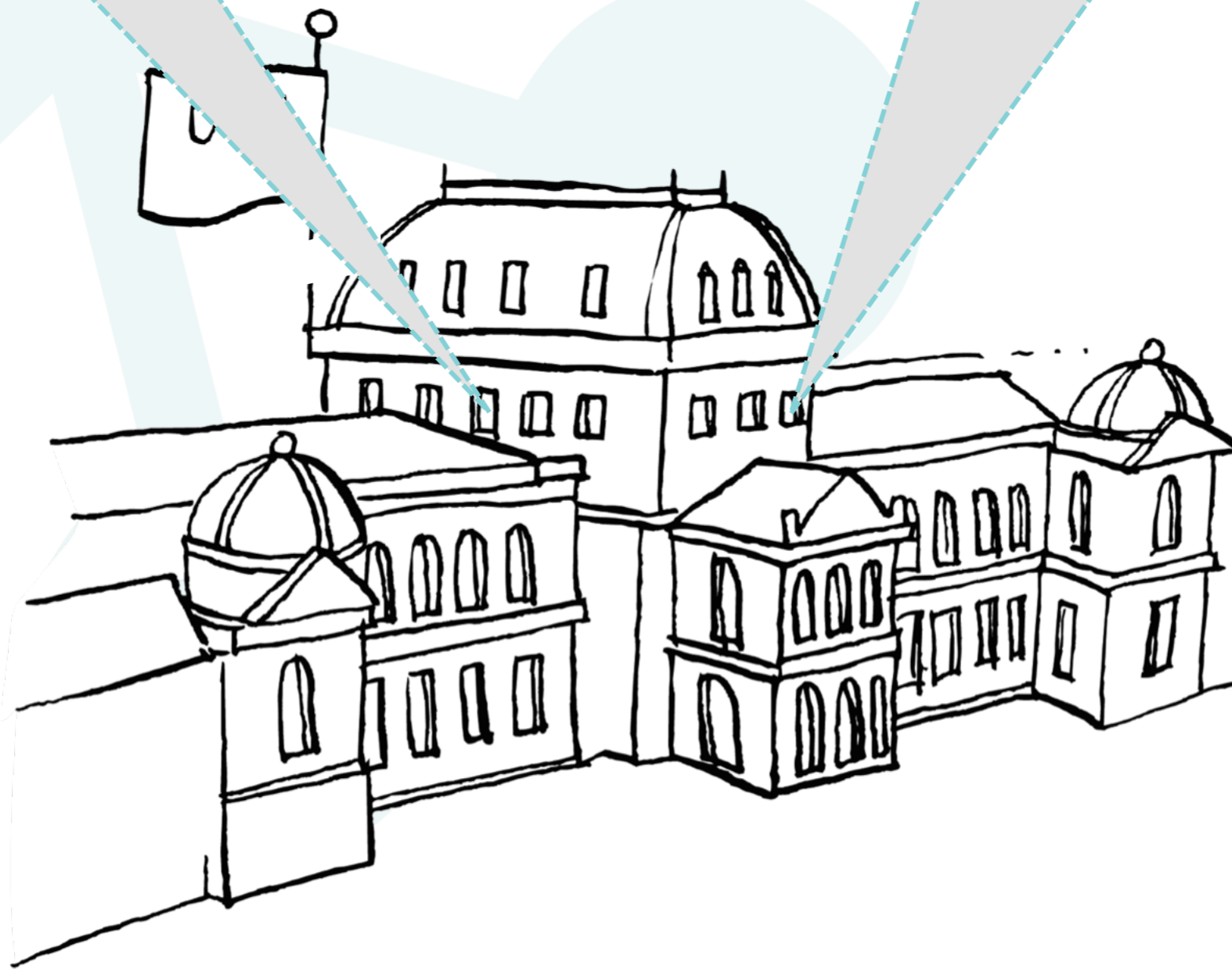
Public Relation
(student marketing, ...)



Driving Motivation For Universities

Public Relation
(student marketing, ...)

Science Communication
(empowerment, open science, ...)

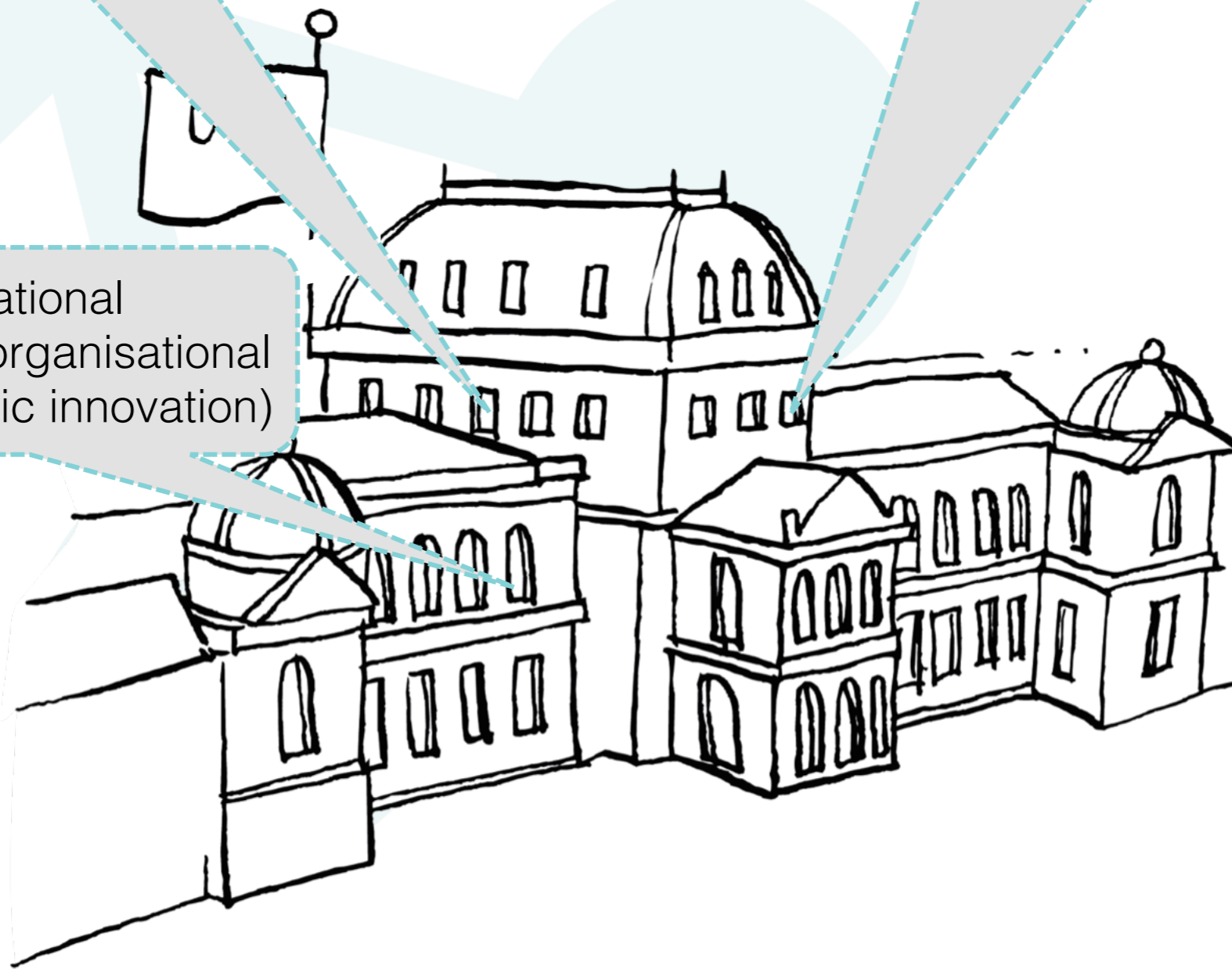


Driving Motivation For Universities

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Science Communication
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Organisational
Development (organisational
learning, didactic innovation)



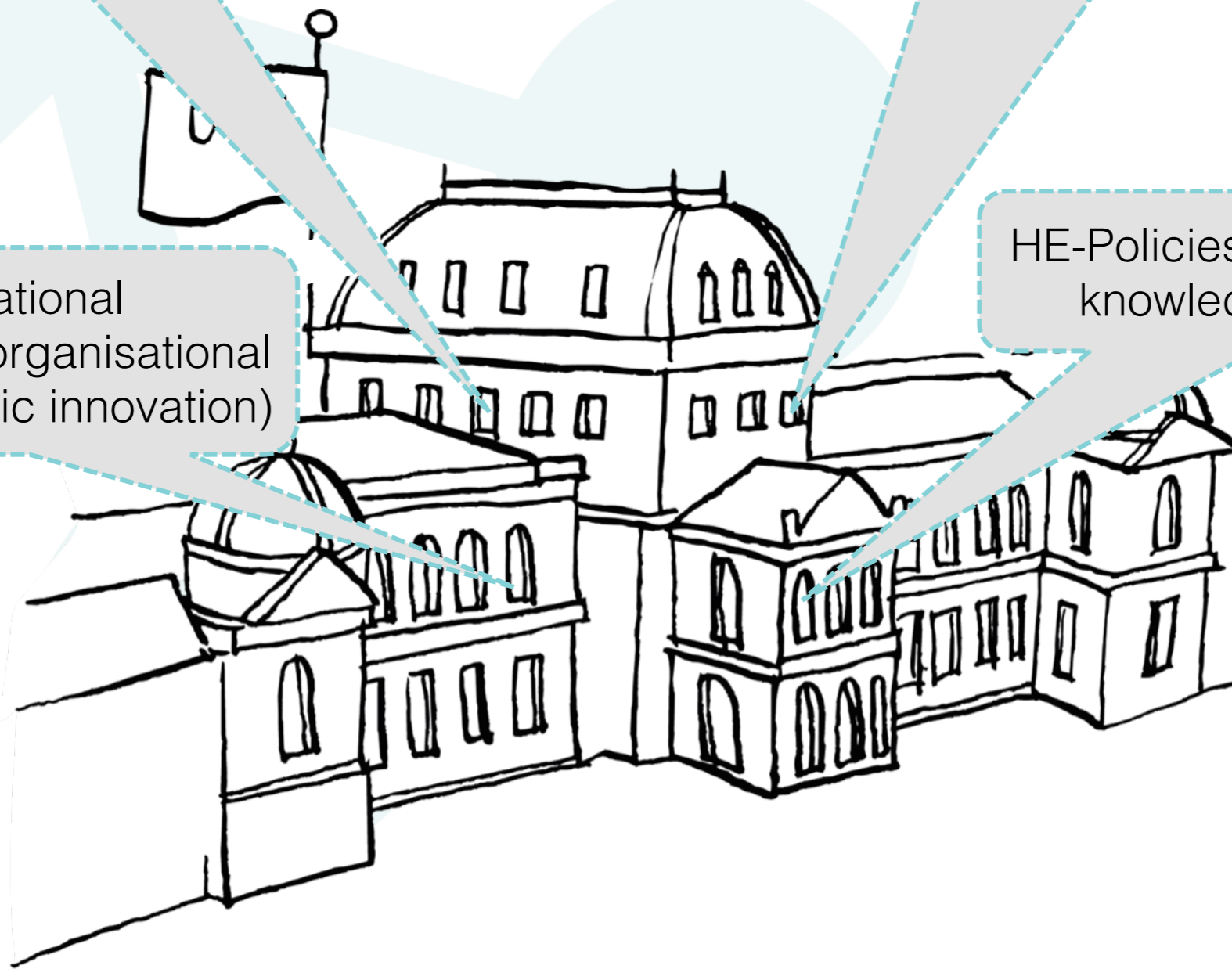
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HE-Policies (lifelong learning,
knowledge society, ...)



Driving Motivation For Universities

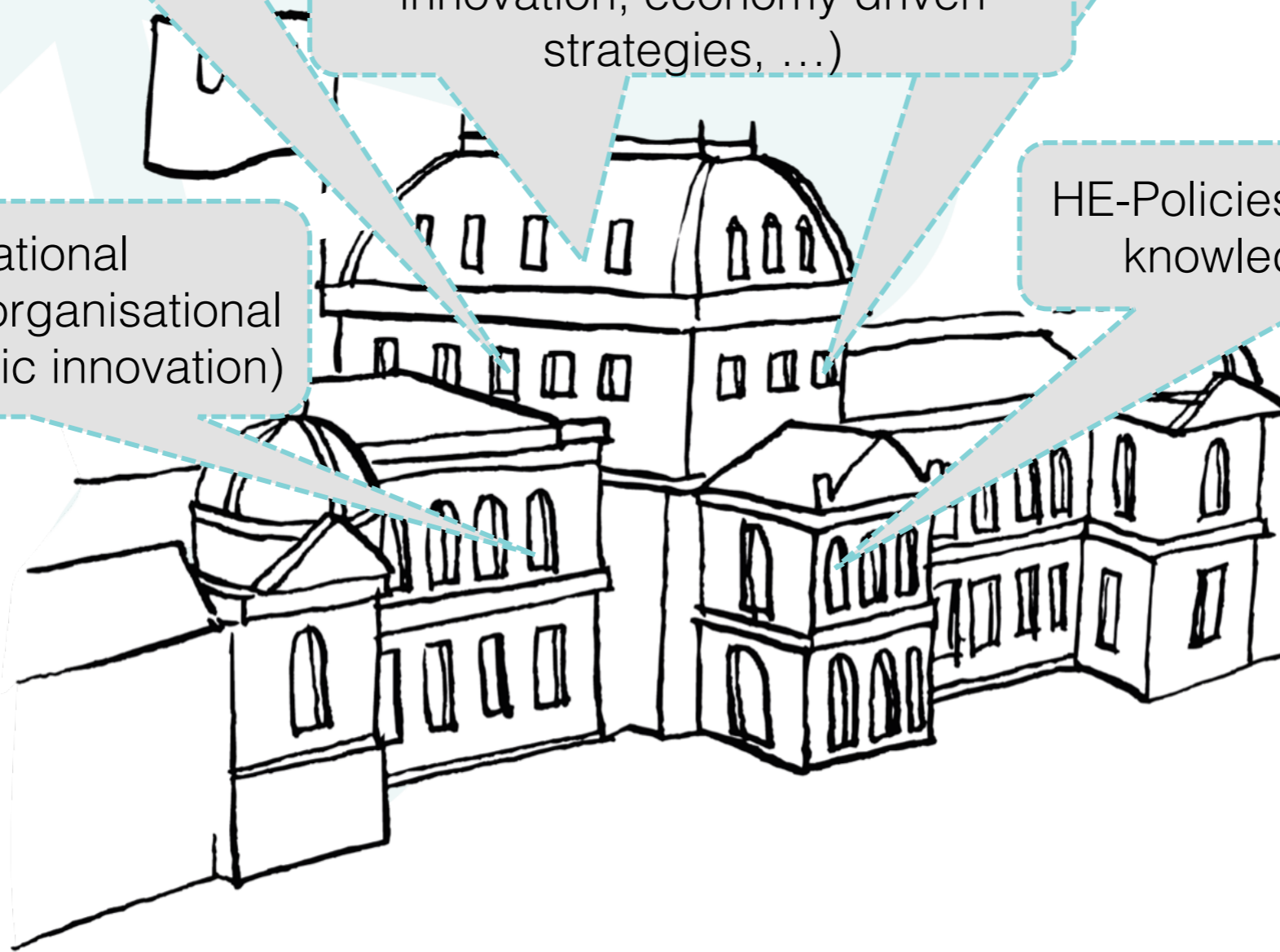
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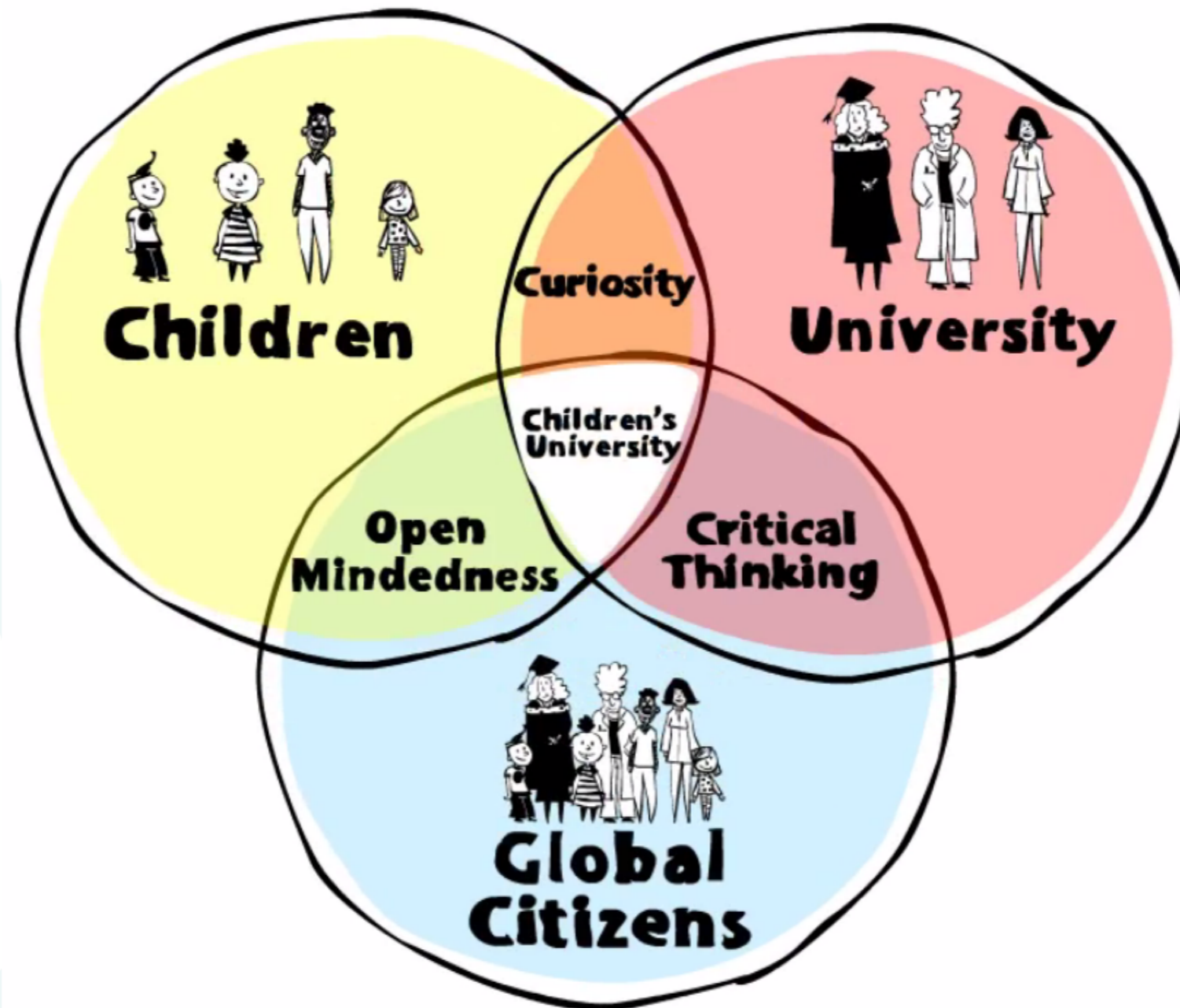
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„Third Mission“



The „Third Mission“ of Universities

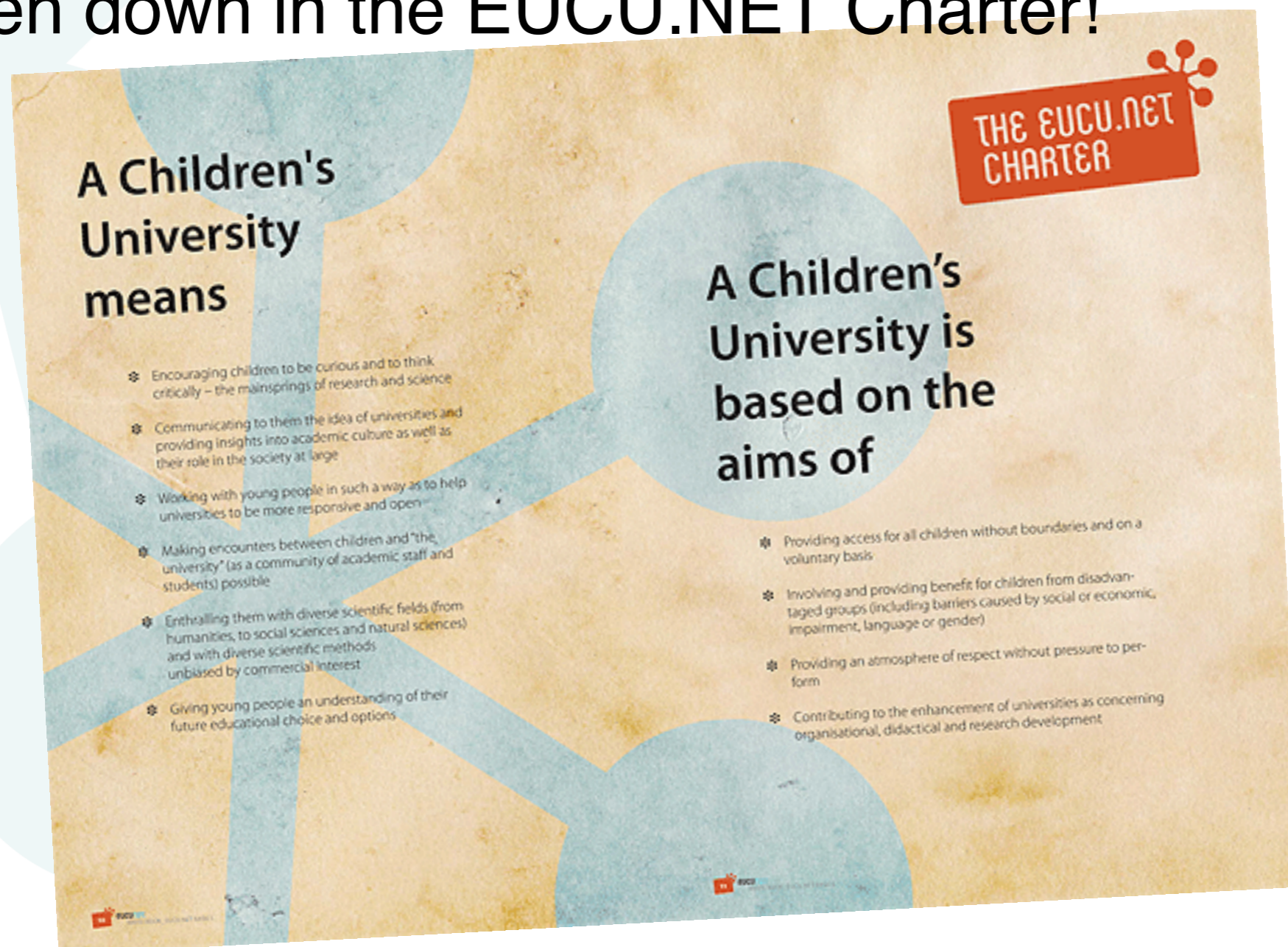


Children's Universities empower children and support universities and scientists to contribute to the development of universities – and society at large!

The Birth of a Network...

EUCU.NET Members

... are committed to the aims and goals of EUCU.NET written down in the EUCU.NET Charter!





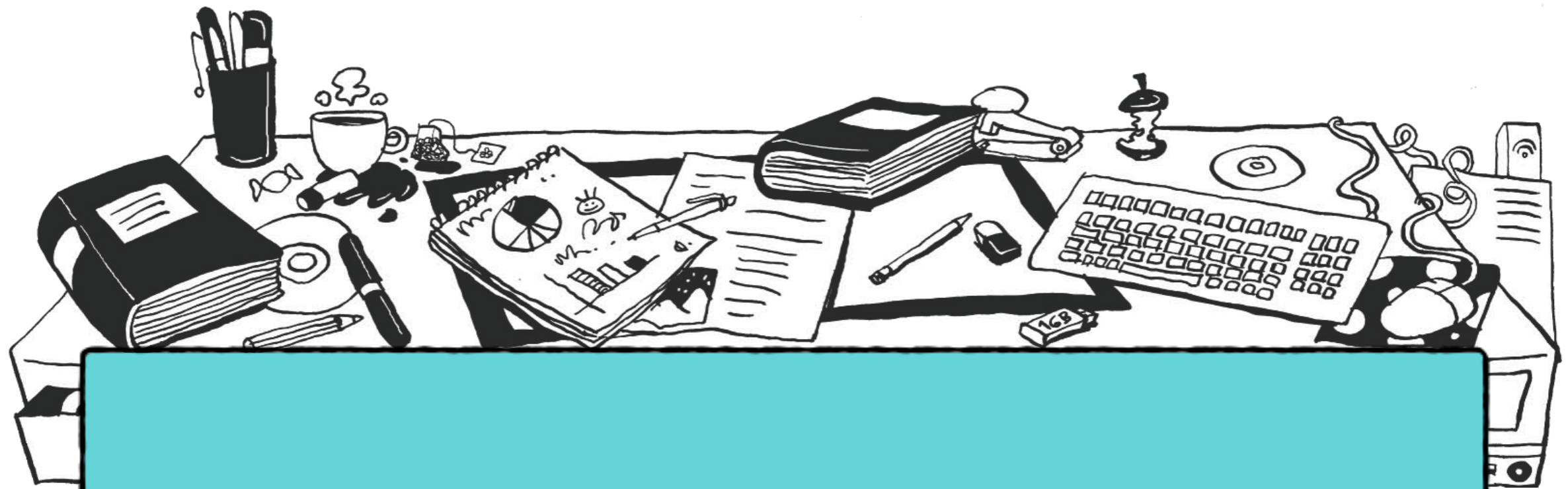
UN CRC Article 12

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.



UN CRC Article 12

2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.



“If I meet a minister of education or research I will advise him or her to be more open in the discussion with children because after all, they are the best experts in „thinking freely“

(Vlad Iavita, 13, Bucharest, Romania)

Children's University The evolution of a concept of success

Panelists:

Enrico Balli
(SISSA Medialab, Italy)

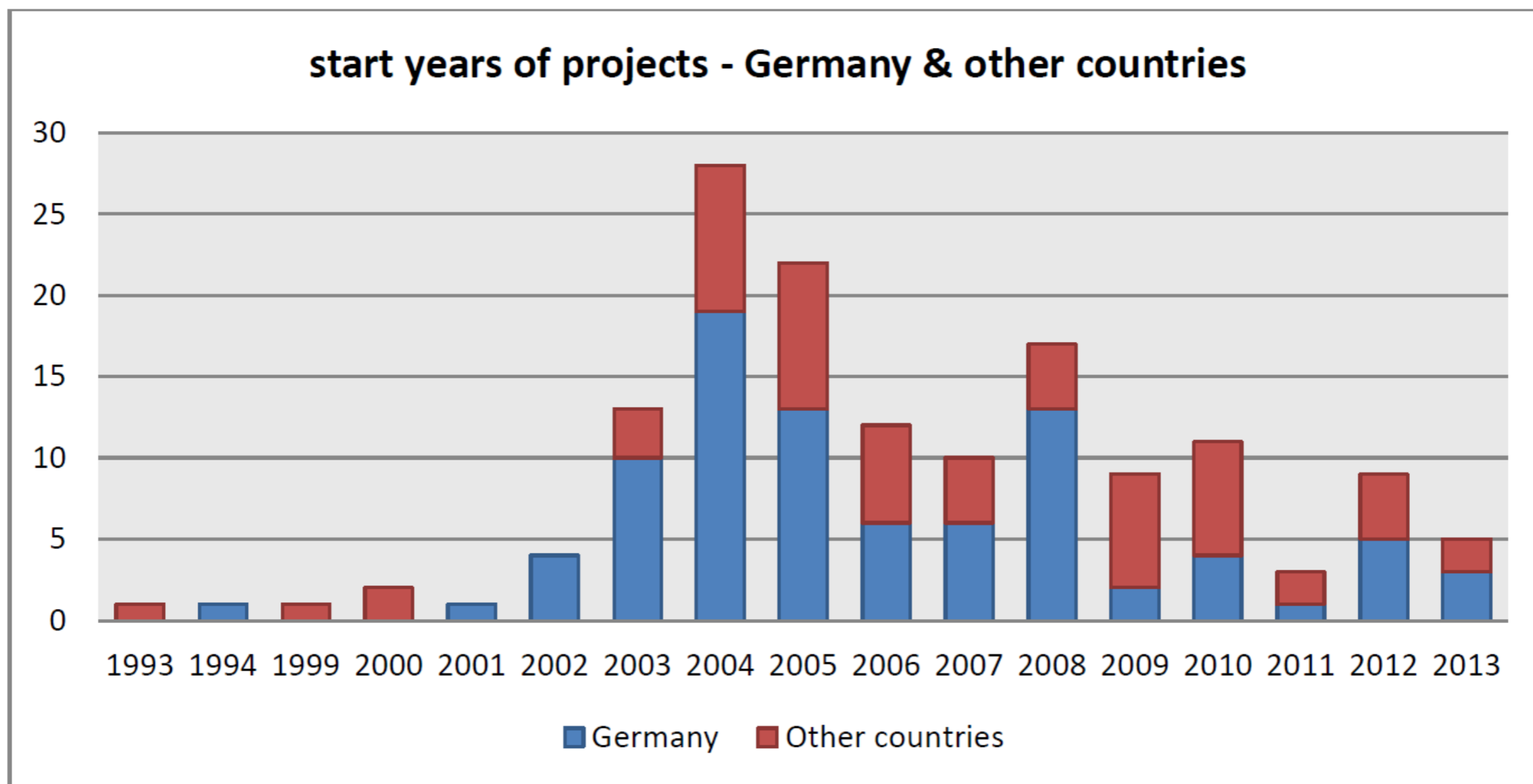
Simona Cerrato
(SISSA Medialab, Italy)

Cyril Dworsky
(European Children's Universities Network – EUCU.NET)

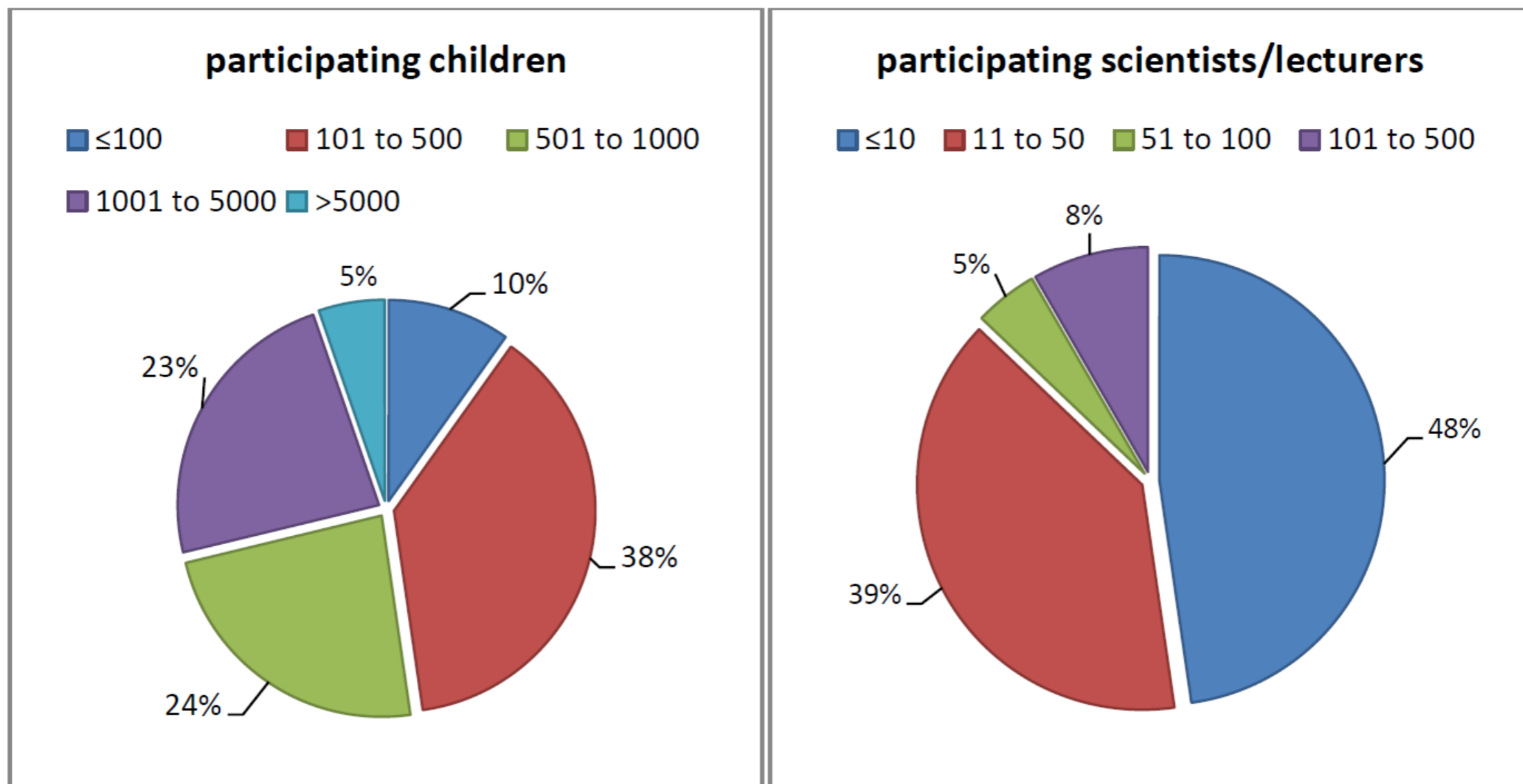
Chris Gary
(Vienna University Children's Office, Austria)



Implementation of new CUs is still ongoing!

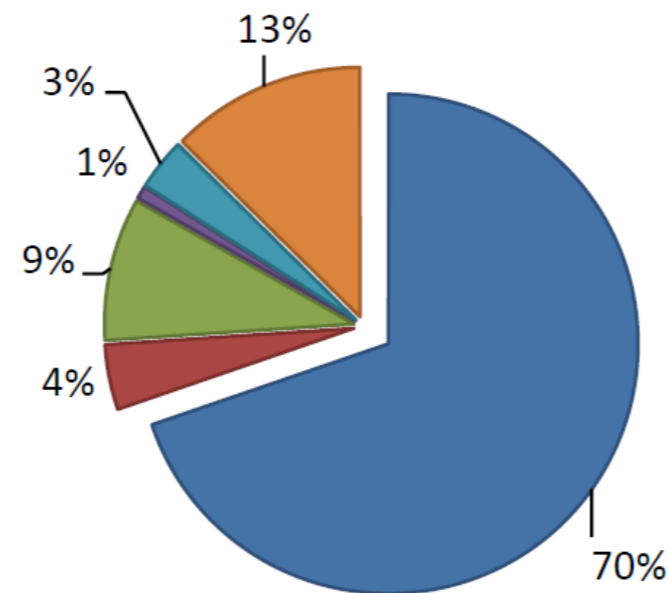


Typically, a CU reaches 101-500 children each year (38% of all CUs) and involves up to 10 scientists/lecturers (48%)



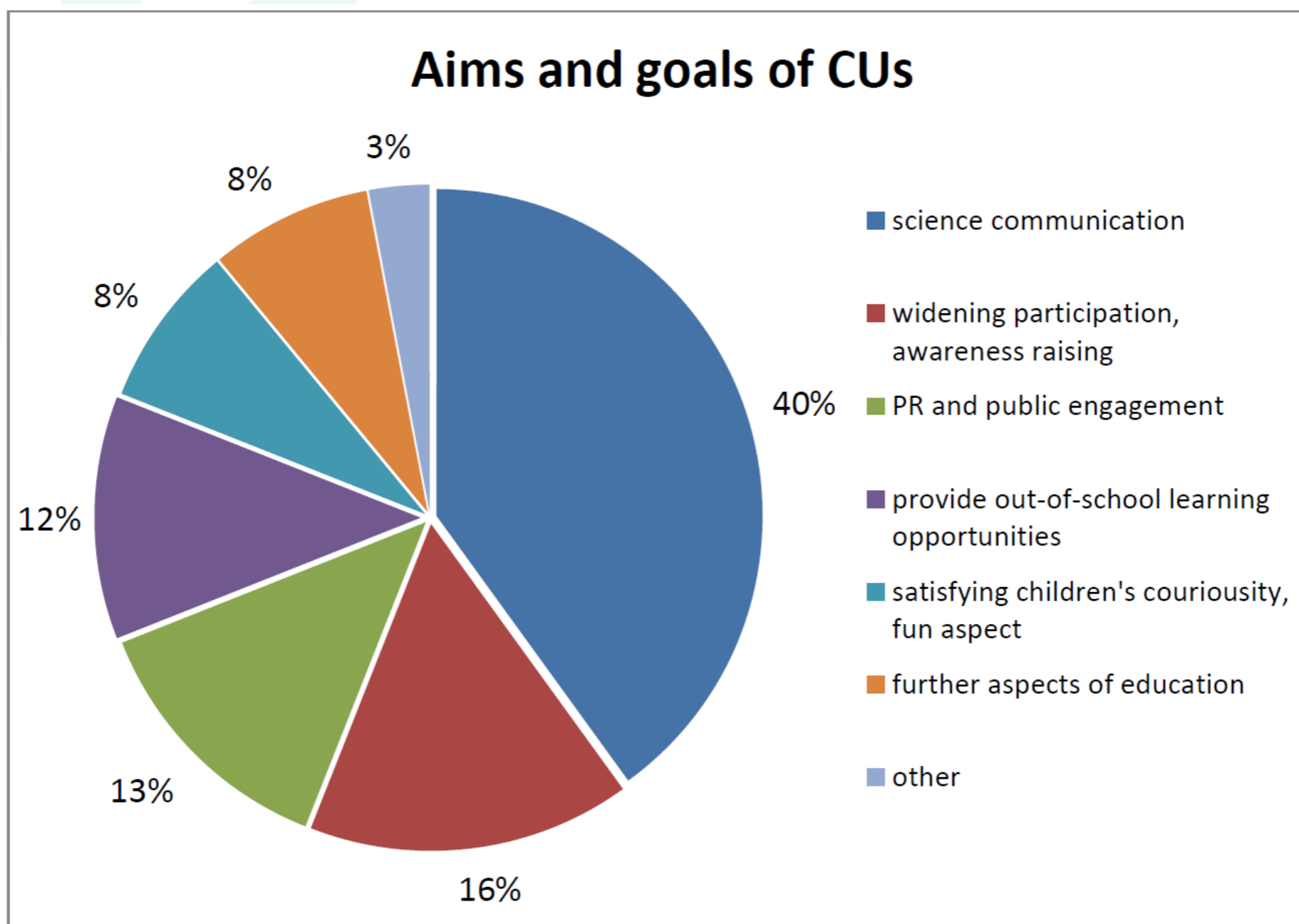
CU in fact is an academic approach!

Type of coordinating organisation



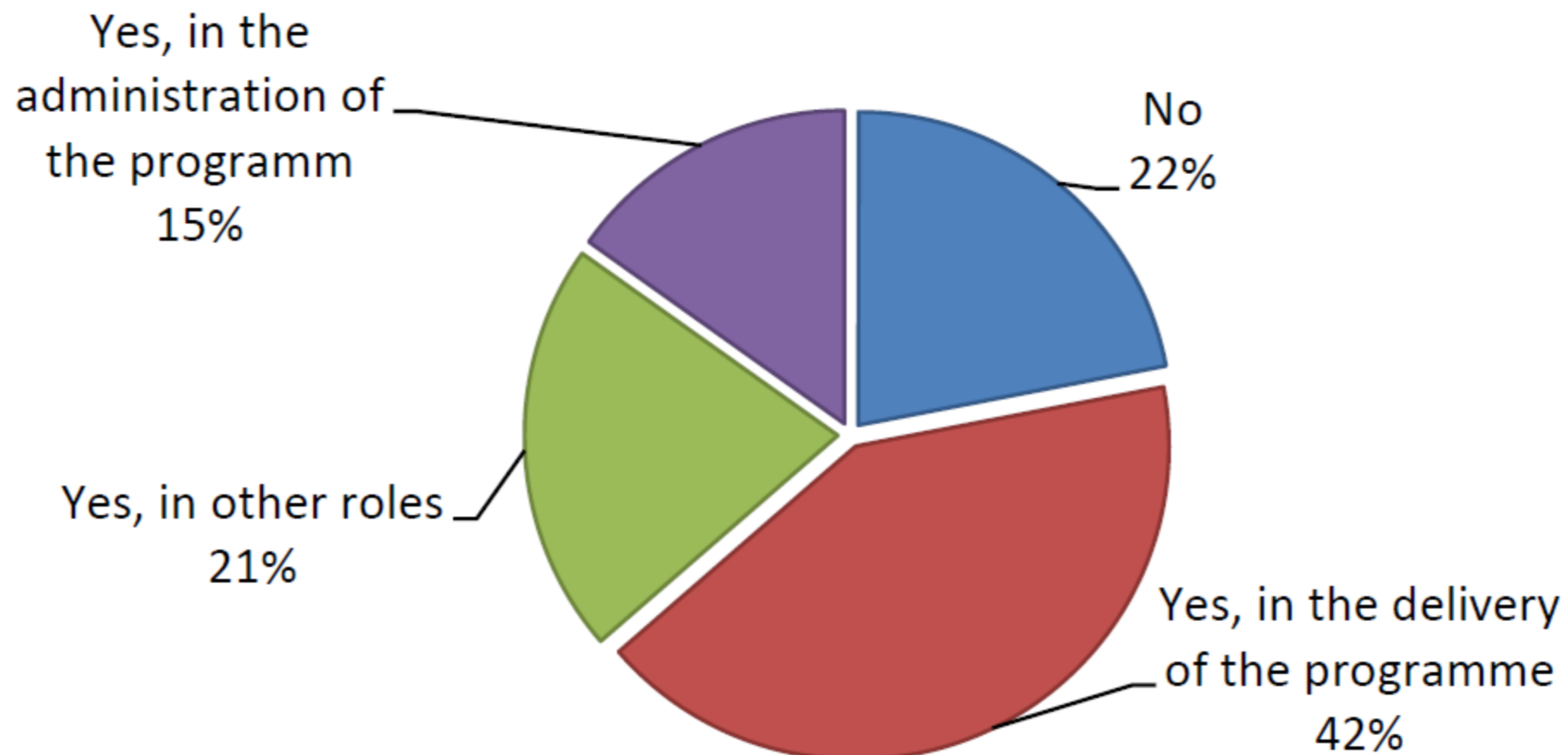
- University
- Independent organisation associated with/related to an HE establishment
- Other NGO, NPO, federation, association, etc.
- Non-HE establishment
- Municipality, Governmental organisation
- Other

Aims and goals of CUs (EUCU.NET Survey 2009/10)



Involvement of students as a relevant factor!

Student involvement



It's the Children's Universities that count!

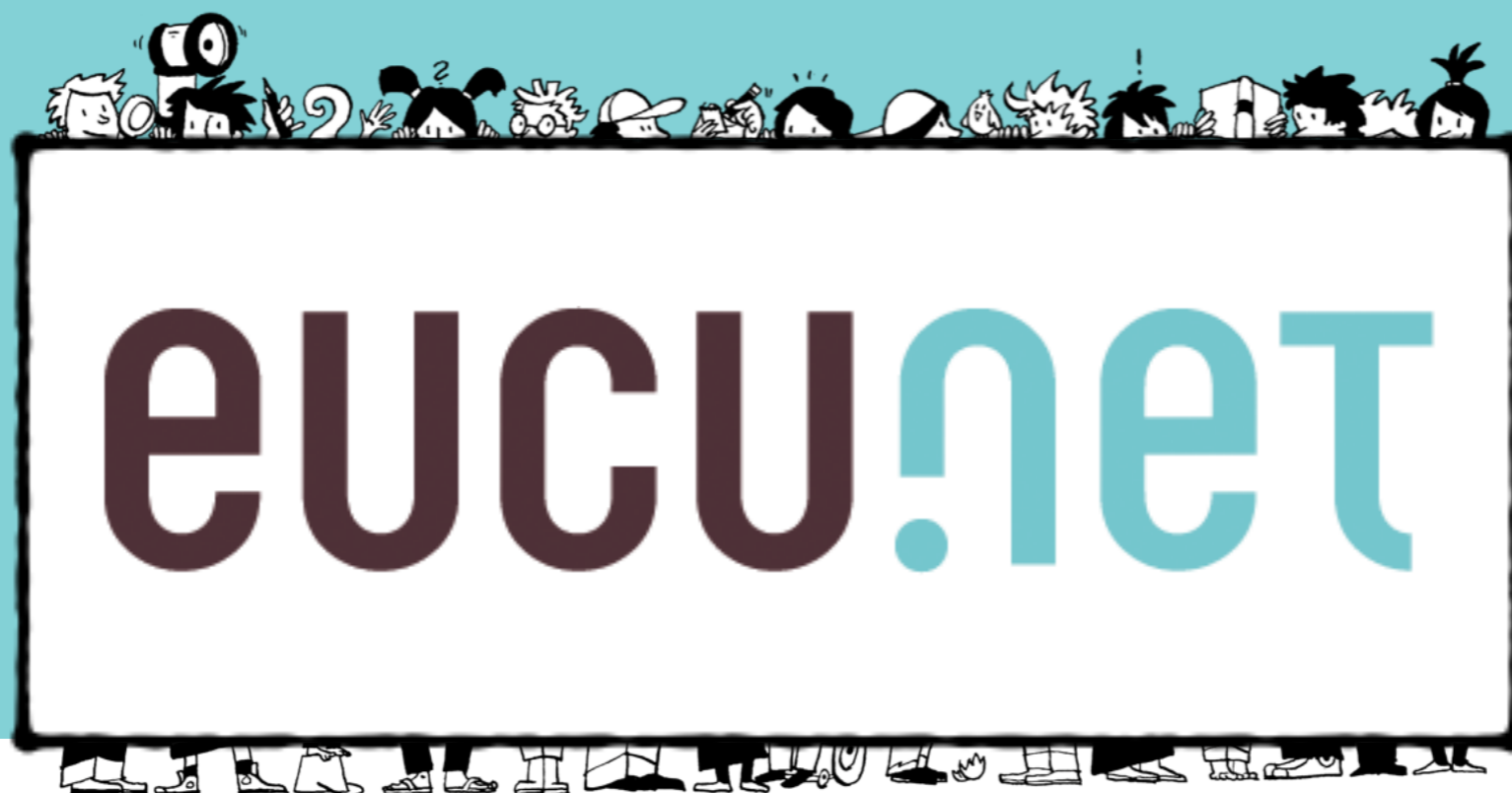
The quantities of Children's Universities:

	Participating children per year	Participating scientists/lecturers per year
Total number	189.155	5.010
Smallest number	30	1
Highest number	20.000	500
Average	1.433	38

EUCU.NET – Your Network for Children's University Programmes

eucunet

European Children's University Network
c/o Vienna University Children's Office
Lammgasse 8/8 A-1080 Vienna / Austria
info@eucu.net / www.eucu.net



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Empowering Children and Young People within Higher Education

MITIGATING SCHOOL DROP OUT

Simona Cerrato | Sissa Medialab | Trieste Italy

SISSA:
higher education
research in Mathematics,
Physics and Neurosciences

SISSA FOR SCHOOLS:
school visits every Thursday
student day on February
other public events



Who are THE PROTAGONISTS

Teens

underprivileged

social isolation

low self esteem

reduced opportunities in life and profession

hate school, teachers, authority

SISSA PhDs

Coding lab



A series of workshops to produce games

Teacher Coderdojo



Mentors in a Coder Dojo event @ SISSA

RESULTS

Knowledge: programming and logical thinking

Attitudes: trust toward science, higher education,
adults, learning

Experience: new environment, new challenges

Social context: new relationships, responsibility
towards the others

Identity: I am not so stupid... I can do it!

Vienna University Children's Office - Who we are



- non-profit private company owned by the University of Vienna
- established in 2006 as an independent legal entity (project structures since 1999)
- 50 permanent staff
- annual turnover approx. 2 Mio EUR
- 4 main areas of activity:
 - ✓ science communication & awareness raising
 - ✓ diversity management & career-family balance
 - ✓ project development & services
 - ✓ international networking

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



- joint project of 6 major universities in Vienna (University of Vienna, Vienna University of Technology, Medical University Vienna, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, University of Veterinary Medicine)
- coordinated by Vienna University Children's Office
- basic concerns:
 - ✓ raising awareness from the earliest age possible
 - ✓ scientists as role models
 - ✓ social inclusion re. access to HE (information, empowerment, self confidence, feeling of belonging)

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



... was initiated in 2003 for children from 7 to 12 years!

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



... is during 2 weeks in summer holidays and attracts almost 4.000 kids each year!

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



... involves more than 500 scientists and researchers from 6 major universities in Vienna! And more than 100 student helpers (paid/volunteers)

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



... provides more than 25.000 places in more than 400 different lectures, workshops, tutorials and excursions ...

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



... of which kids may choose freely according to their interests from all relevant fields within 6 specialised universities.

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



... includes a road-show in problem boroughs as a „door opener“ ...

Vienna Children's University - key aspects

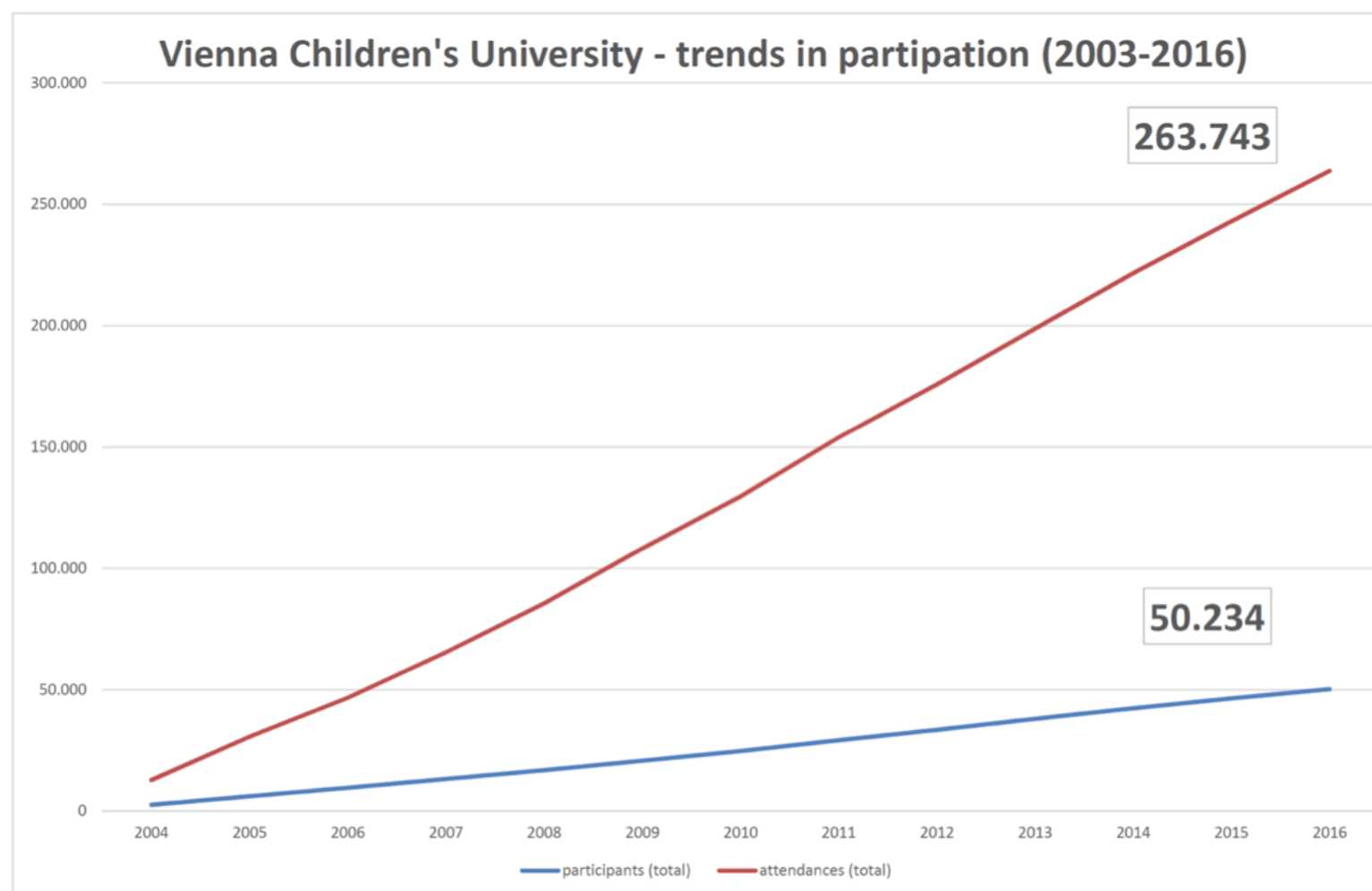
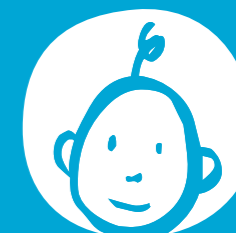


... towards underperforming groups and local minorities, who are less likely to go onto HE.

Vienna Children's University - key aspects



... is to provide a glimpse into the „academic world“ at an early age! Without fees!



<http://kinder.univie.ac.at>