



Internal Quality Assurance as a Catalyst for sustainable, transnational collaboration: The case of the EUTOPIA

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eUTOPIA

EUTOPIA – An alliance of 10 European universities



10 Partners from 10 European countries:



representing:

263,602

Students

163,968

Undergraduate

82,677

Master

16,957

PhD

40,331

Staff

18,774

Administrative Staff

21,557

Academic

154

Faculties

eUTOPIA

...and 6 Global partners

eUTOPIA
Global
Partners



eUTOPIA

Our mission

- We believe that together we can create a more **open, inclusive**, and **sustainable** society.
- With **confidence** in **knowledge**, in our **collaboration** and **ourselves**, we are connecting communities tackling education, research, or outreach challenges of global relevance.
- Our long-term vision envisages the creation of a **EUTOPIA College** and **EUTOPIA Global Institute**.

Student-centred

Transformative opportunities to empower students

Challenge-driven

Geared towards the global challenges of the future

Inclusive

Committed to the principles of openness and inclusion

At the service of

society

Connecting with society at a local-to-global level

EUTOPIA's portfolio of initiatives

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

(Integrated) Connected Communities
Connected Learning Communities
Connected Research Communities

STUDY

ECOTOPIA

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Innovation Challenges
Certificate of Internationalisation
TeamWork
Student Career Ambassadors
BeEUTOPIAn Conference
EUTOPIA Student Think Tank
Ideas Club
Summer Schools

LIFELONG LEARNING

FLECSLAB

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Science and Innovation Fellowships
Young Leaders Academy
PhD co-tutelle
Impact Schools
Open Science
Partnering tools
Researcher Mobility Portal
Sharing of Research Infrastructure
Atlas of Research Funding
EUTOPIA_HEALTH

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

Science Diplomacy seminars
EUTOPIA & AUF: Science Diplomacy

COOPERATION BEYOND EU / EUROPE

Western Balkans
Global Partnerships
EUTOPIA Talks at NOVA Cairo

INCLUSION

SUSTAINABILITY

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIGITALISATION

IMPACT AND DISSEMINATION

POLICY CONTRIBUTION

EDLab & SMARTT

Context

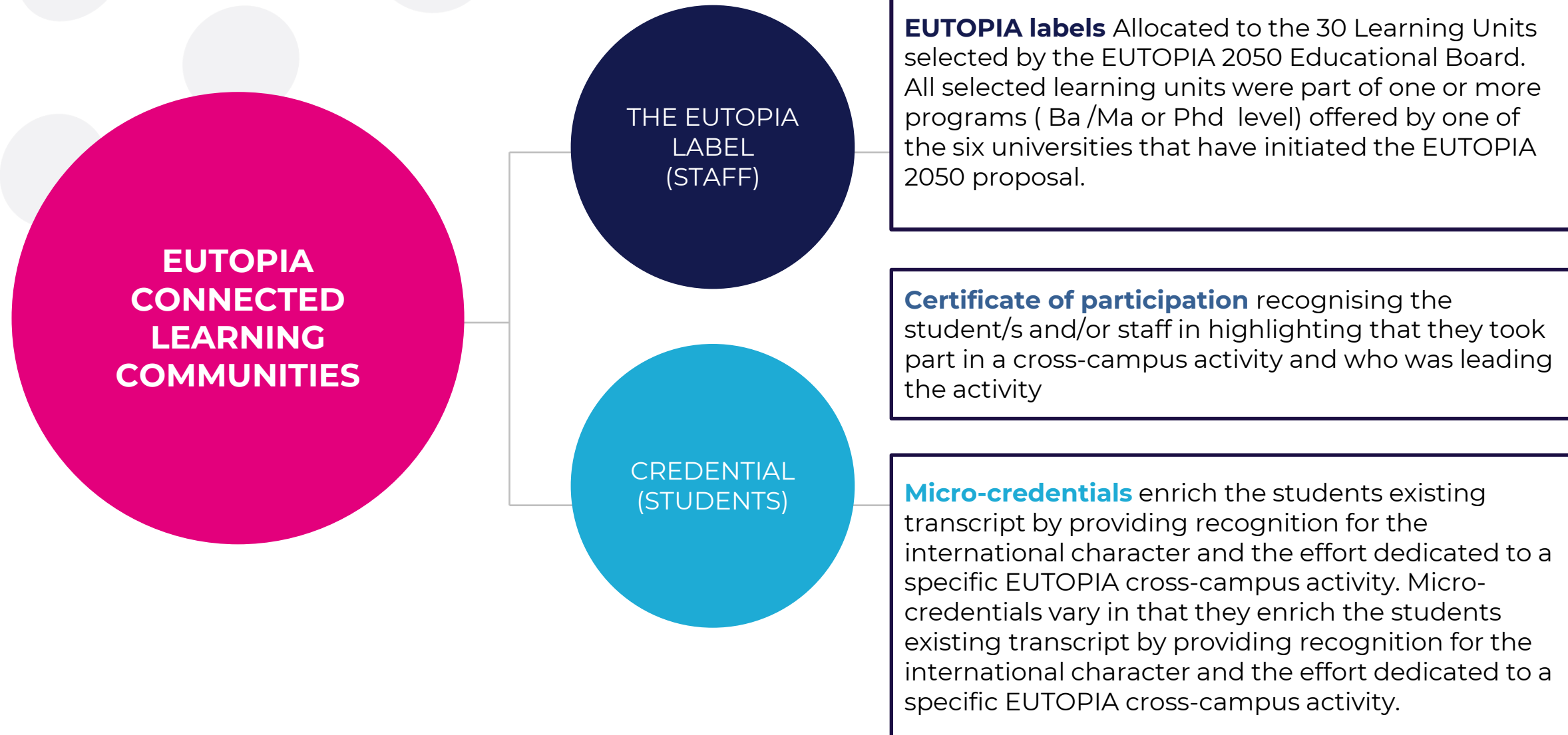
Scope

- Ensuring a systematic recognition of the staff and student efforts within EUTOPIA Connected (Learning) Communities;
- Facilitate, promote, and support the use of credits awarded across the alliance at intra and co-curricular level.

Milestones

- Establishing a **Community of Practice for Connected Learning (CoP)** including experts in quality assurance from all EUTOPIA partners.
- **Agreement of Vice Rectors Education within EUTOPIA** on trusting universities' institutional processes for quality assurance and the recognition of micro-credits awarded across the alliance
- **Commitment to create the conditions for EUTOPIANISATION of pedagogic offering** (EUTOPIA label and pathways for micro-credits)

EUTOPIA Mechanisms for Recognition of Connected Learning



Label

Allows for **recognition of academic staff** actively participating in connected learning activities and able to identify the impact of cross-campus connected **learning activities on the learning outcomes of their courses** involved.

For **creating visibility of EUTOPIA in the program descriptors** and on the students diploma supplements of the students registered for the labelled courses in all cycles of the educational cycle

EUTOPIANISATION of the academic offering

Significant multiplier effect by allocating the label not only to the leads but to all partners participating in the connected learning activities

Micro credentials

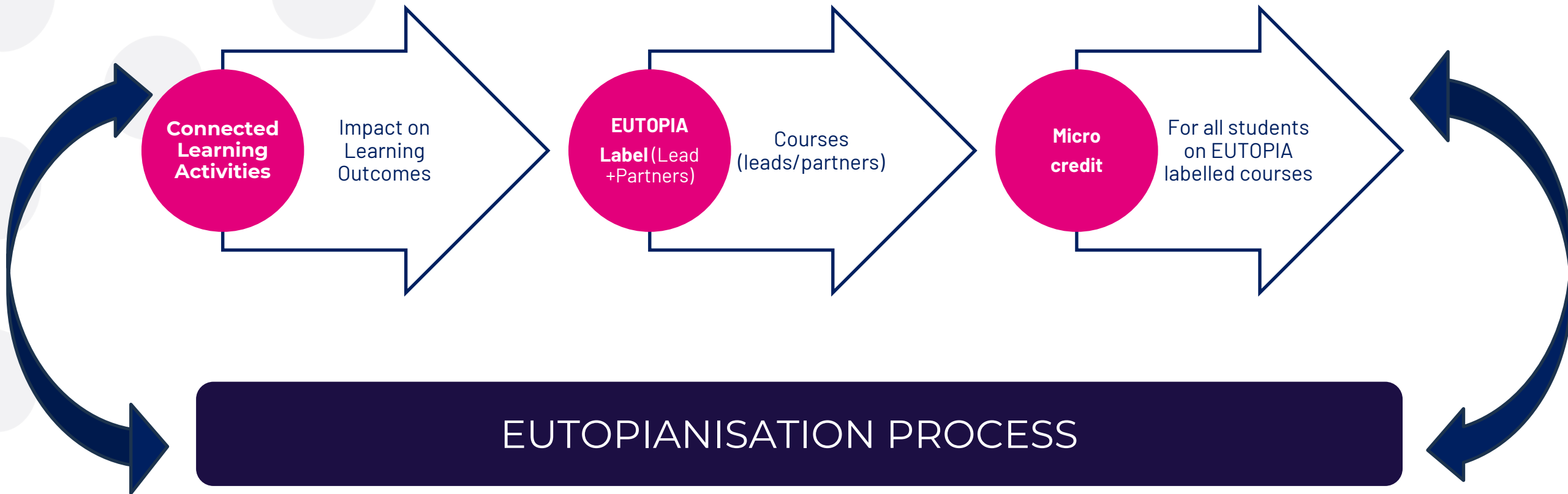
System for recognition of the academic offering at the micro level and therefore perfectly aligned with the characteristics of the connected learning activities that often refer to parts of individual courses

For experimenting with this tool we already use templates that respond to the guidelines of the European Commission.

There is no legal frame yet for the extra alliance acceptance. The probability for this becoming a reality is high in LLL context (the combined authority of DG Youth and DG Employment).

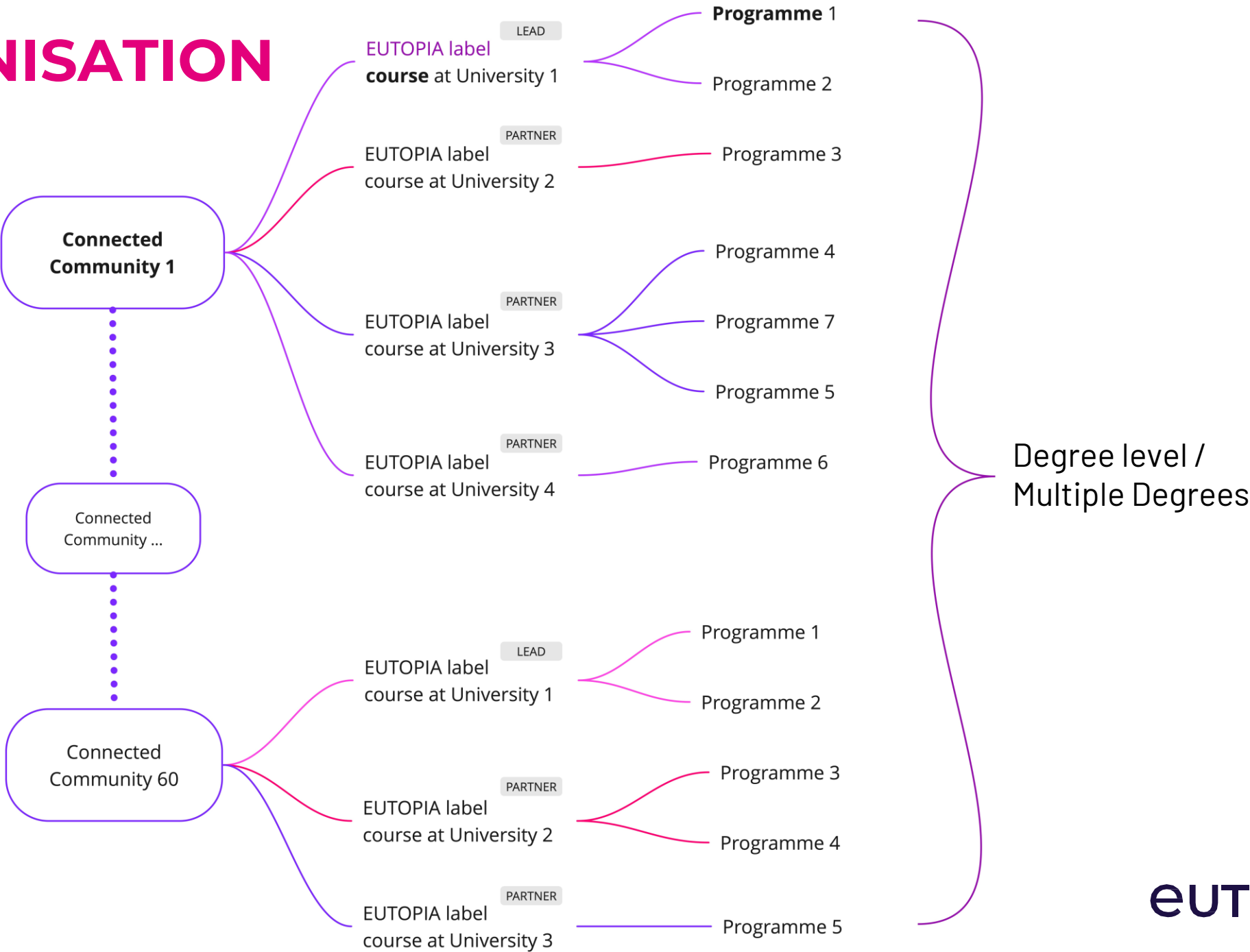
Meanwhile we aspire to establish a process for a mutual acceptance of learning outcomes described on the micro-credential at intra alliance level.

EUTOPIANISATION at course level



eUTOPIA

EUTOPIANISATION



EUTOPIANISATION conditions and tools

1. Follow adequate **quality assurance mechanisms** that ensure that the offering meets the intended learning outcomes, monitoring the impact of C(L)Cs.
2. **Award an EUTOPIA label** within the programme description of the diploma supplement (ensuring the recognition of academic staff actively participating in connected learning activities and in creating visibility for EUTOPIA)
3. **Award a micro-credential** as defined at the level of the Connected Community. Micro-credentials may be awarded as:
 - a. an integrated part of learning units/modules within the framework of a specific study programme (***intra-curricular*** level) allowing the possibility to exempt a student from part of a study programme or
 - b. separately (***co-curricular*** level), the micro-credential comes on top of a course, learning unit or qualification contributing to the expansion, and diversification of a student's study journey.

What do we propose

Systematic recognition of the efforts of staff and students

Simple procedure aligned with internal curricular structures and QA procedures



RESULTING IN

Visibility

Recognition

Clarity

Indicators

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION with the EQAF audience

- *What kind of decision-making is needed for accepting a label in your institution?*
- *What information is required for the implementation of labels and procedures for micro-credentials (if any)?*
- *What is the Impact of the IQA on curriculum reform (procedures and processes for micro and macro changes)?*
- *What are some examples of institutional QA processes for the award of micro-credentials in your higher education institution?*
- *Can you provide models of internal QA processes contributing to the recognition of micro-credits?*
- *What is the role of existing Quality Assurance (QA) systems and processes in enhancing cooperation within European University Alliances?*
- *What are the possible implications of the EUTOPIA model for transferability of microcredits earned in one EUTOPIA institution to learning pathways in partner universities? Can this model be employed in your university?*