



Photo from the Erasmus+ iYouth project

Join the UBL (Un-teachables but Learnables)  
network:

# TOWARDS A EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP

# INTRO

The Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project THE UNTEACHABLES was granted summer 2018 with a very high score and with great perspectives.

The project bravely addresses the most important question to education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: **are an increasing number of young people becoming “unteachable”, and how might they be turned into, not “teachables” but “learnables”?**

A very important strategic perspective is built into the project in the form of an Intellectual Outcome: **the creation of a Knowledge Alliance application in 2020 - towards a European leadership in the field “Unteachables but Learnables”.**

The Unteachables project is therefore obliged to form a network based on the project mission and aiming to work through the needed steps to the Knowledge Alliance application 2020.

This network - the UBL network - will be built up from the first days of the project.

*This paper is the first invitation to join the network!*



## The Erasmus+ The Unteachables as a strategic platform

The Unteachables project will run from 2018-20 and will address in a radical way the paramount question for education: *are the new generations of young people becoming increasingly “unteachables”?*

Does 21<sup>st</sup> century youth represent the end of what we know as “education”? And if so, what does it take for education to turn them into - not “teachables” but “learnables”?

Obviously, this is a very big challenge to a modest Erasmus+ project.

Therefore a long-term strategic perspective has been built into the project: the project is obliged to produce a **Knowledge Alliance** application for the March 2020 Erasmus+ Call. This strategic perspective will take the challenge to a higher European level. In fact it might very well represent a huge step towards a European leadership in this field.

The steps towards the Knowledge Alliance will be taken in close collaboration with dedicated teacher educations, dedicated researchers and dedicated secondary schools from across Europe.

The Knowledge Alliance cannot be “invented”, it must be built up.

Thus the journey towards the Knowledge Alliance and the possible European leadership will be based on The Unteachables platform, but will of course elaborate on, qualify and widen this platform along the journey.



## Target institutions and professionals

*Who should join the UBL network - the Unteachables but Learnables network - and the steps towards the Knowledge Alliance?*

First of all teacher educations with a strategic interest in tackling one of the most important educational questions in our times - and with an interest in a future Knowledge Alliance initiative.

Some of these teacher educations might have participated in terminated Erasmus+ projects with relevance to The Unteachables and to the UBL network - or are participating in similar ongoing projects.

Dedicated educational researchers with such interests might also wish to join as individuals or representing a research body or project.

Last, but not least, secondary schools highly dedicated to experiment with how to turn “unteachables” into “learnables” might wish to join the network - or the March 2019 Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships to be created from late 2018.



## The Unteachables in short

The Unteachables is a radical project in the sense that it boldly claims that 21<sup>st</sup> century students are increasingly moving away from what we know as education and educatability - for example along the teenage years in secondary school. The project claims that new pedagogical approaches to teaching are not enough: *we must fundamentally re-think what education should be for our new generations of young people.*

The project is based on the assumption that an increasing number of young students are thinking differently, learning differently, living differently and acting differently. Meaning: *fundamentally* differently...

What therefore is needed in education is a revolution, not an evolution.

The word “revolution” indicates a *fundamental shift* in what education should be for present and future young generations.

Such a fundamental shift is strongly supported by the European Commission.

The Unteachables will create the first building bricks in this mission. At the same time it will build up a network to create a number of new Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership applications for the March 2019 Call - on which the 2020 Knowledge Alliance will build.

In practice The Unteachables will, therefore, engage in the following key activities:

- A profiling of the new generations of (secondary) students, including what challenges this means to traditional or modern education
- Produce and present what the project calls “Evidence of learnability”: what can be learn from radical experimentation in Europe and beyond?
- Create scenarios of learnability
- Test such scenarios with teacher students and secondary schools in real-life settings
- Evaluate the outcomes of the testing
- Implement the strategic plan for the Knowledge Alliance and the possible European leadership

The focus of The Unteachables and the focus of the strategic plan are on teacher students: creating the tools for future teachers in secondary school to master and experiment with the great challenge of turning “unteachables” into “learnables”.



## The strategic perspective: the 2020 Knowledge Alliance - The 3 steps

*So, what is it in practice that The Unteachables project invites teacher educations, researchers and dedicated secondary schools to join?*

The project invites such resources to join the UBL network from the very first days of The Unteachables project from 2018-20.

The UBL network is the platform The Unteachables will use to implement the strategic mission: the submission of a Knowledge Alliance in March 2020 - and the expected European leadership driven by this Knowledge Alliance.

UBL stands for: Unteachables but Learnables.

This network will engage interested institutions in the 3 steps towards a European leadership in the field of turning “unteachables” into “learnables”.

The 3 steps are:

### STEP 1

Building up the first UBL network in Autumn 2018: sharing experience, establishing useful debates on key topics and preparing the March 2019 Erasmus+ applications

(The UBL network will be further qualified and expanded in 2019 towards the Knowledge Alliance initiative)

### STEP 2

Creating and submitting 3-4 Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership applications relevant to the Knowledge Alliance mission and based on key partners from the UBL network

### STEP 3

Creating and submitting a high quality and competitive Knowledge Alliance application for the March 20120 Erasmus+ Call

The further perspective is to use a granted Knowledge Alliance to drive a European leadership in the field addressed.



Why should you join the UBL network? - What's in it for you? - Which are the activities?

Teacher educations, researchers and dedicated secondary schools might ask: *why should we join this UBL network? What's in it for us?*

In an overall perspective joining the network means that the institution will be actively involved in one of the leading European communities addressing one of the most important challenges to 21<sup>st</sup> century education - for at least 5 years and most likely much more.

This perspective is ambitious.

But: only the ambitious wins and leads, the others just follow.

For most institutions such an engagement will be extremely benefitting and many useful activities and initiatives might emerge from the engagement.

But the motivation to join the network is not only driven by long-term perspectives. The professionals and institutions joining the network will benefit from day one:

- they will be able to re-invest, exploit and re-vive knowledge, experience and terminated or ongoing projects in new contexts
- they will be able to join a number of Erasmus+ applications for the March 2019 Call to be prepared already from Autumn 2018 and enjoy possible grants
- they will be able to form new partnerships and new sharing communities

*In other words: the resources joining the UBL network will be active and busy from the very beginning.*

*The combination of practical here and now action and long-term perspectives is very attractive.*

In fact there are no limits to the benefits and potentials emerging from such engagement.



## How to communicate in the UBL network? What will The Unteachables offer?

The Unteachables will offer to facilitate the building and collaboration of the UBL network. This is already included in the project application and work programme.

The project will set up a single BaseCamp forum for professionals and institutions joining the network.

This forum will make it easy for the network partners to communicate and work together along the first steps.

The forum will also include the sharing of valuable experience from projects, research and other relevant engagements.

Depending on the evolution of the UBL network, further BaseCamps can be created for the network partners.

The Unteachables project will systematically deliver inspiration and results from its work processes to the UBL network.

In the BaseCamp forum you will also find further material about The Unteachables.



## How to join?

Should you wish to join the network - as an institution or as a professional with great interest in this challenge and mission - you simply send an email to *Working with Europe*.

*Working with Europe* is a partner in The Unteachables and responsible for building the UBL network and for planning the submission of the March 2020 Knowledge Alliance.

Direct contact is:  
**Senior European Project Manager Jan Gejel**  
[jan.gejel@skolekom.dk](mailto:jan.gejel@skolekom.dk)

You will then be invited to the networks' BaseCamp forum - and you will be able to ask us to invite relevant colleagues as well.

You are also welcome to contact the project coordinator:

Absalon University College  
Roskilde, Denmark  
Ove Christensen - och@pha.dk



What **YOU** can do!

You are invited to forward this network invitation to relevant colleagues and institutions in your national and European networks.

Thanks 😊