EULAB SPECULATIVE DIGITAL PLATFORM

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INTRODUCTION

The ambition of EUlab as a pan European Sustainability Challenge Exchange programme and network requires an infrastructure that effectively manages and coordinates the program at an EU scale. Such a platform will allow EUlab to build scale and ensure quality. This white paper sets out the need and nature of an Erasmus Sustainability Challenge programme framed as a cosmological SDG impact platform. The aim is to introduce the concept of cosmo-local SDG platform which will enable EUlabs established in different HE institutions to share their insights generate new knowledge and amplify the impact of insights generated at the local level. Cosmo-local is described as a circular system of knowledge supply and demand which involves 1) the sharing of knowledge across national sectoral and disciplinary boundaries then 2) testing these in the local setting and 3) sharing the learnings from these settings. A shared UN SDG thematic (and its successor) will enable the integration of knowledge and practices across different settings.

This white paper report takes a speculative design perspective which works to visualise a future where the challenges that we uncovered during the EU Lab (KA2) research project are projected into a future where these issues have been addressed or solved in a novel way. Speculative design proves invaluable in envisioning the potential of a future EULab Trans-European platform by transcending conventional boundaries of present thinking. This approach allows for the exploration of possibilities beyond the limitations of current frameworks, fostering innovation and creativity in conceptualising the platform's scope, functionalities, and impact. By embracing speculative design, stakeholders can vividly visualise a transformative platform that intertwines diverse educational landscapes, leveraging technology, and fostering collaborative exchange among European institutions.

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This approach offers a series of canvases to contemplate, test, and refine concepts that have the potential to redefine the landscape of education, transcending geographic borders to facilitate a cohesive and impactful exchange network. Through speculative design, we are better placed to navigate uncertainties, anticipate challenges, and construct a dynamic blueprint that resonates with the aspirations and needs of a future European Mission Led educational ecosystem.

4 aspects of the future EULab Sustainability Challenge platform are envisioned in this white paper. Each addressing a challenge or barrier to scaling identified during the KA2 Erasmus+ funded EULab project.

- Facilitator Agent Team
- Universal Credit Exchange
- Mission Explorer
- Mission Archive

The development of the EULab Sustainability Challenge Platform Concept through IO10 marked a comprehensive journey from conceptualisation to the creation of a a series of speculative wireframe visualizations that depict key behaviors in the future EUlab Sustainable Challenge platform. Thus, enabling stakeholders to robustly engaged with these speculative designs to further co create the future platform. Its development involved extensive research, collaborative workshops, and iterative design and testing phases. The final white paper, in conjunction with the speculative visuals aims to showcase practical examples and propose a concept for a cosmo-local SDG impact platform.

For more information, please refer to the EULab Sustainability Challenge Toolkit @ www.eulab.org

FACILITATOR AGENT TEAM

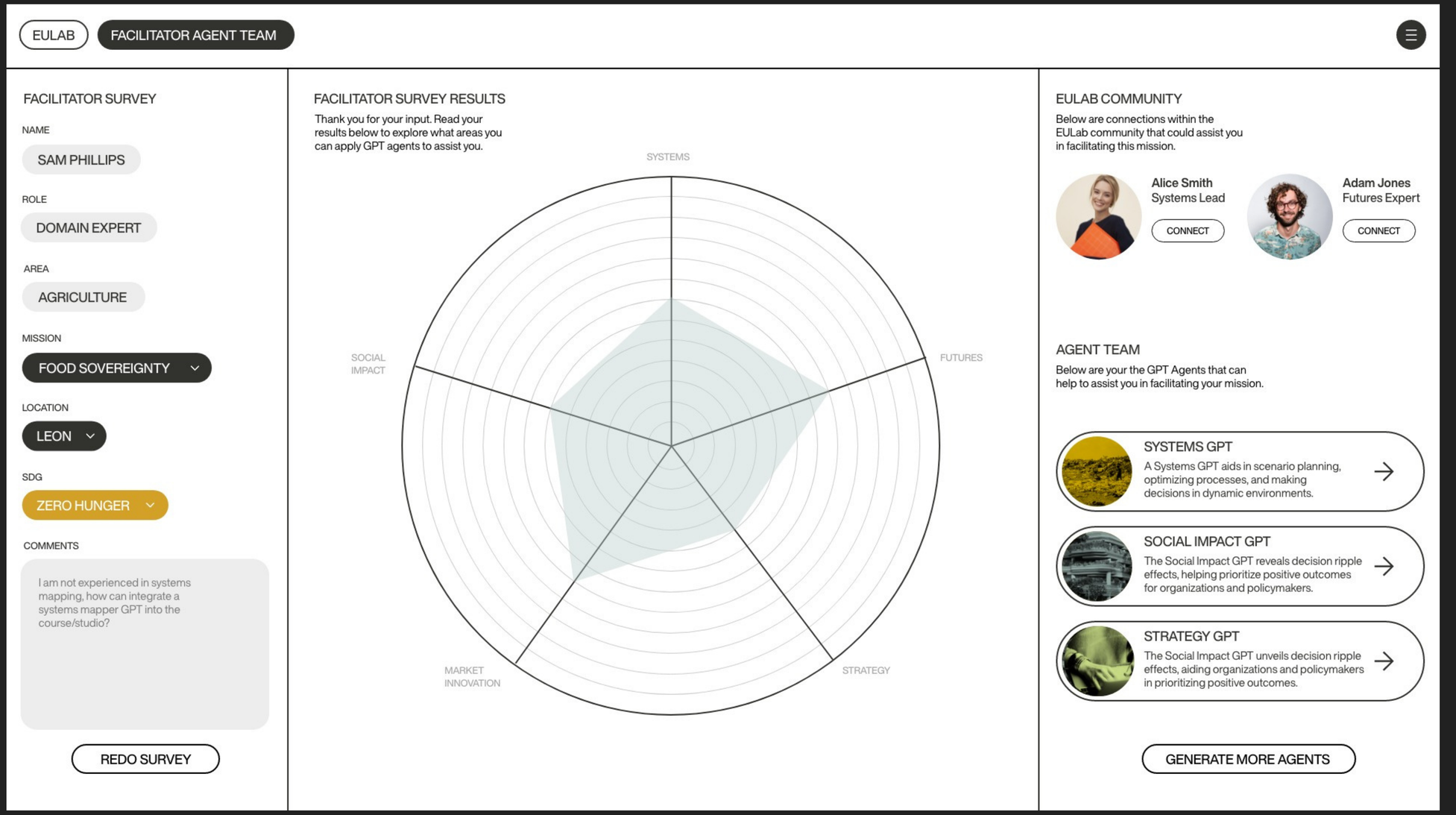
The 'Facilitator Agent Team' is a tool designed for educators in the EULab community. Lecturers can input their skills and desired mission they plan to facilitate, receiving AI-Agents and connections to community members with complementary expertise. It streamlines course creation, fostering collaboration and enriching teaching experiences.

FACILITATOR AGENT TEAM

This AI-assisted tool leverages the lecturer's unique skill print—a personalised representation of their expertise—the tool analyses strengths and identifies gaps. When a mission is selected, the AI tool provides key community partners who can fill these knowledge gaps where the lecturer may not specialise.

The tool also provides access to AI agents, intelligent entities that guide the lecturer by suggesting resources, offering insights baed on the EULab programme scaffold, and enhancing the overall studio content. The tool is based on an iterative feedback loop; as the course takes shape, the AI refines its recommendations based on the lecturer's feedback, ensuring a personalised learning experience.

Seamlessly integrating into the lecturer's workflow, this tool empowers educators to explore new domains, resulting in courses or studio programmes that reflect their expertise while strategically addressing knowledge gaps & connecting community members for a more impactful learning journey.



FACILITATOR AGENT TEAM

USER STORY

As a lecturer, I want to leverage the capabilities of the 'Facilitator agent team' to streamline and enhance my Sustainability Challenge course creation process. By inputting my own skill print and specifying the mission I aim to lead, I seek AI assistance in identifying and addressing gaps in my expertise. This enables me to receive targeted suggestions and guidance from AI agents, aiding in the creation of a comprehensive course structure.

This process not only ensures that my Sustainability Challenge course covers a diverse range of topics but also helps me focus on areas where I may need additional support. The tool also connects me with skilled individuals within the EULab community who can serve as facilitators for the course. This collaborative approach not only enriches the learning experience for students but also fosters a sense of community engagement among educators.

In essence, by utilising the 'Facilitator agent team,' I can create a more inclusive and well-rounded Sustainability Challenge learning experience, tapping into the collective expertise of both AI and human facilitators within the EULab community.

KEY REFERENCE - OPEN AI GPTs

OpenAI's development on Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPTs) represents a breakthrough in natural language processing. GPTs, like GPT-3 with 175 billion parameters, showcase remarkable language generation capabilities, making them versatile for various applications. This creates future opportunities to leverage AI in the education space.

LINK - https:// christianmartinezfinancialfox.mediu m.com/how-to-create-gpts-in-chat- gpt-ai-agents-the-ultimate-guide- fb78a5b5dbd6

UNIVERSAL CREDIT EXCHANGE

The 'Universal Credit Exchange' provides a tool to assess the time commitment of a EULab Sustainability Challenge from one institution and compare it to another within the EULab community. By offering a clear comparison of course structures across institutions, students can make informed decisions about their academic journey.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT EXCHANGE

This tool serves as a guide to provide students with a clear and comprehensive comparison of course structures across institutions within the EULab network.

Students can delve into the specifics of credit requirements, course/challenge durations, and program intricacies, allowing them to make well-informed decisions about their academic journey within the EULab structure.

Beyond its advantages for students, the 'Universal Credit Exchange' extends valuable benefits to lecturers within the EULab community. By providing a transparent platform for comparing course structures across institutions, this tool enables educators to gain insights into the intricacies of their colleagues' programs.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT EXCHANGE

USER STORY

As a student, I want to leverage the capabilities of the 'Universal Credit Exchange' to assess the time commitment of a course at my current institution in comparison to offerings at other institutions within the EULab community. By exploring detailed comparisons of course structures, credit requirements, and program nuances, I aim to make informed decisions about my academic journey.

This tool empowers me to:

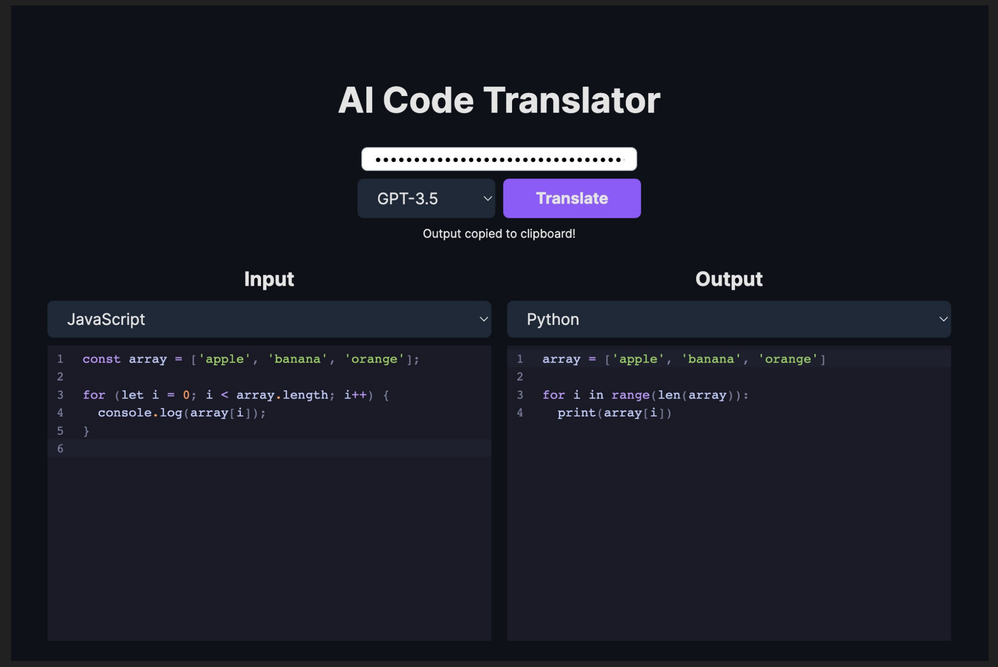
Plan my Educational Path: The 'Universal Credit Exchange' enables me to plan my academic journey strategically. By gaining insights into the specific requirements and structures of EU Sustainability Challenge Labs across institutions, I can align my chosen path with my educational and career goals.

Optimise Credit Transfers: I can make the most of credit transfer opportunities by understanding how EU Sustainability Challenge Labs align with each other. This ensures that the credits I earn contribute efficiently to my academic progress, minimising potential hurdles in the transfer process.

Explore New Academic Avenues: The tool allows me to explore EU Sustainability Challenge Labs beyond my current institution, opening doors to new academic avenues. Whether considering a transfer or looking to supplement my current program, the 'Universal Credit Exchange' provides the information needed to make informed choices.

Enhance Decision-Making: Armed with comprehensive insights, I can confidently make decisions that align with my academic and career aspirations. This tool serves as a valuable resource, ensuring that I navigate the diverse educational landscape of the EULab community with clarity and purpose.

KEY REFERENCE - VERCEL AI CODE TRANSLATOR



The AI Code Translato leverages AI to simplify coding languages for developers, the parallel to the Universal Credit Exchange would apply a similar approach in understanding course structures for students. They share a common goal of using technology to optimize and streamline tasks within their respective domains.

LINK - https://vercel.com/templates/next.js/ai-code-translator

MISSION EXPLORER

This tool simplifies student engagement by offering an interactive map of active labs across Europe. It allows students to explore roles aligning with their skills, seamlessly contributing to challenges. The interactive map fosters user-friendly engagement, collaboration, and valuable insights into chosen missions.

MISSION EXPLORER

The Mission Explorer is designed to showcase the available missions within the EULab community across Europe and its participating institutions. Missions are larger units that drive forward research and impact in a particular field while the Sustainability Challenge Labs are shorter bursts of activity/design springs equating to 3-6 ECTS credits

The Mission Explorer concept is based on offering a streamlined experience through an interactive map that highlights active Sustainability Challenge labs across Europe. The map enables students to explore and pinpoint diverse roles within each
lab that resonates with their skills and interests.

Beyond role identification, the tool provides valuable insights into the local stakeholder network associated with each mission type, offering a nuanced understanding of students' potential impact.

Essentially, the platform converts challenge exploration into an immersive journey, utilising the interactive map to facilitate user-friendly engagement, collaboration, and the acquisition of crucial insights into chosen missions.

USER STORY

As a student driven by a passion for UNSDG Zero Hunger, I seek to utilise the interactive map in the digital tool. My goal is to explore missions across Europe dedicated to eradicating hunger, identifying roles aligned with this mission. This streamlined approach allows me to seamlessly apply for relevant roles, fostering purposeful collaboration within the zero hunger initiatives. The interactive map provides in-depth insights into local stakeholders, enriching my understanding of the real-world impact of my contributions within the EULab community.

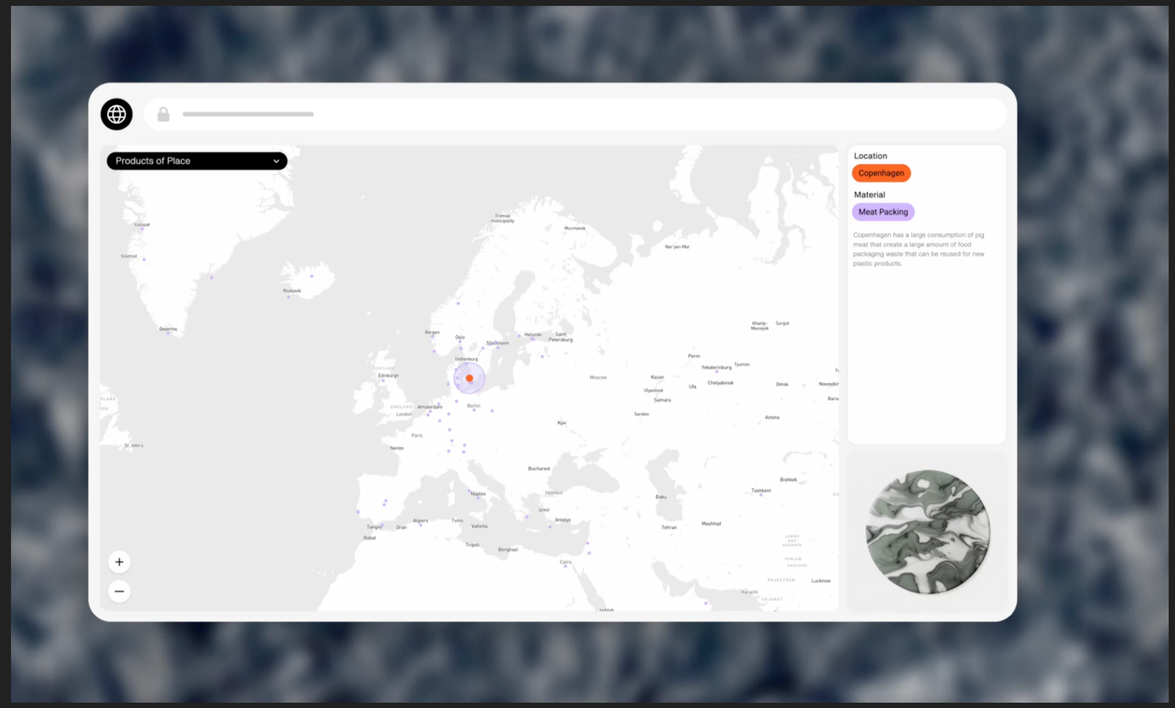
The interactive map serves as a guide, simplifying the discovery of labs focused on UNSDG Zero Hunger. It helps me to search for opportunities that relate to my interests.

Utilising the map, I can identify roles within each lab that align with my commitment to understanding food systems This approach ensures my contributions are meaningful and directly impactful in addressing food security challenges.

My focus is on actively engaging in challenges by applying for roles aligned with zero hunger initiatives. This not only enhances my learning experience but also fosters effective collaboration within labs dedicated to the critical cause.

Through the interactive map, I gain insights into the local stakeholder network associated with each mission. This contextual understanding enriches my involvement, providing a deeper insight into the real-world impact of my contributions within the EULab community.

KEY REFERENCE - PRODUCTS OF PLACE



Products of Place is an interactive map of speculative place-based plates made from locally abundant materials — identified by AI. This tool allows users to search for materials per location, seeing what is in abundance. The Mission Explorer takes inspiration from this functionality by mapping localised missions to specific places across Europe for students to access - creating impact in communities.

LINK - https://space10.com/projects/products-of-place

MISSION ARCHIVE

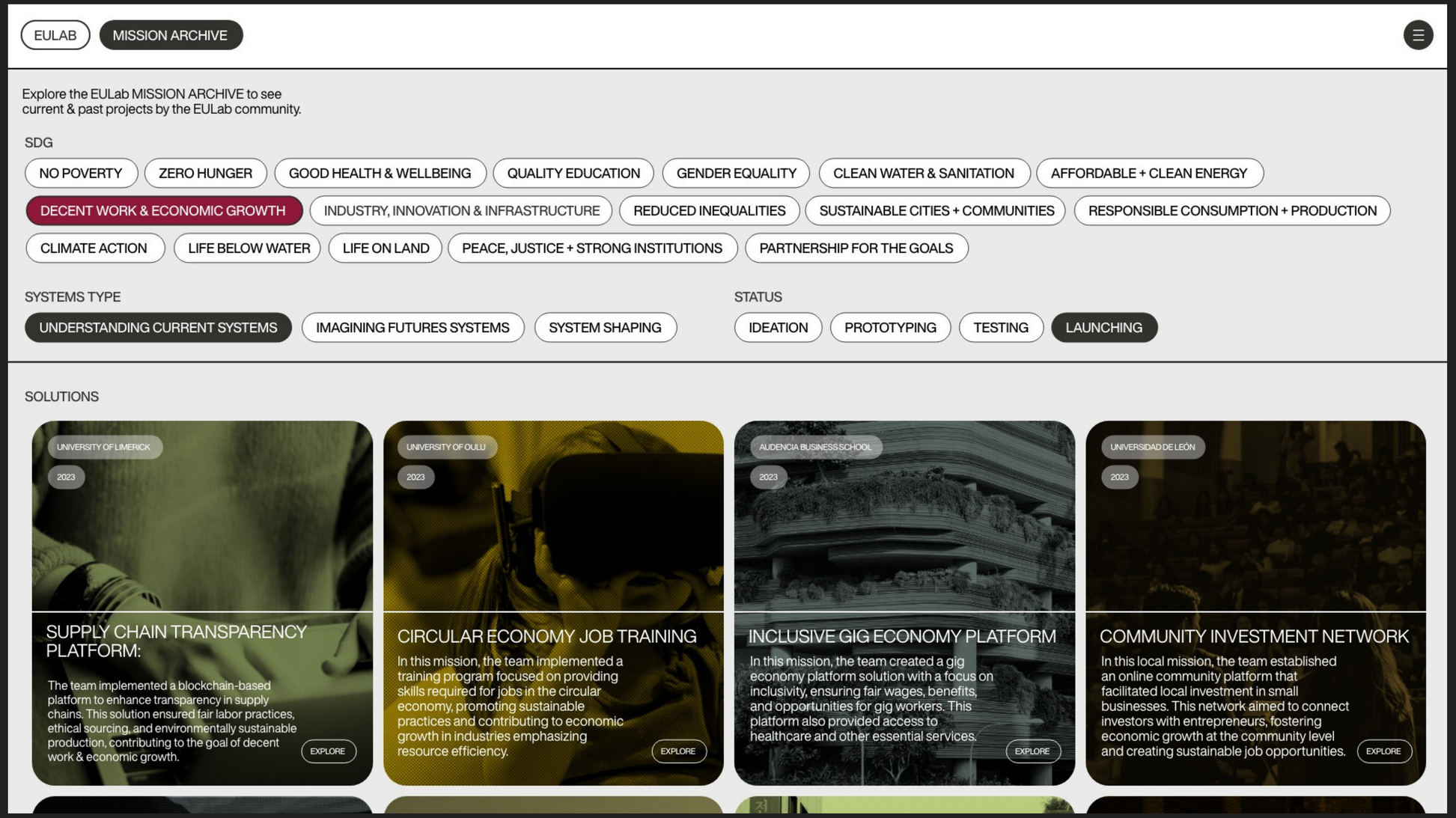
The Mission Archive’s concept is to provide EULab's community with an open-source repository for past and ongoing missions. It aims to inspire students and lecturers with insights, ideas, and successful strategies from the EULab community

Archiving Inspiration: A Repository for EULab Community.

The MISSION ARCHIVE, is a tool designed as an expansive archive within the EULab community, acting as an open-source resource for both students and teachers.

This repository serves as a repository for past and ongoing missions. Its primary purpose is to inspire and guide the community by providing a wealth of insights and ideas drawn from the collective experiences within the EULab community.

As a comprehensive repository, the tool becomes a source of inspiration for students. By accessing records of previous missions, they can explore diverse projects, gain insights into successful strategies, and ignite their own innovative thinking.



MISSION ARCHIVE

USER STORY

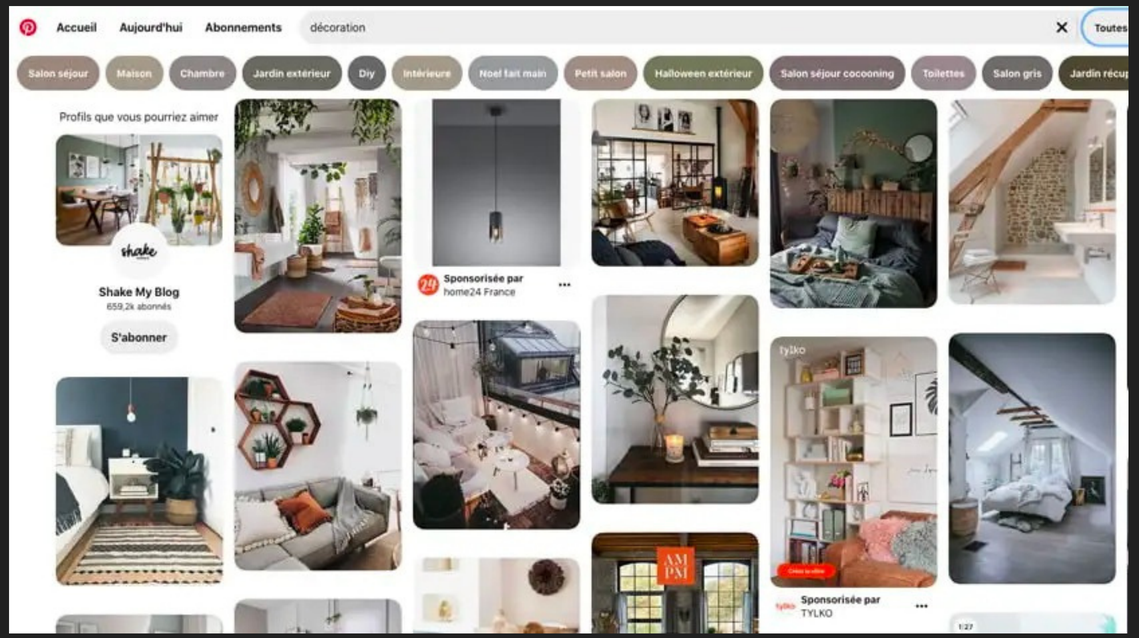
As a student participating in the EULab community, I want to explore previous missions to gain inspiration for my current mission work.

This tool is useful as it allows me to access previous & current learning journeys within the EULab ecosystem. This exploration goes beyond academic pursuits, intertwining my innovative thinking and contributions with the evolving tapestry of the EULab archive.

I want to use the digital tool's archive to dive into the real stories behind past and ongoing missions. My goal is to find practical inspiration from the diverse projects happening in our community. This isn't just about personal growth; it's about getting real insights into how ideas turn into action. I aim to fuel my own creativity and contribute meaningfully to the community's shared learning journey. The archive helps me understand the tangible impact of our collective efforts and shape my own role within it.

This tool allows me to identify past missions at different points in their evolution from ideation, prototyping, testing and launching. I can further search by different stages in the EU Sustainability Challenge Lab process and by SDG challenge. These options allow me to pinpoint past projects that align with my mission area, and stage of work, opening up a wealth of insights on tools, canvases and case study to guide my work.

KEY REFERENCE - PINTEREST



Communities have been using Pinterest's collection tool for the past decade, adding to & creating repositories over time that people across disciplines access for inspiration. The Mission Archive's premise is to provide an open source repository of the communities work over time, that can evolve as the community expands. Students & lecturers can then use it for inspiration in mission development.

LINK - https://www.pinterest.ie/

MISSION PROCESS BUILDER

The Mission Process Builder streamlines EULab mission planning by letting users drag and drop inputs onto a virtual whiteboard. AI agents analyse these inputs, offering tailored prompts for efficient and collaborative mission work.

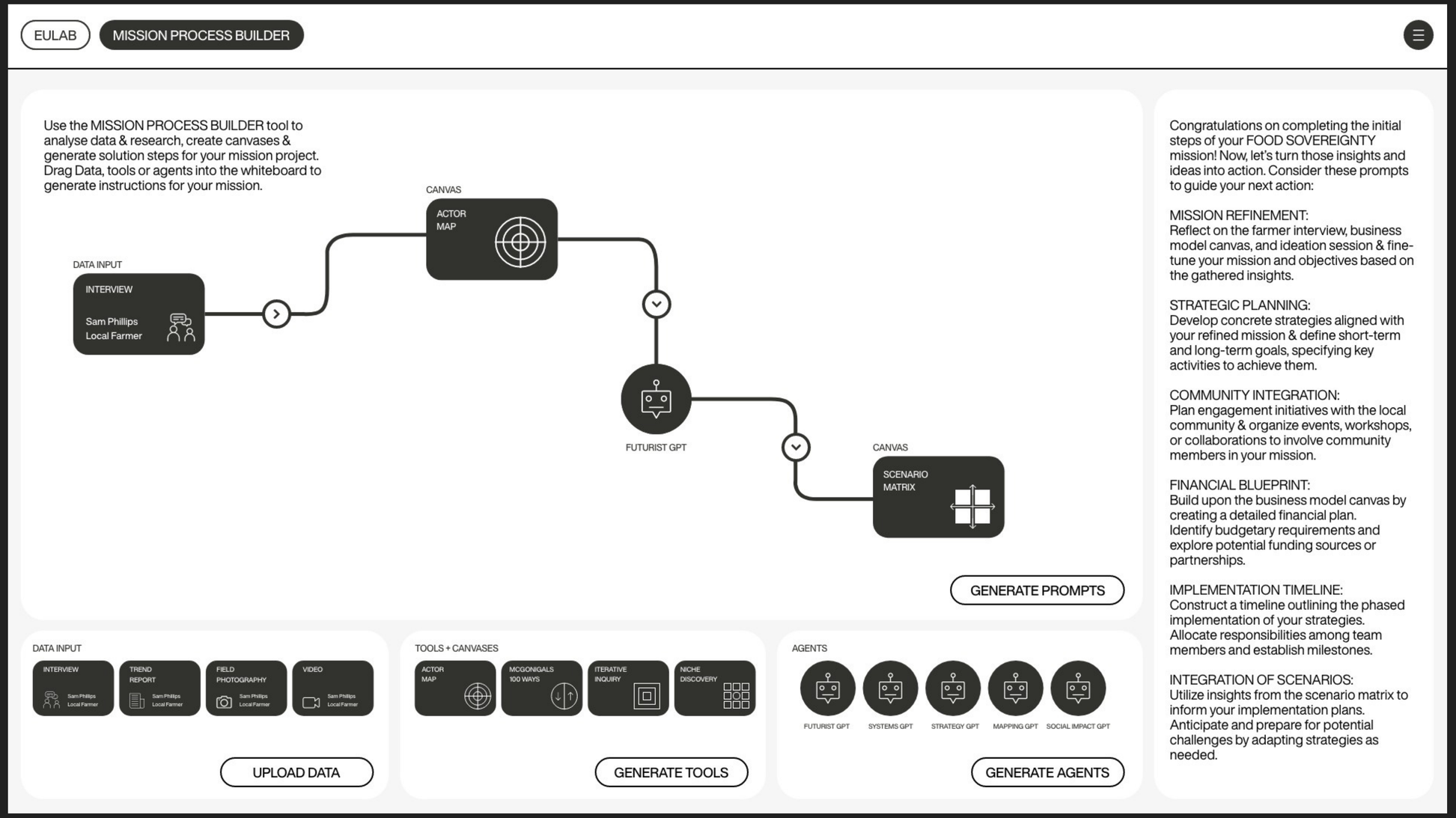
MISSION PROCESS BUILDER

The Mission Process Builder is a tool that offers a support to mission planning for both students and lecturers. Its functionality enables users to drag and drop various inputs, such as interviews, videos, or reports, onto a virtual whiteboard.

These inputs can then be paired with EULab canvases and tools. To add efficiency to the process, GPT agents step in to analyse the inputs, providing users with a list of prompts and thought-starters specifically tailored for their mission work.

In essence, it's a tool designed to provide prompts and questions for the EULab community to expand their thinking & analysis.

The tool can be accompanied by a Slack type channel service to allow groups in the same EU Sustainabiltiy lab to share their work and collaborate effectively.



MISSION PROCESS BUILDER

USER STORY

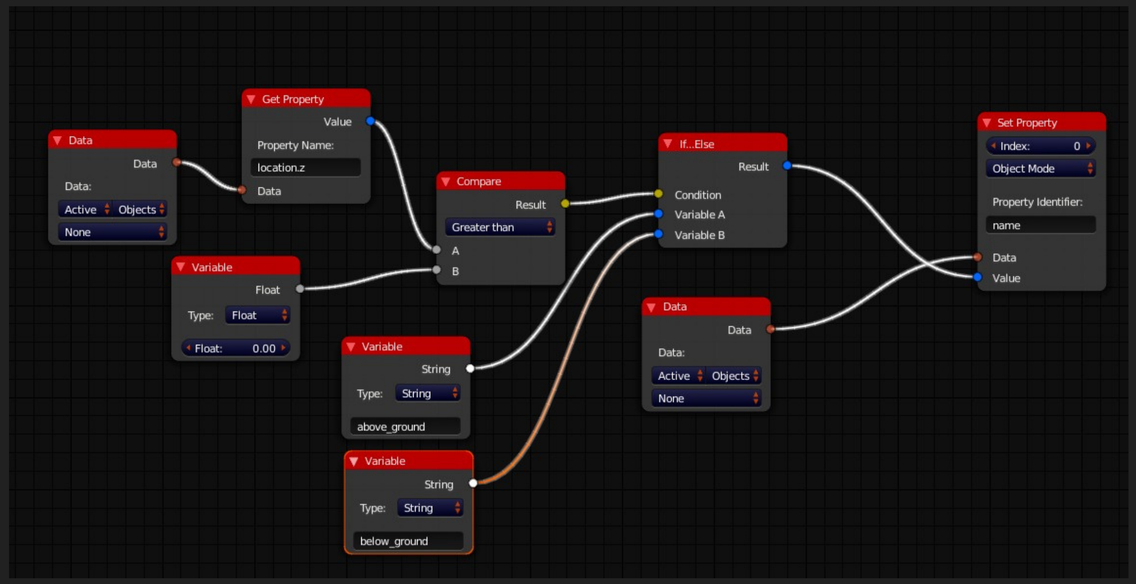
As a student engaged in planning and mapping work within my EU Sustainability Challenge Lab, my aim is to broaden my thinking and exposure, ensuring a comprehensive analysis as I approach the project, individually and as a member of a team.

Using the Mission Process Builder, helps me and my team to simplify the often complex task of organising diverse inputs such as interviews and reports. The tool allows me to drag and drop these inputs onto a virtual whiteboard, providing a practical way to structure and pair them with EULab canvases and tools.

By incorporating GPT agents, the tool takes the efficiency a step further. These agents analyse the inputs and generate a tailored list of prompts and thought-starters. This function adds a layer of guidance to my exploration process.

I can delve into my work with a structured approach, leveraging the insights from GPT agents to navigate challenges more effectively within the EULab community. The tool helps me to expand my thinking & overall approach to problem solving and collaborate effectively with my EU Sustainability Challenge team.

KEY REFERENCE - BLENDER VISUAL SCRIPTING ADDON



In computing, a visual programming language or block coding is a programming language that lets users create programs by manipulating program elements graphically rather than by specifying them textually. Blender has recently allowed users to do this to impact visuals. For the Mission Process Builder, the user would pull nodes together in a similar manner to draw connections & run analysis.

LINK - https://github.com/joshuaKnauber/serpens_addon_market

CONCLUSION

This white paper underscores the necessity for a European Sustainability Challenge Exchange platform, introducing the concept of cosmo-local knowledge exchange. The Cosmo-local framework, defined as a circular system of knowledge supply and demand, proposes a practical model for EU Sustainability Challenge Labs to share insights, generate new knowledge, and extend their impact both locally and at the EU level - driving forward field level missions toward realising a sustainable future.

With this in mind, the application of speculative design has been instrumental in envisioning potential solutions to the challenges identified in the EU Lab research project. This exploration provided a testing ground for concepts that could redefine the European educational landscape, fostering a cohesive and impactful exchange network that spans geographical and institutional boundaries.

The core digital concepts—Facilitator Agent Team, Universal Credit Exchange, Mission Explorer, Mission Archive, and Mission Process Builder—emerge as potential solutions to engage in cross institutional missions. Each concept contributes a distinct aspect to the future of EULab, offering tangible solutions to identified challenges. These concepts, presented alongside the comprehensive journey from conceptualisation to speculative wireframe visualisations, provide practical examples and propose a fully designed concept for a cosmo-local SDG impact platform.

In conclusion, the promise of the EULab Speculative Digital Platform lies in its potential to facilitate knowledge exchange, amplify the impact of insights, and foster collaborations in the pursuit of UN Sustainable Development Goals within Higher Education. This platform represents a tangible step towards a collaborative and dynamic educational ecosystem, aligning with the practical needs and aspirations of a future European Mission-Led education. The journey from conceptualisation to speculative wireframes reflects a commitment to practical innovation and collaboration in shaping the future of education within the European Union.

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