

# 2021 ACTION PLAN

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The Plurality University Network (U+) is a global, open organization that connects artists, designers, utopians and activists who use the power of imagination to enable alternative futures.

## EDITO

WHEN REALITY SURPASSES FICTION,  
WE NEED TO IMAGINE FURTHER!

Who was ready?  
Do you feel ready to face ever more uncertain futures?  
How can we build what will come next, rather than endure it?  
How can we discover where we want to go, individually and collectively?

Through the work of U+ and its members, every day we learn together how arts and fiction can help:

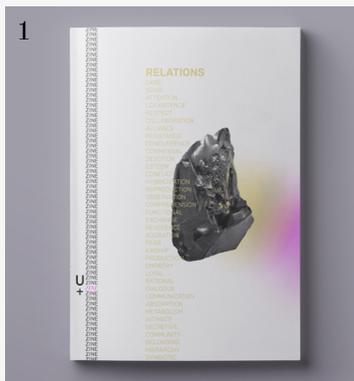
- To imagine the unimaginable, and make the impossible thinkable,
- To distinguish or trace new paths,
- To find one's voice and meaning, to engage in transformation,
- To create dialogue where it is broken...

Together, in 2021, we plan to up another level.

U+ZINE, our cycle of short thematic explorations, will be our collective tool for new discoveries; we will invent new forms of online and offline encounters [p. 6].  
With our new Narratopias project, we will heed the call for “new narratives” that we can see emerge all around: by politicians, researchers, citizens etc.  
From the thematic explorations on the futures of mobility [p. 4] and of corporations [p. 4], we will bring back both original creations, and methodologies that use arts and fiction at the heart of futures-oriented and strategic processes for collectives, corporations, institutions, or territories.

# U+ IN 2020

In spite of the health crisis, 2020 was a very productive year for the Plurality University Network.



## THE U+ZINE CYCLE

Launched in May 2020, the U+ZINE cycle of short thematic explorations has already produced content around three subjects: Relations, “Do Corporations Have a Future?”, and “What Is the Future in Your Life?”

\* <http://tiny.cc/u-zineEN>

## THREE THEMATIC EXPLORATIONS

In 2020, we:



Concluded the WORK+ project on the futures of work with workshops and creations taking place within corporations.

\* <http://tiny.cc/workplusEN>



Launched an in-depth exploration on the future of corporations: “The Coming Corporation”.

\* <http://tiny.cc/eqvEN>



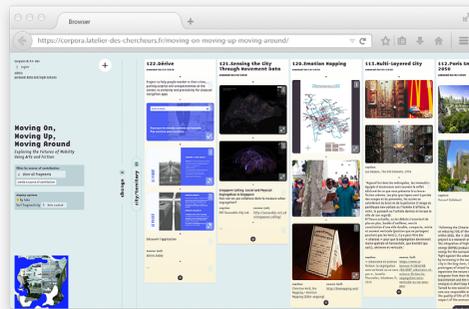
Launched an exploration on the futures of Mobility, in partnership with la Fabrique des Mobilités: “Moving On, Moving Up, Moving Around”.

\* <http://tiny.cc/movingonEN>



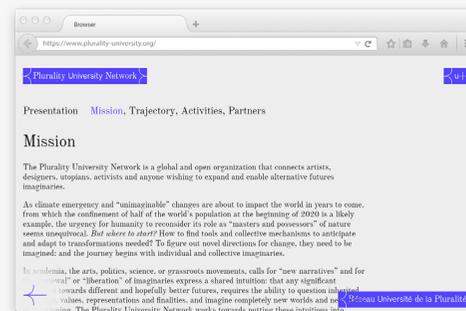
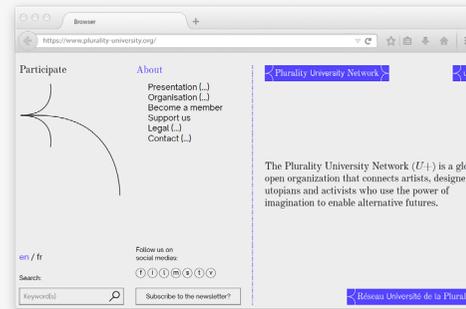
## NEW DIGITAL PLATFORMS

In 2020, we:



Created an open-source platform to collaboratively generate corpuses of artistic and fictional works on all sorts of topics: Corpora (in cooperation with L'Atelier des Chercheurs). This platform has already been used by organizations outside U+: Swissnext, Cnil (France's Data Protection Agency).

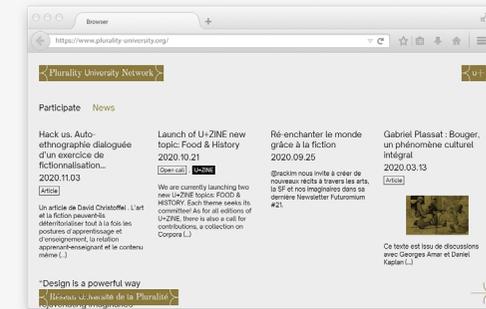
\* <http://tiny.cc/corporamob>



## AN AUDIO SERIES

In collaboration with Imaginarium, we organized the collective creation of a podcast series on “The World After”, by more than 50 authors: Les Imagineur.e.s [in French]

\* <http://imagination-s.fr/2020/06/15/les-imagineur-e-s/>



Reinvented U+'s graphic identity and website in order to be ready for new projects and develop our presence on social networks.

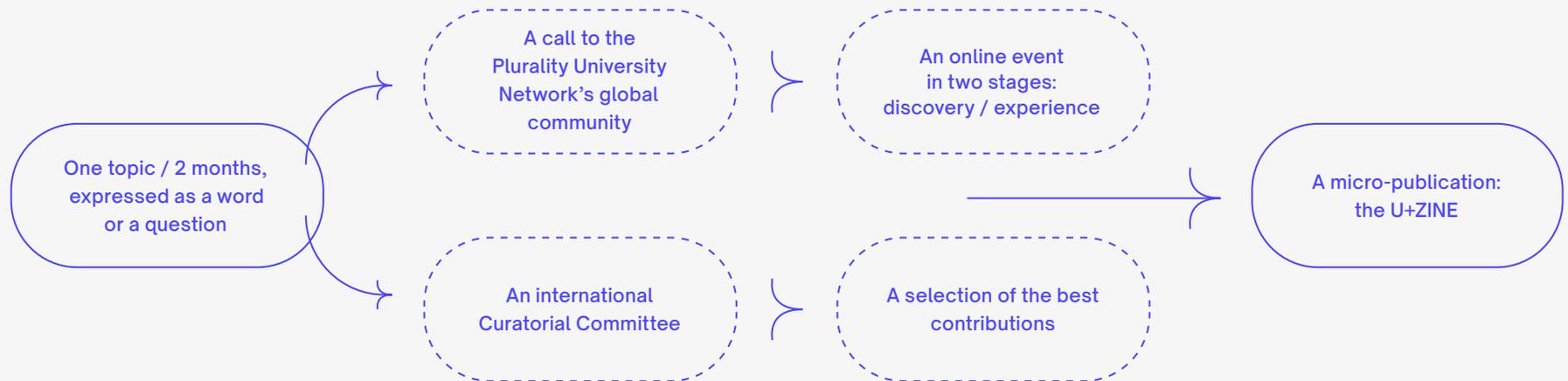
## 2021: THE U+ZINE CYCLE [ALL YEAR LONG]

U+ZINE, “springboard for ideas”, is a cycle of short thematic explorations for alternative futures and change, through the lens of arts and fiction.

Every two months, the cycle is organized around:

One topic, selected after a consultation with the U+ community

- A Call for contributions and inspirations is launched, in English and French
- A dedicated space on the Corpora platform
- A Curatorial Committee to help spread the word and analyze the contributions
- An international online event to share inspirations and ideas
- A final publication highlighting the most inspiring contributions.



Open calls at the beginning of 2021: Food; History.

Upcoming topics (to be decided by U+ members): Health; Identity; Urban; Time; Water, Sea; Digital...

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

- > As a member, take part in choosing the next topics.
- > Contribute by sharing inspiring contents on the Corpora platform, or sending in your own creations.
- > Take part in one of the thematic Curatorial Committees.

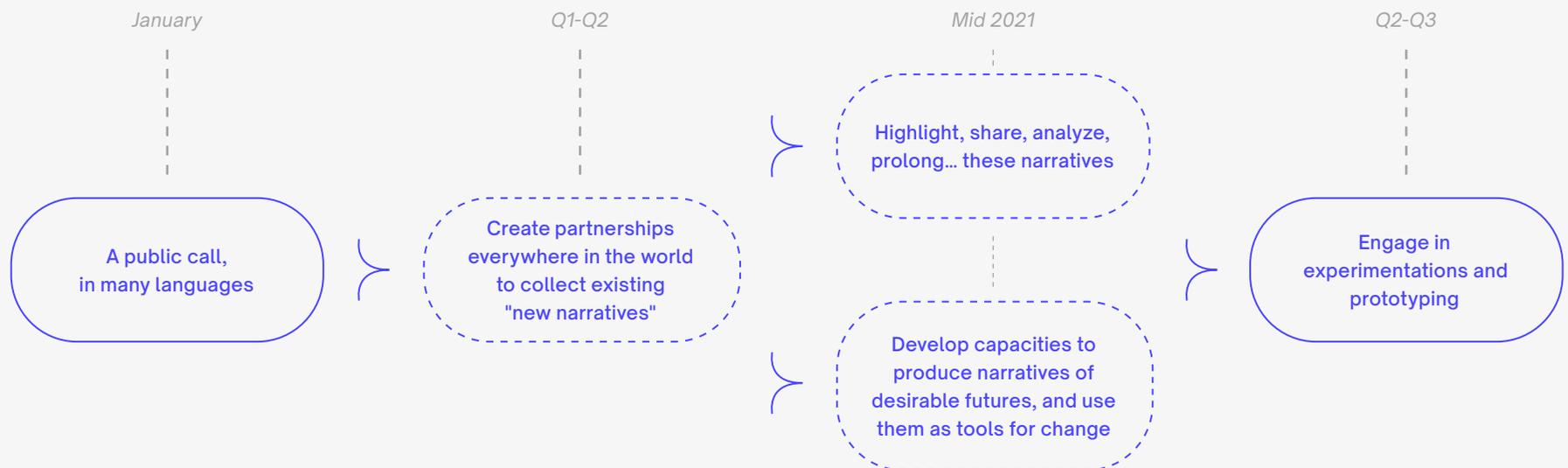
\* <http://tiny.cc/u-zineEN>

## 2021: NARRATOPIAS [LAUNCH: JANUARY]

From all sides, the same call emerges: «We need new narratives», to make imaginable, and therefore possible the – social, ecological – transitions that we need in order to live together on this planet.

We propose to take this call seriously and intend to organize, on a global scale, a collective response to it: Narratopias.

This project is based on three beliefs: We don't need one single narrative, rather a multitude of narratives of the “worlds of tomorrow”; many of these narratives exist all over the world - we should begin by recognizing them everywhere in the world; the call for «new narratives» will only be only productive if it brings forth, in each of us, the capacity to imagine and the desire to act.



### HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

- > Join the core group of individuals and organizations running the project.
- > Contribute to collecting existing “new narratives” from everywhere in the world.
- > Organize Narratopias events and projects in your organization, network, or location: collect, analyze, map narratives; experiment new forms of public debate; transform narratives into templates for possible actions... We will provide templates and methods for these.
- > Take part in experimenting and prototyping based on narratives...

\* <http://tiny.cc/narratopiasFR>

## 2021: THEMATIC EXPLORATIONS

### FUTURES OF MOBILITY: FROM FICTION TO ACTION

In 2020, 50+ participations to the four “Moving On, Moving Up, Moving Around” workshops have collected close to 130 artistic and fictional “fragments” on the futures of mobility; Then, with the help of four artists, they started inhabiting the thematic by writing their own speculative fiction.

In 2021, this project will wrap up with:

- The full publication of the project’s documents in English (originally in French)
- Workshops organized within organizations, territories and other collectives, during which the fictional material will become the raw material for an innovative futures method, in order to generate new questions, directions and projects.
- The formalization and sharing of the methods and tools used during the project, so as to allow their reuse.

\* <http://tiny.cc/movingonEN>

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

- > Organize a “Moving On” ou “The Coming Corporation” workshop within your organization, network or territory.
- > Use the contents and methods within your own projects, and share the outcome.

→ Reusable methodologies

U+’s collaborative projects test methods that use arts and fiction to explore the future: check the “state of imaginaries” on a topic, reconnect participants to their own imaginaries, use fiction to project groups into really alternative futures, connect the present reality to fictional futures... These methods will be documented and made reusable.

### FUTURES OF CORPORATIONS: NEW PERSPECTIVES AND REAL PROTOTYPES

In 2020, “The Coming Corporation” (L’entreprise qui vient) gathered 25 persons from large corporations, public agencies and freelancer networks to produce: an information base on the forces of change affecting corporations; a set of 50+ artistic and fictional “futures fragments”; and, with the help of three artists, speculative stories staging “corporations of the future” sometimes very different from today’s.

In 2021, we will expand on this collective work, and connect it to the challenges that corporations or corporate networks perceive, and their existing processes to address them: foresight, strategic planning, transformational projects towards new forms of work and organization...

\* <http://tiny.cc/eqvEN>

## THE U+ ORGANIZATION

the Plurality University Network is an independent, nonprofit organization under French law. It is chaired by science fiction writer Kitty Steward. Its members list has doubled in 2020, to reach 440+ members in 40+ countries.

## THE SUPERVISORY BOARD



**KETTY STEWARD**  
(France)



**BRIGITTE VAN DER SANDE** (Netherlands)



**AYODELE ARIGBABU**  
(Nigeria)



**JORGE CAMACHO**  
(Mexico)



**MIMI MONDAL**  
(USA)



**SALIK SHAH**  
(India)



**MARY ANNE MOHANRAJ** (USA)



**REGINA KANYU WANG** (China)



**HUIYING NG**  
(Singapore)

## THE TEAM



**Chloé Luchs**



**Emilie Audibert**



**Daniel Kaplan**

## 2020 PARTNERS

## Academic

SciencesPo, Institut Mines Télécom, HEC Genève

## Corporate

Maif, Vinci

## Public

Agence française de développement, Armasuisse

## Medias, associations

Fabrique des mobilités, Fing, Futuribles, Usbek & Rica,  
Design Fiction Club, La Gaîté Lyrique

## U+ AND YOU

### COLLABORATING WITH U+

#### Why?

- > To take part in a high-impact project of general interest.
- > To respond to the growing need of developing anticipatory skills and connect meaning with daily action, concrete innovation around global issues.
- > To benefit from being part of the global U + network, having access to a diversity of people and their work.
- > To make your participation a "transformative journey" by involving employees in collective and international projects.

#### How ?

- A correspondent from your organization is in direct contact with the U + team.
- U+ partners freely choose who will receive information from U +, and can participate without limitations to its projects, meetings and conferences.
- A close connection between U+ and its partners allows you to take part in defining the actions to come, and facilitates the appropriation of U+'s work within your organization.
- All content produced by U + is open-source and can be freely reused.

CONTACT US AND LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR PROJECTS!  
INFO@PLURALITY-UNIVERSITY.ORG

www.plurality-university.org