Construction of the webinar

60 min: 15-min presentation + discussion

Live: every second Thu @10AM or 5PM CET

Recordings: available on YouTube + impressions sharing via #InnovativeUniversities

Co-hosts:
Isak Frumin and Dara Melnyk
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CONSTRUCTOR UNIVERSITY

Innovative Universities Global Webinar

inVision U project: Designing a university that will teach students how to problem-solve for the good of their societies

December 19, 2024

constructor.university

Speaker

Andrew Wachtel

Expert in International Education,
Director of Educational Programs,
inDrive

inVision U

Andrew Wachtel
Director of Educational Programs, inDrive
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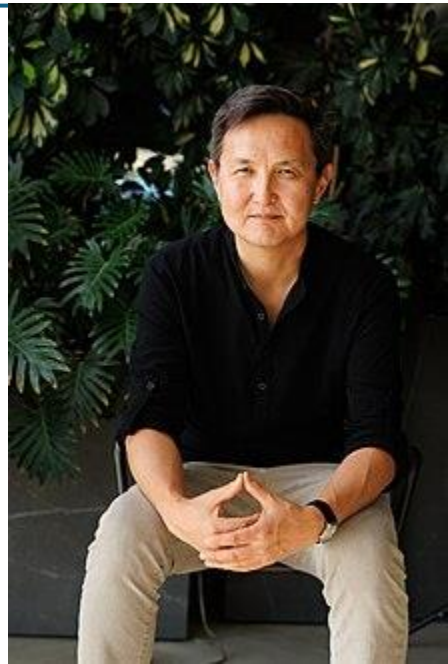
Initial Conditions: Sponsor's Expectations

Create leaders and founders who will make a positive impact on their societies
High proportion of low-income students
Curriculum problem/project-based and focused on teams
Graduates should want to remain in their home regions
Multiple campuses in less developed countries

Arsen Tomsky, Founder and CEO of inDrive provides resources to allow for free education for all students



inVision U to be realized by Andrew Wachtel

Director of Educational Programs for inDrive. Andrew is also Co-founder and Director of Compass College of Art and Design in Bishkek. Previously, he served as Rector of Narxoz University in Almaty and President of the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek. Before moving to CA, he was dean of The Graduate School and Director of the Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies at Northwestern. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, his academic interests range from Russian literature and culture to East European and Balkan culture, history, and politics to contemporary Central Asia.

inVision U Academic Advisory Board

- Stephan De Spiegeleire -- Principal Scientist at Hague Centre for Strategic Studies
- Ahmet Evin – Founding Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Sabanci University
- Daria Kozlova -- First Vice Rector, ITMO University
- Zehra Sayres – Former Interim President, Sabanci University
- Peter Sloot – Founding Scientific Director, Institute for Advanced Study, Amsterdam University
- Andrei Volkov – Founding Rector, Skolkovo Business School

Achieving goal 2

Low-income students need an extra year of post-high-school education

Foundation year in KZ focuses on English, Russian or Kazakh, basic IT, and critical thinking/learning skills

AUCA experience shows this can be done successfully

How to identify the most promising students?

Achieving goal 3

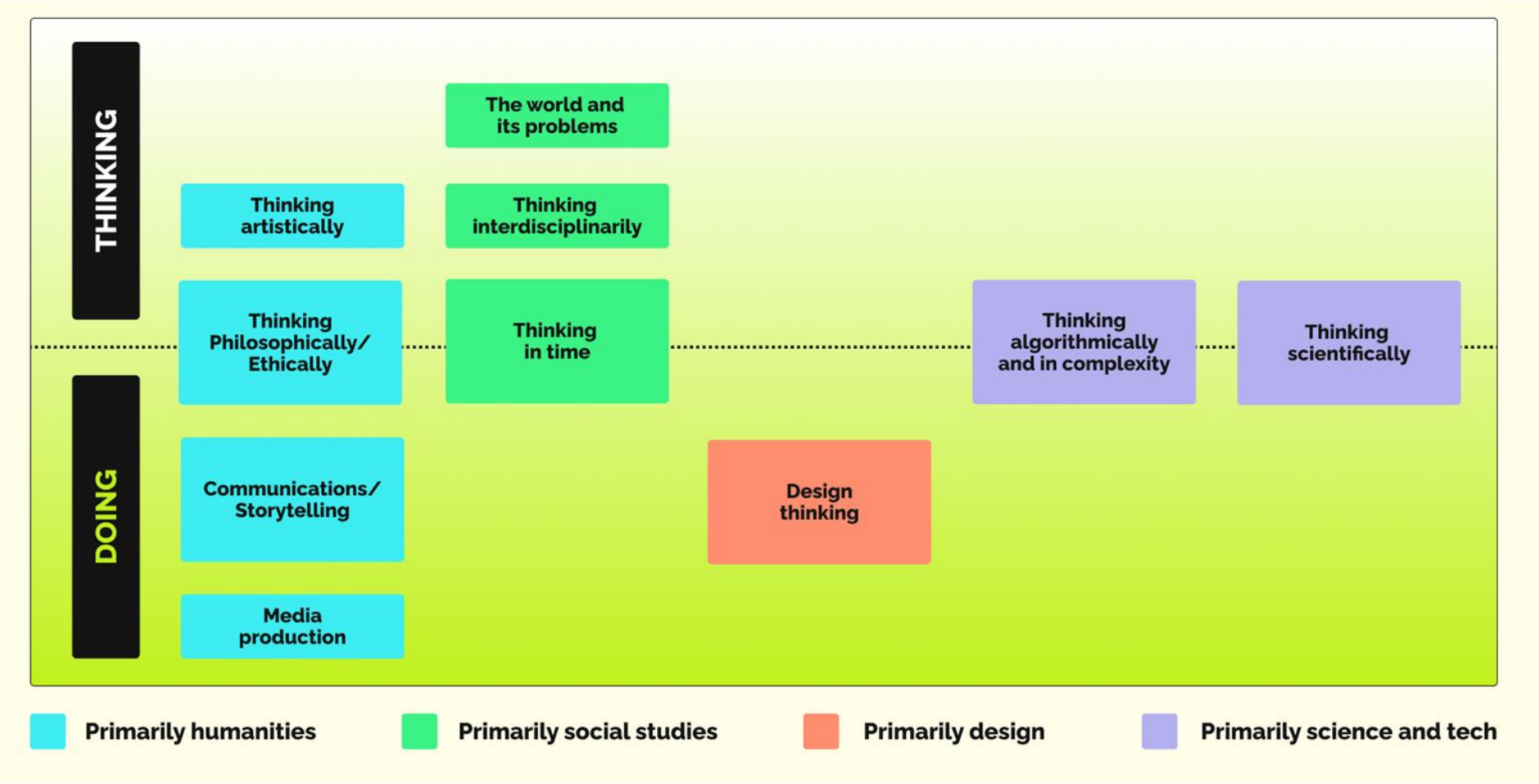
Students must be intensively prepared

Required core curriculum “modes of thinking, modes of doing” provides breadth

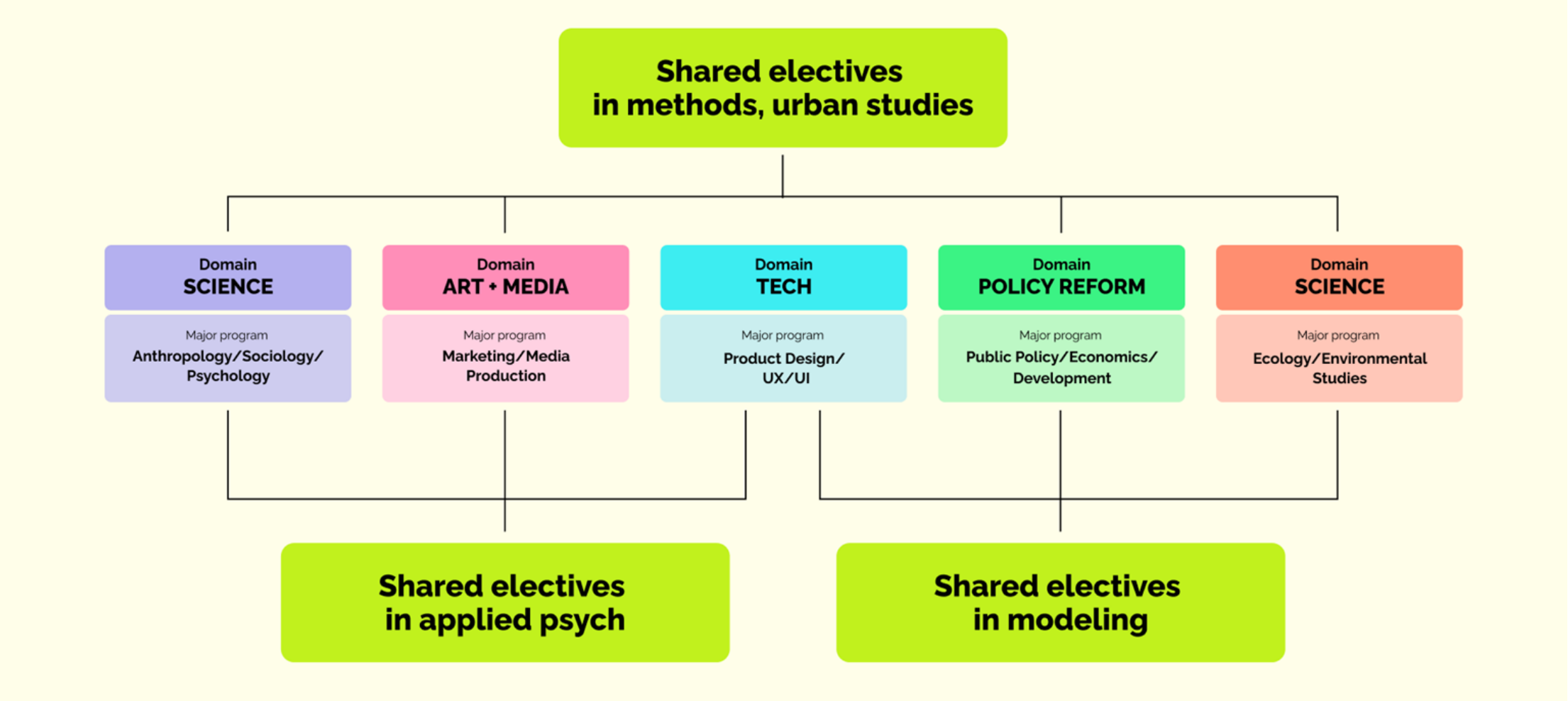
Limited number of interlinked majors provide depth of knowledge

Final year built around identification of a significant local problem which 5-person teams consider from various angles; they propose solutions and create an implementation plan

inVision U: Core: Modes of Thinking/Modes of Doing



inVision U: Proposed majors



Achieving goals 1 and 4

Problem solving, entrepreneurship, and leadership built into the curriculum

Pitching at end of year 4 identifies most promising teams which receive 18 months post-graduate support

Biggest foreseeable problems

Can we find the kinds of students we want?

Can we ensure an equivalent number of students in each major?

Will our students be ready to design their own projects by senior year?

Will we be able to convince graduates to remain in region?

Longer term--

Create regional hub campuses, analogous in Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, etc.

Analogous programs encourage inter-campus mobility and limited course sharing

inVision U: Mission

inVision U is a university for founders, the future social and entrepreneurial leaders of regions of the world underserved by innovative educational projects. Providing free, problem-based undergraduate education to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, inVision U draws on a range of approaches from liberal and creative arts to engineering, design, and science, producing graduates who can develop and express ideas, are grounded in the actual problems facing their societies, and who have the tools, desire, and values to improve their world, as individuals and as members of multidisciplinary teams. After graduation, alumni can receive financial support and mentoring to grow their ideas into for-profit companies or fundable non-profit projects, empowering them to remain in and develop their communities.

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Panel Discussion

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We will be back in 2025:

Thursday,
January 16th 10-11 AM CET

Baku Higher Oil School (BHOS)

Stay tuned for the upcoming webinar!

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We wish you a great holiday season!

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