



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

European Universities Alliances including UNICA member universities



24 out of the 53 UNICA member Universities are among the Higher Education Institutions that are part of the first European Universities alliances. The **24 UNICA member Universities** integrate **10 alliances**.

UNICA Member Universities integrating the first group of European Universities alliances

Alliance's Acronym & name	Alliance's Name	UNICA members in the Alliance	Country
1EUROPE	UNA Europa	Freie Universität Berlin	Germany
		The University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom
		Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Spain
		University of Helsinki	Finland
4EU+	The 4EU+ Alliance	University of Copenhagen	Denmark
		Sorbonne Université	France
		Charles University in Prague	Czech Republic
		University of Warsaw	Poland
ARQUS	ARQUS European University Alliance	Vilnius University	Lithuania
CHARMEU	CHARM European University (Challenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile)	Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest	Hungary
CIVIS	CIVIS - a European civic university alliance	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	Greece
		Stockholm University	Sweden
		Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	Spain
		Sapienza Università di Roma	Italy
		University of Bucharest	Romanua
Université Libre de Bruxelles	Belgium		
EPICUR	European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions	Universiteit van Amsterdam	The Netherlands
EUTOPIA	European Universities Transforming to an Open, Inclusive Academy for 2050	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
		Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Belgium
FORTHEM	Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility	University of Latvia	Latvia
UNITE!	University Network for Innovation, Technology and Engineering	Universidade de Lisboa	Portugal
YUFE	Young Universities for the Future of Europe	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	Spain
		University of Rome Tor Vergata	Italy
		University of Cyprus	Cyprus



Description of the European Universities alliances including UNICA Member Universities

(UNICA members are highlighted in bold)

1EUROPE - UNA Europa

Website: <https://www.una-europa.eu/>

Eight partner universities: **Freie Universität Berlin**, Alma mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, **Edinburgh**, Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie, KU Leuven, **Complutense de Madrid**, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, **Helsinki**.

UNA Europa brings together eight leading research universities with global reputation and reach. Its mission is to create a truly European inter-university environment, where outstanding research is continuously linked to transnational learning and innovative, critical thinking. Diversity is strength of the alliance; that diversity is underpinned by common principles: interdisciplinarity, internationalisation, innovation, interaction, inclusivity and impact. UNA Europa will be a continent-wide living laboratory, where best practices and new approaches will be tested and taken up, to grapple with new and enduring challenges. It will draw on the collective strength to create technological, cultural and social innovation impact on the local, regional, national and European levels.

Focus areas in Education & Research

- 100% of UNA Europa students will benefit incorporating online and blended mobility.
- 50% of UNA Europa students will benefit from physical international mobility.
- 2 million Europeans will benefit from our educational and civic engagement programmes.
- Our joint research activity will have increased threefold.
- We will deliver several new European joint degree programmes.
- We will be central to Europe's innovative, prosperous and sustainable future.
- We will leverage our collective legacies to shape Europe's shared future.

4EU+ Alliance

Website: <https://4euplus.eu/4EU-1.html>

Six partner universities: **Charles**, Heidelberg, **Sorbonne**, **Copenhagen**, Milan and **Warsaw**.

The 4EU+ European University Alliance brings together six comprehensive, research-intensive, public universities from four regions of Europe to strengthen the European vision of deepened cooperation and mutual enrichment by developing a new quality of cooperation in teaching, education, research and administration, leading to the creation of a truly integrated European University System.



The 4EU+ European University Alliance aims to create a new quality of cooperation in teaching, education, research and administration. The cooperation is based on a common understanding of the idea of the European university that builds on academic freedom and autonomy and ensures fair access and participation in education.

To build this new kind of integrated European university system, the 4EU+ Alliance will focus on three challenges:

- Boost Meaningful Mobility – Better integrating our curricula and making mobility seamless for students in terms of education and employment prospects, while accommodating diverse needs and preferences.
- Increase inclusiveness and balance at a European level - Redressing inequalities in university capabilities to attract funding, gain international visibility and fully develop their potential in education, research, innovation and employment opportunities.
- Develop a common challenge-based framework for education – Designing flexible learning paths and ensuring graduates have 21st-century skills that combine research-based education, diverse language skills and a strong global and European outlook.

The 4EU+ mission is to develop a barrier-free and continuously deepening cooperation in education, research and innovation within the Alliance.

ARQUS European University Alliance

Website: <https://www.arqus-alliance.eu/>

Seven partner universities: Bergen, Granada, Graz, Leipzig, Lyon, Padova and Vilnius

The Arqus European University Alliance brings together seven longstanding comprehensive research universities who share extensive experience in joint projects and a common profile as internationalized institutions with deep regional engagement in medium-sized cities. Arqus aspires to build on the member universities' sound prior experience in cooperation to consolidate a joint governance structure and facilitate the development of consensual joint policies and action plans, to consolidate participative structures to facilitate cross-cutting integration at all levels of the partner institutions, and to share its experience with other groupings in order to communicate the added value to be found in its model of integration. Through enhanced sustained cooperation, the Arqus European University Alliance will work together as a laboratory for institutional learning in an innovative and open way to:

- Attain a substantially higher level of quality in education and research, and deeper societal, cultural and civic engagement.
- enhance the education of critically engaged European and global citizens who are able and willing to contribute to a multicultural, multilingual and inclusive Europe which is open to the world;
- Become a model for European university integration;
- Disseminate its experience, challenges and successes at European and global level.
- better respond to the grand societal challenges of the 21st century in Europe and beyond.

Main action lines:

- Widening Access, Inclusion and Diversity
- Student-centred Frameworks for Quality Learning
- Multilingual & Multicultural University
- Entrepreneurial University and Regional Engagement



- Research Support and Early Stage Researcher Development
- Engaged European Citizens.

CHARM European University - CHallenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile European University

Website: <http://charm-eu.eu/en>

Five partner universities: Utrecht, Barcelona, Trinity College Dublin, University of Montpellier, **Eötvös Loránd University**.

CHARM-EU is to promote the common European values, focusing strategically on trying to rethink the role of Europe in the world as it faces one of the main global challenges in the 21st century: Reconciling Humanity with the Planet. CHARM-EU will offer a transformative, truly European educational experience which builds on the strengths of the alliance. CHARM-EU will offer a learning experience that, having mobility and inclusivity at its core, is based on the implementation of a transformative approach to program and curricula design, and flexible, skill-oriented modularised structure. CHARM-EU will leverage the synergies in the knowledge triangle and interdisciplinary research and innovation capacities of the consortium members, to become a decisive partner in solving the policy issues within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the EU and its Member States are currently facing.

CHARM-EU will deliver an innovative, challenge-driven, student-centered, and self-directed teaching model that integrates research, teaching, innovation and enquiry within and across the disciplines, open to the whole world. CHARM-EU envisages a European higher education campus utilizing the latest modern technology in the service of accessibility and internationalization.

Main challenges:

- To adopt an innovative governance approach, a new model of multi-institutional cooperative engagement that encourages co-creation and co-working to implement our mission and vision at all levels of university activity, bringing together the efforts of students, professors and non-teaching staff, and the change management plan needed to do that.
- To empower and inspire traditional/non traditional students and staff to become critical thinkers capable of confronting societal challenges linked with the theme of 'reconciling humanity with the planet' and the sustainable development goals, through a challenge-driven curricula.
- To provide skills and attribute-based programmes designed within a new and flexible academic structure and organizational framework: skill-oriented, cross-disciplinary modules/micro-programmes configurable by students at all levels (undergraduate, postgraduate, doctorate and lifelong learning), in the form of non-classical curricula with self-directed learning pathways.
- To focus on teaching for quality within the EIT knowledge triangle and integrate research and teaching across and within the disciplines (to bridge the education, research, and business aspects).
- To strength citizenship through joint, innovative strategies which are multilingual, multicultural, inclusive and integrated into a coherent academic campus, and designing a mobility strategy - mobility as a norm - (including on-line learning) to enhance this citizenship, making intensive use of technology solutions to achieve the objectives.
- To build an innovative teaching and learning strategy based on insights from the research and practice (combination of Transdisciplinarity, Social Constructivism, Elements of the UU Education Model, Design Thinking and Educational technologies).
- To provide a tested and improved model and toolkit during the financed period to be implemented in CHARM-EU and ready to use by other Universities, acting as a role model.



- To design a clear developmental framework for the financial sustainability strategy beyond the 3 year funded period that can be used by CHARM-EU but transferable for the wider European Universities community helping to implement the European Education Area.

CIVIS - a European civic university alliance

Website: <https://civis.eu/en>

Eight partner universities: Aix Marseille, **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**, Bucharest, **Université libre de Bruxelles**, **Universidad Autonoma de Madrid**, **Sapienza University of Rome**, **Stockholms Universitet**, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen.

CIVIS wants to make a decisive contribution to the attractiveness of our European universities on the world stage. In the face of the current information revolution and the rapid evolution of our societies and our labor markets, we must make radical changes in the way we teach, practice research and communicate. Developing CIVIS in the face of global challenges (rather than the prism of conventional disciplinary separations) stimulates the emergence of a culture of collaboration and requires innovative pedagogies that encourage critical thinking, adaptability, resilience and future-oriented skills. To share and build knowledge among students, teachers, researchers, and civil society, we will make educational, scientific, and civic resources as open and accessible as possible based on the principles of Open Science and Open Educational Resources.

A strong civic identity. The desire for inclusion will permeate all our actions, as we are fully committed to gender equality, non-discrimination and social equality. The involvement of our universities in this alliance will help reduce inequalities, increase access to quality training and create real opportunities for success for all our students.

The desire to be part of the dynamics of the European Union. As CIVIS member universities, we recognize the paramount importance of the principles of the Bologna Process to increase mobility between us and with other partner universities in Europe, and ultimately, to create a European space for Higher Education. To this end, we are planning the creation of a CIVIS identity card (for students, researchers and staff), full recognition of credits earned within the alliance, the Diploma Supplement, measures supporting the social dimension of mobility, quality assessment processes, etc.

Oriented towards Mediterranean and Africa. The Mediterranean zone and Africa will be at the heart of our global strategy. We firmly believe that the future of Europe and that of Africa are intertwined. This is why CIVIS will affirm its vocation as a bridge between Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa, as part of a long-term commitment.

With seven major languages spoken in the alliance, besides English as a lingua franca, CIVIS will invest in linguistic diversity, which is a major issue in the process of globalization. We aim to bring by 2025 most of our students, researchers and staff to master at least two foreign languages in addition to their native language after completing their training at a CIVIS university.

EPICUR - The European Partnership for Innovative Campus Unifying Regions

Website: <http://epicur.education/>

Eight partner universities: University of Strasbourg, Adam-Mickiewicz University Poznań, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, University of Haute-Alsace, University of Freiburg, **University of Amsterdam**.



The main goal of the EPICUR alliance is to become an attractive, innovative European university geared towards a new generation of European citizens, ready to face the great societal challenges of the Europe of tomorrow. The Epicur alliance brings together 8 leading university partners from across Europe and is led by the University of Strasbourg.

Key axes and organisation

From 2019 to 2022 Epicur will pilot different activities seen as essential stepping stones in the long-term process of creating our vision of a fully integrated European University within the partner institutions. Epicur's University of tomorrow will be:

- Bilingual, and even multilingual, with a strong intercultural awareness
- Physical and virtual, encouraging the free movement of students and staff through innovative teaching and learning models on our connected campuses
- Innovative in research activities, encouraging academics and students to explore new topics and areas
- Connected to the European universities and regions
- Based on a light and confident governance to ensure the long-term sustainable development of collaboration in education and research

The pilot activities consist of six key actions, each led by a university member of the alliance:

- Steering the alliance (Strasbourg);
- Promote multilingualism and inclusive governance (Amsterdam);
- Implement innovative methods of learning and teaching for European citizens of tomorrow (Freiburg);
- Open the way to an interuniversity campus, using a student and staff-centred approach (Aristotle U-Thessaloniki);
- Strengthen and connect regions through a European university: development within and between European regions (KIT);
- Dissemination and sharing of good practices, sustainable cooperation (Strasbourg).

EUTOPIA - European Universities Transforming to an Open, Inclusive Academy for 2050

Website: <https://eutopia-university.eu/>

Six partner universities: University of Ljubljana, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Gothenburg, Paris Seine, Pompeu Fabra– Barcelona, Warwick.

EUTOPIA is a challenge-led, student-centred, place-based, inclusive alliance of entrepreneurial, change focused universities. In conjunction with our partners and collaborators, EUTOPIA will be characterised by these **four key principles**:

- Geared towards the challenges of the future: Our alliance will be challenge-drive to prepare students and staff as European citizens and lifelong learners who care and act for the future of the planet and humanity.
- Student-centred and student-empowering: Our alliance will provide transformative and open learning opportunities, and extended horizons of expectation and ability, both across Europe and throughout the world.
- Attentive to the plurality, potentiality and international pre-eminence of Europe's regions: Our alliance will build on its place-making strengths, connecting cultures and contexts in order to enhance



European capability and creativity, and support the international pre-eminence of European innovation and influence.

- Committed to the principles of openness and inclusion: Our alliance will foster and support knowledge co-creation, by building open resources and collaborative platforms, endorsing open science agendas, and sponsoring the access, mobility and inclusivity mechanisms that liberate our intellectual and social potential.

The EUTOPIA alliance’s strategic direction is outlined in the following areas of focus:

- Education: To co-create an open learning community in partnership with students and non-academic partners.
- Knowledge: To promote an integrated, challenge driven, knowledge-creation community among the EUTOPIA institutions.
- Place-Making: To address global challenges from a local level through the promotion of inclusive growth and innovation.
- Inclusion: To extend the concept of open and inclusive education, innovate and modernise education and training, and provide 21st century skills and competencies in all of Europe’s regions.
- International: To commit to be always open to the world through our core academic socio-cultural, political and economic intention.
- Management: To shape an open and inclusive structure with an adaptive, collaborative, multi-level governance model.

FORTHEM - Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility

Website: <https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/en/>

Seven partner universities: Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Université de Bourgogne, Jyväskylän yliopisto, Uniwersytet Opolski, Università degli Studi di Palermo, **Latvijas Universitāte**, Universitat de València

Within FORTHEM the seven universities, having previous extensive global and European partnerships and pooled experience on academic projects, are joining forces and sharing networks with the aim of creating a permanent multilateral and European cooperation environment. FORTHEM will proceed from subject-specific bilateral Erasmus mobility agreements and trilateral educational projects to university-wide mobility agreements and deeper multilateral cooperation in education and outreach activities.

FORTHEM consists of multidisciplinary public research universities that are situated (all but one) outside the capital regions and are not among the largest nor highest-ranking universities in their countries. Although based on both university-wide and field-specific bilateral and trilateral cooperation, it is a new network of institutions that have the dynamism and flexibility to experiment new innovative forms of collaboration. Thereby, FORTHEM presents a reproducible model for both European and non-European universities that wish to develop similar new alliances

The alliance network has the Weimar Triangle as its core (Dijon, Mainz, and Opole), and represents the Scandinavian and Baltic region as well as the Iberian Peninsula (Jyväskylä, Riga, and Valencia) and goes deep into the south of Europe (Palermo). Regarding the list of European geographical regions, the geographical balance is extraordinary as the composition includes universities from Northern Europe (Riga and Jyväskylä),



Western Europe (Mainz and Dijon), Central and Eastern Europe (Opole) and Southern Europe (Valencia and Palermo). Therefore, the network is representative of the most diverse countries and languages as well as educational systems and universities. The multicultural European University that will result from this alliance aims at tackling the European challenges while taking into account all important aspects. In addition, considering that the alliance includes border countries in the north and in the south, we are also able to contribute to the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Vision. By 2022 a Pan-European living lab and integrative European University will be established through fostering outreach within European regions, transnational higher education and mobility based on values that the FORTHEM members share - education for open-minded people committed to our common democratic values.

Our progress towards FORTHEM in 2025:

Moving towards our educational vision is a continuous, collaborative process extending well beyond the end of the funding period in 2022. FORTHEM alliance has already agreed upon the following milestones for the three subsequent years:

- Transnational Higher Educational Strategy and the three missions made alive
- reaching the numeric goal of 50 % of innovative student mobility
- 4 more joint degree programs.
- inclusive FORTHEM Digital Academy with online courses, and new, tandem-learning and student tutoring facilities.
- FORTHEM Labs in 7 research areas.
- larger numbers of degree-seeking applicants from outside the EU increased outreach activities and volunteer work of students
- joint career guidance.

With teachers from all school levels, communication and media professionals, social scientists and business managers as the largest groups of alumni who have benefitted from the alliance activities, the dissemination of the alliance activities is extensive.

UNITE! - University Network for Innovation, Technology and Engineering

Website: <https://www.unite-university.eu/>

Seven partner universities: Universidade de Lisboa (Técnico Lisboa), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Grenoble Institute of Technology, Politecnico Di Torino, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Aalto University.

UNITE! – the University Network for Innovation, Technology and Engineering – targets to create a bottom-up network of universities extended from Helsinki to Lisbon, a distance of more than 3.300 km, connecting European regions of economic prospect, entrepreneurship and innovation.

UNITE! will enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and which contributes to the international competitiveness of European universities.

Partner universities share a common view towards regional embeddedness, technology transfer, and engineering and science education, with complementary multidisciplinary approaches. Most European geographical regions are covered by UNITE!.



UNITE! originates from the CLUSTER network – Consortium Linking Universities of Science and Technology for Education and Research (www.cluster.org) – and builds on three decades of close and dedicated cooperation on different aspects of higher education, research, innovation and social responsibility.

UNITE! – the University Network for Innovation, Technology and Engineering – targets to create a bottom-up network of universities across Europe which will enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and which contributes to the international competitiveness of European universities. UNITE! will lead the transformation of European higher education with innovative and multidisciplinary education, research, and entrepreneurship in co-creation by students and staff. It will bridge the gaps between engineering, science, technology and the grand challenges of society. UNITE! will thus become the role model for a European inter-university campus (virtual and physical) which is embedded in a network of innovative regions.

UNITE! is a University Network for Innovation, Technology and Engineering, which will:

- EMPOWER students, staff and faculty to become the owners of a new European University concept by encouraging an active participation at all levels in the development of flexible study paths and joint curricula with embedded mobility across Europe and the world.
- DEVELOP a European University by sharing resources and services in education, research and management, by removing structural barriers and by generating new frameworks for a European degree.
- PIONEER new concepts of education and research in science, technology and engineering by drawing on innovative transdisciplinary approaches stemming from art, design, architecture, business, social sciences and the humanities.
- EDUCATE a new generation of European students in science, technology and engineering who actively contribute to the advancement of knowledge, European competitiveness and the development of solutions for societal challenges.
- EXEMPLIFY the role of a (virtual and physical) European inter-university campus that connects the regional innovation ecosystems of its member universities, makes their boundaries fluid and functions as a platform of open interaction and the free circulation of ideas.

Based on their long-standing successful cooperation within the CLUSTER network, UNITE! partners share a strong commitment to implement a paradigm shift for excellence in learning, teaching and research in accordance with the European core values of human dignity, liberal democracy, the rule of law, and social inclusion.

UNITE! will promote science, technology and engineering education on a multidisciplinary, multicultural and multilingual European campus embedded in fluid regional ecosystems, to provide skills for and shape the mind-sets of a new generation of European and global citizens.

UNITE! is committed to an ethical, safe and sustainable use of technology, in line with fair and open science to generate innovative, feasible and effective solutions to global challenges.

YUFE - Young Universities for the Future of Europe

Website: <https://www.yufe.eu/>

Eight partner universities: Maastricht, Carlos III Madrid, Antwerp, Bremen, Cyprus, Eastern Finland, Essex, Rome Tor Vergata.



YUFE brings together 8 young universities and 6 associate partners from the higher education, non-governmental and private sector. YUFE aims to transform European higher education by establishing the leading model of a student-centred, open and inclusive European University. In this way, YUFE makes Europe-wide higher education a reality for local and international students of all backgrounds. It enables them to create their own curriculum and maximizes impact of all universities in the alliance. In YUFE, learning in the classroom goes hand in hand with the development of soft and professional skills via internships at local businesses and governments; the direct experience in interdisciplinary and intersectoral teams of researchers, entrepreneurs and citizens solving local and European challenges; engagement in the local communities of the YUFE cities and the mutual support and enrichment with the local citizens.

Globalisation's promise of better opportunities for all has failed to materialise. YUFE wants to recognize and foster every talent and make European opportunities available to all, independently of socioeconomic or cultural background. Together, higher education institutions, the public and private sector, and citizens can re-define Europe and close the social gap. YUFE offers unique opportunities for students, staff and citizens to co-create European careers. Members of the YUFE community will enjoy a European experience tailored to their level, schedule and ambitions.

YUFE will also redefine what it means to study and work in Europe. It will equip students – Europe's citizens and workforce of tomorrow – with a genuine civic sense and a renewed European identity.

Focus areas:

- **Studying throughout Europe.** The YUFE European University will enable prospective students to compile their curricula, choosing from programmes offered at each of the 8 YUFE universities. To allow access to all systems and facilities of these universities, the alliance will introduce a YUFE student card, valid at all participating universities. When they have successfully completed their studies, students receive a European diploma that will be valid anywhere in Europe and will not only acknowledge students' academic performance, but also their effort in mobility, language learning, professional training, job shadowing and community volunteering.
- **Feeling at home in the YUFE cities.** To guarantee accessibility for as many students as possible, YUFE is preparing to set up a virtual European campus. Part-time students or interested citizens who want to follow a single virtual or physical course can also make use of the YUFE offer. For full-time students studying at one of the partner universities elsewhere in Europe, YUFE will develop housing solutions that facilitate cultural exchange, mutual support and integration with the local community.
- **Regional focus and impact.** The YUFE programme pays a lot of attention to the specific regions in which the 8 YUFE universities are located. When it comes to internships, for example, every university will work together with local authorities, the business community and other organisations. These collaborations are based on challenges that are of great importance to the YUFE regions.
- **European integration.** YUFE will develop a shared vision for European higher education and will contribute to creating a bright future for all European citizens, regions and countries.