

European University Alliances: Examples of Community-engagement in YUFE & EMERGE alliances



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Erasmus+
**EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES**

#EuropeanUniversities
Building
the universities
of the future



Transnational educational partnerships,
Joint long-term strategies, Interuniversity
campuses (across borders), Mobility and
cross-border cooperation



Joint education provisions and research
output, pooling of resources, joint quality
assurance, employability, European
identity, national level reforms, civic
engagement, student-centred learning,
inclusion in HE, equality and diversity,
multilingualism, lifelong learning etc.

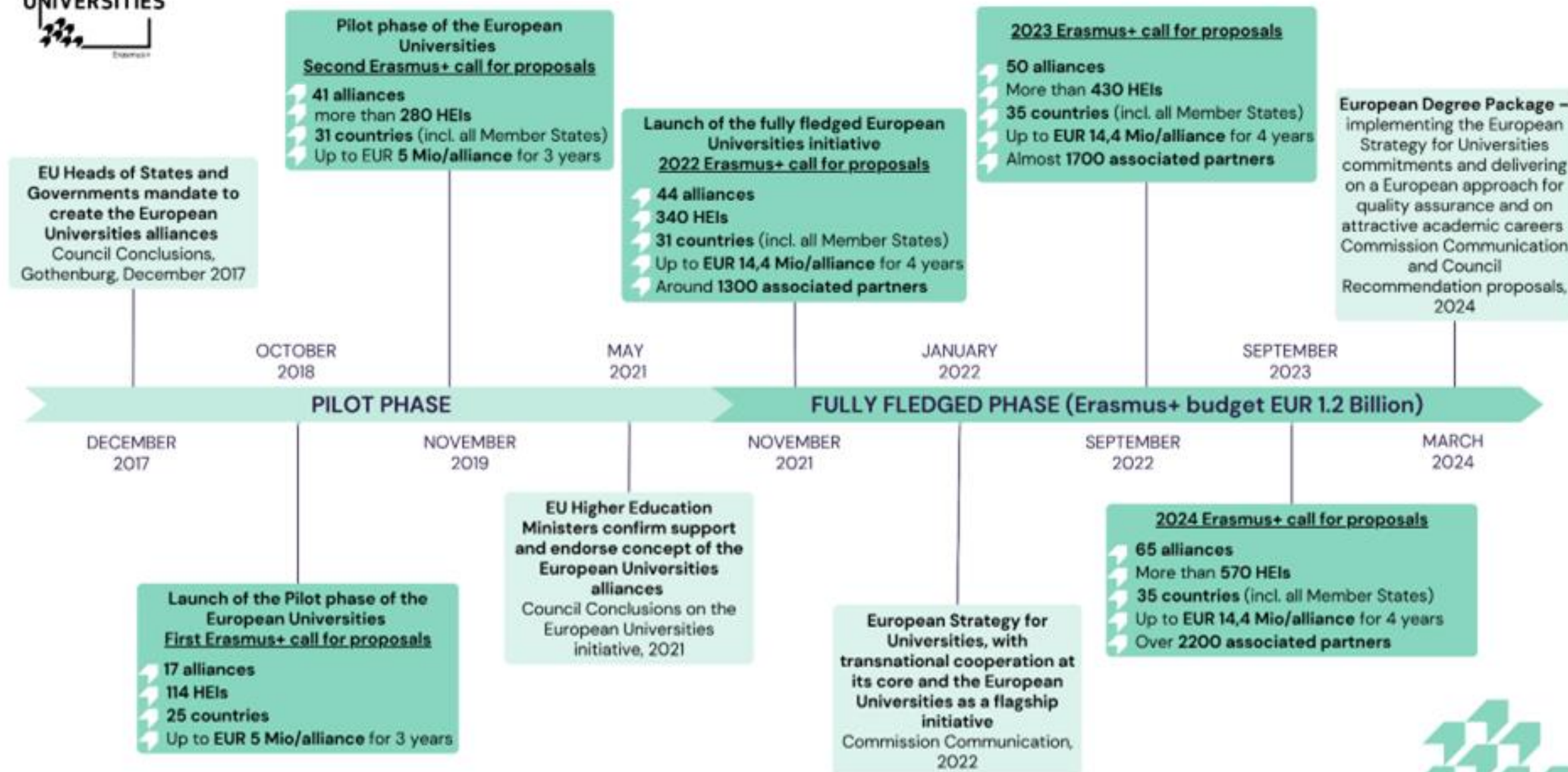


Competitiveness, innovation,
transformation of higher education,
employability of graduates, reinforced
contribution of HE to society and economy

Key strategic missions of European University Alliances



SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT	4EU+, AURORA, Arqus, CHARM-EU, ECIU, EUGLOH, EU-CONEXUS, UNITA, UNIGreen, EUGREEN, SUNRISE, EU4DUAL, EURECA-PRO, ENHANCE, CIVIS, SEA-EU, BAUHAUS4EU, T4EU, INVEST, EPICUR, EC2U, ERUA, EUNICE, EUniWell, EUTOPIA, RUN-EU, ULYSSEUS, Una Europa, UNIC, UNIVERSEH, COLOURS, INGENIUM, STARS EU, UIREKA SHIFT, ACROSS, EUNICoast, ChallengeEU, UNINOVIS, KreativEU, ARTEMIS, EUonAIR, PIONEER, EU-GIFT
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	4EU+, Arqus, CircleU., CIVICA, CIVIS, EELISA, UNITE!, Eut+, EUonAIR, UNIVERSEH, EUNICE, NEOLAIA, UNINOVIS, EDUC, ENHANCE, ENLIGHT, YUFE, NeurotechEU, RUN-EU, T4EU, ULYSSEUS, Una Europa, UNITA, COLOURS, EULIST, STARS EU, UIREKA SHIFT, EUNICoast, OpenEU, ChallengeEU, HEROES, KreativEU, PIONEER, EuroTeQ
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4EU+, CircleU., EUniWell, ENLIGHT, NeurotechEU, EUGLOH, E3UDRES2, EC2U, EPICUR, EUTOPIA, ULYSSEUS, UNITA, COLOURS, EU4DUAL, STARS EU, ChallengeEU, PIONEER, EuroTeQ
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES	CIVICA, ERUA, EUTOPIA, UNIC, BAUHAUS4EU, ARTEMIS, HEROES, AURORA, ACE2EU, COLOURS, EMERGE, Una Europa, EUonAIR, ENGAGE.EU, EUniWell, FORTHEM, YUFE, UNITA, EULIST, EUPeace, ACROSS, IN.TUNE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	AURORA, RUN-EU, INVEST, ACE2EU, PIONEER, T4EU, STARS EU, NEOLAIA, UIREKA SHIFT, EDUC, ECIU, ENGAGE.EU, UNITE!, EU4DUAL, EUGREEN, INGENIUM, UNIGreen, ACROSS, OpenEU, ChallengeEU, EMERGE, HEROES, EU-GIFT
ARTS, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND IDENTITY	Una Europa, CIVIS, KreativEU, ARTEMIS, UNITA, BAUHAUS4EU, Arqus, EC2U, ENLIGHT, ERUA, EUniWell, EUTOPIA, FilmEU, ACROSS, SUNRISE, IN.TUNE
GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION	HEROES, UNIC, ERUA, EUGREEN, EUPeace, INGENIUM, NEOLAIA, OpenEU, EMERGE
MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS	ARTEMIS, EMERGE, ERUA, SEA-EU
URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	T4EU, RUN-EU, PIONEER, CIVIS, EC2U, ECIU, ENHANCE, EU-CONEXUS, EURECA-PRO, INVEST, YUFE, ULYSSEUS, UNIC, UIREKA SHIFT, EUNICoast, ChallengeEU, HEROES, SUNRISE, ARTEMIS, EU-GIFT
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY	Circle U., CIVICA, BAUHAUS4EU, ACE2EU, EC2U, ERUA, EUPeace
ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS AND TECHNOLOGY	EELISA, EuroTeQ, Eut+, ULYSSEUS, UNIVERSEH, EULIST, UNINOVIS, SUNRISE, EUonAIR, EU-GIFT, ENHANCE, UNITE!
COSTAL AND BLUE ECONOMY	EU-CONEXUS, SEA-EU, EUNICoast
SPACE	UNIVERSEH



- 64 European University Alliances
- over 570 HEIs from 35 countries (EU + Erasmus countries)
- 2,200 associated partners
- 50% of the EU student population
- Budget from Erasmus+ programme: €1.4Bn, 5 funding calls (2019 - 2024)
- Among the universities that are ranked in the top 100 in the Shanghai ranking, 80% are in Alliances

=> **Unprecedented scale and speed**



UNIVERSITY- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT @YUFE



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Freetown // Oct 21, 2025

UNIRI





**1 European
university - 1 legal
entity**

10 universities

10 countries

150.000 students

**25.000 faculty and
staff members**

**10 million citizens
in YUFE cities**

YUFE Academic Members

**Sorbonne
Nouvelle**
université des cultures



NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ



University of Essex



University
of Cyprus

UNIRI

uc3m

Universidad
Carlos III
de Madrid



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND



Universität
Bremen



Universiteit
Antwerpen



Maastricht University





YUFE Community & Civic Engagement

The overall aim...

Connecting **10 YUFE universities**, **150.000 students** and **25.000 faculty and staff members** with the **10 million citizens** living in the YUFE cities

Philosophy of '**Giving and gaining**' + '**With the people and for the people**'

Concrete objective...

To build **strong university-citizens communities**

Supporting and facilitating students, academic and professional staff and citizens



Co-funded by
the European Union



SL Help Desks



YUFE @Home



Volunteering



*YUFE International
Cafes*



YUFE Friends

COMMUNITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

2022-2025

470+ learners involved

200+ Civic **Stars** awarded

130+ Friend Programme & International
Cafes pilots participants

70+ community **partners**

55 **volunteering** programmes

20 **training sessions** for students,
staff and citizens

18 service-learning **Help Desks**





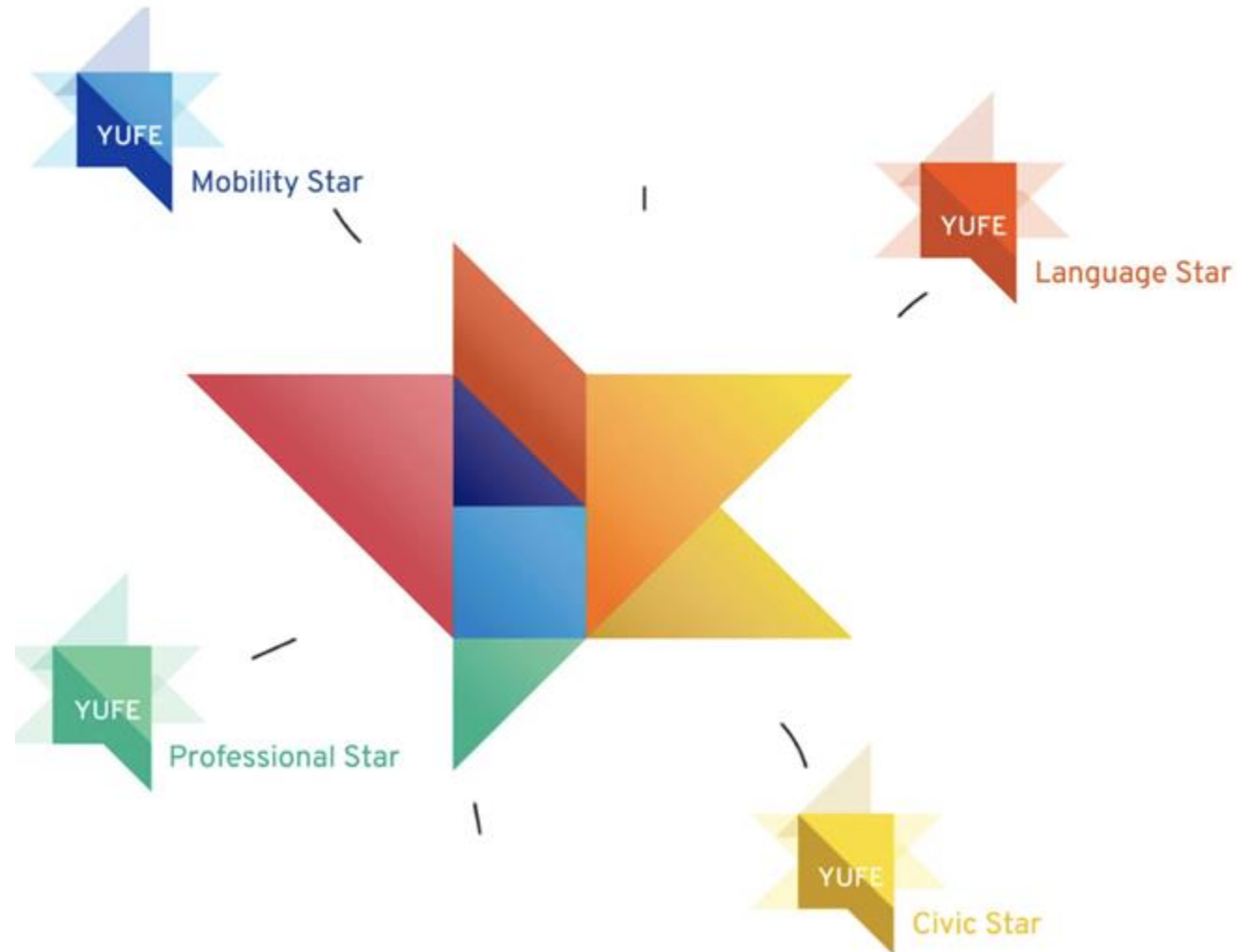
YUFE STARS

Going beyond the academic degree

YUFE Civic Star

YUFE Civic Star is a European certificate that recognises students' commitment to social responsibility and active engagement in the European community.

[READ MORE ABOUT IT](#)



University of Rijeka

Finalist of the Engaged University of the Year Award

"The University that Expands the New Horizons"



ACEEU
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL &
ENGAGED UNIVERSITIES



uc3m | Universidad
Carlos III
de Madrid

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

ACTS "GLOCAL"
THROUGH
LEADERSHIP AND
EXCELLENCE IN
EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH

★ ★ ★ LEARN MORE

★ ★ ★

CATEGORY WINNER

★ ★ ★



University of Rijeka

THE UNIVERSITY
THAT EXPANDS THE
NEW HORIZONS

★ ★ ★ LEARN MORE

★ ★ ★

1st RUNNER-UP

★ ★ ★

Peoples' Choice
Category Winner



YUFE, a socially engaged universities network

14 July 2022

Two YUFE universities, **Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M)** and **University of Rijeka (UNIRI)** received awards in the category of the Engaged University of the Year at the Triple E Awards ceremony held in Florence on June 28, 2022. This year's winner in the category is UC3M, and UNIRI was declared runner-up.



Unlocking the Potential of University-Community Partnerships

“Mapping and assessing diversified university – community partnerships using TEFCE Toolbox – YUFE case study” was the subject of a...

[READ ALL ABOUT IT](#)

Join YUFE Community Engagement Network

What are the legal and social challenges of integrating refugees into a new community? How to effectively provide support to...

[READ ALL ABOUT IT](#)



YUFE CommUNITY Conference: Connecting Community & Universities

YUFE is creating a pioneering model for European universities, dedicated to extending its impact beyond partner institutions and embracing a...

[READ ALL ABOUT IT](#)



YUFE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE_ SEMINAR: CONNECTING COMMUNITY & UNIVERSITIES

14-15
11/24

The First Edition of the YUFE CommUNITY Conference 2024

The third mission of universities is becoming an essential part of higher education, highlighting the growing need for developing and...

[READ ALL ABOUT IT](#)





YUFE Civic Engagement in Action

Help Desks and volunteering programmes

Where Learning Meets Purpose: YUFE Civic Engagement in Action

Collaborative gatherings held at UC3M and NCU marked another successful year for the Civic Engagement Activities. These events offered a...

[READ ALL ABOUT IT](#)

YUFE Academy is back: New lectures in the air!

Spring blossoms with new offers open for all in the YUFE Academy. This series of singular lectures, workshops, and sessions...

[READ ALL ABOUT IT](#)



YUFE **SPRING
2025**
Academy

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YUFE Community Engagement Declaration 2025-2030

YUFE enters the new year with a strong focus on universities' contributions to society, as it has published the YUFE...

[READ ALL ABOUT IT](#)



YUFE Community Engagement Declaration 2025-2030

KEYNOTE

The YUFE Community Engagement Declaration reaffirms YUFE's mission to transform European higher education by establishing the leading model of a student-centred, open, and inclusive European University. It further emphasizes the Alliance's commitment to making a meaningful societal impact.

This Declaration positions YUFE as a dedicated Alliance, contributing to the resolution of pressing societal challenges. In alignment with the YUFE quintuple helix model, collaboration with diverse actors is paramount, and community engagement stands as a transversal principle that is deeply integrated into all activities of the Alliance.

VALUES

- **CO-CREATION THROUGH DIALOGUE**
- **GIVING & GAINING**
- **EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY**
- **OPENNESS**
- **SUSTAINABILITY**
- **(G)LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

OBJECTIVES: WHAT DO WE WANT?

To encourage, support and reward **community-engaged teaching, learning and research**

To foster YUFE Universities as **civic-minded learning communities**, promoting social cohesion, equality, diversity, equity and inclusion

To promote intercultural understanding, critical thinking, political and religious tolerance, gender equality, democratic and civic **values**, and respect for the environment

To **empower** students and staff to **engage** in community initiatives as active citizens

To keep opening **dialogue channels** for meaningful engagement with local communities in **co-created** activities.

To provide easy access to tailored **lifelong learning** for citizens and professionals

To improve bidirectional **knowledge sharing** with the public using a **flipped transfer approach**

To maintain conversations with local governments, public institutions and organisations in YUFE cities and regions to better understand **community needs**

To collaborate with entrepreneurs to strengthen local and regional **innovation ecosystems**

To forge **transnational networks** with YUFE local actors for joint projects

To **exchange experiences** and collaborate across borders

RECOMMENDATIONS: HOW WE WANT TO DO IT

Advocating for YUFE's civic and democratic mission

Integrating community and environmental dimensions into
YUFE Alliance policies, governance, and actions

Fostering student and staff **competencies** to engage with (g)local communities

Motivating staff and students to cooperate with the community by taking
such activities into account in **evaluation and reward mechanisms**

Rewarding community-engaged research and innovation, including successful
knowledge valorisation partnerships, and increasing their visibility

Acknowledging academic and non-academic actors'
contributions to (g)local initiatives

Designing community engagement initiatives considering **local contexts**

Developing a pathway to **recognise** citizens' involvement in YUFE initiatives

Including community engagement modules in **teaching and learning paths**

Aligning YUFE community engagement activities
with the **needs** of YUFE local actors

Establishing clear YUFE **cooperation procedures** for joint
projects with internal and external collaborators

Exploring **funding mechanisms** for community engagement initiatives

Highlighting the value of YUFE's Community Engagement
Declaration within the **YUFE Communication Strategy**

Striving to become a **European community engagement benchmark**

The societal contribution of higher education started re-emerging in the last decade as a European policy priority with the demand for higher education to address societal challenges, as expressed in relevant strategic and policy documents:

European societies are characterised by the great diversity of needs and aspirations of learners within society. Social responsibility and responsiveness in education means recognising and responding to these needs by empowering learners, voice their concerns and encourage them to participate actively in educational decision-making processes. In this way, education becomes more responsive to the dynamic social realities and changing demands of society.

(‘Learners First’. Education for Today’s and Tomorrow’s Democratic Societies. Council of Europe Education Strategy 2024-2030, 2023)

Community engagement should be considered as a process whereby higher education institutions engage with external community stakeholders to undertake joint activities that can be mutually beneficial. (...) This will enable genuine university-community partnerships, which can effectively address social and democratic challenges.

(EHEA Conference Rome Ministerial Communiqué, Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA, 2020)

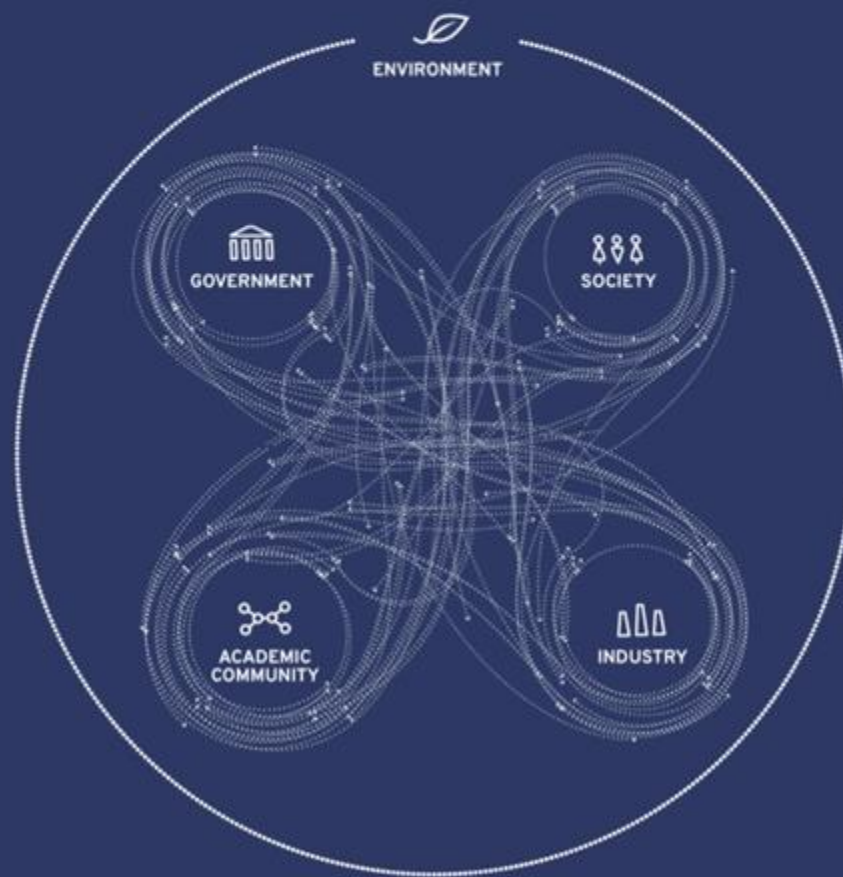
Higher education must play its part in facing up to Europe’s social and democratic challenges. This means ensuring that higher education is inclusive, open to talent from all backgrounds, and that higher education institutions are not ivory towers, but civic-minded learning communities connected to their communities.

(Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions On A Renewed Eu Agenda For Higher Education, 2017)

QUINTUPLE HELIX MODEL

(YUFE 2030)

Endorsing a quintuple helix model in communications aligns well with YUFE's achievements and goals. This model emphasises collaboration among academia, industry, government, and civil society, while fully acknowledging the importance and boundaries of the environment. It is a powerful framework for fostering innovation, sustainability, and societal progress. By highlighting this approach in communications, YUFE can better showcase its commitment to holistic development and inclusive partnerships that benefit diverse communities in YUFE cities/regions.





YUFE University-Community Collaboration Report 2022-2025

1 October 2025

YUFE enters the new academic year publishing a report on its community and civic engagement.

The report *University-Community Collaboration: Strengthening Local Engagement and Global Connections* provides a comprehensive overview of the strategies and initiatives undertaken by YUFE to enhance collaboration between universities and local communities. It traces the transformation of ten individual institutions into a cohesive, community-oriented Alliance dedicated to fostering civic engagement at both local and international levels.



Universities with Purpose

**Advancing the Third Mission through Engagement, Knowledge
Valorisation and Leadership**

Friday, November 28, 2025 at 8:30 AM CET

Maison Irène et Frédéric Joliot Curie

100 Rue du Trône 1050 Ixelles | Brussels, Belgium

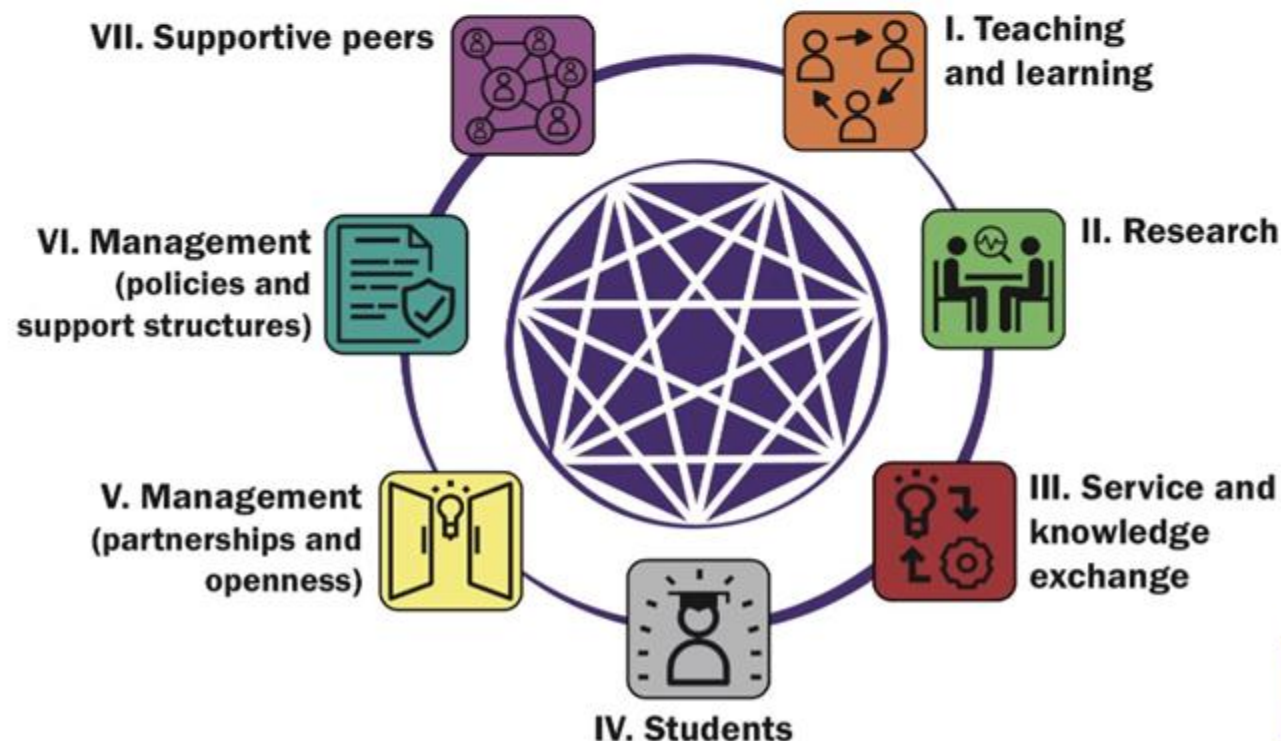
[REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL ACCESS](#)



TEFCE Toolbox

An Institutional Self-Reflection
Framework for Community
Engagement in Higher
Education

THE TEFCE TOOLBOX IS ORGANISED AROUND 7
DIMENSIONS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT.EU**

Community Engagement in European University

Alliance EMERGE



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EMERGE Identity

EMERGE - Empowering the Margins of Europe through Regional and Global Engagement brings together nine universities, united by the conviction that by working together we can better serve our students, territories and communities.

Third Mission is our First Mission - the research we produce and the teaching we provide are designed to serve society, and in particular, communities and territories that feel marginalised within it.

9 universities

8 countries

126,000 students

10,800 staff members



COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING

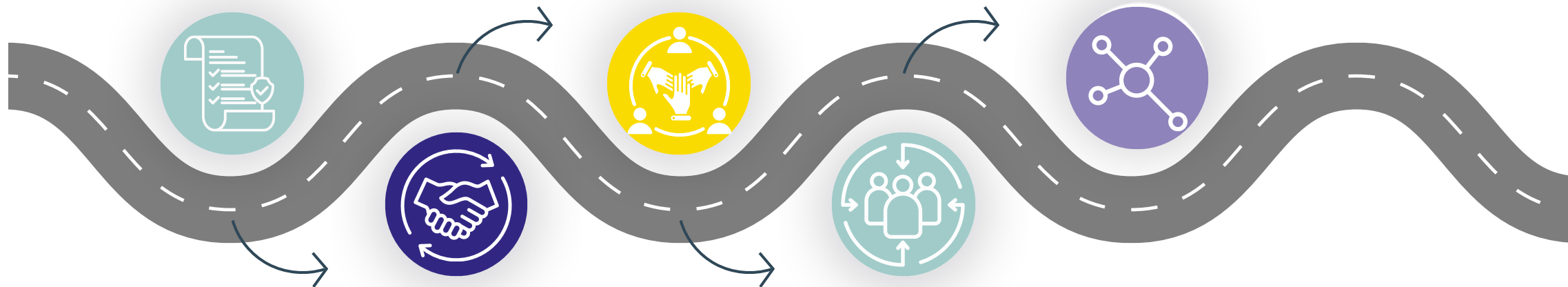
Contact points for community members, prepare refugee communities for HE, formal (ECTS) recognition of student engagement

CONNECTIONS

With education (European education pathway), research, mobilities, lifelong learning

COMMON VALUES IN CE

mapping, scaling, and action plan



PARTNERSHIPS

CE platform in Emerge, network of community partners, internship and fellowships framework, and Open days

COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH

Training for mentors and citizens

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

**APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST
AND ATTENTION :)**

