

EUTOPIA

Position Statement: Towards Responsible Internationalisation

EUTOPIA is an alliance of interconnected Higher Education Institutions. Internationalisation is core to EUTOPIA being a European Universities Alliance whose ten members collectively act as an international gateway for the exchange of knowledge and culture in and beyond Europe through its association with its six global partners to address global challenges. Together we are committed to further collective institutional learning and developing a convergent understanding of responsible internationalisation.

Within EUTOPIA internationalisation is seen as an intentional commitment¹ to integrate an international, intercultural and global dimension into university life comprehensively through augmenting the purpose, functions and programmes for **all students and staff**, in order to advance the **quality and impact** of learning and teaching, research and innovation, and knowledge transfer, all in meaningful **service of society**.

Institutional context for internationalisation in EUTOPIA:

1. EUTOPIA values²

- **Excellence as a purpose of our teaching, research and innovation models**

The universities of the EUTOPIA Alliance commit to always improving the standards of teaching, research, managing and innovation and to seek excellence in their local environments and in their relationship and partnership with one another. In a non-competitive but collaborative way, supporting innovative teaching methods, novel educational frameworks, bold research ideas, the universities of the alliance will pursue together in a confident way the highest quality for their students, faculty staff and stakeholders.

- **Inclusion**

Inclusion at the academic level means that both the pursuit of knowledge and the generation of knowledge should be accessible to all participants in the academic life of the university - students and staff. A culture of inclusion is one where: Diversity is recognised, understood and valued; Cross-cultural dialogue and cross-cultural sensitivity are encouraged; Leaders are role models for inclusive behaviours; There is an environment which is flexible and adaptable and facilitates meaningful interactions; There is transparency of and accountability for our actions.

- **Sustainable, responsible and ethical attitudes towards the planet**

EUTOPIA is to play an active leading role in the pursuit of sustainability as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations. Accordingly, the academic endeavour of the alliance is to be responsible and

¹ As expressed in the International Partnership Charter (IPC) Section A.

² <https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/about-us/values-statement-1> As these values are aligned with the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union, through interaction with the Global Partners, these values are further expanded and enriched through the different contexts offered by the Global Partners.

ethical toward mankind and the planet, within the general framework of the challenge-driven approach defined by the European Commission.

- **Cooperation and openness**

In the context of academic, financial, organizational and staffing autonomy in relation to their founders and other organisations, EUTOPIA encourages the establishment of sincere partnerships with these organisations based on equality of partners which enables universities to render high-quality services to the society.

- **Academic freedom in search for truth**

Building on the principle of university autonomy from the Magna Charta Universitatum, the members of the alliance acknowledge and defend intellectual and ethical freedom. While some threats seem to appear in local environments, EUTOPIA members engage to protect and cherish academic freedom both in their universities and all around the globe

2. International Partnership Charter³

Through the International Partnership Charter, the EUTOPIA members and global partners agreed to respect the Guiding Principles of:

- Academic freedom of speech, enquiry, and conscience
- Excellence as a core value of our teaching, research, and innovation activities
- Collaboration, respect, transparency, and parity of esteem
- Inclusivity and non-discrimination within higher education institutions, as a role model for society, without regard for differences of gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, migration background, capability, sexual orientation, transgender identity or expression
- A sustainable, responsible, and ethical attitude towards the effects of our actions on the planet

Within the above pledge the members and global partners are committed to:

- Working together in building transformative, connected, challenge-driven universities
- Through our educational offerings, collectively producing globally aware and engaged students
- Exploring bottom-up collaborations across academic disciplines and at all levels of study
- Engaging internationally and collectively with governments, businesses, and agencies in areas of vital importance for global sustainability and socioeconomic improvement
- Encouraging a deeper understanding of the institutional, regional, and national ecosystems in which we operate

³ <https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/about-us/mission-and-vision/open-to-the-world/international-partnership-charter>. Note that EUTOPIA is committed to the delivery of the [EUTOPIA Global Partnership Framework](#)

- Sharing opportunities, be they virtual, blended, or physical, for partners to join existing institutional, bilateral, or multilateral initiatives
- Encouraging peer-learning activities in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals, other participating institutions, and the wider community

3. Responsible Internationalisation

The Alliance commits to strengthening Responsible Internationalisation by activating and encouraging a shared understanding of our values and commitments expressed in the International Partnership Charter⁴ in/through

- Our activities: Connected Communities, Research & Innovation, Initiatives for students, Study programmes, Science Diplomacy, Building bridges and Fostering cooperation.
- Engaged navigation between institutional, national, regional and international obligations, allowing for nuanced, possible divergent viewpoints of members and partners due to their context and placemaking.
- Engagement with International Higher Education, Civic society, Public society⁵, Business and Industry.
- Addressing global challenges, e.g. sustainable development, geo-political instability and global economic uncertainty.

Against this background, the Alliance has developed/is developing a shared, but evolving understanding regarding

- ✚ Academic freedom and HEI collaboration in regions of geopolitical conflict
- ✚ Research security
- ✚ Fair partnerships
- ✚ Responsible Knowledge Transfer
 - Tech Transfer
 - Civic and Community Engagement
 - Public Engagement on local, national and regional levels
 - Engagement with Business & Industry⁶
 - Science Diplomacy

As global uncertainties persist, EUTOPIA recognises that internationalisation must be both principled and proactive. Through our collective values and practices, including our commitment to science diplomacy, we aspire to shape a more connected, cooperative, and resilient higher education landscape.

⁴ By doing responsible internationalization through bridge-building and sensemaking, each member/partner needs to navigate between their institutional, national and regional obligations which might not be aligned to the EUTOPIA context as described. EUTOPIA's values and International Partnership Charter support each institution to navigate a responsible course while further recognizing the diversity of operating contexts of our members.

⁵ Local, national, regional governmental structures.

⁶ Outside of tech transfer context, e.g. funding for research, employment opportunities for students, brain circulation.

