



UP University Alliance: A European Engine for Regional Transformation

UP University is not just an alliance; it is a structurally integrated European engine for resilience, innovation, and regional transformation, grounded in our shared commitment to Responsible Living for the Next Generations.

Bringing together eleven complementary institutions, we blend the practice-oriented strength of Universities of Applied Sciences with the disciplinary breadth of Comprehensive Universities. Rooted in mid-sized cities and non-capital territories, we form a multi-regional European entity deeply connected to innovation and labour-market ecosystems.

At the core of our mission is a shared commitment to Responsible Living for the Next Generations, the mindset that guides how our alliance educates, innovates and collaborates. Building on this purpose, we are forging a fully integrated European Inter-University Campus that transcends institutional boundaries and prepares our community to navigate Europe's green, digital and societal transitions with confidence and purpose. In this shared space, we empower the members of our community to make informed decisions that foster environmental sustainability, social fairness, wellbeing and economic prosperity. In doing so, we naturally contribute to Europe's wider ambitions for competitiveness and

inclusion, including those reflected in the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Unique Value Proposition: The Applied–Research Nexus

UP University occupies a unique position at the intersection of applied innovation and academic inquiry. By bringing together Universities of Applied Sciences and research-intensive Comprehensive Universities within a shared multi-regional ecosystem, we create capabilities that no single institution could achieve alone.

Through this Applied–Research Nexus, we:

- connect knowledge creation with practical application and societal engagement, closing the loop of the Knowledge Square;
- accelerate regional innovation and European competitiveness, drawing on our territorial strengths;
- co-design solutions with companies, public authorities, health providers and civil society, activating the quintuple helix;
- support talent development and challenge-driven education and research across diverse regions and disciplines.

Our community is built on equity, diversity, inclusion, sustainability and responsibility. Learners, staff and external partners contribute to shared learning and innovation spaces that respond to real societal needs, with the quintuple helix acting as a defining feature of our collaborative culture. This human-centred approach strengthens trust, creativity and entrepreneurship across regions and reinforces our commitment to Responsible Living for the Next Generations.

By fostering challenge-based practices, competence-oriented learning and opportunities for up- and reskilling, we contribute to Europe’s Union of Skills while supporting talent development across our alliance. Embedded within a coherent and interoperable structure, this shared mindset enables UP University to leverage its institutional diversity and complementary research capability to advance cohesion and competitiveness across the European Higher Education landscape.

Translating Vision into Transformation: Three Structural Pillars

To turn this vision into long-term institutional transformation, UP University advances its mission through three mutually reinforcing areas of action.

1st Pillar — Education as a European Learner-Centered Pathway

Education is at the heart of our European Inter-University Campus, enabling seamless physical, digital and blended mobility across institutions. Through jointly designed curricula, microcredentials and stackable pathways, we will offer flexible, multilingual and competence-based learning routes aligned with regional strengths. Anchored in Responsible Living for the Next Generations, our UP Competency Framework develops ethical, critical, democratic and societal competences, while our long-term commitment to an emerging European Degree strengthens mutual trust and supports deeper academic integration.

2nd Pillar — Research, Innovation and Societal Engagement

We leverage our dual nature to bridge the gap between applied innovation and academic inquiry, strengthening research, innovation and societal engagement across our multi-regional ecosystem in line with our Academic Scorecard and Europe's strategic agendas. Collaboration with trusted regional stakeholders, supported by ethical and FAIR Open Science, challenge-driven methodologies and a strong focus on entrepreneurship and knowledge valorisation, activates the quintuple helix to co-create solutions with societal impact and reinforce our contribution to the European Research Area.

3rd Pillar — Governance, Community and a Distributed European Campus

We are building a distributed European university supported by aligned governance, interoperable systems and shared processes that enable deeper integration while respecting institutional diversity. Our European Inter-University Campus — both physical and digital — creates a common space where students and staff shape institutional life through inclusive structures and joint services that strengthen belonging, wellbeing and equal opportunities. This cohesive community enables us to act as a single European university capable of sustaining meaningful transformation for a resilient, cohesive and future-ready Europe.

A Long-Term Commitment to Europe's Future

UP University alliance is committed to building a fully institutionalised European university that nurtures talent, strengthens European identity and drives regional competitiveness and societal transformation. Through aligned governance, shared academic standards and robust quality assurance, we ensure excellence, trust and long-term continuity across all partner institutions.

Over the next decade, we will deepen joint learning pathways, expand research and innovation cooperation and reinforce the shared structures that shape our European Inter-University Campus. Guided by Responsible Living for the Next Generations and fully aligned with the European commitments to inclusion and equal opportunities that underpin the Erasmus+ programme, we will contribute to a resilient, cohesive and future-ready Europe where education, research, innovation and societal engagement reinforce one another to generate lasting benefits for people, places and communities across our regions.

Our alliance builds on long-standing trust and collaboration among partners and reflects a shared determination to deepen our joint commitment over the coming decade. Rooted in this collective ambition, UP University stands ready to consolidate its structures, expand its shared services and strengthen its contribution to Europe's future by acting as a truly integrated and resilient European university.

