



The story of the European University alliance CIVIS a European Civic University

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The origins of the project

Integration at the top of the EU policy agenda

The building of the project: issues & strategies involved

Our project: what does “civic” stand for?

How will CIVIS be implemented?

First lessons to be drawn

Four universities with common interests

Strong ties in the Mediterranean basin with numerous projects (incl. EU-funded projects) but no European-wide approach

- Aix-Marseille University,
- University of Rome Sapienza
- Autonomous University of Madrid
- University of Barcelona

2016: Transnational North-Mediterranean Campus

- 7 excellence research areas
- 4 fields of education
- Joint approach of mobility to double the number of beneficiaries
- Strong institutional agreement



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New context

September 2017: President Emmanuel Macron « Sorbonne » speech

December 2017: European Council Future Erasmus+ & Horizon Europe negotiations

10th Anniversary of the Bologna Process

1st semester 2018 : negotiations of future Work Programmes (Erasmus+, H2020,...) and Programmes (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, Cohesion policy,...)

October 2018: publication of the call



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How to choose our partners?

How to organize work? working groups / work packages, frequency of meetings, consultancy...

Who? rectors and vice-rectors, international departments, research departments, ...



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Eight comprehensive universities

- from eight different countries across Europe
- rooted in their urban and regional landscapes
- actively contributing to the social, cultural and economic dynamism at the local level
- strong ties to Mediterranean & African partners
- Seven European languages (in addition to English)



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Our values & our civic identity

- CIVIS' Mission Statement endorsed by the decision-making bodies of the eight universities – January 2019:

*“(...) we envision our European Civic University as a space for innovative and responsible teaching, research, cultural exchanges and **citizen action within Europe** from the Baltic to the Mediterranean Sea, while engaging with the world, its inhabitants and its institutions (...)"*

- Training future generations of European citizens & reinforcing our civic identity by promoting European values, while bridging the peoples of Europe
- The best for the many
- Commitment to contributing to the achievement of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from the local to the global scale



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Vision

- A **challenge-based approach** making the best use of the knowledge triangle (research-education-innovation)
- Reinforced impact **from the local to the global scale**, contributing to social, cultural and economic dynamism

Goals

- Promote strong European values
- Pool and share our respective strengths within the entire alliance
- Innovation to faster develop multilingualism for the benefit of students, staff and citizens
- Partner with a wide diversity of stakeholders sharing the same goals at the local scale, involving our respective regions and local stakeholders, to the global scale focusing on the Mediterranean and African regions.



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Mediterranean & African focus

A common interest to work towards achieving the SDGs

- Partnerships with the Mediterranean basin and in Africa to develop education and research programmes between CIVIS and partner universities of our main topic areas
- Political context: other opportunities in the long run
 - Digital4Med
 - EU-Africa partnership



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Expected impacts & benefits

Nearly 400,000 students and 50,000 staff with access to an open university space for studying, collaborating and innovating together

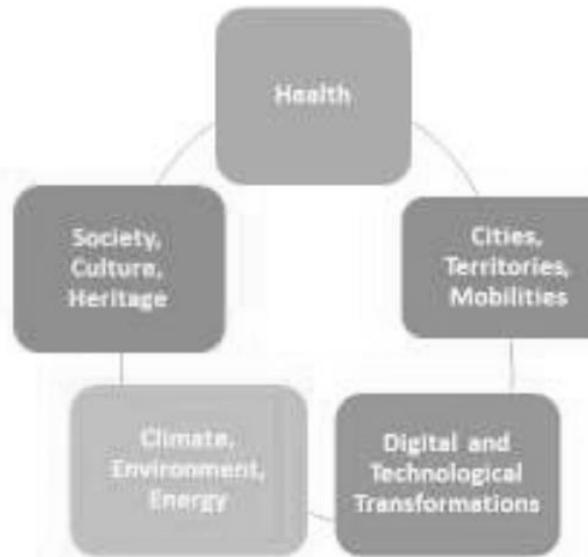
Examples

- *Students* > degrees and training programmes comprising substantially increased mobility
- *Academics & Researchers* > collaborative environment (partnerships, funding, labs)
- *Universities' staff* > access to language courses, mobility, (...)
- *Citizens* > Life-long education in a European environment, citizen science (...)
- *Businesses* > High quality skills and scaling up, apprenticeship, technology transfer (...)
- *Partners from outside the European Union* > enhanced cooperation at EU level (...)
- *Regions & territories* > development of value chains, attractiveness, regional development



A Challenge-based Approach

Education Research Innovation



Transversal skills,
Critical thinking,
Entrepreneurship,
Problem solving
Creativity,

Relationships with
Mediterranean & African partners

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CIVIS

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Social & environmental responsibility
Relationships with civil society, public & private sectors
Link with Regions' strategies



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How will we ensure impact?

- **Automatic recognition** : umbrella agreement
- **Digital tools** for skills, mobility and collaboration: collaborative platform, mobility Assistance Portal (tools and courses), multilingual tools, **CIVIS Card** (European Student Card)
- **Personalized education** through European pathways : *CIVIS Track* (Service- Community- or Work-based learning, innovative pedagogies, skills and tools to tailor education programmes to a changing world in order to integrate skills required in the future job market)
- Knowledge triangle: synergies between education and research projects
- Joint **strategy** for Open Science (citizen science, access, data,...)
- Eight **connected territories** for the benefit of citizens : interregional approach of training, research and innovation to take advantage of the complementary strengths identified in the eight regions
- **Open labs** at local level to involve society



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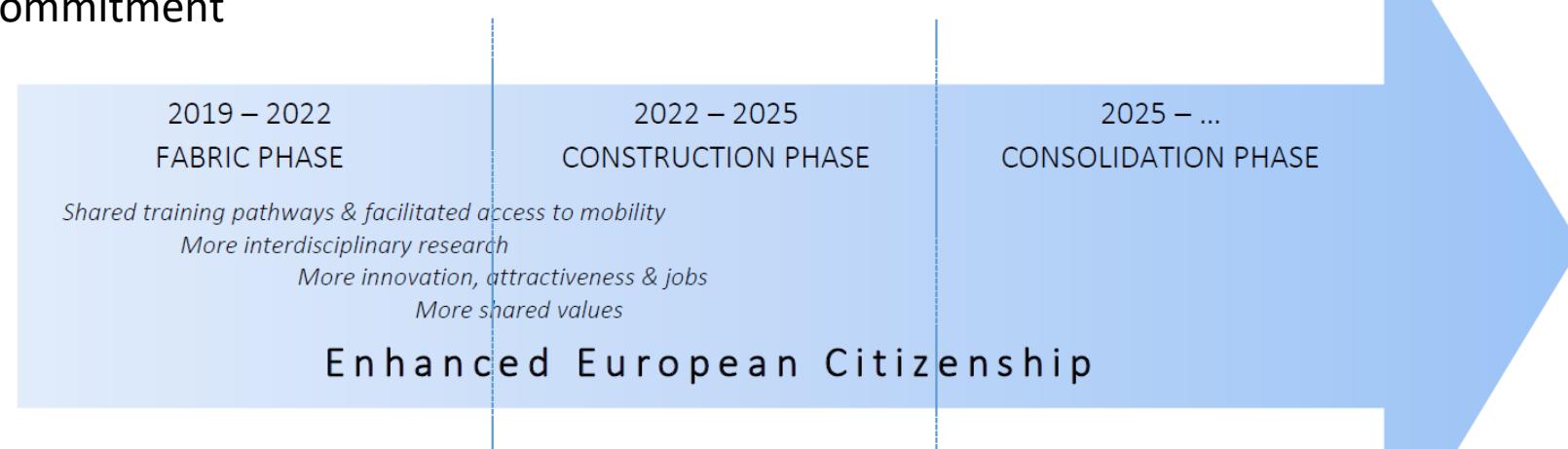
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Fundraising strategy

- Fundraising activities
- Public and private partnerships at all levels (local, national and European) to support access for the many
- Synergies between EU programmes

Governance

Carried out according to a step-by-step approach to involve all relevant stakeholders and achieve the alliance's goals and commitment



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The *European Universities* pilot-calls are...

- ...bottom-up calls...
- ...that reward strategies...
-which should meet political conditions

Points to which particular attention should be paid

- Partners: vision & trust
- Address challenging issues:
 - ✓ Credit transfer and recognition
 - ✓ Budget, financial circuits.
 - ✓ Governance: ability of governing bodies to implement the project
 - ✓ communication / implementation
- Information:
 - ✓ rely on several sources of information
 - ✓ Test various scenarios
- Involve key-actors at relevant levels to...
 - ✓ ...rely on existing strengths
 - ✓ ...ensure the quality of implementation

Do the results depend (only) on the evaluation-process ?

Is it useful to lobby the decision-makers?



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