



EPiCUR
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

**Shaping new ways to learn,
teach, research
and collaborate in Europe**

MISSION STATEMENT
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EPICUR European University

Mission Statement

2026

EPICUR's Vision for a European University Alliance

More than seven decades after the launch of its integration project, Europe is undergoing a profound phase of transformation. Climate change, demographic ageing, digital and technological disruptions, global health risks and escalating geopolitical tensions increasingly challenge the European Union's political, economic, scientific and cultural sovereignty. In this context, universities are strategic actors for Europe's resilience, innovation capacity and social cohesion. To fulfil this role, they must adapt their structures, modes of cooperation and societal engagement to evolving European needs.

The **EPICUR European University Alliance** positions itself as a forward-looking **Confederation of Universities** that creates clear European added value through structurally embedded cooperation in education, research and impact for society. EPICUR draws its distinctive strength from the **academic excellence, economic performance, creativity and diversity of the regions** in which its member universities are embedded. This polycentric structure enables EPICUR to interlink regional innovation ecosystems across Europe and to contribute strategically to European scientific, technological, digital and industrial sovereignty by jointly developing, scaling and sustaining high-quality academic offers across its member universities.

For students, EPICUR offers a broad and integrated portfolio of joint teaching and learning opportunities that systematically leverage synergies between the complementary academic strengths of its member universities, thereby creating a rich and academically excellent European learning environment. Within this framework, students are empowered to contribute collaboratively to solutions for the urging challenges of our time. They develop advanced competencies in academic inquiry, innovation and transfer, entrepreneurial thinking, and in engaging responsibly with society, policy and the economy.

In its mission to **transform education, research and transfer practices and opportunities** across its member universities, EPICUR will offer a significant number of academic and support staff the chance to develop teaching, research and transfer projects or take part in cross alliance training and mobility opportunities each year. EPICUR also provides a dedicated framework for **Early Career Researchers**, enabling them to gain initial international teaching experience, to establish and further develop outstanding research collaborations, and to receive targeted support for their academic career development.

Building on a robust joint digital infrastructure, innovative mobility formats, a shared language policy and effective incentive schemes, EPICUR pursues the strategic ambition of evolving into a university confederation over the coming decade. This EPICUR Confederation of Universities will equip itself with a set of **common tools, services, decision-making bodies and rules to frame the alliance cooperation**, while guaranteeing institutional autonomy to its members. Its coordination structures will bring together its members' services and optimise connections according to the principles of efficiency and proximity in a subsidiarity approach. In doing so, the alliance makes a substantive contribution to strengthening the European Higher Education and Research Areas and positions itself as a credible and mature actor in European academic diplomacy.

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EPICUR Alliance Strategy for Cross-Institutional Cooperation

The EPICUR alliance has been conceived to achieve collectively what no single university could accomplish on its own. Its ambition clearly exceeds the individual capacity of its member institutions. But it also requires moving past traditional inter-university collaborations and project-based approaches to drive whole-of-institution transformations. In this context, cooperation alone is insufficient, deeper forms of integration are required.

EPICUR will take up the challenge in a step-wise manner by building a confederation of universities, developed through an iterative cooperation framework to enable deeper collaboration. This entails:

- **Alliance strategic and policy development** to guarantee EPICUR's strategic orientations are sufficiently aligned with those of its member universities and to ensure that a members' institutional strategy is compatible with the alliance's strategy. This is a key condition for the sustainability of the alliance and a necessity for the development of a whole-institutional approach.
- **Alliance shared and joint structures** to support the coordination and translate governance and academic requirements into operational digital and administrative infrastructures through the design, testing and deployment of processes and procedures to sustain the scale-up of EPICUR activities across partner institutions.
- **Joint initiatives and actions** to develop and consolidate EPICUR's teaching and learning provision, to enable its capacity to carry out joint research, to dynamise innovation and support societal engagement and structure new opportunities for collaboration across the alliance.
- **Monitoring and impact measurement** to evaluate achievement of policy goals and enable continuous improvement, as well promote success through systematic dissemination across and beyond Europe, and develop the exploitation of key assets to boost sustainability.

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EPICUR ambition for cross-institutional collaboration is structured for the next years through five priority policy areas underpinned with strategic goals and indicators:

- **Scale-up EPICUR's teaching and learning offer**

Building on our initial portfolio of flexible learning formats and mobilities, we will continue to redesign our curricula to integrate shared courses and innovative pathways to offer a truly European learning experience that follow European Standards. Widening access to our education offer, EPICUR will create tools and support measures to live up to EDI standards and enable a successful European learning experience for all.

- **Build a sustainable EPICUR community of actively involved academic and staff members**

Through the establishment of dedicated support structures and incentive measures, EPICUR will support and encourage the development of our academics and staff members' future skills, while creating a sustainable collaborative community of teachers, researchers and administrative facilitators across the alliance.

- **Harness EPICUR's excellence in research, innovation and transfer to support alliance educational activities and foster early-career researchers (ECR) development**

Building on the research strengths of its members, EPICUR research networks will actively share their research outcomes to inspire research-based teaching and socio-economic innovation and help strengthen Europe's worldwide talent attractiveness. We will continue our efforts to foster an entrepreneurial mind-set among our students, early career researchers and academics and encourage civic engagement within and across our regions.

- **Strengthen and increase the accessibility of EPICUR's digital tools**

We will transform European university cooperation by developing the digital tools, skills and processes necessary to enable successful and efficient collaborations. Our ambition is to advance European independent, public digital teaching & learning platforms for universities and academic networks.

- **Foster a strategy for international outreach and cooperation within the Alliance**

As an example of international competitiveness and attractiveness for the European Education Area landscape and through a spirit of openness, we will explore opportunities and define a strategy for international outreach and cooperation with other alliances and universities around the world.