



CIVICA

The European University of Social Sciences Joint Long-Term Mission Statement

Today we, Bocconi University (Italy), Central European University (Hungary), the European University Institute (European intergovernmental organisation), the Hertie School of Governance (Germany), the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Romania), Sciences Po (France), and the Stockholm School of Economics (Sweden), propose to build **CIVICA, the European University of Social Sciences** for the 21st century.

Vision for 2025

Building upon decades of successful partnerships amongst many of us, we, the leaders of world renowned higher education institutions from across the European continent, recognise the vitality of European social sciences in educating the future generations as well as in generating solutions to the world's most pressing challenges, and thus, as a pillar of strength for the future of European higher education and Europe's own future. The proposed name is inspired by the Latin adjective *civicus/civica*, meaning 'civil, civic'; as well as the *corona civica*, an award reserved for Roman citizens who defended the lives of their communities.

CIVICA embodies our ambition, as forward-thinking higher education institutions, to assume our civic responsibility as Europeans towards both the future European generations and the role of Europe in the world.

CIVICA aims to unite leading European higher education institutions in the social sciences to form a **broad European inter-university campus that links teaching and learning, research and innovation, and society at large across cultural, linguistic, and national borders**. Through coordinated strategic planning, transformative governance and integrated activities, including embedded mobility at all levels, joint and flexible curricula, a networked approach to the students' preparation for careers, civic commitment and hands-on societal outreach, it will generate solutions to persistent European and world challenges, strengthen European identity, and contribute to an internationally-competitive European Higher Education Area. Ultimately, CIVICA aims to be the cornerstone of a global network that actively connects leading higher education institutions worldwide.

As we embark on this new European initiative, **our long-term vision provides the frame for immediate action**. We plan to undertake without delay a number of flagship projects and activities subsumed to the long-term objectives of CIVICA. As such, we will contribute to the design and the prototyping of a European University:

- We will build the physical and digital spaces and systems supporting a networked European Campus for learning, knowledge production and application, which champions excellence, diversity and inclusion.

- At the Bachelor level, we will design a multi-campus, interdisciplinary bachelor's education experience with a core focus on civic engagement, thereby cultivating a distinctly European civic ethos amongst our students.
- At the Masters level, we will take our thriving existing collaborations a step further and will experiment the most cutting-edge pedagogical innovations. Our flagship multi-campus integrated course will involve dozens of faculty and will respond to contemporary European and global challenges. Joint policy labs, joint capstone projects and hackathons will also be deployed at the Masters level with the same objective of combining education, research and innovation while also contributing to more European identity.
- At the doctoral level, we will build an integrated European space for European Early Stage Researchers in the Social Sciences and Humanities.
- Recognising the role that only the social sciences can play in tackling global problems, we will establish four dedicated multi-campus knowledge creating teams to conduct results-oriented joint work and feed in the three levels of our European campus: Democracy in the XXIst Century, Societies in Transition and Crises of Earth, Europe Revisited, and Data Driven Technologies for the Social Sciences.

CIVICA - A distinctive university of social sciences for Europe's future

CIVICA is an alliance grown out of long-standing, in-depth academic cooperation that will guarantee its sustainability. Internationalisation has been at the heart of our universities' respective development strategies for decades. In the spirit of the Bologna Process, we have progressively and gradually solidified our relationships. Systematic student and staff mobility, modular curricula, automatic credit recognition, a broad catalogue of graduate dual degrees and bi- and multilateral research projects are now fundamental parts of our institutional identities and of what we have already achieved together. **Today, we are ready to significantly further strengthen our already special bond in order to form a new kind of higher education alliance.** Building on our lessons learned and benefiting from our complementarities and what we have yet to learn from each other, we will refine our best practices and shape a ground-breaking – and enduring – alliance designed to inspire a transformation of the European higher education sector and invent the university of the future.

CIVICA reflects **an alliance of high-level, multi-faceted and complementary expertise sets across all regions of Europe. Our institutions boast a rich span of social sciences, broadly defined and connected with the humanities, business management and public policy.** CIVICA will draw from our existing strengths in political science, economics, history and sociology, public affairs, business management and entrepreneurship, data science, mathematics, network science, and cognitive science. The European Social Sciences we envision are pluralist, interdisciplinary and comparative; they combine quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods and are sensitive to historical, cultural and institutional contexts. They are open to, and seek permanent cooperation with, the natural sciences and interested in the applications of sciences. Importantly, they understand knowledge production as a public good and a driver of civic responsibility.

Uniting a variety of approaches, CIVICA will pioneer a new type of European higher education in world class social sciences. It will create unprecedented potential for innovation in responding to persistent societal challenges in ways only social sciences can, at a time marked by post-industrial economic restructuring, the emergence of alternative modes of political participation, the revolution of artificial intelligence and climate change. Such complex issues must be addressed through the social sciences; and we believe this can be done much more powerfully if we are together, thriving on synergies, **acknowledging differences and fostering complementarities. Our project is set to embody the European idea in its purest form: "United in diversity"** as a distinct and unified European university of social sciences.

To this end, **CIVICA will connect 38,000 students recruited from across Europe and all over the world to a community of 7,000 faculty members and some 3,000 administrative staff. It will prototype the European campus of the future**, where students, teachers and researchers will work in close interaction across the continent with the business sector, regulators, policy makers, and the wider European public **to find solutions to the persistent societal challenges facing Europe and the world.**

The three pilot years will be a time for designing, prototyping and testing concrete actions. As Europeans, university teachers and social scientists, we are united in a unique mission: We want to educate the next generation of professionals who serve their societies across sectors, whose minds are concentrated on tackling the most pressing problems of the world, and who are driven by European values of democracy, respect and civic resilience. Our alliance will be based on vibrant research-led education across borders, across disciplines and across methodologies. It will link academic excellence and scientific rigour with civic commitment and practical societal outreach. For us, this particular combination defines excellent learning and teaching for leadership, civic and professional advancement in the 21st century.

As leaders of our respective institutions, we certify that this joint long-term mission has been endorsed by relevant decision-making bodies at each of our institutions.



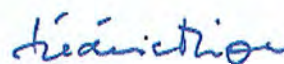
President Mario Monti, Bocconi University (Italy)



Rector Remus Pricopie, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration - SNSPA (Romania)



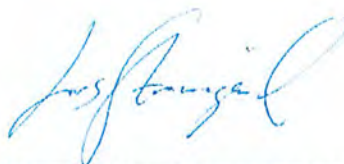
President and Rector Michael Ignatieff, Central European University (Hungary)



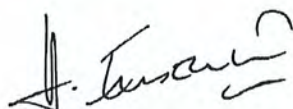
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