



## **CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences**

### **Renewed Mission Statement – Vision for 2030**

Ten European universities have boldly joined forces to form **CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences**: Bocconi University, Central European University, the European University Institute, the Hertie School, IE University, the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Sciences Po, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, the Stockholm School of Economics, and The London School of Economics and Political Science. This mission statement reaffirms our commitment to building an enduring European University Alliance and outlines a **joint vision for 2030 with respect to our priorities on education, research, innovation, and service to society**.

As these words are written, a war is being waged on Ukraine. The CIVICA alliance stands in solidarity with the communities affected, and our partners are working – individually and collectively – to support all those who are impacted. The CIVICA alliance and its member institutions remain resolutely committed to our role as an open university that gathers vibrant communities in education and research who actively contribute to peaceful and sustainable solutions to challenges across Europe and the world, such as those we are faced with now. As the crisis unfolds, our mission statement remains more relevant than ever in demonstrating CIVICA’s ambition for creating a platform dedicated to fostering respectful dialogue, and its commitment to the values of justice, tolerance, and solidarity.

### **Building The European University of Social Sciences**

Our world faces unprecedented societal challenges that necessitate coordinated actions and responses. As a transnational and research-intensive European university of social sciences, **CIVICA is uniquely placed to address current and emerging challenges, as well as embrace and generate new opportunities**, using established and novel approaches to education, research, and societal outreach in the social sciences and humanities.

Since October 2019, we have been successfully laying the foundation for an ambitious European University Alliance through a physical and digital inter-university campus that links teaching and learning, research and innovation, and civil society across cultural, linguistic, and national borders. CIVICA embodies our ambition to assume our civic responsibility for current and future European generations, and to strengthen the role of Europe in the world. CIVICA aims to serve local and global communities and to defend the core European values of academic freedom, autonomy, solidarity, diversity and inclusion, openness, innovation, and environmental sustainability. Our mission is to create bridges

between academia and civil society, and to support policymakers in designing effective policy responses.

We have established sustainable governance bodies, common management structures, and transnational teams of faculty, staff, and students that bring to life our mission and vision at all levels of education and research. CIVICA's governance structure encompasses all dimensions of the alliance, including CIVICA (Erasmus+) and CIVICA Research (Horizon 2020), and is guided by the principle 'one CIVICA'. Although the Covid-19 pandemic marked the pilot years of CIVICA, our alliance has proved resilient, and all partners have demonstrated a resounding sense of solidarity and agility.

## **Our Vision for 2030**

We believe that CIVICA has a key role to play in Europe's future, which reaffirms our long-term commitment to further developing our alliance in line with the vision cultivated by the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Member States of the European University Alliances. Building upon decades of partnerships, the concrete achievements during the pilot phase, and the substantial policy developments in support of the European Universities Alliances, CIVICA aims to **further consolidate and expand our alliance and increase our level of ambition and innovation in shaping the University of the Future in Europe.**

From Fall 2022 onwards, CIVICA will be joined by two new partners, IE University and SGH Warsaw School of Economics, which allows both geographical representation of the European Higher Education Area, as well as the diversity of European higher education, to be reflected in CIVICA's membership. The alliance benefits from each institution's unique expertise, while uniting all members through a strong European identity and an emphasis on shared values. The addition of the two new partners further consolidates CIVICA's role as an innovative force for its member universities, providing them with greater agility in their activities in Europe. Moreover, CIVICA offers a source of stability and an environment in which the values of autonomy and academic freedom can be defended, particularly in the face of evolving and often challenging European political contexts, such as Brexit.

As one of the inaugural European University Alliances, CIVICA aims to be a model for best practices in line with European policy objectives. We therefore continue to implement the Bologna key commitments, monitor new European developments in higher education and research, and develop deeper forms of cooperation amongst alliance members while aiming to attract top researchers and students from around the world. In doing so, we are transforming and strengthening the international standing and competitiveness of the European Education and Research Area.

Our vision for 2030 will therefore involve significant advancements in the following key areas: education, research and scientific priorities, service to society, innovation and lifelong learning, the creation of a CIVICA community, global outreach, and sustainable institutional cooperation and common infrastructure.

### ***Education***

Building off the commitment to excellence in education shared by the members of CIVICA, our alliance is establishing an integrated European inter-university campus experience, both physical and digital. By 2030, an even greater number of students and early-stage

researchers across the alliance will benefit from CIVICA's enhanced mobility mechanisms, joint activities, and rich academic offers. We will increase and enhance **joint content** across all educational levels (Bachelor, Master and Doctoral) to offer students individualised study paths, based on lessons learned from our joint and multicampus courses, seminars, policy labs, and certificate programmes that are currently being piloted. CIVICA is moreover committed to deepening these forms of transnational cooperation by helping set the foundation for the development of a CIVICA European joint degree.

To ensure CIVICA students are engaged in addressing current global issues, our **research-rich education programmes and activities will use an interdisciplinary approach to foster knowledge transfer, skills development, and research experience** in key areas including the digital and green transition and socio-economic challenges. We will continue equipping our students with skills and practical experience that will nurture creative and entrepreneurial mindsets and best prepare them for the labour market of the future. Through mobility opportunities and other joint activities, CIVICA students are empowered to meet and collaborate with other students and academics across the alliance, allowing them to expand their personal and professional horizons.

### ***Research and Scientific Priorities***

CIVICA aims to give a European voice to social sciences research on the world's most pressing challenges and to deepen research collaboration within and beyond the alliance. CIVICA's interdisciplinary approach to research both influences, and is influenced by, synergies with its education dimension in their common focus on problem-solving and creating structural and sustainable impact. CIVICA has identified the following **four thematic priorities** on which a series of integrated research and education activities are centred: Democracy in the XXIst Century, Societies in Transition and Crises of Earth, Europe Revisited, and Data-Driven Technologies for the Social Sciences. Four dedicated, interdisciplinary knowledge-creating teams have thus been formed to conduct results-oriented work in both the research and education dimensions of our European campus.

By 2030, our vision is to have created a world-class, collaborative, and sustainable research and innovation ecosystem, where our cutting-edge research not only is at the forefront of creating policy-oriented outcomes, but it also feeds directly into the education dimension of our institutions. Building on the joint long-term research and innovation strategy developed within CIVICA Research, we are **forging ground-breaking, collective research tools and infrastructures in an effort to explore and implement major institutional transformations**. Our alliance allows researchers and research staff from the social sciences and humanities to create new, and strengthen existing, avenues of cooperation in Europe, allowing for a seamless circulation of people and ideas between its institutions while attracting international early-stage and experienced researchers. We seek to improve access to knowledge by actively disseminating research results and committing to the open science agenda. To ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of our alliance, we are intent on further strengthening the synergies between research and education within CIVICA in order to form a robust knowledge ecosystem.

### ***Service to Society***

**Civic engagement** is at the core of CIVICA's identity: we train diverse groups of citizens and prepare them for an engaged public life following the European ideal of "United in

Diversity”. Our vision for 2030 involves robust civic participation at the local, national, and European level for the entire CIVICA community. We moreover aim to lead by example for other institutions and alliances in **promoting the ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion** through activities such as facilitating access to higher education for high school students and formulating targeted actions to support marginalised communities within the alliance and beyond. CIVICA will progress towards these goals through greatly enhancing our joint activities, creating innovative new structures, and increasing our use of digital technologies with the ambition to support a diversity of talents, so that the CIVICA community reflects the social, economic, and cultural diversity of our global society.

### ***Innovation and Lifelong Learning***

By 2030, CIVICA aims to be a prominent actor in its enabling and deploying of innovative approaches, pedagogies, and tools that align with the European priorities for the future of higher education. In the coming years, our partners will pilot a range of activities that **encourage innovation and entrepreneurship and promote a lifelong learning model**. The expansion and development of flexible, inclusive learning opportunities, such as joint Executive Education initiatives and micro-credentials, will provide students alternative learning opportunities across disciplines and sectors and skills that will enhance their employability. CIVICA values diversity in career paths and therefore offers innovative training and learning opportunities that will help students – no matter the stage of their academic or professional career – participate in an innovative ecosystem that will encourage them to seek solutions to societal challenges and market demands.

### ***Creating a CIVICA Community***

CIVICA embodies a strong European identity, and we seek to inspire our students to become proponents as well as actors of European integration. Building on our existing network of CIVICA ambassadors and the various student initiatives that emerged in the pilot phase of the alliance, we aim to further engage students in the governance and implementation of our activities and encourage bottom-up initiatives that strengthen interaction and collaboration within the alliance. CIVICA students are empowered to participate in society and civic life and to learn new skills both inside and outside of classrooms. By 2030, we will have established a **thriving CIVICA community of students, early-stage researchers, faculty, staff, and alumni** that will be united in their contributions towards the construction and strengthening of our alliance.

### ***Global Outreach***

In the coming years, CIVICA will aim to create a **global footprint through a series of partnerships and global impact activities with external stakeholders**, such as foundations, NGOs, multilateral organisations, think tanks, and other socio-economic actors. Moreover, by 2030, CIVICA will strive to become a global higher education voice on topics such as innovation, pedagogy, internationalisation, research, and student experience, as well as lead global events outside of the alliance. These initiatives will further reinforce the multiple dimensions of the alliance, as well as strengthen the international standing and competitiveness of the European Education and Research Areas.

### ***Sustainable Institutional Cooperation and Common Infrastructure***

The founding eight institutions have collaborated for many years – creating a wide range of exchange, dual degree, and research programmes, among various other ambitious

initiatives – and this **significant degree of existing cooperation greatly contributes to CIVICA's sustainability**. CIVICA exceeds previous bilateral cooperation efforts, bringing the institutions into a multilateral and integrated alliance that reinforces multilevel cooperation and is based on mutual complementarity. CIVICA members are committed to collaboratively working on fulfilling the aims outlined in this Mission Statement by scaling up existing collaboration efforts, deepening common governance and management structures, establishing shared academic regulations, and creating the digital infrastructure required to support such an ambitious initiative. This strong and lasting institutional anchoring is a prerequisite for fulfilling CIVICA's ambitions of **deep and sustainable, transnational institutional transformation as we look towards achieving our 2030 agenda**.

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

The Presidents of the member institutions of CIVICA - The European University of Social Sciences:



President Mario Monti,  
**Bocconi University** (Italy)



President and Rector Shalini Randeria,  
**Central European University** (Austria and Hungary)



President Renaud Dehousse,  
**European University Institute**  
(European Intergovernmental Organisation)



President Cornelia Woll,  
**Hertie School** (Germany)



Provost Manuel Muñiz,  
**IE University** (Spain)



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



President Mathias Vicherat,  
**Sciences Po** (France)



Rector Piotr Wachowiak,  
**SGH Warsaw School of Economics** (Poland)



President Lars Strannegård,  
**Stockholm School of Economics** (Sweden)



Director Minouche Shafik,  
**The London School of Economics and Political Sciences** (United Kingdom)

