

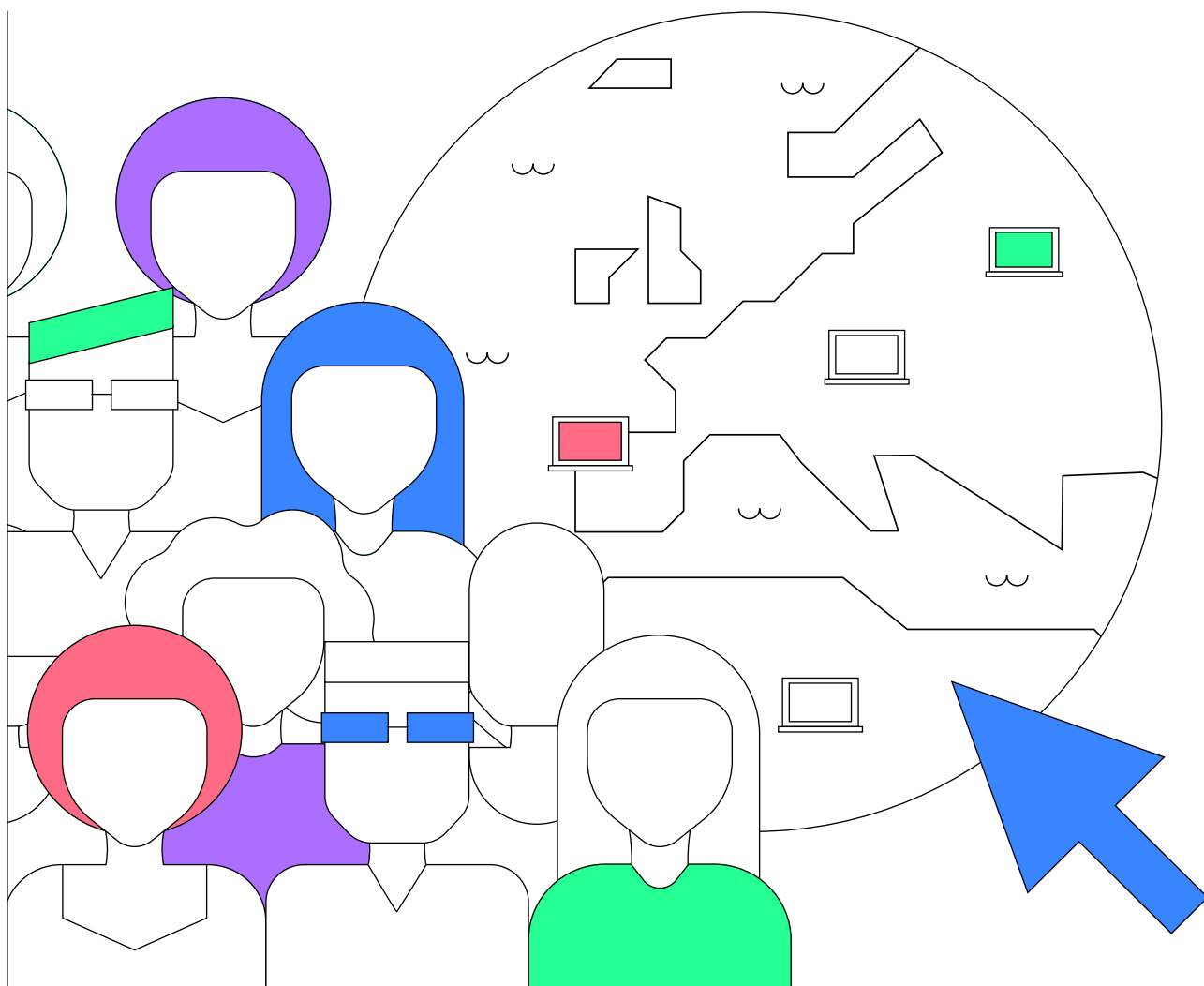
# OpenEU

The Open  
European  
University

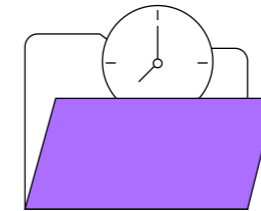
The learner-centred, inclusive, digital  
and green Open European University  
for the strengthening of the European  
Higher Education Area

Joint Mission  
Statement

January 2024

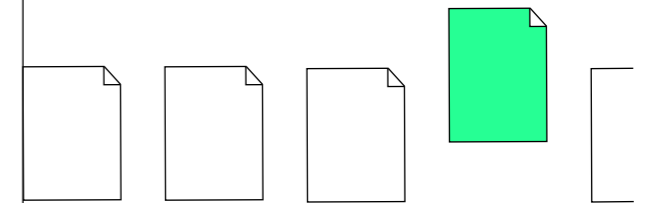


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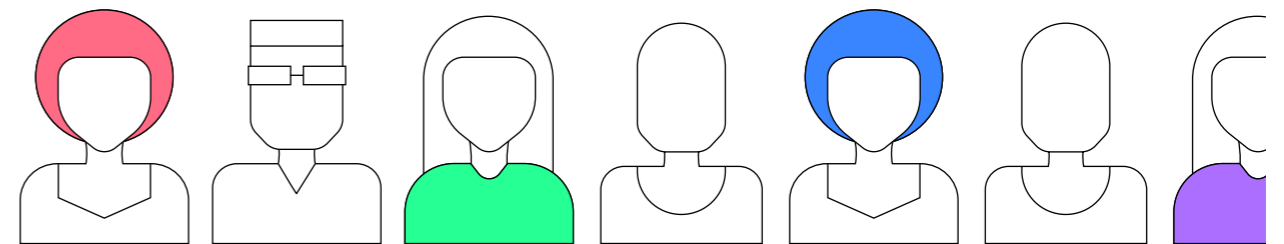


1.  
Time for the  
Open European  
University

2.  
One vision,  
ten goals



3.  
Who we are



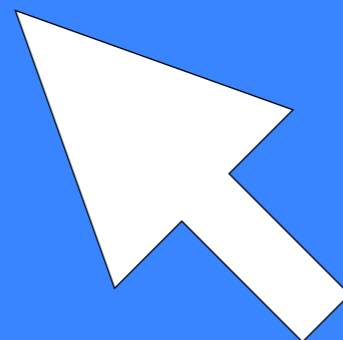
# OpenEU

The Open  
European  
University

## 1. Time for the Open European University

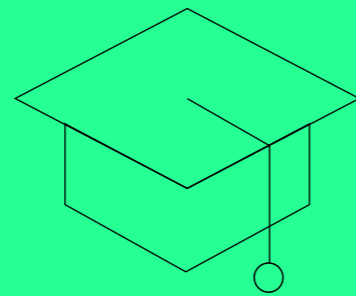
The Open European University alliance – OpenEU – is the first pan-European open University. An Alliance that is enhanced by technology and tackles multiple ongoing challenges using knowledge, education and innovation.

Europe's leading open and distance universities bring together their expertise in digital education, in partnership with on-campus higher education institutions and a set of academic, industrial, local and regional partners engaged in digital transformation, to address three main challenges of the European Higher Education Area: digital transformation, inclusiveness and equity, as well as lifelong learning for a new generation of Europeans.

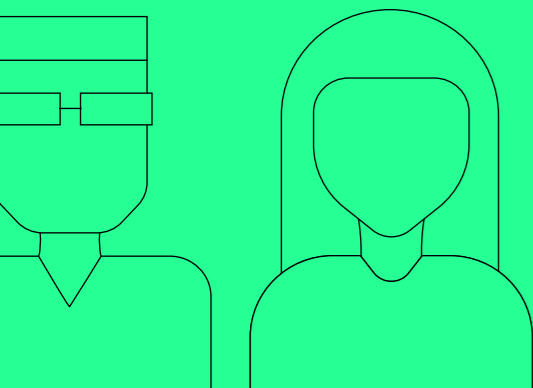


OpenEU Mission

01  
**Establish a learner-centred, inclusive, digital and green open university with a European scope,** which empowers individuals to lead their own skills' development for enhancing their employability and widens access to quality higher education and lifelong learning to all.



02  
**Contribute to the digital transformation of Higher Education Institutions,** supporting them in the integration of digital technologies for education, resulting in the reinforcement and invigoration of the EHEA's digital dimension.



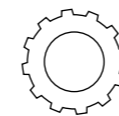
OpenEU is:



A European university alliance that **widens access to quality higher education and lifelong learning to all**, any time, from anywhere, regardless of personal or professional circumstances, age, gender, nationality, place of residence or time constraints, leaving no one behind.



A European university alliance that **offers an accessible and inclusive transnational experience** thanks to technology-driven and flexible formats of learning, mobility, and knowledge co-creations and exchanges with Quadruple Helix partners.



A European university alliance that activates its knowledge square audiences to **address climate change and the digital transformation** of our society and the European Higher Education, while promoting **democracy and European values**.

OpenEU added value for the European Universities Initiative:



A more robust, inclusive and greener digital dimension of education: research, innovation and capacity building.

The integration of emerging technologies, including AI, in higher education: skills enhancement, curricular adaptation, R&I in collaboration with the Education ecosystem.

Lifelong learners at University: a flexible portfolio co-created with employers.

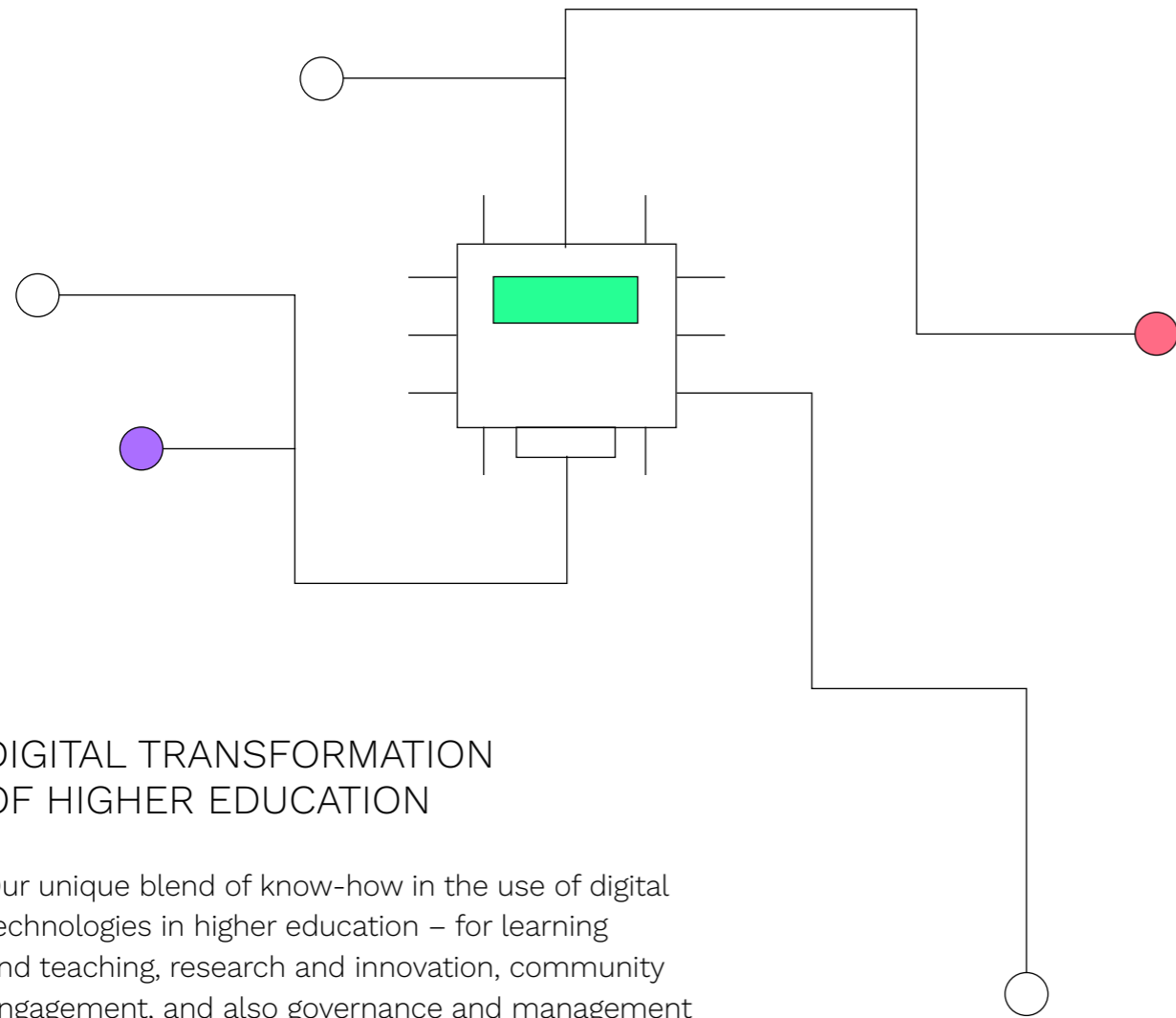
Broader diversity in the student body: non-traditional students, lifelong learners and underrepresented groups.

Higher education in rural areas, reaching beyond cities with universities.

Expansion of internationalisation thanks to virtual mobilities and joint programmes.



# OpenEU addresses three enduring challenges for the European Higher Education Area:

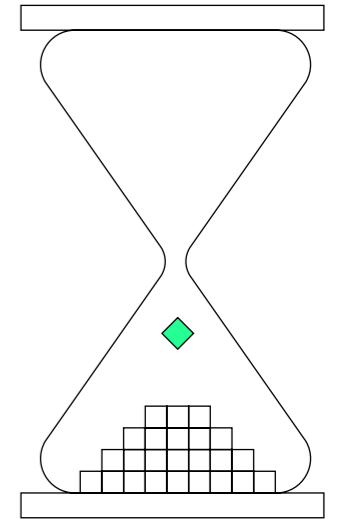


## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Our unique blend of know-how in the use of digital technologies in higher education – for learning and teaching, research and innovation, community engagement, and also governance and management – **puts OpenEU in an ideal position to lead the digital transformation of higher education.** Thanks to digitalisation, OpenEU will develop and scale up innovative approaches to cooperation and knowledge exchange that foster the internationalisation and personalisation of higher education at individual, institutional and systemic levels.

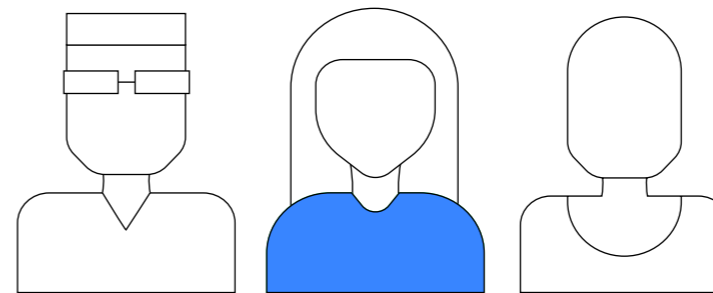
## LIFELONG LEARNING

Our well-established experiences offering online and flexible education **commit OpenEU to making lifelong learning a reality**, transitioning towards new ways of involving individuals and institutions in the Knowledge Square. OpenEU makes use of technology to provide the knowledge and skills needed to meet today's social, economic and environmental challenges in our complex ecosystem, building in resilience to meet new ones tomorrow.



## INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE HIGHER EDUCATION

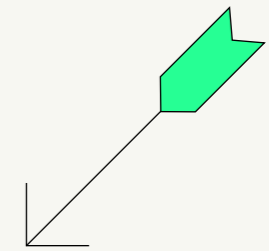
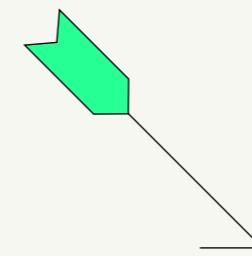
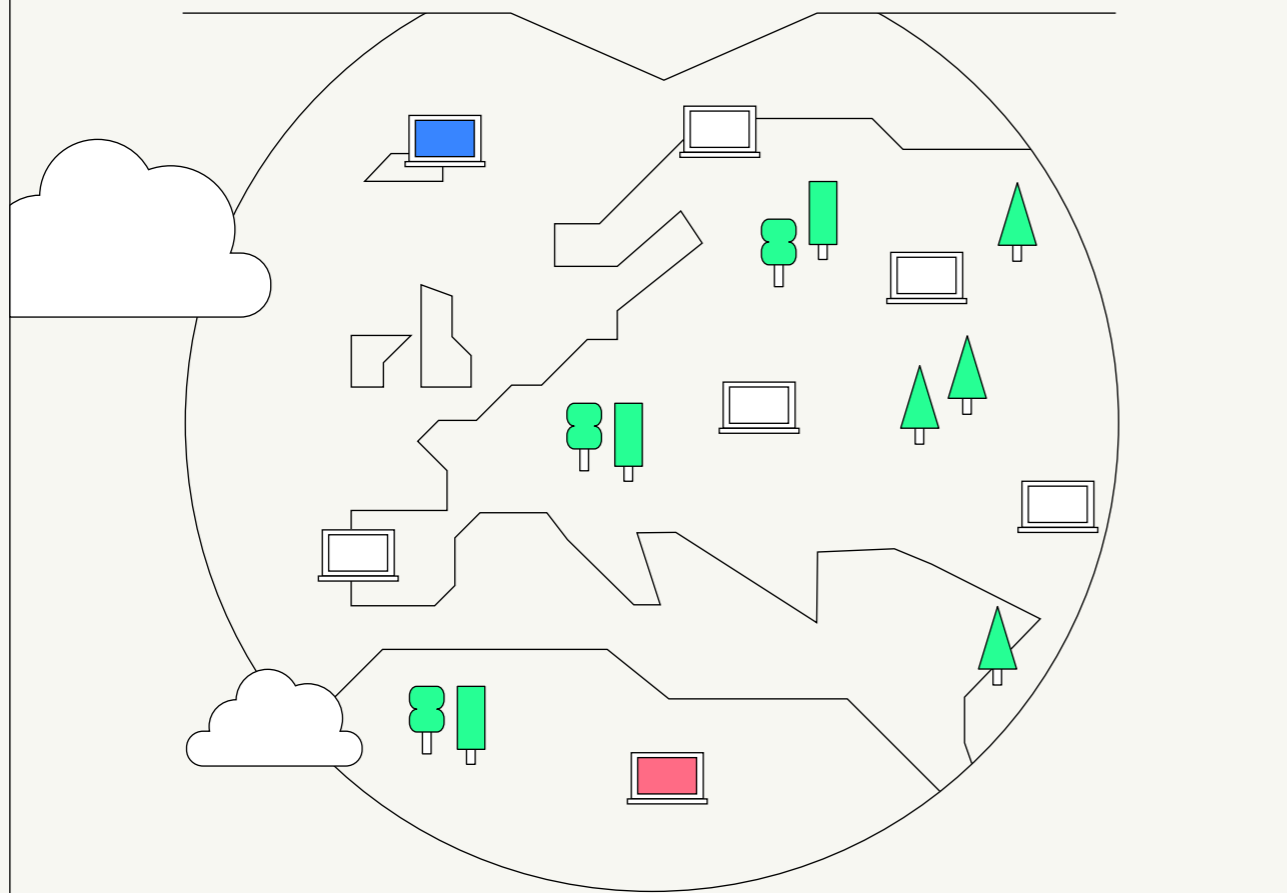
Our long-standing focus on non-traditional students and traditionally underrepresented groups in higher education **allows OpenEU to play a significant role in widening higher education access and participation**, as well as in overcoming the broader societal challenge of protecting and promoting European democratic values. OpenEU is committed to a more inclusive and equitable European Higher Education Area.



## 2. One vision, ten goals

### OpenEU vision

**Our vision is to become the pan-European Open University** that harnesses digital education for - and with - lifelong learners and communities to make a better world.

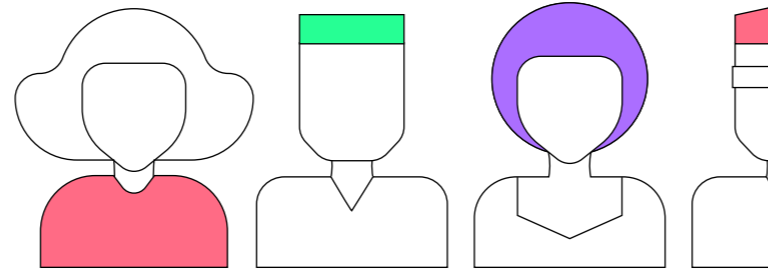


With keen foresight, we have designed a set of foundational action lines, whose interactions will propel our joint mission and guide us to reach the following goals during the first four years of the alliance.



## Goals

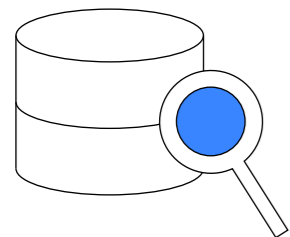
01. **Build the foundations of a solid and sustainable European open university**, creating joint governance and management structures that empower students and staff at all levels to take an active role in the alliance, pooling resources and services, and ensuring viable financial sustainability.



02. Foster **innovation in curricula, course delivery and assessment** that leads to **stackable qualifications and micro-credentials** and equips our learners with needs-based technical and non-technical **transferable skills**. Quality assurance will be a cornerstone in all developments at OpenEU.

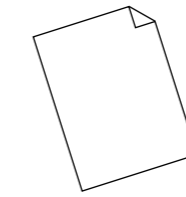
03. **Expand lifelong learning for employability** across Europe, through flexible joint European programmes co-created with non-academic partners and tailored to non-traditional students, rooted in labour market data analysis, and providing students with AI-based tools for identifying skills' gaps and getting career guidance.

04. **Widen participation** of underrepresented and disadvantaged groups in higher education by putting in place open and transferable **alliance-wide solutions** to address their specific needs and bolstering abilities for equality and diversity, including inclusive gender equality.



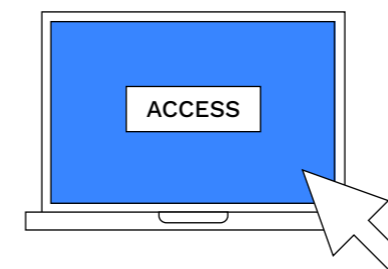
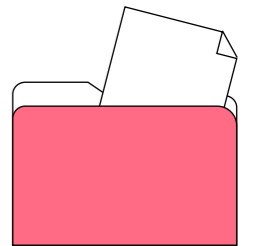
05. Ensure the **quality of digital learning** and the development of **innovative educational solutions** through challenge-based, multidisciplinary **research and innovation in digital education**.

06. **Accelerate digital transformation in higher education** in Europe with a special focus on Central and Eastern Europe, where digital education is still very incipient, by sharing our experience, expertise and resources with on-campus universities and other European university alliances.



07. **Broaden internationalisation** by creating and implementing **innovative and flexible mobility options** (virtual, blended, synchronous, hybrid and in-person) and fostering multilingualism, as well as **joint degrees** that allow non-traditional students who have often been excluded from international higher education to engage in international learning experiences.

08. Enhance challenge-based knowledge generation, transfer and exchange, focusing on three key areas that are intrinsically linked to some of Europe's major challenges: **digital transformation, the climate emergency**, and the existential threats to **democracy and European values**.



09. **Increase the societal impact of our institutions by strengthening the OpenEU knowledge square and engaging with our communities and the labour market** to establish collaborations with non-academic partners.



10. **Foster European values, Democracy, and a European way of life** within the alliance and beyond by establishing a common OpenEU culture based on principles such as **quality, equality, diversity and inclusiveness, open science and innovation, and environmental sustainability** for alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the shaping of resilient societies and economies.

# 3. Who we are

**+368,000**

Students

Academic Year: 2022-2023

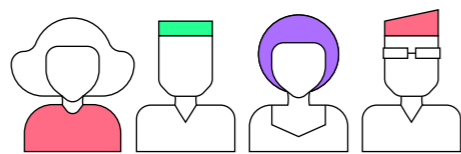
60% Female  
40% Male

36

Average age

84%

Working and studying



**+709,000**

Graduates



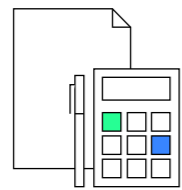
**+4,700**

Academic staff



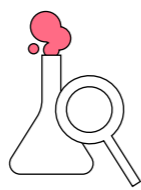
**+4,100**

Administrative staff



**+15,200**

Affiliated academics and tutors

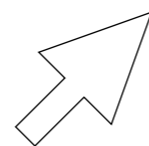


8

Open and distance universities

2

On-campus universities



**+24,160**

Total staff

Academic year 2022-2023

We offer a wide range of programmes

- Bachelors
- Masters
- Doctoral
- Lifelong learning
- Open courses
- Exam preparation courses
- Vocational training

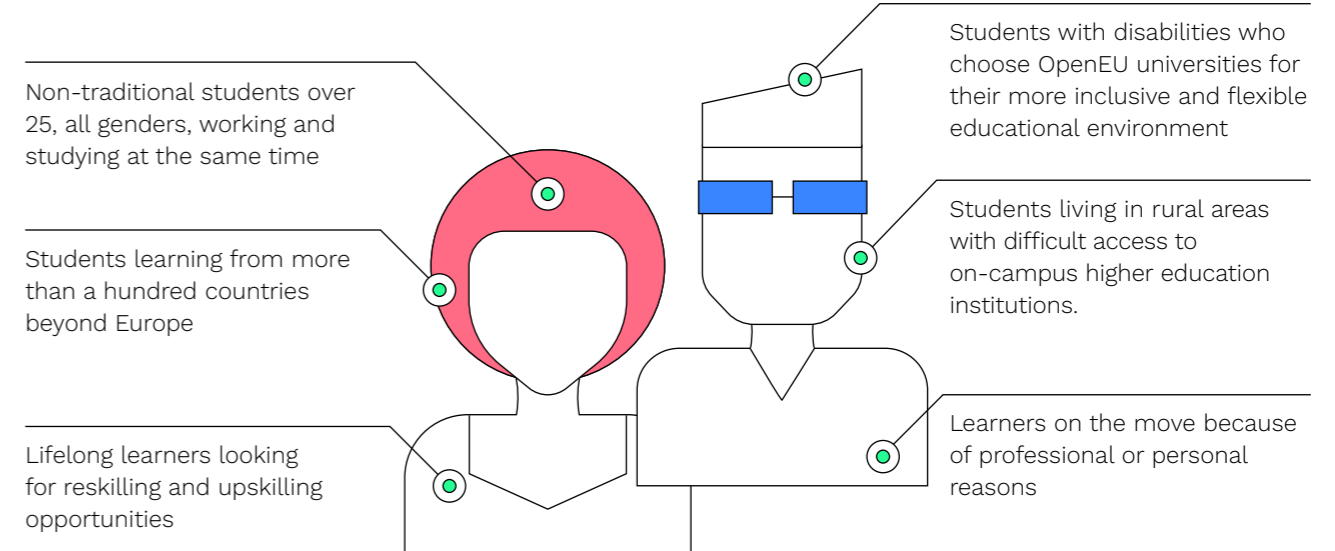
**11**

Study languages

- Bulgarian
- Catalan
- Dutch
- English
- French
- German
- Greek
- Icelandic
- Latvian
- Portuguese
- Spanish

## OpenEU, open to all learners

OpenEU's wide student body includes:



## OpenEU, at the forefront of digital higher education

### EXPERTISE

More than **25 years of expertise in digital education**, including innovative pedagogies and fully online, hybrid and blended methodologies as well as virtual classrooms, labs, platforms and tools.

### RESEARCH

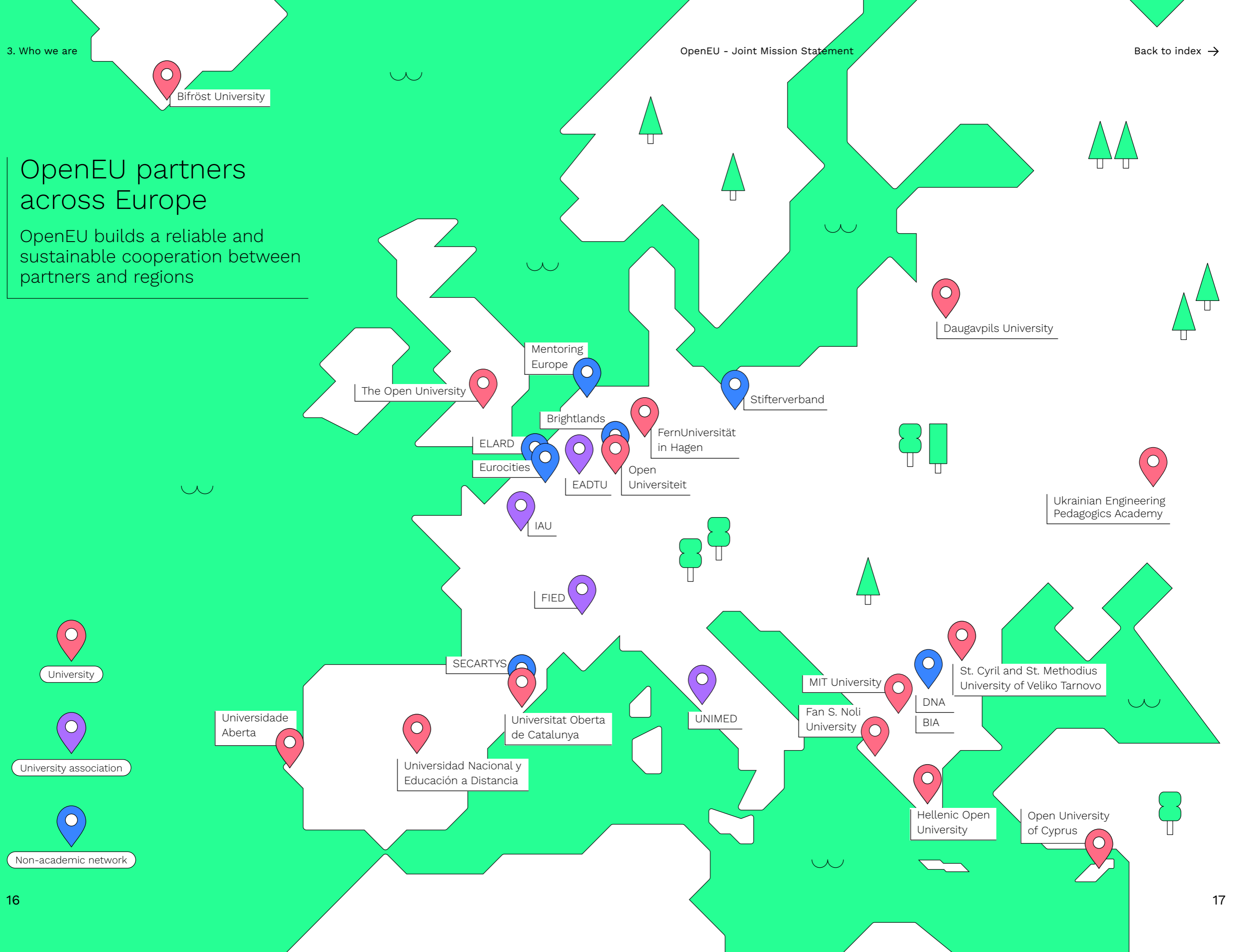
A **critical mass** of academics, research groups, UNESCO Chairs and R&I centres focused on online and distance learning and the digitalisation of Higher Education.

### NETWORK

An **extended network** of institutions in Europe and beyond interested in the digital transformation of higher education thanks to the commitment and long-standing work of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) and the International Association of Universities (IAU).

# OpenEU partners across Europe

OpenEU builds a reliable and sustainable cooperation between partners and regions



University

University association

Non-academic network

## Our members

Here is a snapshot of our individual trajectories, highlighting our unique features as open, online and distance universities, as well as on-campus universities in European countries where there are no standalone open universities. Coming together in the OpenEU alliance, we draw on each other's best practices and methodologies and share our combined sets of expertise in digitally driven innovation in education and flexible, interdisciplinary and customised educational pathways.

**Universidade Aberta**
✕

UAb is committed to transforming and empowering geographically dispersed adult populations without boundaries. Rooted in a culture of openness and innovation, we prioritize transparency and credibility, striving to create an environment that transcends traditional learning barriers. Embracing transformation, we seek to create an educational environment that not only trains and empowers our students but also catalyses positive change.

- Lisboa, Portugal
- Year of creation 1988
- Distance and online university
- Portuguese

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors
Masters
Doctoral

Lifelong learning
Open courses

**14,059**  
Students  
53% ♀ 47% ♂  
Average age 41

**46,426**  
Graduates

---

130 Academic staff  
182 Administrative staff  
48 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

---

Distance Education and eLearning Lab (LE@D)

**Bifröst University**
✕

Bifröst University is a Business School educating people for impact and responsibility in business and society. Bifröst University safeguards freedom of research and expression. Open dialogue, tolerance and diversity are the foundations of the university's mission. Since it regards universities as one of the pillars of society, Bifröst University assumes co-responsibility for the ongoing development of a flourishing, democratic, sustainable society.

- Bifröst, Iceland
- Year of creation 1918 (became Bifröst University in 1988)
- Distance and online university
- Icelandic, English

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors
Masters

Lifelong learning
Exam preparation courses

Open courses

**954**  
Students  
68% ♀ 32% ♂  
Average age 36

**3,717**  
Graduates

---

35 Academic staff  
26 Administrative staff  
190 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

**Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**
✕

The UOC is an innovative university that is rooted in Catalonia and open to the world. It offers people lifelong learning to help them and society advance, while carrying out research into the knowledge society.

- Barcelona, Spain
- Year of creation 1995
- Online university
- Catalan, Spanish, English

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors
Masters
Doctoral

Lifelong learning
Open courses

Exam preparation courses

Vocational training

**87,150\***  
Students  
59% ♀ 41% ♂  
Average age 33

**135,000**  
Graduates

---

763 Academic staff  
1174 Administrative staff  
5,961 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

---

eLearning Innovation Center (eLinC)

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UNESCO Chair in Education and Technology for Social Change

\* Bachelor, Master & Doctorate degrees

**Open University of Cyprus**
✕

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is an extroverted international University, specialised in open and distance education, providing adult learners unrestricted access to quality online undergraduate, masters, PhD and lifelong learning programmes, as well as, short-duration executive and professional education courses.

- Nicosia, Cyprus
- Year of creation 2002
- Open and distance university
- Greek, English

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors
Masters
Doctoral

Lifelong learning
Open courses

Vocational courses

**2,971**  
Students  
57% ♀ 43% ♂  
Average age 37

**9,003**  
Graduates

---

31 Academic staff  
87 Administrative staff  
185 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

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Educational Technology Lab, Lab for Educational Methodology, Educational Material and Centre for Vocational and Lifelong Learning

**Daugavpils University** ✕

The mission of Daugavpils University is to promote the development of a sustainable society by implementing international-level scientific research and provide quality education, to promote the sustainable development of Latgale region and the whole of Latvia.

📍 Daugavpils, Latvia  
📅 Year of creation 1921 (Became Daugavpils University in 2001)  
🏛️ Traditional university  
🗣️ Latvian, English, Russian (only certain courses)

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors  
Masters Doctoral  
Lifelong learning  
Vocational courses

2,633 Students  
74% ♀ 26% ♂  
Average age 30

16,090 Graduates

178 Academic staff  
95 Administrative staff  
36 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

**FernUniversität in Hagen** ✕

FeU offers quality-assured, supervised distance teaching as well as numerous certificates and Open Access studies. The university's flexible degree and continuing education programs make an important contribution to access to education and equal opportunities in the German higher education system.

📍 Hagen, Germany  
📅 Year of creation 1974  
🏛️ Distance university  
🗣️ German

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors  
Masters Doctoral  
Lifelong learning  
Open courses

72,225 Students  
46% ♀ 54% ♂  
Average age 39

54,427 Graduates

709 Academic staff  
691 Administrative staff  
231 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

Research cluster on "Digitalization, Diversity, and Lifelong Learning" + Center for Learning and Innovation

**Hellenic Open University** ✕

Hellenic Open University (HOU) is the only Greek State University that offers lifelong education, in both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, by combining distance learning and adult education with the support of digital material and online training platforms and tools. The mission of HOU is to provide high-quality university education via distance learning at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

📍 Patras, Greece  
📅 Year of creation 1992  
🏛️ Open and distance university  
🗣️ Greek, English, French, German

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors  
Masters Doctoral  
Lifelong learning  
Open courses

30,500 Students  
64% ♀ 36% ♂  
Average age 38

79,120 Graduates

50 Academic staff  
220 Administrative staff  
2,329 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

The Educational Content, Methodology and Technology (e-CoMeT) Lab

**Open Universiteit** ✕

OUNL's mission is to be the leading part-time university in the Netherlands and Flanders, offering high-quality, personalised and interactive online education, reinforced with socially relevant research, and contributing to the innovation of higher education.

📍 Heerlen, The Netherlands  
📅 Year of creation 1984  
🏛️ Distance university  
🗣️ Dutch, English

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors  
Masters Doctoral  
Lifelong learning  
Open courses

16,940 Students  
58% ♀ 42% ♂  
Average age 37

17,844 Graduates

852 Academic staff  
404 Administrative staff  
451 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

Digital learning research line at the Faculty of Educational Sciences

**Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia** ✕

UNED is a public university created in 1972 to guarantee equal and inclusive access to higher education. Through quality online education and an extensive network of national and international Centres, it offers a wide range of EHEA degrees and lifelong learning programmes and is firmly committed to continuous innovation in distance education, research and knowledge transfer.

📍 Madrid, Spain  
📅 Year of creation 1972  
🏛️ Distance university  
🗣️ Spanish, English

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors  
Masters Doctoral  
Lifelong learning  
Open courses  
Microdegrees  
Vocational training

128,442\* Students  
54% ♀ 46% ♂  
Average age 41

204,891 Graduates

1,528 Academic staff  
1,039 Administrative staff  
5,722 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

University Institute of Distance Education (IUED)

\* Bachelor, Master & Doctorate degrees

**St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo** ✕

Among the main objectives in the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo's mission are: to serve in favour of the national, regional and local public development and to participate in global education, scholarly and artistic work; to train market-oriented, socially-engaged and highly-qualified experts.

📍 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria  
📅 Year of creation 1963  
🏛️ Traditional university  
🗣️ Bulgarian, English

**Degrees offered**

Bachelors  
Masters Doctoral  
Distance learning

12,315 Students  
71% ♀ 29% ♂  
Average age 27

143,459 Graduates


513 Academic staff  
253 Administrative staff  
56 Affiliated teaching & research staff and tutors

The Distance Learning Center

## Associated partners


Our associated partners are key contributors to OpenEU goals. These universities and HE networks, industrial and municipalities associations and national and European clusters have an active role in OpenEU tasks and maximise OpenEU impact.

-  University
-  Network
-  Industry
-  Digital
-  Cities
-  Rural
-  Mentoring


✕

**EADTU**

EADTU acts as the umbrella organisation for 250 institutions that provide flexible degree programmes and continuing education, delivered through various forms of digital teaching and learning. EADTU is at the heart of the development of the European Education Area, the Digital Education Action Plan and the Bologna Process and offers expert support to European and national authorities, to higher education-institutions, European University Alliances and other stakeholders.

 Maastricht, Netherlands  
Geographical scope: European

**Focus areas**


- Digital higher education.
- Accessibility, diversity and inclusion.
- Lifelong learning, collaborative curricula and mobility.
- Quality assurance for digital higher education
- New technologies and AI for digital education.

**Highlights**

Umbrella organisation for 250 HE institutions


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Coordinator of the European MOOC Consortium, serving more than 500 universities and companies, offering over 2,000 MOOCs, used by 25 million learners across Europe and beyond.


✕

**International Association of Universities (IAU)**

IAU is the leading global association of higher education institutions and organisations worldwide. Under the auspices of UNESCO, IAU brings together members from more than 130 countries for reflection and action on common priorities. IAU is an independent, bilingual (English and French), non-governmental organisation that acts as the global voice of higher education for UNESCO and other international higher education organisations, providing a global forum for leaders of institutions and associations to exchange opinions, practices and future directions.

 Paris, France  
Geographical scope: Worldwide

**Focus areas**


- Technology and higher education.
- Inclusive internationalisation.

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 1950

Brings together members from more than 130 countries


✕

**The Open University (OUUK)**

The OU is a world leader in modern distance learning and has educated more than 2.2 million people worldwide since its launch in 1969. The OU is a pioneer of teaching and learning methods that enable people to achieve their career and life goals studying flexibly at times and places that suit them. It is the largest academic institution in the UK and is one of the largest Universities in Europe.

 Milton Keynes, UK  
Geographical scope: United Kingdom and worldwide

**Focus areas**

- Arts and social science, Business and law, Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics, Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies.

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 1969


Programs offered: Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, bachelor's degree, master's degree, Foundation Degree, Open University Certificate, Higher Technical Qualifications. Standalone modules, access modules, short courses, microcredentials.

---

205,000 Students

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Graduates: More than 2,3 million people worldwide


✕

**Fan S. Noli University (UNIKO)**

Founded in 1971, in Korce, a town in southeastern Albania, in the borderline with Greece and Northern Macedonia. Its mission is to create, transmit, develop and preserve knowledge through teaching, research and other educational services. UNIKO has been recently institutionally accredited from the British Quality Assurance Agency and the Agency of Quality Assurance of HEIs in Albania, which ranks it among the three best public HEIs in Albania.

 Korce, Albania  
Geographical scope: Albania

**Focus areas**

- Education, languages, human sciences, social sciences, agriculture, finance, tourism, management, marketing, mathematics, chemistry, physics, information technology and nursing.

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 1971

Programs offered: Bachelors, Masters, vocational training; Doctoral.

---

2,500 Students

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28,750 Graduates




**Ukrainian Engineering Pedagogics Academy (UEPA)** ✕

The UEPA is a modern specialised educational and research centre licensed and accredited by the National Ministry of Education and Science. Is the only higher education institution in Ukraine specialised in training engineering and pedagogical staff for the vocational training system. Its mission is to train universal specialists for education, industry and other sectors of the economy.

📍 Kharkiv, Ukraine  
Geographical scope: Ukraine

**Focus areas**  
→ Pedagogy, Psychology, Management and Adult Education; Trade and Economics; Vocational Teacher Training; Energy Industry and Automation; Engineering, IT, Food Technology, Light Industry and Design.

**Highlights**  
Year of creation: 1958  
Programs offered: Junior Bachelor, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate  
4,762 Students  
101,533 Graduates



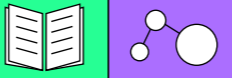
**MIT University (MIT)** ✕

Founded in 2007, is a higher-education institution officially recognized by the Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia. MIT Univerzitet (MIT) is a higher education institution that offers courses and programs leading to officially recognized higher education degrees in several areas of study. MIT University is a member of the KNX International Research Association and the only university in the Balkans that is a member of this association.

📍 Skopje, North Macedonia  
Geographical scope: Macedonia

**Focus areas**  
→ Higher education, Security Sciences, Dental Medicine, Psychology, Architecture, Economics, Medical Cosmetics and Physiotherapy, Law, International Relations and Diplomacy.

**Highlights**  
Year of creation: 2007  
Programs offered: Bachelors and Masters  
Students: 2,025




**Fédération Interuniversitaire de l'Enseignement à Distance (FIED)** ✕

FIED is an association under the 1901 law. It was created at the initiative of the Ministry of Research and Higher Education to represent French university education internationally. FIED brings together 29 French and foreign universities or higher education establishments involved in open, online and hybrid training. It coordinates numerous working groups on various themes of distance education and facilitates the sharing of experience between higher education stakeholders.

📍 Grenoble, France  
Geographical scope: Worldwide

**Focus areas**  
→ Promote online and hybrid training, research, and new pedagogies.  
→ Enhance online teaching through collaborative discussions and training.  
→ Jointly develop open-access courses and modules.  
→ Pool monitoring and expertise on online and hybrid teaching systems.  
→ Represent France in global education networks (EDEN, ICDE, EADTU).

**Highlights**  
Year of creation: 1987



**Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)** ✕

UNIMED is an association of Higher Education Institutions focused on academic cooperation throughout the Mediterranean. 164 associated Universities coming from 27 countries. UNIMED's aim is to develop university research and education in the Euro-Mediterranean area in order to contribute to scientific, cultural, social and economic cooperation, serving as a point of reference for international university cooperation.

📍 Rome, Italy  
Geographical scope: Mediterranean region

**Focus areas**  
→ Technical assistance to universities in the management of international projects.  
→ Promoting research and training projects among the members.  
→ Promoting mobility of students, researchers and teachers.

**Highlights**  
Year of creation: 1991  
Number of members: 164 from 27 countries



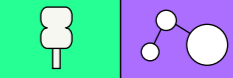
**Eurocities** ✕

Eurocities is the network of more than 200 cities in 38 countries, representing 130 million people, working towards a common vision of a sustainable future in which all citizens can enjoy a good quality of life. Eurocities engages in dialogue with the European institutions across a wide range of policy areas affecting cities, which include economic development, environment, transport and mobility, social affairs, culture, smart cities, and public services. They provide a platform for their members to share knowledge and ideas, exchange experiences, analyse common challenges and develop innovative solutions, through a wide range of forums, working groups, projects, activities and events.

📍 Brussels, Belgium  
Geographical scope: Europe

**Focus areas**  
→ Inclusive society; Circular economy; City health; Global challenges; Public policy innovation and multilevel governance; Networking.

**Highlights**  
Year of creation: 1986  
Brings together over 200 cities across 38 countries, representing over 130 million residents.




**ELARD** ✕

ELARD is an international non-profit association set up to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to maintain their population through sustainable, integrated local development. The distinctive feature of ELARD is that it brings together Local Action Groups committed to involving all stakeholders in rural development at a local level. The ELARD Knowledge Hub is a pioneering resource that fosters knowledge exchange, promotes innovation, and drives progress in rural development, both within and outside the framework of the LEADER program and to influence EU policies in favor of rural development.

📍 Wemmel, Belgium  
Geographical scope: Europe

**Focus areas**  
→ Participatory rural development

**Highlights**  
Year of creation: 1999  
More than 2500 Local Action Groups and Fisheries Local Action Groups from 29 national networks, including from countries that are not members of the European Union.



**Stifterverband** ✕

Stifterverband, the sole German organization dedicated to engage in holistic work in education, science, and innovation. It actively promotes equal opportunities, excellence in universities, and globally competitive research institutions. One notable initiative is the AI Campus, a learning platform for artificial intelligence funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Developed collaboratively with other institutions, the AI Campus offers free courses and resources on AI and data literacy.

📍 Berlin, Germany  
Geographical scope: Germany

**Focus areas**

- Promotion of equal opportunities in education, with a particular emphasis on extracurricular talent promotion and higher education structural programs.
- Innovation, including its efforts in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) through the development of the AI Campus.
- Promoting AI and data literacy.
- Collaboration and networking among its diverse base.

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 1920

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More than 3,000 members

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DAX companies, mid-size companies, company associations, donors and active private individuals.



**Brightlands Smart Services Campus (Brightlands)** ✕

Brightlands is a community of entrepreneurs, researchers and students. Together they develop new smart digital services to improve the quality of life. The campus enables research institutes and companies to innovate faster and more efficiently and ensures that innovative start-ups can make their dreams come true.

📍 Heerlen, The Netherlands  
Geographical scope: The Netherlands

**Focus areas**

- Research Innovation, Networking, Entrepreneurship, Digitalisation.

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 2016

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It brings together over 1,500 innovative entrepreneurs, more than 450 researchers and students, 800 employees, 55 companies and 128 partners.



**SECARTYS** ✕

Secartys is a non-profit association that promotes the competitiveness of its associates since 1968. Its mission is to contribute to improving the competitiveness and visibility of the members, promoting their strategy and business models. To achieve this, SECARTYS works on five strategic axes that constitute the pillars that define Secartys' line of action: internationalisation, financing, R+D+i, Training and Communication.

📍 Barcelona, Spain  
Geographical scope: Spain

**Focus areas**

- Industry competitiveness and innovation

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 1968

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Brings together more than 460 companies in the following sectors: ICT, electronics, professional audio, photovoltaic solar energy, lighting and energy storage.



**The Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA)** ✕

BIA is a nationally recognized non-governmental organisation of employers. Its role is to protect the business interest at national and international levels, to create networks, to support activities of companies, to develop human resources, and to drive towards sustainable positive changes. BIA focuses on the development of an industry based on science and innovation, digitalization and artificial intelligence, advancing environmental and climate protection, energy efficiency, and circular economy, fostering the achievement of a sustainable economic growth based on a stable regulatory framework, internationalisation of production and fair competition are among the BIA's driving priorities.

📍 Sofia, Bulgaria  
Geographical scope: Bulgaria

**Focus areas**

- Industry innovation

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 1980

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Members: more than 120 branch organisations, 26 regional and 115 municipal business associations, more than 8,000 companies, the Bulgarian Academy of Science and over 20 universities and technical unions.



**Digital National Coalition (DNA)** ✕

DNA is a non-profit association for public benefit that operates on a national level and is part of the European Commission's Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition (DSJC) initiative. The main mission of the coalition is to stimulate the cross-sectoral debate on the challenges and opportunities of Bulgaria's digital transition, uniting the private sector, academic institutions and public administration in order to achieve the priorities set in the Digital Agenda for Europe.

📍 Sofia, Bulgaria  
Geographical scope: Bulgaria

**Focus areas**

- Digital transition

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 2013

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Number of members: 10



**Mentoring Europe** ✕

Mentoring Europe is a network organisation for mentoring practitioners, researchers and friends of mentoring in the continent Europe. Launched in 2016 as a grass-root community, the organisation has the goal to drive social and economic change by mentoring by increasing the reach and quality of mentoring activities within education, community development, governments and industry. Mentoring Europe connects, advocates, leads and develops the mentoring field on a regional, national and transnational level to build strong mentoring relationships that lead mentees and mentors to the impact they choose for. Mentoring Europe is a collaborative effort of NHL Stenden and VHL Universities of Applied Sciences, VET Firda and the European mentoring field.

📍 Leeuwarden, The Netherlands  
Geographical scope: Europe

**Focus areas**

- Mentoring

**Highlights**

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Year of creation: 2016

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More than 35 member organisations, 1700 community members and more than 60 mentoring events

## Our members



Universidade Aberta

**Prof. PhD. Carla Padrel Oliveira**  
Rector of the  
Universidade Aberta



Bifröst University

**Prof. PhD. Margrét  
Jónsdóttir Njarðvík**  
Rector of the Bifröst University



Univesitat Oberta  
de Catalunya

**Prof. PhD. Àngels Fitó**  
Rector of the Universitat Oberta  
de Catalunya (UOC)



Open University  
of Cyprus

**Prof. PhD. Petros Pashiardis**  
Rector of the Open University  
of Cyprus (OUC)



Daugavpils University

**Prof. PhD. Arvids Barševskis**  
Rector of the Daugavpils  
University



FernUniversität in Hagen

**Prof. PhD. Ada Pellert**  
Rector of the FernUniversität  
in Hagen



Hellenic Open University

**Prof. PhD. Ioannis Kalavrouziotis**  
President of the Hellenic Open  
University (HOU)



Open Universiteit

**Prof. PhD. Theo J. Bastiaens**  
Rector of the Open Universiteit



Universidad Nacional  
de Educación a Distancia

**Prof. PhD. Ricardo Mairal**  
Rector of the Universidad Nacional  
y Educación a Distancia (UNED)



St. Cyril and St.  
Methodius University  
of Veliko Tarnovo

**Prof. PhD. Dimitar Dimitrov**  
Rector of the  
Veliko Tarnovo University

This mission  
statement  
was signed on  
January 26th,  
2024.

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European  
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