

EUPeace



Annual Report 2024



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Imprint

EUPeace, European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies

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Legally responsible for content: Chair of the
Governing Board, Prof. Dr. Evelyn Korn

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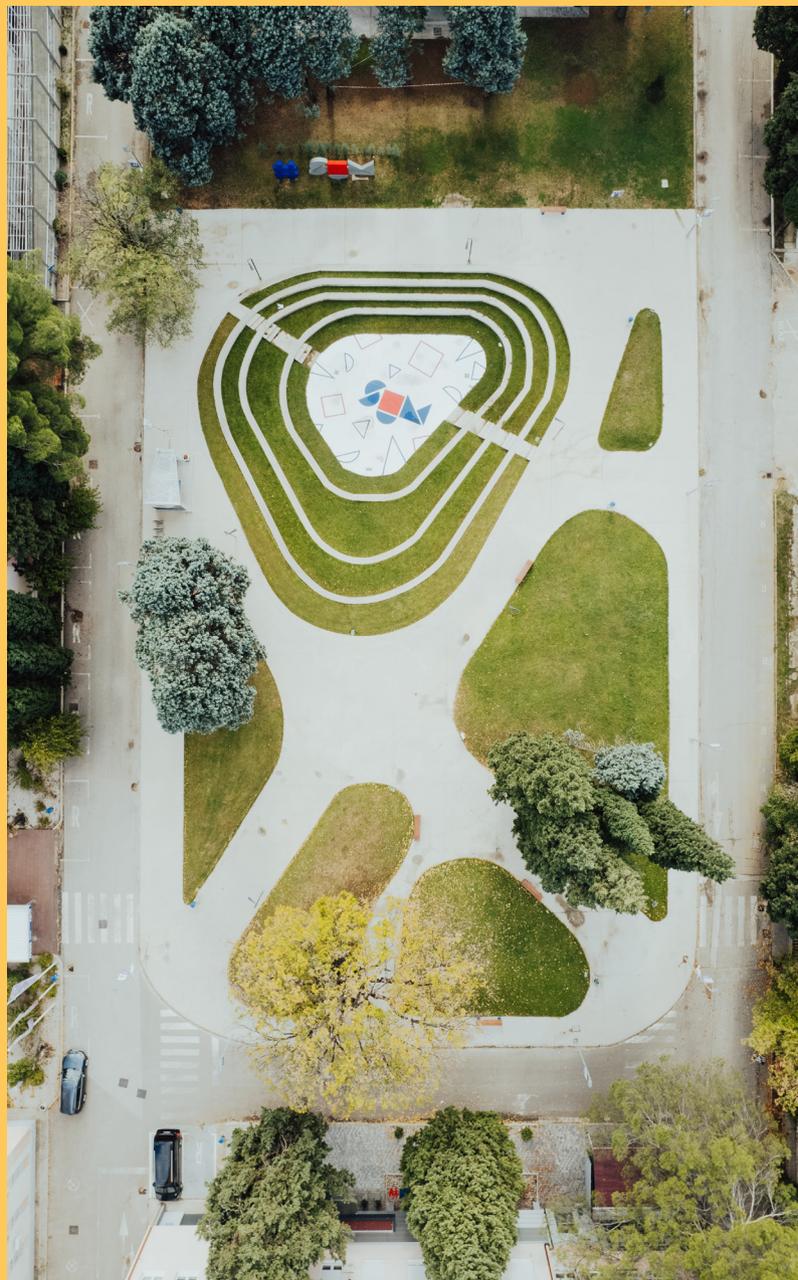


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EUPEACE IN 2024

As Chair of the EUPeace Governing Board, it is my honour to present the first Annual Report of the European University Alliance EUPeace – a pioneering collaboration of 9 universities committed to fostering peace, justice, and inclusive societies across Europe. Over the past year, EUPeace has made remarkable strides, transforming aspirations into tangible achievements that reflect our shared vision of a more harmonious and interconnected world.

Efforts in building the foundations and the infrastructure for cross-border educational initiatives, transnational collaborative research, and impactful community engagement have defined the past year. From facilitating student and staff exchanges, to the establishment of four Research Hubs and to organising joint events that bridge cultures and disciplines, EUPeace is striving to become a beacon of academic and social collaboration.

Central to our success has been the dedication of our member universities and the active participation of our students, academics, researchers, administrative staff, who have worked tirelessly to make the vision of EUPeace

come to life. Their ideas have driven innovation, from working towards a joint curriculum within our “European Track” to addressing real-world challenges through interdisciplinary projects supported by the Living Peace Lab. These initiatives have not only started to enrich academic curricula but are also strengthening the cultural bonds that unite our institutions.

We are committed to expanding our reach, building stronger partnerships, and creating even greater impact. Together, we will continue to push boundaries and explore new avenues for collaboration, ensuring that EUPeace remains at the forefront of academic and social progress.

Let this report –highlighting the accomplishments of our entire Alliance, including, but not limited to, our EU-funded project– serve both as a celebration of what we have achieved and as a reminder of the boundless potential we hold as a united academic community. Together, we are proving that through collaboration, we can shape a brighter and more peaceful future for Europe and beyond.

Prof. Dr. Evelyn Korn
*Chair of the
Governing Board
of EUPeace*





Our mission is to provide tomorrow's citizens with the skills, knowledge, and experience to cultivate Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies. We explicitly address all sciences and fields, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural and life sciences as well as engineering, and are inspired by the rebuilt bridge of Mostar – the symbol in our logo – as a testament to how dialogue can overcome conflict.

EUPeace Mission Statement



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9 UNIVERSITIES



Marburg University



Justus Liebig University Giessen



University of Limoges



University of Calabria



Comillas Pontifical University



**University of West
Bohemia in Pilsen**



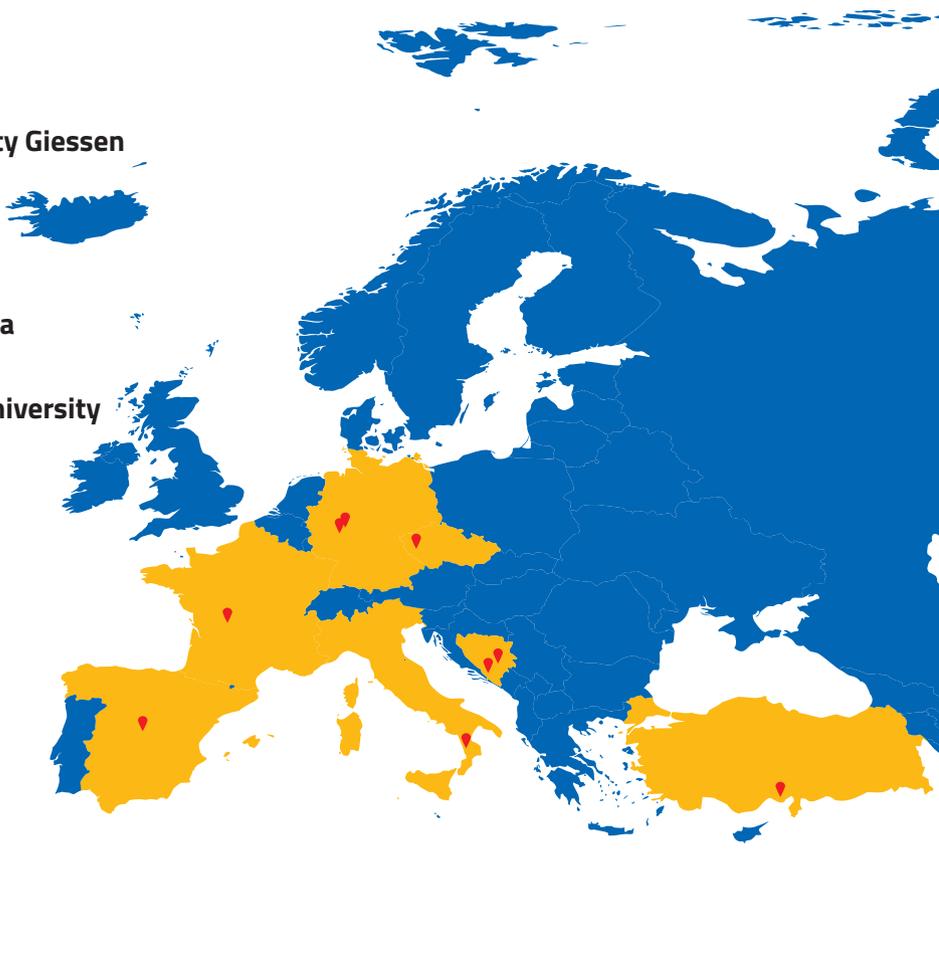
University of Mostar



Çukurova University



University of Sarajevo



KEY PERSONS



Creation of the Senate

The EUPeace Senate met for the first time on 26 September 2024 in Madrid. It is the main deliberative body of the Alliance and represents the different EUPeace communities at the level of the Alliance.



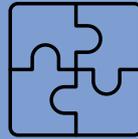
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KEY FIGURES



198.000+
students



190+
faculties & institutes



15.300+
researchers



850+
research groups



1.870+
study programmes



“ As a professor specialising in human rights law, my collaboration with the EU Peace Alliance has enriched tremendously my academic work on queer rights and has allowed me to work collaboratively with leading academics to develop exciting projects that I believe will contribute to the strengthening of peace and security for vulnerable populations.

Prof. Dr. Adam Dubin. Comillas Pontifical University



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EUPEACE TIMELINE



February:
EUPeace Academic
Networking Event &
Meeting of Steering
Committee in Madrid



April:
EUPeace Spring
Meetings in Sarajevo
& Participation at ESA
2024 & Publication of
the Shared Concept of
"School for All"



June:
EUPeace Student
Workshop "What role
do students play at the
University and in the
European Alliances?" &
Meeting of the Steering
Committee and of the
Equality, Diversity, and
Inclusion Board in Mostar



"Participating in EUPeace has been an incredible experience. The Alliance brought together diverse perspectives, fostering innovation and meaningful dialogue. I've witnessed first-hand the power of collective action in addressing complex challenges, and the outcomes have been transformative. EUPeace is an adventure you can't resist. With all its challenges, unknowns, familiarities... like an immense meadow, with lots of flowers, but also the occasional bush with thorns. EUPeace has become a part of our lives, not just professional ones, and it will remain so for a long time.

Prof. Dr. Davorka Topić Stipič, University of Mostar



July:

Launch of the EUPeace Common Course Catalogue for Teacher Education: Issue 1 (2024-2025) & Creation of two new Research Hubs



October:

1st EUPeace Staff Training Week "Digitalisation in Alliance Mobilities - Opportunities, Challenges, Solutions" & EUPeace Conference on "Historicities of Security and Peace"



December:

1st EUPeace Teaching Europe Conference & 1st Training Week of the Teaching Staff Academy



September:

1st Meeting of the EUPeace Senate in Madrid & EUPeace Autumn Meetings in Madrid



November:

First Bridge Dialogue Format held in Mostar & Registration of the EUPeace Student Alliance (EUPSA)



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2024 IN EDUCATION

2024 saw the full establishment and networking of a team of academics and administrative staff working towards the transformation of our curricula.

The Teaching Staff Academy of EUPeace (TSA) has now been established and the first (online) edition of its two flagship events took place in December: the EUPeace Teaching Europe Conference and the EUPeace Training Week. The TSA serves as the Alliance's platform to foster innovative pedagogies and to integrate them into curricula.

The Virtual European Exchange Programme

(VEEP) was also established and launched by October 2024. VEEP offers students at an EUPeace university a unique opportunity to complete online courses at other EUPeace partner universities.

In 2024, the foundations were laid and developed for the European Track, which will be launched in its first iteration in the Autumn/Winter Semester 2025-26. Initial plans were also set in motion for the development of EUPeace's five projected joint Master's programmes.

Thanks to a dynamic group of teacher

education experts, the team dedicated to the internationalisation of teacher education has also achieved key results to make EUPeace a reference in the internationalisation of teacher education.

In April, EUPeace published its “School for All” concept, emphasising that education should be accessible and equitable to all students, fostering an environment where diversity is embraced, and every student has the opportunity to succeed.

On this basis, EUPeace has begun offering a series of workshops for teacher educators, addressing pressing questions in their day-to-day teaching, namely “What do teacher students need to develop competences for the support of European values of peace, justice, and inclusive societies?” and “Which support do teacher educators need to create these possibilities in university teaching?”.

In July, we published the EUPeace Common Course Catalogue for Teacher Education: Issue 1 (2024-2025) as a concrete illustration of our commitment to building intercultural and European competencies, which educate towards a sustainably peaceful, just and inclusive society. The Catalogue has collected together courses from the nine Alliance universities, addressing six teacher education topics directly regarding EUPeace

values, i.e. Inclusion, Historical Education, Political Education, Democratic Education, Multilingualism, Interreligious Competencies, Digital Literacy, Sustainability, plus six topics linked with the shared concept of “School for All”, i.e. General Methodology, Methodology in Subject Instruction, Multiculturalism, Soft Skills, Academic Skills, Innovative Education and Teaching, Education Research Methodology.

Finally, 2024 saw the preparations for EUPeace’s first Winter School (January 2025) dedicated to teacher education as well as further preparatory activities for our upcoming initiatives such as the EUPeace Handbook on Internationalising Teacher Education.



“ Being part of EUPeace has been an incredible and eye-opening experience, where I have had the privilege of meeting truly inspiring individuals, gaining invaluable experiences, and witnessing how students’ voices are not only heard but actively shape the future of the EUPeace Alliance.

Leon Hebeisen, Student at Justus Liebig University Giessen



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2024 IN RESEARCH

The EUPeace Research Hubs serve as spaces where academics and researchers from all members of the Alliance develop innovative research ideas. They foster collaboration in all subject areas of the Alliance, in order to create excellent inter- and transdisciplinary research approaches in the field of peace, justice and inclusive societies. In addition to existing hubs covering the topics of security and conflict transformation, and climate science and sustainable transition, two Research Hubs were created in 2024. They address the topics of migration and human rights, and global health.

The work of the Alliance in 2024 set the stage for initiatives that will be launched in 2025, including a mobility support programme for doctoral candidates and our Creative Spaces for Emerging Topics.

The first in a series of Conferences exploring and enhancing the impact of European higher education, fostering meaningful connections between academia, policy, and practice to drive positive societal change was organised

on 9-11 October in Marburg. The conference brought together scholars from the Alliance and beyond to present and discuss research on the historicity of peace and security.

Linked to the Research Hubs, we organised our first mobile interdisciplinary seminars in order to offer a platform for Alliance researchers and other staff and students to share and exchange state-of-the-art knowledge on peace, justice and inclusive societies.



•• *My year with EUPeace is full of excitement, inspiration, rejuvenation, education, new challenges with a healthy dose of frustration! :).*

Prof. Dr. Asli Ilgit, Çukurova University



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2024 IN OUTREACH

Representatives from all Alliance members drafted and agreed on the processes, guidelines and reporting forms for the EUPeace LivingLab projects and the initiatives of the Societal Dialogue Group. The team members also organised a workshop on the exchange of best practices in LivingLab methodologies. LivingLab projects will be fully rolled out in 2025. The initial round of LivingLab project applications was submitted at different sites, and cover, among other, energy poverty, migrant skill training and stroke recovery, intercultural dialogue, and civic discourse in plural societies.

In 2024, we also organised the first in our series

of Bridge Dialogue Format Events. These events enable and coordinate participatory exchange, student engagement and reception of society's needs and fears in the areas of peace and justice into teaching and research, leading to the emergence of co-creating teams. This first workshop was organised by the University of Mostar and titled "From Political (In)correctness to Hate Speech – A Story about Boundaries and Repercussions". It took place on 5 November in Mostar, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

2024 AS AN ALLIANCE

In 2024 EUPeace grew together as an Alliance. We further established an EUPeace administrative work structure on all levels including by recruiting specialised personnel. One highlight of the year was the creation of the EUPeace Senate. The Senate represents the width of the academic community of the universities, acts in an advisory capacity to the Governing Board and the other bodies of the Alliance, and is a multiplier of EUPeace in both directions, from and to the universities.

In order to raise mobility numbers within the Alliance, mobility experts from all universities came together in our "Facilitating Mobilities Group" for the first time in 2024. This group organised our first EUPeace Staff Week dedicated to "Digitalisation in Alliance Mobilities - Opportunities, Challenges, Solutions" on 7-11 October 2024 in Marburg and Giessen.

To speed up the student participation process, actions were combined between the Student Council and university staff, leading to the establishment of the EUPeace student association named EUPeace Student Alliance

(EUPSA) at the end of the year.

In 2024, we strengthened our ties within the European Universities community, as well as with regional, national, and European policy-makers. External experts in advisory positions have also guided the evolvement of the Alliance. Our communication activities and advocacy work were amplified through our various channels, including our website, social media channels, and the launch of our newsletter.



“ Being a member of EUPeace’s Governing Board has proven a great intercultural and human experience.

Dr. Laurent Bourdier, Vice-President of the University of Limoges



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EUPEACE FUND PROJECTS

In 2024, the EUPeace universities started supporting these grassroots projects outside of EU-funding:

- » International Perspectives on Inclusion
- » COILING Inclusion: Towards LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Teaching at European Universities
- » Storytelling for Inclusive Education
- » EuPaC: Unveiling European Past with Code - a transdisciplinary hackathon
- » Legitimation/Deligitimation of War and Violence in Ancient Literature
- » Language Ideologies in the EU and wider Europe: reconsidering present and prognosing future
- » Creating an Observatory of Places of Memory in the Euro-Mediterranean Area
- » Language Centres of the Alliance: Interculturality, Language, Networking, and Engaging Staff
- » Our Cultural Heritage – The Basis of our House Europe 2
- » Gender in Higher Education in Times of Uncertainty

Our EUPeace Fund Projects provide a first format for collaboration, giving participating researchers, educators, students and administrators a tool for experimentation and participation. We want to create a bottom-up approach in order to generate information on the interests and needs of our communities.



“Over the past year, the multilateral collaboration in the EUPeace consortium has fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas and cultures, already enhancing potential for mobility among partner institutions that empower students, faculty, and administrative staff alike.

**Johannes Weinreich,
International Office, Marburg
University**

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

While 2024 concentrated on setting up structures and working modalities, 2025 will witness recurring & key events being organised, central concepts & activities being established and recognised as such within the Alliance (e.g. Teaching Staff Academy (TSA)), and our Flagships being further developed.

The team working to Transform Curricula will launch the European Track in its pilot phase, expand the Virtual European Exchange Programme (VEEP), and intensify the work on the development of five joint programmes. The Online Repository will be launched by October, and the TSA will host key events. The team working on the Internationalisation of Teacher Education will publish its Handbook by April. International internships will begin in October and the EUPeace Winter School in January and the Online Summer School in September will further EUPeace's mission to enhance teacher education and international collaboration.

In 2025, the team supporting Research will strengthen collaboration within the EUPeace Research Hubs through seminars and meetings, launch our mobility support programme –especially for doctoral candidates–, and

establish the Doctoral Network. Our EUPeace Conference and the Creative Space for Emerging Topics will foster innovative research.

The team developing Societal Dialogue will roll out LivingLab projects at the nine locations, finalise membership for Societal Dialogue Groups, and host Bridge Dialogue events in March and April. The team aims to have all projects running by the end of the year, with micro-credential courses on societal impact being developed together with the team working to Transform Curricula.

We will also focus on integrating the Alliance into member universities, with the First Strategy Forum in April and Mid-Term Evaluation. We will launch the Mobility Portal to facilitate student exchanges, and the EUPSA student network as well as student-led events and student challenges will expand. The EUPeace Code of Conduct and the EUPeace Student ID will be brought forward. Furthermore, we will enhance communication and visibility, promoting inclusion and peace.

Additional initiatives beyond our EU-funded project will contribute to preparing the future of the Alliance.



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“ EUPeace, in this first year, has brought me an abundance of positive experiences as a participant, through meetings, work, innovations, and especially the sense of cohesion felt among the members of the Alliance. This Alliance offers countless opportunities for personal growth and development, as well as professional advancement. Therefore, I invite all young people within our Alliance to join us in building a university of peace, justice, and inclusive society.

Dr. Marijan Tustonja, Assistant Professor at the University of Mostar



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