

Information about EUPeace and its activities

As of May 2024

1. About EUPeace

Our Vision & Mission

Tragically, the values of peace, justice, and inclusive societies cannot simply be taken for granted. They must be continuously cultivated, studied, and shaped to define the road to an ambitious and challenging socio-political goal. In this, universities have a key role to play. They are at the heart of societies, providing the insights and techniques necessary to address the environmental, technical, political, and social challenges the next generation has to face. Through research and education, they connect people of all generations; they can be model places for protecting and strengthening the values of mutual respect, justice, and inclusion. As such, they are powerful instruments for building peaceful communities.

EUPeace's 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.

Our Profile

The commitment to Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies is at the core of the European ideal and needs to be continuously cultivated. We argue that peace cannot flourish unless a set of enabling conditions are firmly in place: it goes hand in hand with a deep commitment to justice and inclusion.

EUPeace is comprised of 9 institutions that are similar in size, location and mission within their respective national ecosystems. We are a synergetic mix of universities, characterised by our territorial embeddedness, concern for impact and deep attention to the quality of student life within and beyond our campuses. We have come together, based on long-standing cooperation experiences as well as newly formed ties within the EUPeace universities. We are Marburg University (Germany), Justus Liebig University Giessen (Germany), University of Limoges (France), University of Calabria (Italy), Comillas Pontifical University (Spain), University of West Bohemia (Czechia), University of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Çukurova University (Türkiye), University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as our associated partners in Europe and beyond.

We are embracing and fostering our unique geographic distribution and the implications these geographic roots bring to EUPeace: our institutions are located in regions with a lot of internal diversity and sometimes a still recent history of conflict.

Our Approach

EUPeace is about strengthening the enabling conditions for peace: understanding them better through research, nurturing them actively through education, and fostering them broadly through societal outreach and innovative practices.

We develop joint and innovative teaching and learning experiences in which students learn to understand ultimate as well as proximate causes of conflict situations – including aspects of technological and environmental interdependencies – gain experience in how to manage conflicts effectively, and how to implement solutions to conflicts.

We bring our entire academic communities together to generate knowledge, competence and innovative approaches to fostering peace, justice, and inclusive societies. All fields and sciences are required to grasp the conditions of conflict prevention, forecasting and resolution, in a world where material, technical and socio-political arrangements are intimately connected.

We come together with our partners from our local communities and international networks to co-construct concrete practices and solutions to turn these competencies into impact beyond academia. To achieve this, the exploration of innovative leverage points for impact, such as our focus on teacher training, is key.

2. EUPeace Work Plan 2023-2027 & involvement of Associated Partners

EUPeace receives support from the European Union for part of its activities. The majority of our work between 2023 and 2027 is therefore structured along so-called Work Packages (WP). Each WP is led by one EUPeace university together with at least one other co-lead. The goal of EUPeace is to actively involve Associated Partners in our work to the best of our capacities and to the best fit of the Associated Partners' profile and competences. The Work Plan 2023-2027 consists of 8 WP:

Project management, coordination, quality monitoring and governance (WP1)

Goal: This Work Package serves the implementation of the subject-related Work Packages of the project. Furthermore, the activities of this Work Package ensure the creation of a long-term governance structure to assure the efficient and effective governance of EUPeace beyond the 4-year funding period.

Activities:

- Set-up the different alliance bodies including External Advisory Board (EAB)

- Work on Risk management and quality assurance framework
- Use Design Thinking for EUPeace Alliance Strategic Alignment
- Explore legal formats for future cooperation
- Conduct a mid-term & final assessment of the Work Plan, e.g. through evaluation and a Strategy Forum

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- Get involved in the External Advisory Board providing advice and support to EUPeace
- Provide feedback and suggestions to EUPeace through the Strategy Forum (going beyond the External Advisory Board)
- If interested, get involved in the legal structure that EUPeace will create for long-term structural cooperation

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Transforming Curricula (WP2)

Goal: Transforming Curricula implements two EUPeace Flagship Actions and their support activities: (1) With the “European Track” we develop EUPeace signature content and formats, and broadly integrate EUPeace content into all curricula. Eventually, we make the “European Track” available to any student within the Alliance. (2) By advancing European Degrees with strongly integrated curricula across institutions, we foster a specific profile of EUPeace students, graduates and alumni, who will go on to become change agents for Europe.

Activities:

- Map and analyse the different curricula
- Develop a European Track (Flagship Action) as a joint core curriculum for all students
- Offer EUPeace Modules for International Credit Mobility
- Launch a EUPeace Virtual European Exchange Programme
- Create work- and challenge-based learning units
- Develop European Degrees at Master level (Flagship Action)
- Establish a “Teaching Staff Academy” including Staff Training for “Teaching Europe”, Teaching Staff Exchanges, Conferences “Teaching Europe”
- Introduce micro-credentials across the Alliance as a tool for lifelong learning

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- The overarching goal for all members of the alliance is to integrate thematic topics related to EUPeace and innovative teaching methods into the curricula and to enable seamless mobility

- Associate partners are strongly encouraged to contribute to at least one of the two flagship actions of work package 2, either within the European Track or the establishment of European Joint Degrees
- More concretely, this could include but is not limited to: participate in EUPeace Modules for International Credit Mobility, getting involved in the EUPeace Virtual European Exchange Programme, offering opportunities for internships or practical training that accompany the scientific learning journey of EUPeace students to enable them to become future change agents for Europe, adapting the concept of the European Track in EUPeace, or contributing to the establishment of Joint Degrees of the EUPeace Alliance

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Internationalisation of Teacher Education (WP3)

Goal: Teachers are key multipliers and role models for European values and concepts. In order to promote pupils' developing attitudes and skills as well as acquiring knowledge for European citizenship, student teachers and practising teachers themselves need to develop skills and build knowledge, fundamental to a democratic European society in the 21st century. The need to define activities for a comprehensive skill set in future teachers regarding intercultural learning, diversity, inclusive teaching and the concept of global citizenship is a task of this Work Package for all consortium members. The Internationalisation of Teacher Education is a Flagship Action of EUPeace.

Activities:

- Develop a common School for All approach on Internationalisation in primary and secondary school teacher education – a unified school in migrant societies
- Design a handbook including a concept of levels of European immersion in teacher education
- Develop collaborative teaching and learning offers
- Organise Summer Schools on “European Perspectives on Teacher Education and Teaching”
- Facilitate and encourage work- and challenge-based learning through internships
- Position and develop higher education didactics in teacher training

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- Participate in our workshops for teacher educators
- Join and contribute, in the medium term, to the EUPeace Internship Network (InNet) for student teachers - offering internships to their own student teachers, as well as increasing the number of host schools and institutions
- Support and participate in the planned series of digital lectures on inclusion
- Exchange on the EUPeace School for All concept and further collaborate on research questions and findings through the EUPeace winter and summer schools and the digital lecture series

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Facilitating Mobility (WP4)

Goal: Mobility is influenced by a multitude of factors and obstacles (regional setting, structure of university, socio-economic factors, environmental factors, unforeseeable external factors such as the pandemic, individual and personal barriers, etc.). All EUPeace members have strengths and limits in tackling these aspects in different ways and to different degrees. The EUPeace mobility approach expressly addresses the diversity of the member institutions. The aim is to develop a support structure, which not only increases mobility numbers, but also the quality of mobility circulation amongst member institutions. EUPeace will balance efforts to augment the overall amount of student and staff mobilities with enabling mobilities from and to underrepresented areas of the EUPeace Network.

Activities:

- Create a Facilitating Mobilities Group developing the overall guidelines and support structure for all forms of mobility
- Set-up the Joint Digital Campus including a shared gateway for mobility related information
- Implement an EUPeace Course Repository
- Use Design Thinking for Mobility Development
- Realise International Staff Weeks for administrative and technical staff, with a focus on mobility
- Implement a Buddy System to support mobility
- Increase mobility circulation numbers & realisation horizontal priorities in mobility
- Create a network to test the harmonisation of systems and measures of Paperless Mobility

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- Involve academic and staff speakers from associated universities in the organisation of the Staff Week according to their focus
- Involve expert speakers from the regional level in the organisation of the Staff Week according to their focus
- Exchange students and staff with participating associated universities, organise joint BIPs (Blended Intensive Programmes under the Erasmus+ programme)
- Increase collaboration with associated primary and secondary schools in the form of visits and lectures by foreign exchange students (similar to Erasmus in schools)

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Campus and Student Life (WP5)

Goal: This Work Package will establish our Inclusive European Campus. This campus is our main lever to deeply internationalise our institutions so that the default background against which all staff and students carry out their activity will be international. This implies a strong commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, and conceiving our campus, in both its virtual and physical shapes, as a means of empowering everyone, regardless of culture, race, gender and ethnicity, to develop to their full potential as future agents for change. The Campus is a cross-sectional and long-term task towards developing and implementing sustainable Alliance structures. WP5 also addresses the EUPeace Flagship Action on student organisations.

Activities:

- Establish an EUPeace Student Association and organise student cooperation in a collaborative way
- Identify best practices for international and inclusive campuses
- Develop an EUPeace Code of Conduct and “EUPeace Label” for best initiative on diversity and inclusiveness
- Develop alliance-wide shared access to student services & introduce an EUPeace Student ID
- Develop and implement student-led joint events across the EUPeace Campus, including the EUPeace Student Campus Festival
- Initiate Student Projects (“Challenges”) to practise peace, justice, and social inclusion, thus considering the “Campus as a Lab”

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- Contribute to the development of student activities together with student representatives, offering insights and sharing ideas on full involvement of students
- Cooperate with centres for inclusive education and specialised experts in teaching foreign languages to blind and visually-impaired learners, thus providing scientific and campus-life procedural insights
- Cooperate with experts from language laboratories on language interaction with interlocutors using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices, thus providing scientific insights
- Cooperate on multicultural and multilinguistic communication involving students and other stakeholders to enhance inclusive education, thus providing scientific and campus-life procedural insights

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Research Hubs and Doctoral Studies (WP6)

Goal: EUPeace responds to societal challenges by building world-class Research Hubs from existing scholarly strength of members in peace, justice, and inclusive societies. With the Research Hubs, the Alliance contributes to enriching and strengthening the European Research Area with a transdisciplinary approach to peace, justice and inclusive societies. Thus EUPeace highly contributes to dealing with global challenges - always in dialogue with society. The Research Hubs build on the synergies of the Alliance members to foster research and research-based teaching with an attention to bringing in all subject areas of the Alliance.

Activities:

- Develop Research Hubs & Creative Spaces
- Organise mobile (blended/hybrid) interdisciplinary seminars and annual Research Impact Conferences
- Transfer innovative research-based teaching methods
- Initiate EUPeace Fellowships to promote cooperation and mobility
- Establish an Early-Career Network and a EUPeace Doctoral Network
- Support joint research infrastructures and open lab policies

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- Engage actively in the activities of the different Research Hubs, depending on specific field, especially in the Research Impact Conferences
- Co-create and transfer knowledge and expertise to and from society & companies through conferences, Research Hubs and Creative Space
- Exchange with PhD candidates and early-career researchers through the activities developed by the Research Hubs
- Network and learn from each other on the conditions supporting joint research infrastructures and open lab policies

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Societal Dialogue (WP7)

Goal: WP7 develops the EUPeace Living Peace Lab Flagship Action as a platform for civic community engagement by means of campus-related, regional, and international cooperation bringing together a variety of stakeholders including civil society, policy makers, NGOs, or companies. It will be specifically designed to encourage societal dialogue and innovation around the topics of peace, justice, and inclusiveness. The Living Peace Lab will be a collaboration hub for generating physical and virtual spaces where stakeholders can meet and find support for developing co-creating teams and engag-

ing across the academia-society divide. This will create a virtuous cycle of continuous exchange between higher education institutions and society, which contributes to a strong policy and innovation impact of the EUPeace Alliance.

Activities:

- Initiate the EUPeace Living Peace Lab
- Set-up Societal Dialogue Groups locally and at alliance-level
- Create Bridge Dialogue Formats to enable and coordinate participatory exchange, student engagement and reception of society's needs
- Integrate community engagement into EUPeace Curricula & offer specialised courses on soft skills for challenge-based learning environments to students and staff
- Foster local and regional embeddedness of EUPeace

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- Contribute to the construction of the resource libraries across the different Living Labs
- Where applicable, apply methodological expertise to support the establishment and growth Living Labs
- Make creative spaces available for Living Lab activities
- Offer academic and technical advice to carry Living Lab activities to successful fruition
- Support the knowledge transfer process to maximise impact

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Impact and Dissemination (WP8)

Goal: The impact of the EUPeace Alliance will be reached via four dimensions: Education, Research, Society, and Institution. This Work Package coordinates all impact and dissemination activities and will thus make available all Work Package achievements to other actors. The tasks under WP8 are cross-sectional and develop communication, dissemination, and open science strategies, to ensure the Alliance's internal and external visibility including science communication. The monitoring process of the Alliance's impact is also part of this Work Package. We aim for impact on local, regional, national, and international levels.

Activities:

- Set-up the EUPeace impact and dissemination strategy with a Working Group "Impact and Dissemination"
- Carry out Impact monitoring

- Develop alliance-level communications and a EUPeace Newsletter & foster university-internal communication at each member university
- Support communication to the EUPeace campus community as well as to external parties, using website, social media etc.
- Establish a Stakeholder Contact Network
- Engage in Science communication
- Establish an Open Science Policy & offer Open science training and information events

Potential involvement of Associated Partners:

- Be involved in the communication to the EUPeace campus, inter alia, events, offerings, and support services
- Support the Alliance's internal and external visibility, with the goal to have an impact beyond Europe
- Support with and engagement in specific events
- Support the scope of the Alliance and its (potential) benefits as well as contributing to the sharing of good practices.
- Provide assistance in the monitoring of specific actions by e.g. completing questionnaires.

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3. Additional information

Find current information and the latest news on EUPeace and its activities at www.eupeace.eu

If you have any questions, please contact the Coordination Office of EUPeace at info@eupeace.eu