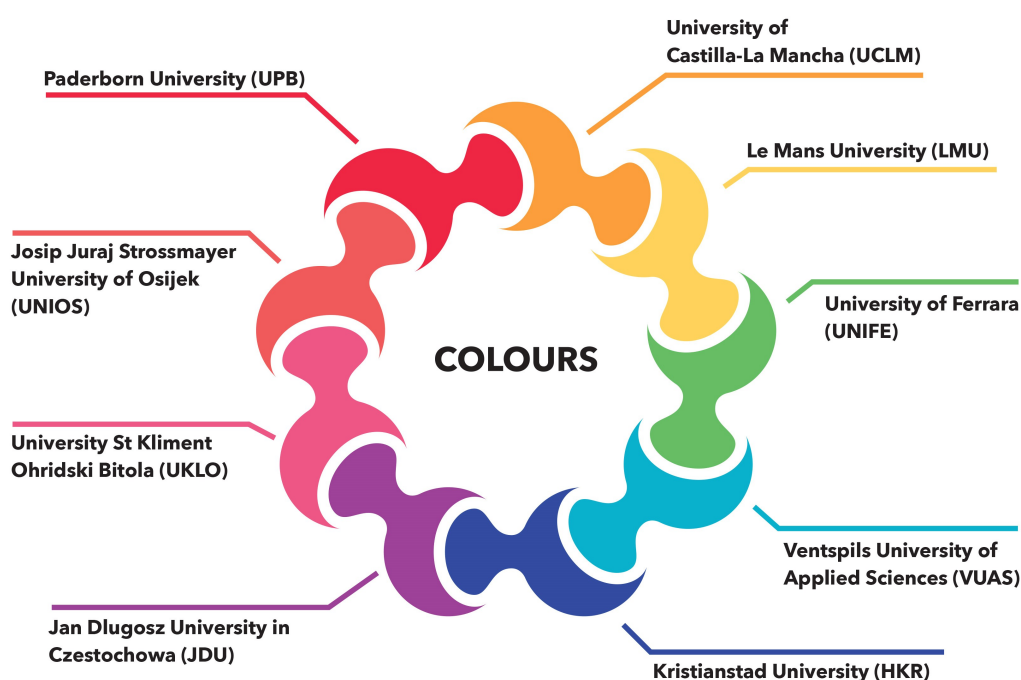


MISSION STATEMENT

COLOURS COLlaborative innOvative sUstainable Regional univerSities



Who we are - and why we came together

Based on a shared vision to deeply intensify our transnational collaborations in a sustainable, co-creative community of practice, we - nine universities with strong regional connections and partnerships - have joined forces to form the European University Alliance **COLOURS** (**COL**laborative **innO**vative **sU**stainable **R**egional **univerS**ities). We are united by a willingness to transform our existing partnerships into a dynamic European inter-university ecosystem, which is open and responsive to the needs and challenges of our times. Each individual institution will use the power of this strong Alliance to generate multiple benefits for European societies.

COLOURS unites nine universities with around 126,000 students and 12,300 staff members in Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, North Macedonia and Latvia. These academic institutions are joined by 55 Associated Partners – regionally based institutions and organisations representing all elements of the Quadruple Helix, who will act as collaborators, multipliers and implementation partners in the COLOURS regions. The COLOURS approach, linking Open Innovation and challenge-based research to regional Smart Specialisation Goals, will initiate social and technological innovation affecting over 21 million citizens in the COLOURS regions.

Widely spread across Europe, all members of the COLOURS Alliance are universities with a self-proclaimed identity as regional drivers of innovation, expressed through a strong focus in teaching, research and knowledge transfer. What unites us is a deep commitment to apply open innovation methodologies to **a) foster transformation capacities, b) create innovation and c) contribute to a sustainable development of our diverse regions.**

Together, all partners envision a world in which European Higher Education Institutions play an active role as integrated partners in dynamic, regional innovation ecosystems. Each member of the COLOURS Alliance is a **key player and accelerator of innovation in its regional innovation environment** and has **excellent connections to partners from academia, industry, public bodies and society.** Our exceptionally strong regional ties generate a powerful multiplier effect and give COLOURS members a unique opportunity to **create and share knowledge with stakeholders from our own surrounding semi-urban areas.** Building upon our complementary strengths, the COLOURS partners will establish innovative forms of cooperation across national borders and institutional boundaries.

In the COLOURS Alliance, the demand for a “double transition” as it is formulated in the European Growth Model,¹ embracing a **green** and **digital** transformation, is complemented by a **third transition** - a **social** one. This transition embraces organisational and institutional change within academic institutions and calls for new policy frameworks for territorial resilience. By relating the European Growth Model to societal demands and systemic institutional innovation, the partners of the COLOURS Alliance will **act as key drivers and role models of this triple transition in European regions.**

The specific „DNA“ that forms the basis of the COLOURS Alliance consists of the commitment to invite researchers, students, staff and stakeholders from all areas of the Quadruple Helix to co-create, co-dream and co-evolve, applying 21st century skills and methodologies in open collaboration spaces. COLOURS partners are united by a shared purpose and the determination to provide ideal **conditions for creativity and co-creation inside and outside of academic institutions, both in the physical and digital world.** COLOURS will build bridges of all kinds - political, institutional, economic, socio-cultural - designed to last beyond the funding timeline.

In **CoSpaces, CoLabs**, via the **CoHub platform** and through other formats, the Alliance will foster transdisciplinary and cross-institutional matchmaking processes, designed to address complex global and regional challenges. With a long-term vision reaching beyond existing academic and political practices, **COLOURS will install innovative functional mechanisms for collaborative, innovative and sustainable regional universities, ready to meet the needs for the triple transition.**

With a strong ambition to exchange all processes and results with other European University Networks, the COLOURS community will strive to **remove barriers to learning for learners of all ages and backgrounds, in different socio-cultural settings.** With exceptionally ambitious **EDI and Open Innovation strategies**, COLOURS will invite other European Higher Education Institutions to improve access to quality education for all interested learners, regardless of socio-economic backgrounds, nationality, gender or age. The Alliance will enrich the COLOURS spectrum of the European Higher Education Area **by considerably increasing staff and student mobility** and by **enhancing the 21st century skill-set** of students in higher education systems across Europe.

The COLOURS Alliance is built on a shared understanding that open and inclusive innovation processes will help European universities to be more resilient to change and better prepared to

¹ European Commission: [Towards a green, digital and resilient economy: our European Growth Model](#), 2022.

meet the Grand Challenges of the 21st century. Grand Challenges require innovation ecosystems to move beyond mere technological solutions or topic-oriented research questions. They require transdisciplinary perspectives, technological plus social innovation and an embeddedness of open research and innovation in participatory governance and decision-making processes. While the Grand Challenges are global, they find their expressions in specific regional demands and policies, as they are described in Smart Specialisation Areas.

This explains why the COLOURS partners believe that **a regional implementation of research and innovation processes**, based on **systemic, long-term collaborations** with **stakeholders from economy, policy making and civil society**, will **support the development of a sustainable and value-driven European University of the future**.

The COLOURS approach is based on the collective experience and awareness that **existing tools, methodologies, policies and education standards within many European universities no longer meet the new expectations and requirements of Open Science and Open Innovation** which will shape European policies in the future.

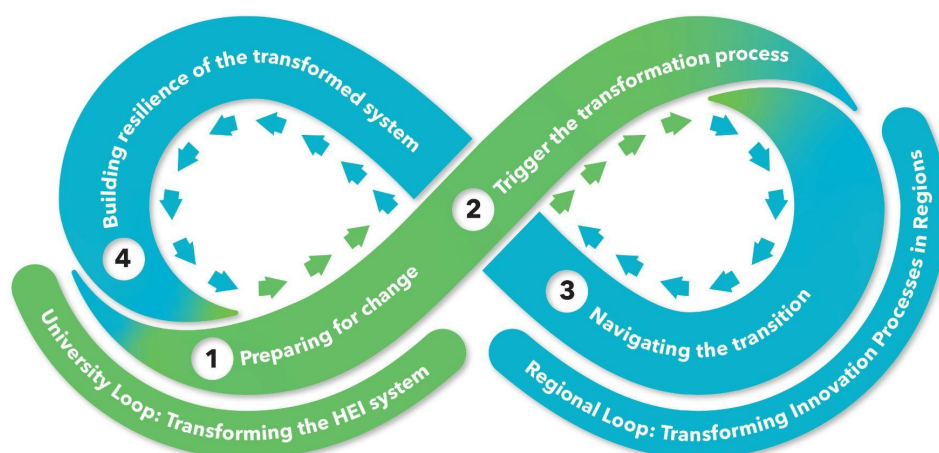
We believe that a profound and systemic transformation of our academic institutions is needed to create a COLOURful innovative, value-driven and sustainable European University of the future.

To reach this long-term goal we need new criteria for academic excellence, innovative teaching and learning practices, as well as broader qualifications for students, researchers, staff and stakeholders.

A major goal of our Alliance is to create pathways towards a more **COLOURful European Education Area**. At least 45 internship projects of challenge-based education will be integrated in university curricula, aiming to remove barriers to learning for students and staff and improve access to quality education for all, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds, nationality, gender or age. Our Alliance will **enrich the COLOUR spectrum of the European Higher Education Area** by increasing staff and student mobility, thus facilitating their employability across Europe. We will **COLOUR the European Research Area** by contributing to a shared understanding of academic excellence, fostering social and technological innovation across Europe.

Acting as **agents of transformation**, we will develop and share practical steps towards open, inclusive and responsive education systems and innovation processes. We will collaboratively design applicable models for European universities to transform their education and research system **from “topic-driven” towards “challenge- and impact-driven” research and innovation**. In this context, we will empower universities to create **sustainable alliances with stakeholders outside academia - for the benefit of students, staff and societies across and beyond Europe**. These multi-stakeholder partnerships within and beyond academic institutions will lead to **more sustainable and participatory cooperation structures of the partner universities with their respective regional ecosystems**.

The COLOURS “Transformation Loop” which will be implemented as a process in all regions is transferable and can be shared via policy briefs to leading stakeholders within all 255 European regions across the European Research Area, allowing them to be responsive to Open Research and Innovation processes in European Higher Education Institutions.



- 1 Preparing for change:**
Mapping of existing collaborations, analysis of partnership and innovation potentials, (re)defining shared visions and common challenges
- 2 Trigger:**
Defining topics, partners and structures for co-creation
- 3 Navigating the transition:**
Testing new methodologies, prototyping co-creation, reflecting impacts
- 4 Building resilience of the transformed system:**
Integrating new models in regions and in universities

By 2027, we will have built efficient structures for a sustainable European University based on our combined and extended strengths in higher education and research and our role in society. This way **COLOURS will challenge and transform all four missions of Higher Education Institutions: education, research, innovation and service to society**. All partners of the COLOURS Alliance will embark on a **journey of transformation** to implement an efficient and strong joint European campus united by our central vision:

We will foster a COLOURful transformation of academic practices, encouraging European Higher Education Institutions to become active and responsive partners within local and regional innovation ecosystems.

We will do so by qualifying and strengthening the level of engagement of students and staff throughout the whole education, research and innovation process – across all disciplines and faculties, across all levels of academic careers.

Our mission is a European Education and Research Area which moves from “topic-driven” towards “challenge- and impact-driven” education and innovation by implementing openness, responsibility, diversity, sustainability and the co-production of knowledge leading to a new definition of “Academic Excellence.”

10 Goals will lead us in achieving the COLOURS' Mission

Goal 1

We will add fresh COLOURS to the global definition of “Academic Excellence” by implementing the multi-coloured approaches of Open Science and Open Innovation within all institutions of our Alliance

The COLOURS Alliance is built upon the shared vision that Open Science and Open Innovation, as currently outlined in HORIZON Europe and in the UNESCO Open Science Policy, are crucial to create a sustainable European University of the future. In agreement with the UNESCO Open Science Policy we believe that

- Open Science **increases scientific collaborations and the sharing of information for the benefits of society.**
- Open Science makes multilingual scientific knowledge **openly available, accessible and reusable** for everyone.
- Open Science **opens the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community.**²

The specific values and principles of Open Science will allow Higher Education Institutions across Europe to establish sustainable collaborations within **local, regional and national innovation ecosystems**. At the same time, they call for a **transformation of existing academic practices, challenging existing definitions, reward systems and focus areas**. By moving beyond the given notions of academic excellence, which are still based on publication lists and individualised, topic-driven career paths (“publish or perish”), the COLOURS Alliance will **challenge and renew existing academic standards and processes across all disciplines**.

In order to become agents of change, **all partners of the COLOURS Alliance will establish and enact a “new definition of academic excellence” within their institutions, which does not only focus on “groundbreaking discoveries” but “includes openness, transparency and the co-production of knowledge.”**³ This new definition of excellence will require a deep institutional transformation within and among all COLOURS universities and their attached innovation ecosystems.

Grand challenges require innovation ecosystems to move beyond technological solutions or topic-oriented research questions. They require multidisciplinary perspectives, technological plus social innovation and an embeddedness of open research and innovation in participatory governance and decision-making processes.¶

² Dr. Lutz Möller, German Commissioner for UNESCO, InnOsci Conference 16 November 2021.

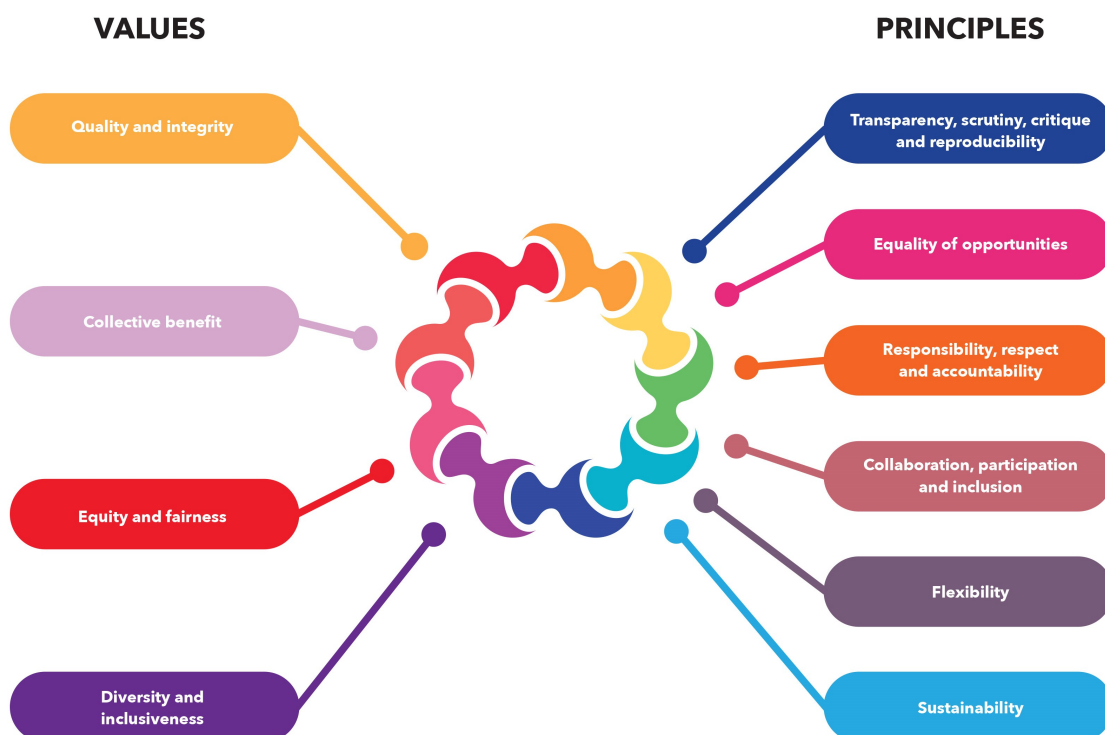
³ European Commission, Rome Declaration on Responsible Research and Innovation, 2014.

Goal 2

To build a truly united European University we will take our transnational cooperation to the next level: The COLOURS Alliance will act as a role model for a structural transformation of Higher Education Institutions in Europe based on common values and shared principles

In the COLOURS Alliance we will apply a **step-by-step approach towards a structural transformation of our universities**, aiming for sustainability of the cooperation beyond the funding period. Thereby, we will **act as a role model for the transformation of the European higher education system** as a whole.

We will ensure that our joint values and methodologies are not simply theoretical concepts but are lived throughout our institutions. Our students will be provided with a **COLOURful education that reflects the European values** deeply rooted in the Treaty of Lisbon, such as human dignity, democracy, equality and human rights, and which emphasises critical thinking and creativity. The values shared by the COLOURS Alliance correspond to the values and principles expressed in science policies throughout the European Research Area:



To produce new knowledge and transcend the boundaries of existing systems we will challenge given assumptions and established collaboration models inside and outside Higher Education Institutions. By integrating challenge-based learning approaches and co-creative problem-solving among all disciplines and in all faculties we will create **open spaces for experimentation, prototyping and continuous physical and digital co-creation (COLOURS CoSpaces and CoHub)**. Through **joint transdisciplinary research and innovative pilot**

projects (COLOURS CoLabs, Hackathons, Summer Schools) we will foster scientific collaborations, entrepreneurship, technology as well as knowledge transfer across and beyond our Alliance.

Goal 3

We will add COLOURS to the European Research Area by integrating equality, diversity, and inclusion into all stages of the research and education process

In all measures, the COLOURS Alliance is strongly committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, and will promote European values and ethics to strengthen the European identity at all times. **We will expand the COLOUR spectrum of our partnerships through a holistic approach towards inclusion.** As a strong basis of our Alliance we will develop a **COLOURS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy** as well as a **COLOURS Equality Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan**.

In line with the “Reflections on a decade of responsible research and innovation”, published by Richard Owen, René von Schomberg and Phil Macnaghten in 2021, the COLOURS Alliance supports “a kind of innovation that privileges collaboration, empathy, humility and care (for others, our planet and for the future), normatively underpinned by goals such as the SDGs, as opposed to one that stresses competition, individualism and carelessness.”⁴

For COLOURS, inclusion means the practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities, participation and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded, discriminated against or marginalised, such as members of minority or under-represented groups. These under-represented or minority groups include nine key-dimensions of diversity: age, ethnicity and nationality, sex and gender, physical and psychological disability, religion and general worldview, sexual orientation and social origin.⁵ We aim to not limit our understanding of inclusion to these key-dimensions and work to reflect and expand the view on and within our institutions to not discriminate, marginalise or exclude any part or person of our university family.

The European values referred to in the Treaty of Lisbon form the basis for all activities within the COLOURS Alliance to create common European education and research: respect for human dignity; freedom; democracy; equality; the rule of law; and respect for human rights.

⁴ Owen, R., von Schomberg, R., Macnaghten, P. (2021). “An unfinished journey? Reflections on a decade of responsible research and innovation”. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23299460.2021.1948789>.

⁵ based on the concept of Four Layers of Diversity, Gardenswartz/Rowe 1995.

Goal 4

We will sharpen our crayons to design the European University of the Future by applying innovative methodologies in teaching and research within our institutions and in transnational collaborations – enabling our students and staff to become drivers and actors of change

The COLOURS Alliance will design and implement **innovative pedagogical models** to develop forward-looking skills and competencies, making best use of **digital technologies, blended learning as well as place-based research and innovation**.

In a participatory process, we will **jointly develop a common European educational strategy**. In our Alliance, the teaching of science and technology will still be based on facts and proven experience, but new COLOURs will be added by a strategic framework that promotes **critical thinking and a value-based, holistic, sustainable and inclusive approach** to make research and education more open and responsive to the challenges of our times.

As the example of digitalisation shows, **innovative technologies do not just have an impact on the content of our research and teaching but also on the ways we conduct administration and education**. Creating the necessary links between these different spheres will be part of our educational strategy.

By establishing joint offers of continuous professional development courses, and by jointly attending physical and virtual seminars, COLOURS academic staff will build a strong network that will use joint tools in academic teaching. We will create collaborative spaces for innovative ideas in teaching and administration, enabling teams from COLOURS member institutions to jointly create and implement solutions which will change the way we cooperate and run our universities in the European Higher Education Area.

With the COLOURS education strategy, we will collectively introduce a sustainable approach to higher education which:

- is based on common European values
- is by default international and implemented at all partner institutions while taking into account socio-cultural and political differences
- is inclusive of diverse backgrounds and learning needs
- uses innovative student-centred teaching methodologies, such as design thinking or Hackathons, as integrated offers across all disciplines and faculties
- is flexible and adjustable to changing needs of partners and stakeholders
- creates open learning environments together with other societal stakeholders, building knowledge-creating teams
- enables students of all disciplines to make full and creative use of new technologies
- addresses all age groups from secondary school onwards.

Goal 5

We will enlarge the COLOUR spectrum of the European higher education system by integrating new skills, competencies and methodologies into the career-development of students, staff and researchers

In the COLOURS Alliance we will broaden the COLOUR spectrum of education by teaching and practicing 21st century skills and entrepreneurial competencies. In a transnational joint effort, the COLOURS Alliance will **strengthen key competencies and the employability of students and staff by working with stakeholders on real-life challenges in their cities and regions.**

Within and beyond the European Research and Education Area, European students need to be able to cooperate within individuals from different cultures, across borders, sectors and academic disciplines. **In the COLOURS Alliance we will link a new understanding of academic excellence to a more open education system, which is integrating 21st century skills into learning experiences and career paths inside and outside of academia.**

21st century skills refer to the “knowledge, life skills, career skills, habits, and traits”⁶ that are critically important in today’s and tomorrow’s world inside and outside of academia. “Career readiness” today requires “a nuanced set of skills that can prepare students for the unknown. Content knowledge from core subjects can only go so far; **students need to be taught how to apply facts and ideas towards complex problems.**”⁷

The COLOURS Alliance will enable students and staff to meet these expectations by particularly training those skills which are **a) crucial for conducting open innovation processes** and **b) not yet fully integrated in the academic education system.** A combination of these skills will enhance the employability of our students in regional innovation ecosystems across Europe.

To equip future “COLOURS collaborators” for these partnerships, **10 key competences** will be **integrated into the academic curriculum** to further the **personal development** of students and staff within the COLOURS Alliance:

- digital literacy
- creativity and co-creation
- initiative, flexibility and adaptability
- intercultural and cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration
- stakeholder- and public engagement along with communication skills
- critical thinking, problem-solving,
- global awareness and social responsibility
- leadership and management skills
- strategic planning and business management
- anticipation of risks

⁶ Buckle, J. A Comprehensive Guide to 21st Century Skills. <https://www.panoramaed.com/blog/comprehensive-guide-21st-century-skills>.

⁷ *ibid.*

Goal 6

We will provide students with the opportunity to experience the COLOURful European way of life. We will allow more flexible and COLOURful learning experiences by reducing barriers and substantially enhancing the mobility level for all students and staff members.

Our goal is to create a novel, flexible and internationally competitive **inter-university campus**. COLOURS will **substantially increase the mobility numbers and options as well as types of collaboration for students, young academics, researchers and staff** among the partner institutions. We will create and implement **novel courses and offers for joint studies** as well as **events and measures that support the social dimension of mobility**. To achieve these goals, we will channel all efforts to **ensure full recognition of credits and diploma supplements earned within the Alliance**. We will monitor the success of these measures in a detailed **quality assurance process**.

COLOURS education will give all students the opportunity for an international experience during their time at university, either through **physical or virtual mobility** or through **educational content related to the European dimension of their subjects**. We will jointly develop a set of educational formats, from **blended learning** to **cross-alliance teamwork projects**. Our Alliance will enable all member universities to have the relevant support structures in place to enable a variety of mobility options. **We will increase mobility in a responsible way, reducing our carbon footprint by enhancing virtual and green mobility**.

In the long term, the COLOURS Alliance will **enable students to shape their own education and give them the freedom to take controlled risks during their studies, experimenting with inter- and transdisciplinary formats**. The obstacles to be removed on the way to such a student journey vary, depending on the institutional and national regulations. They will be addressed and tackled by each partner. All learnings will be shared within and beyond the Alliance.

Goal 7

We will offer transnational and regional learning opportunities, jointly delivered on our inter-university campus, to foster more COLOURful career paths

In the COLOURS Alliance, all partners are united by a shared vision and a long-term goal to **install transformative and sustainable open innovation methodologies as catalysts for structural transformation across and beyond the European Education Area**. From the start, the COLOURS Alliance will move beyond its own range of academic partners and will invite groups which are not yet engaged with research and innovation processes. The Alliance will design **applicable, transferable models for more inclusive and participatory research and innovation practices in different socio-cultural environments in regions across Europe**.

The society-centred approach of COLOURS involves a close cooperation with regional stakeholders in the development of educational offers and of research. **COLOURS Innovation and participatory processes will enable taking regional needs, strengths, actors and networks into account and tailoring approaches to specific regions, which will enhance uptake and implementation of research findings, services and products**.

Changing career paths and fields of work, which is frequently made necessary by the development of new technologies, such as digitalisation or the green economy, requires lifelong learning for many actors outside formal education. **A COLOURS Micro-Credentials System** will be jointly developed with industry partners and other regional stakeholders to facilitate further education. Professionals in jobs or those wanting to change profession could use this offer to adapt their skills portfolio or actively engage with new technologies or social innovations.

Goal 8

We will outline and create multi-COLOURED regional innovation ecosystems uniting economy, policy making, civil society and academia, while using our geographical areas as a canvas for painting the future together.

In the COLOURS Alliance we share a fundamental belief that sustainable socio-economic innovations can only be generated **if the full COLOUR-spectrum of a region is activated** – if all elements of the innovation ecosystem work together. We are convinced that multi-disciplinary and participatory research and decision-making processes will increase the **quality, relevance, social acceptability and sustainability** of research and innovation across Europe and beyond. The COLOURS Alliance will therefore not just enable and qualify the academic community to perform open innovation, but also support **regional policy makers and stakeholders** in their ambitions to integrate digital and analogue **participatory innovation** processes into the governance of their regional innovation ecosystems.

Together, we will elaborate how challenge-driven, multi-actor co-creation processes can be implemented in different sociocultural contexts, taking into account the specific historic, geographical and socio-economic characteristics of each participating region. A central goal will be to enable universities and regions across and beyond Europe to work together on achieving the goals of their Smart Specialisation Strategies. Innovation processes, called **COLabs**, related to Smart Specialisation areas of the COLOURS regions will enable **different stakeholder groups of the Quadruple Helix**⁸ innovation model to participate in open and inclusive innovation processes:

- **academics** (researchers, students, supervising staff, university policy staff)
- **businesses** (SMEs, large companies, industry bodies, chambers of commerce, multipliers)
- **government / policy makers** (local, regional, national)
- **community** (citizens/NGOs/civil society/individuals/community groups)

We will work on **long-term ambitions closely linked to the Smart Specialisation Goals of the regions in which our universities are based**. Together with regional policy makers, economy representatives, citizens and civil society organisations, we will tackle the challenges related to the societies in which our research and innovation takes place.

To reach this goal, we will install innovation spaces for co-creation and collaboration (**CoSpaces**) that will foster open research processes and knowledge exchange. 9 CoSpaces in

⁸ Arnkil, R., Järvensivu, A., Koski, P., & Piirainen, T. (2010). Exploring Quadruple Helix. Report of quadruple helix research for the CLIQ project. Tampere: Work Research Centre, University of Tampere.

9 European regions will host 63 CoLabs that will involve 630 regional policy makers and public administration decision-makers from the Quadruple Helix.

Goal 9

We will empower students and economic stakeholders to participate in collaborative digital and knowledge-transfer processes, broadening the COLOUR spectrum of their methodologies.

The COLOURS Alliance shares the vision of the European Union that “we need to **open up the innovation process to all active players** so that new ideas can circulate more freely and be transformed into products and services that create **new markets, fostering a stronger culture of entrepreneurship**.”⁹ Across the Alliance we will actively **connect students and researchers with innovators in companies, start-ups and diverse (green, creative, digital) economies to accelerate open and co-creative innovation processes**. Our goal is to create structures, processes and venues which enable academic institutions to continuously interact with their regional innovators to foster economic and socio-cultural innovation.

In our relations with economic innovators, the COLOURS Alliance will **move beyond traditional, one-dimensional transfer approaches**, in which the university is seen as the provider of knowledge and the economy as a recipient of research results and human capital. Instead, the Alliance will pursue the exchanges with economic actors based on René von Schomberg’s understanding of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) as “a transparent, interactive process by which societal actors and innovators become **mutually responsive** to each other with a view to the (ethical) acceptability, sustainability and societal desirability of the innovation process and its marketable products in order to **allow a proper embedding of scientific and technological advances in our society**.”¹⁰

Like the RRI process defined by von Schomberg, the COLOURS Alliance’s approach to innovation is based on the understanding that finding solutions for complex societal challenges (such as emerging technologies, structural change, cultural changes and integration, aging populations, energy transition, climate change and digitalisation), requires different approaches than those applied in strictly technological innovation processes.

Working with stakeholders and innovators on real challenges in their cities and regions will strengthen entrepreneurial key competences and employability of students and staff.

⁹ Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World: A Vision for Europe”. European Commission 2016.

¹⁰ Von Schomberg, R. (2011). “Responsible Research and Innovation”. <http://responsibility-ri.eu/responsible-research-innovation/>.

Goal 10

We will create and share COLOURful new instruments for deeper institutional collaboration, challenge-based education and Open Science. By motivating comparable Higher Education Institutions to become Catalysts of Change we will make sure that COLOURS has maximum impact.

COLOURS sees itself as a **learning Alliance** which strives to create a model for the European University and constantly adapts to changing needs of societal development. The solutions we identify in fostering learning, societal engagement and reducing administrative and regulatory barriers to student and staff mobility will be shared and broadly disseminated so that other European universities can profit as well. Many of the tools developed in COLOURS will also be used in our cooperation with other European and overseas partners. We will closely work with the other European University Networks, also on the strategic level.

We drive change at three levels to realise the European Education Area:

- 1) **COLOURS Culture:** Implementing change by developing a joint identity based on our joint values and training, creating role models and establishing processes to enable new formats.
- 2) **COLOURS Structures:** Driving change in internal structures and procedures through inter-university agreements and long-term alignment of our institutional strategies, e.g. a joint learning strategy, connecting our student administration systems, and achieving automatic recognition through reforming internal procedures.
- 3) **COLOURS Policies:** Promoting necessary change in national regulations and at industry level by developing solutions jointly with national stakeholders, other national and European Higher Education bodies and by highlighting the benefits of a joint European Education Area.

All COLOURS member institutions are committed to jointly developing their individual strategies, strengthening cohesion and complementarity in the future. The **COLOURS External Advisory Board**, consisting of local and regional stakeholders, will enable the COLOURS governance to remain a learning community which constantly strives to overcome barriers to innovative European Education Area cooperation.

Within and beyond the COLOURS funding timeline, all Alliance partners will demonstrate how regionally embedded Higher Education Institutions contribute to the triple transition by a) expanding the given notion of academic excellence and by b) by implementing sustainable strategic innovation ecosystems, enriching the diversity and resilience of European regions and the European Research and Education Landscape in times of global challenges.