

July 9th, 2020

Statement of the Presidents of the ENGAGE.EU Universities

We are deeply honoured that our alliance ENGAGE.EU has been selected as one of the European Universities in the 2020 call of the European Commission. Now, more than ever, Europe requires strong cooperation across its countries and regions, which will help tackling today's challenges through innovative solutions and thereby contribute to the prosperous development of our continent.

As higher education institutions we have a crucial role to play in individual and societal advancement. We acknowledge the value of continuous interaction with civil society, corporations, and public agencies in all our activities. We do this through our university communities by educating students who will take up responsible positions, through our cutting edge research which shall help to analyse and answer the key questions of today's society and through our dedicated staff committed to these goals.

Building on our solid background in social sciences, we strive for a comprehensive approach in our ENGAGE.EU alliance. It has three interrelated pathways: Engaged Learning, Engaged Research and Innovation and Engaged in Society. First, we will develop new courses and teaching formats, which equip our learners with the new skills and competences they need to tackle current and future challenges. Second, we will transform our engagement in research and innovation by pooling our expertise in communities for societal change. Third, we will establish innovative models of collaboration and co-creation by reaching out to innovators, companies, citizens' initiatives and policy-makers working together to find knowledge-based solutions for real-life problems.

ENGAGE.EU represents a unique opportunity to test new models for education and research and examine their potential to further increase the quality, international competitiveness and attractiveness of European higher education. We look forward to intensify the collaboration with our (non-) academic partners throughout Europe and work together in this new European University. We invite everyone to follow our activities and contribute to our and other European Universities in their endeavours.

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