



European Campus
of City-Universities



European Campus of City-Universities Yearly Public **Report**

nov. 2023 – nov. 2024

Highlights, events and achievements
of the EC2U Alliance.



Introduction & context

The EC2U Alliance is a multicultural multilingual Alliance of engaged, education- and research-driven European Universities. Our mission is to build a European Campus that empowers its community via new models of education, exchange, and learning.

This annual report shares the main achievements between November 2023 and November 2024.

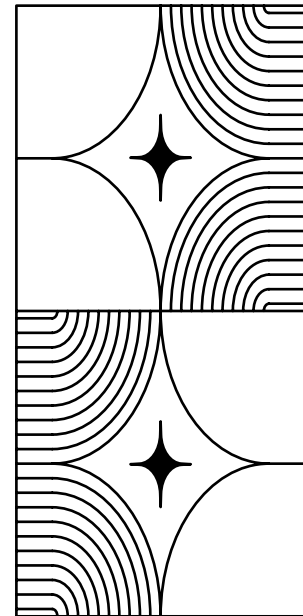


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EC2U **Ecosystem**

A growing community

Launched in 2020, the EC2U Alliance is a now thriving community of more than **200 000 students** and **35 000 staff members**.

People-centred, EC2U's success has been celebrated via renewed funding from the European Commission (November 2023), which brings EC2U into a new era: one of **consolidated activities** and **new opportunities**.

These opportunities are made possible due to the commitment of **a diverse network** of people from university staff members to an active web of Associated Partners, that includes the municipalities of each city-university. This engagement is supported via an adapted governance structure that allows multi-level cooperation.

5

Governing Bodies

including a new Student Council

200

Staff Members

directly implicated in the organisation of EC2U activities, within 10 Work Packages

60+

Associated Partners

of diverse profiles that collaborate with the objective of launching new initiatives



Focus: the EC2U Student Council

The 1st **EC2U Student Council** was launched in November 2023. **Created by students, for students**, this governing body has, over its 1st year, shown the true potential of cooperation.

The student community at each EC2U university is represented by two students who contribute to the decision making processes of the Alliance via recommendations and general consultation. Since its creation, **over 90% of Student Council recommendations have been implemented** by the EC2U Alliance.

How has EC2U impacted you?



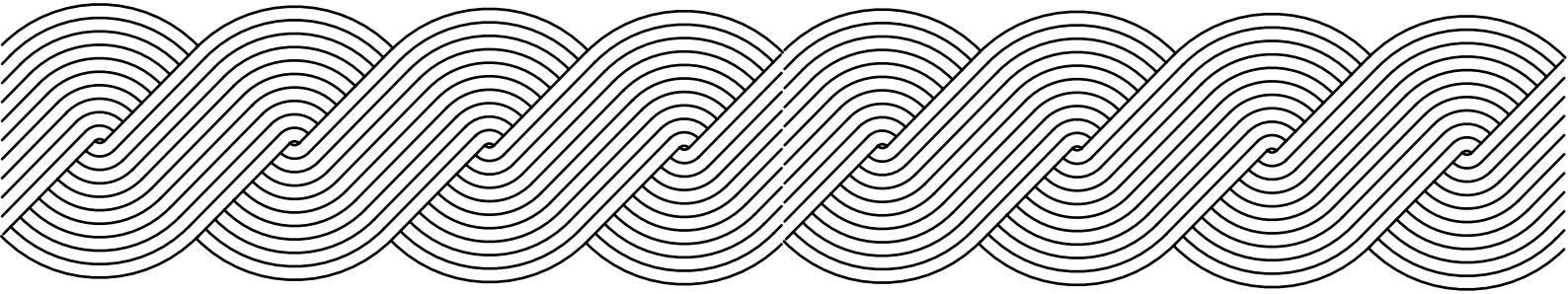
As Chair of the Student Council, I was in charge of coordinating the Student Council and representing the Student Council in the different bodies of the Alliance. EC2U got me out of my comfort zone a lot of times and it has been very rewarding. My vision of life in general has been widened. I gained important skills and very valuable skills in team management, recommendation drafting, and advocacy.

Manon Colombo

Inaugural Chair of the EC2U Student Council (nov. 2023 – oct. 2024)



Welcoming **a new university**



In November 2023, the EC2U Alliance welcomed its 8th university: **Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU) in Austria.**

Having started the academic year with bilateral visits among EC2U universities, JKU finished the year in celebration by hosting the flagship EC2U Forum around the topic “Empowering minds for a peaceful society”. Their first year with EC2U showed how our Alliance, as a network of friendships, can bring together local communities.

How has EC2U impacted you?



Without EC2U, I would have never had the opportunity to become better acquainted with my home university and also meet so many people from almost every department at JKU, along with our Associated Partners! I am very proud of the extensive network I have helped build because of – and together with – EC2U.

Manfred Heublein

Head of JKU's EC2U Office,
Local Coordinator



EC2U highlights

Last year at a glance

May 2024

EC2U Student Event

71 students from across Europe. 1 city: Iasi, Romania. Framed around citizen engagement, the event brought students to collaborate on what it means to be a European citizen today.

Jul. – Oct. 2024

EC2U Think Tank

9 Think Tank sessions were organised between October 2023 and October 2024. The topic: “Social Innovation for peace-building”. The participants: researchers, students, citizens, entrepreneurs, political representatives, among others. The results: policy recommendations that will be implemented by the EC2U Alliance by 2027.

Oct. 2024

EC2U Forum

“Empowering minds for a peaceful society” was the guiding topic for the 2024 EC2U Forum. Bringing together close to 400 participants, the Forum opened the floor to debates, workshops, and conferences on peace-building.

Oct. 2024

EC2U Entrepreneurial Week

Taking a leap into the entrepreneurial world is the objective of the EC2U Entrepreneurial Weeks. In October 2024, 35 students, accompanied by leading business experts and researchers, addressed “Health Innovation” through the lens of entrepreneurship.

between Nov. 2023 and Nov. 2024

27


Events Were Organised

1400

People Participated

91%

Participants Recommended EC2U Events



Focus: mobility

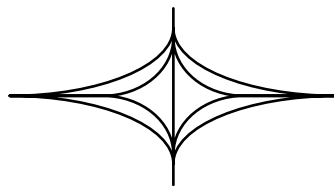
The connection between people within EC2U also happens thanks to short-term, flexible mobility opportunities. In only 12 months, EC2U events welcomed **over 500 mobile students and staff members.**

Generally one week-long and financed by the EC2U Alliance, the event-related mobility opportunities are a great way to network within a European Community. EC2U events participants were asked what motivated them most to join EC2U activities and the mobility opportunities coupled with getting to know each other were the most cited.

What motivates you to participate in EC2U events?



Data from the EC2U Awareness Survey 2024 - close to 1700 respondents (students and staff members of the EC2U Alliance)





EC2U

Research **successes**

Via multi-disciplinary research hubs called EC2U Virtual Institutes, the EC2U Alliance contributes to research related to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

These Virtual Institutes connect researchers and external stakeholders, with the objective of creating a tight-knit community that works towards innovative joint projects. For example, the EC2U Alliance is leading a global study on health and safety within all EC2U cities and universities to identify new challenges and opportunities.

A main achievement of the academic year 2023 – 2024, is the **launch of the 4th EC2U Virtual Institute** *Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions* (UNSDG #16) which complements the three EC2U Virtual Institutes (VI) that have been successfully running since 2021:

- VI on *Good Health and Well-Being*
- VI on *Quality Education*
- VI on *Sustainable Cities and Communities*

200

**Active Academic
Members**

in the EC2U Virtual Institutes

+20

**External
Stakeholders**

actively involved in the
activities of the EC2U Virtual
Institutes

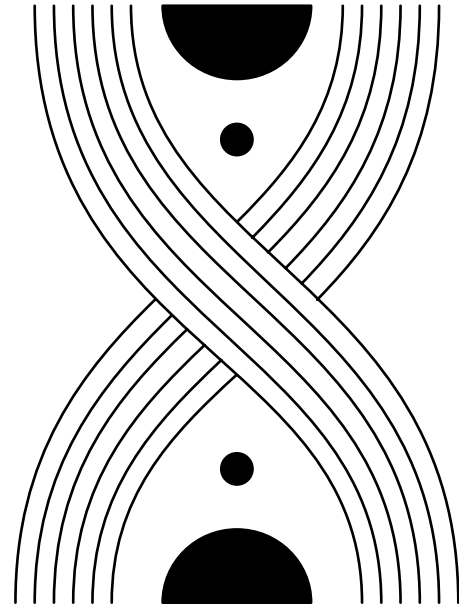
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**Research-Centred
Events**

organised (workshops, short
training courses, etc.)

The EC2U Alliance is currently launching **PhD Networks to further strengthen the research communities and contribute to PhD employability.**

In 2024, two PhD Networks were launched.



How has EC2U impacted you?

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The Alliance framework allowed me to anticipate a couple of steps in my career and it has been a great place to build a network of friends working in similar areas. Within the Alliance I was able to organise international events, create an international research environment for my students, and share our work with other colleagues.

Ricardo Almendra

Invited assistant professor in Health Geography at the University of Coimbra

EC2U

Education achievements

The EC2U Alliance offers three Joint Master's Programmes each centred around United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG):

- Lifelong Well-being and Healthy Ageing (UNSDG#3)
- European Languages, Cultures, and Societies in contact (UNSDG#4)
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (UNSDG#11)

A key objective is to provide multi-disciplinary, customisable, and mobility-intensive training opportunities to students, while guaranteeing their employability in socially relevant fields.

Successfully launched in 2022, over 15 students of the **1st cohort of students graduated** from the EC2U Joint Master's Programmes.

How has EC2U impacted you?

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This master's really opened up a lot more doors for me with regards to my professional life. My bachelor is in a niche category, so with this masters I was able to open myself up to many more other career potentials. Personally, it really helped me understand cultural diversity, immersing myself into different cultures and the aspect of just moving from one city to another city was quite interesting.

Tarisai Mayah Mudiwa

Graduate of the EC2U Joint Master's Programme Sustainable Cities and Communities / Research Assistant

Conclusions

EC2U, in 2024, is a community of 200 000 students, 35 000 staff members, 2 million citizens. Between November 2023 and November 2024, EC2U completed 30 milestones and submitted 2 deliverables to the European Commission. EC2U organised 30 events that welcomed over 1500 participants with an average satisfaction rate of 91%. EC2U increased short-term and long-term mobilities. EC2U allowed new research projects and continued innovation.

2024 confirmed EC2U's capacity to contribute to the European Higher Education Area. The EC2U Joint Master's Programmes and the short-term research intensive mobilities prove the EC2U Alliance is developing new models of education and exchange. This year, a 4th EC2U Virtual Institute on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions was created and an Annual Doctoral Colloquium focused on PhD employability was launched.

The success of EC2U activities is reliant on a sustainable model of governance centred around cooperation and transparency. This allows diverse profiles to come together and create their Alliance. 2024 celebrated the

creation of the EC2U Student Council for example.

These agile governance and management models ensure the growth of EC2U has positive impacts at both global and local levels. For example, EC2U welcomed a new university in 2024, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, while continuing its strong cooperation with all Associated Partners, including the Ivan Franko university of Lviv (Ukraine).

The EC2U Alliance is entering its 5th year; a year of foreseen growth and new activities. We hope to empower our community to a better tomorrow and for that vision alone we thank everyone involved in the EC2U Alliance.



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Thank **You!**

nov. 2023 – nov. 2024

Picture: EC2U/Johannes Kepler University Linz

