



European Campus
of City-Universities

A photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a green shirt, looking thoughtfully to the side with his hand on his chin. He is part of a group of people, with others visible in the foreground and background, though they are out of focus. The image is set against a dark background.

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

nov. 2024 – nov. 2025

Highlights, events and achievements
of the EC2U Alliance.



Introduction & context

In November 2025, **the EC2U Alliance celebrates its 5th birthday**: 5 years of bringing together people across Europe to address key societal challenges.

As the EC2U Alliance grows, our areas of action are both consolidated and extended to question and transform our society. This annual report showcases **key achievements of the past year** (November 2024 – November 2025) in the hope of inspiring each reader to follow our shared endeavor.

EC2U's successes are made possible by the people involved, students, staff, Associated Partners... and thanks to this active community, the EC2U Alliance will continue to ensure its positive impact on society.

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The EC2U Alliance in a nutshell

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.



280 000

People

are part of the EC2U Alliance

+30

Activities

were organised the past year

85%

of participants

confirm an increased
sense of belonging

Say “Hej” to EC2U’s 9th university

On the 1st of May 2025, **Umeå University** in Sweden, integrated the EC2U Alliance as the 9th Partner University.

Within a month, students, staff and Associated Partners of Umeå University joined the EC2U Forum, the flagship event of the EC2U Alliance, meeting the EC2U community and brainstorming future collaboration.

Centred around shared values, Umeå University (UMU) will be key in the development of the EC2U Alliance, further improving EC2U’s joint campus.

How has EC2U impacted you?



What was important is that EC2U matched with the goals of our university [...]. We wanted to be part of a well-functioning Alliance. An alliance makes you stronger when it comes to connecting to other people, opening up doors and possibilities. I would say that to be part of an alliance is important for safeguarding academic values and academic freedom, and it is so much better to reach out and do it together across Europe.

Cathrine Norberg

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for
Education, Umeå University

Sustainability a shared priority

An objective of the EC2U Alliance is to **actively contribute to developing Sustainable Cities and Communities**. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Plan, EC2U implements cross-cutting activities to challenge society to re-think sustainability.

- **The 2025 Student Challenge**

Redesigning the Coimbra’s transport network... Imagining new mobile applications to foster sustainable mobility... Over 112 EC2U Students during the 2025 EC2U Forum, came together and presented innovative ideas for the EC2U Alliance to build upon.

- **A new Sustainable Campus Network**

The EC2U Sustainable Campus Network was launched in 2025, fostering deeper collaboration among universities and municipalities. This new network is currently contributing to the implementation of Climate Change Action Plans within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors.

- **EC2U Think Tank’s Policy Recommendations on Building resilience to climate change**

EC2U Think Tanks bring together a wide-range of stakeholders across Europe around common topics. The 2025 Think Tank, focused on sustainability, put forth the importance of science, education and community initiatives in building climate resilience.



[Find out more on the EC2U website](#)

EC2U Stories

Ambassador programme

Two student Ambassadors at each EC2U University contribute to **enhancing EC2U's visibility** with innovative formats that speak to their peers. Over **60 communication activities** were launched by students, from in-person events to Instagram posts.

The EC2U Ambassador Programme contributes to their personal and professional growth via skill development and intercultural awareness.

How has EC2U impacted you?

”

Over the past year, I enhanced my skills in time management, event planning, creativity, teamwork, public speaking, and intercultural communication

”

Communication skills, intercultural understanding, teamwork and collaboration, networking, project managing, problem-solving, knowledge of European Higher Education, initiative and proactivity. As a gastronome and food researcher culture understanding is essential. On top of that, all skills mentioned are required for a successful personal and professional life, and I sure won't forget all the experiences and learnings I've had within the Alliance.

Alberto Spanò & Henrique Camões

EC2U Ambassadors at the Universities of Pavia and Coimbra

EC2U Stories

Entrepreneurial Week

In 2024, EC2U organised an **Entrepreneurial Week on “Health Innovation”** which continues to demonstrate its lasting impact on students from various academic and professional backgrounds. In 2025, participants were contacted to **further understand how entrepreneurial formats can unlock potential** in ways that are both individual and impactful.

How has EC2U impacted you?

Sven Padutsch, who completed his Master's in Physics at FSU Jena, gained valuable momentum through the EC2U experience. What began as a curiosity turned into a concrete entrepreneurial pursuit. Sven is currently developing a 3D printing business focused on customized mechanical components. He has already written a full business plan and, as of June 17, 2025, was awarded a startup prize from ThEx Enterprise, a startup support service in Thuringia, Germany.

”

Coimbra was the place where the idea of becoming a founder really took root. I realized I didn't have to wait for the perfect idea. I just had to start building.

Winning the ThEx Enterprise award was amazing. But honestly, I wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for EC2U. That week gave me the push I needed to believe in myself as a founder.

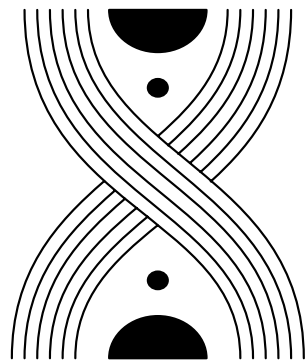
Sven Padutsch

Participant of the EC2U Entrepreneurial Week 2024

Associated Partners

a pathway to impact

EC2U's societal impact stems from a **large network of Associated Partners**. The partnerships are mutually beneficial as they are built to foster innovative collaboration and new initiatives. EC2U Associated Partners can contribute to student employability, collaborate in research and academia, and build new partnerships across Europe. In 2023, the EC2U Alliance extended its Associated Partner Network to include the university hospitals to link to good health and well-being.



40
EC2U activities involved
EC2U Associated Partners
 from 2023 to 2025, of which close to
 20 were co-designed with the APs
 themselves.

How has EC2U impacted you?

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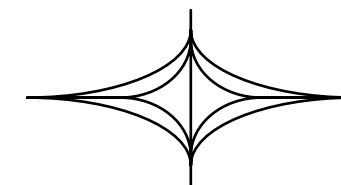
It was with enthusiasm that we accepted its invitation to join the alliance, given the close ties we have with the university through our joint activities in health research and training. We would like this partnership help us to create a dynamic for stimulating further opportunities for cooperation between our different sites to implement transnational or European medical and paramedical projects.

Emmanuelle De Lavalette Ferguson

Director of Research and Innovation
 at the University Hospital of Poitiers

Union of Skills

addressing European priorities



A strong-point of the EC2U Alliance is its capacity to build upon community feedback, evaluate and learn from activities, and adopt a forward-looking perspective. A key tool to do so is the yearly **EC2U Higher Education Round Table** which gathers internal and external experts to discuss hot topics. In 2025, the Higher Education Round Table was the opportunity to bring to the table the newly developed European Commission's programme "Union of Skills".

In a nutshell, the **EC2U Alliance has a key role to play in high-quality skill development, and concrete outcomes and potential impacts have already been demonstrated in core areas of action** including entrepreneurial and challenge-based activities as well as lifelong learning initiatives. The discussion on European's future is pivotal to ensure the EC2U Alliance continues to respond to societal needs, and will therefore be continued with a wide-range of stakeholders over the coming years.



If you are interested in finding out more about the results of this discussion, [check out the EC2U website](#).

Towards PhD Career Development

• Employability webinar

To enhance PhD Career Development, employability webinars are organised once a year **to share professional opportunities with PhD Students**. The first webinar was organised in 2025 and will be followed up by individual career mentoring programmes that will further contribute to PhD Student Employability.



PhD Employability Webinar – Participants' benefits (2025)

• Young Researchers Workshop

In 2025, a Young Researchers Workshop welcomed over **25 students** on the theme Artificial Intelligence & Languages, Cultures, and Education. The event encouraged interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration among early career researchers and supervisors from European universities.

80%

of participants claimed to have gained access to new areas of research collaboration

90%

of participants confirmed having gained valuable knowledge and expertise

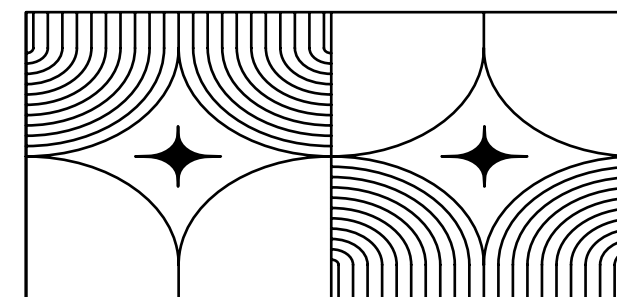
Conclusions

The EC2U Alliance, in 2025, continues to demonstrate its potential to empower its community and build a long-lasting network of agents of change. Shared values and new models of transnational collaboration is allowing our community to address societal challenges and explore new personal and professional opportunities.

Members of the EC2U Community say it best:

Being part of EC2U has been a deeply enriching experience, both professionally and personally. I believe I've contributed to EC2U by bringing scientific and pedagogical expertise in health and well-being. I've helped connect academic and research initiatives across partner universities. In return, EC2U has broadened my horizons significantly. It has given me access to a vibrant international network of experts and institutions, allowing me to explore new research perspectives and pedagogical approaches. Above all, EC2U has strengthened my belief in the power of collaboration to address complex societal challenges, especially in health and sustainability.
– an EC2U Academic Staff Member

I have the feeling that we are able to contribute to building a unique European spirit or identity on the basis of EU alliances, and EC2U in particular.
– an EC2U Student



Thank **You!**

nov. 2024 – nov. 2025

Picture: EC2U/University of Coimbra/Felippe Vaz