TEMPLATE: LETTER OF COMMITMENT

SELECTION OF LEADS FOR

EUTOPIA CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

EUTOPIA MORE WP3 EMPOWERING KNOWLEDGE

CALL DEADLINE: **January 31st, 2025**

# THE EUTOPIA CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: IN BRIEF

The Connected Communities (CC ‘s) are the building blocks of the EUTOPIA approachfor empowering knowledge in the EUTOPIA MORE Erasmus+ European University Initiative (2022-2026). The CCs are inspired by the outcomes of the former [Connected Learning Communities (CLC](https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/education/eutopia-learning-communites)) and [Connected Research Communities (CRC)](https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/research/connected-research-communities) resulting from the pilot phase of EUTOPIA (2019-2022).

Today’s CC’s are **integrated thematic networks** where teachers, researchers, and students cooperate in cross-campus knowledge activities. They do not impose change but **aim to strengthen existing good practices in challenge-based learning and research** by creating interuniversity connectedness at a European scale.

The CC’s are aligned with the EUTOPIA alliance vision on openness and aim to bridge the typical divides that still characterise academia:

* **Internal Sustainability** by focusing their knowledge activities on key challenges in society, and thereby involve stakeholders emanating from a wide range of activities in the business world, the public sector, and cultural organizations.
* **Connecting Academia and Society** by focusing their knowledge activities on key challenges in society, and thereby involve stakeholders emanating from a wide range of activities in the business world, the public sector, and cultural organizations.
* **Teaching and Research** participants combine their experience in teaching and research for testing different formats of cross-campus cooperation; by doing so they create impact that goes beyond the ad hoc experience of staff and students involved.
* **Inclusion** the CCs are expected to open up their knowledge activities to a wide range of potential learners by using flexible and/or blended formats for cross-campus cooperation.

Based on the criteria listed, the universities of EUTOPIA will nominate their candidates for acting as a lead in a future connected community. These leads are permanent members of the existing staff in one of the alliance universities, and are willing and motivated to reaching out to partners/colleagues working on similar topics in the other universities of the EUTOPIA alliance.

During a so-called incubation period the lead and partners gradually move from sharing resources to implementing connected cross-campus knowledge activities, with the support of the EUTOPIA central team. The central team sets up regular meetings with leads and partners in each connected community. They continuously motivate staff and students to participate and report on their developments in their community during incubation. The central monitor gathers the information and ensures a shared cross-campus online space for collaboration.

A Connected Community can result in a wide range of impacts such as: international exposure, mutual access to specialised data and infrastructure, synergy and complementarity for teaching, joint participation to calls for (inter) national funding schemes, potential for publication etc.

At the end of the incubation period, colleagues involved in the partnership screen the connected activities they have been developing, and prioritize value added formats for staff and students. The community can then opt for several pathways leading to sustainability for their efforts, such as: integration in existing academic offerings, continued cooperation at degree level or in joint research programs intended to stimulate innovation in the higher education and research area.

Ultimately successful Connected Community cooperation will be embedded in the institutional frame of a EUTOPIA College and Institute.

CALL DEADLINE: **January 31st, 2025**

*Letter to declare the willingness to be involved in EUTOPIA MORE and take the responsibility for leading a Connected Community*

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| --- | --- |
| NAME of the proposed Connected Community |  |

**A) Personal information:**

Candidate leads are permanent members of academic staff having responsibilities as well for teaching as for research and innovation.

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Name: |  |
| 1. University: |  |
| 1. E-Mail Address: |  |
| 1. Present teaching assignment (specific programs / courses / seminars list/links): |  |
| 1. Present research activities as a promotor or project holder: |  |
| 1. For d) and e) please specify the course outlines and research topics you will focus on for connecting with partners in the EUTOPIA member universities. |  |

**B ) Compatibility with criteria for openness**

The Connected Communities are expected to respond to the criterium of openness that is characteristic for the vision of the EUTOPIA alliance. Therefore, the candidate leads are asked to explain how the teaching and research activities they plan to cooperate on with their EUTOPIA partners (see item A.f. above) can contribute to the following expectations:

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| --- | --- |
| 1. **Internal sustainability**: Please describe the existing network structure within your university, ensuring that it includes at least three different departments and/or schools. Explain the roles or contributions of each school/department in this structure.   (max 500 words) |  |
| 1. **Connecting academia and society:** please indicate the key societal challenges driving the learning and research activities you will be developing in the Connected Community. Will you involve extra academic stakeholders in the development of your community?   (max 500 words) |  |
| 1. **Teaching and Research:** how will teaching and research activities be combined? How will you involve your students (either ba / ma / phd) in the connected knowledge activities, including a research-based learning workshop (RBL) that bridges the divide between education and research. Briefly describe the main anticipated activities (including RBL) with a provisional timeline.   (max 500 words) |  |
| 1. **Inclusion:** the connected communities are expected to open up their knowledge activities to a wide range of potential learners. For example, how do you intend to include students that cannot engage for long-term physical mobility and enable them to profit from an international experience?   (max 500 words) |  |

**C . Cooperation with partners**

Candidate leads are asked to support their commitment by reaching out to colleagues in at least 2 other EUTOPIA alliance member universities ([European](https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/about-us/members) and/or [Global Partners](https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/about-us/global-partners)). Please indicate the names of colleagues and their relevant details in the boxes below. These are colleagues that you have been in touch with, and that are interested in becoming a partner in the community. If there are more than 2 partners already, please feel free to expand the table to include all relevant names.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name (first, last) | University | Position, Department | Contact (email address) |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| … |  |  |  |

*\*Note that the* [*local facilitator in your home university*](https://vub-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/karen_triquet_vub_be/EQel4uBAHVpDkH44wE07KdcBrEv00lC5gOFWewYFeL-Xyg?e=Ju3Oig) *(*[*Carolina.pereira@unl.pt*](mailto:Carolina.pereira@unl.pt)*) will be glad to facilitate these contacts by communicating with his/ her colleagues in the partner universities.*

**D. Activities and Outputs/Outcomes**

Please shortly describe the activities you plan to implement (e.g. project weeks, conference/workshop, development of joint education offerings or project applications, teachers/students mobilities, summer school etc).

Please list a limited number of outcomes which will result from the development of the cooperation with the colleagues in the partner universities. Outcomes can be related to impact/the value-added expected for the participants (e.g., staff, students, stakeholders in society) such as: international exposure, curricular development, mutual access to archives and infrastructure, joint participation to national and international calls and funding schemes, potential for publications, complementarity of skills etc.

Resulting connected activities can also help to identify the most suitable formats for international or cross-campus learning and research activities. Activities can involve staff, learners (Ba, Ma, PhD, LLL), and diverse external stakeholders in a range of formats such as: thematic project weeks, academic papers/publications, challenge-driven assignments, conferences, virtual simulations, debates, development of policy guidelines, co-writing of proposals (national and international), cooperation at European degree level etc.

*\*Outputs refer to the results of a specific activity. Outcomes are the overall impact or value created by those outputs. E.g. Activity: webinar; Output: 20 students involved, 5 presentations; Outcome: knowledge transfer, networking etc.*

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| Expected Activities and Outputs/Outcomes of the Connected Community: |

*After this document has been filled out, it must be sent to carolina.pereira@unl.pt by the 31st of January.*