



Kiel University
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



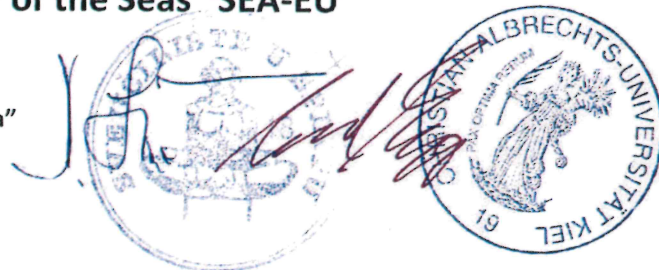
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MISSION STATEMENT

The European University of the Seas "SEA-EU"

Motto: "Living sustainably by, from and with the sea"

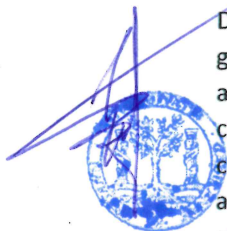


Vision

Europe is the maritime continent. Its seas are fundamental to its history, tradition, development, trade, resources. They represent both frontier spaces and sites of connectivity. 23 out of 28 EU countries have a marine coastline; the European coastline is 7 times as long as that of the US and 4 times as long as Russia's. In terms of surface area, there is more sea than land under the jurisdiction of EU countries: with its outermost regions, the EU has the world's largest maritime territory. The EU's maritime regions are home to almost half its population and account for almost half of its gross domestic product. A marine and maritime perspective of Europe, thus, can serve as a powerful basis for building and nurturing connections and collaborations. The sea is also one of the most natural interdisciplinary training grounds for the implementation of a sustainable development policy; where economic challenges, social aspects and environmental problems twist and intertwine like nowhere else.

Sustainable development seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To be achieved, economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection need to be harmonised. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the dignity, peace and well-being of individuals, societies and the planet, now and in the future. Although economic growth has greatly benefited our societies, many voices are questioning the rationale behind the continuous pursuit of growth and ranking GDP as the primary measure of development. Climate scientists have suggested that even the Paris Agreement will not suffice to tackle climate change effectively and we need to start thinking about a post-growth future. Critical is an accelerated shift to economies that thrive within natural limits, in which human and ecological wellbeing is prioritised over GDP. In this context, education for sustainable development offers an opportunity to fundamentally rethink education. Increasingly, this means taking a holistic systems approach, one that makes education a key catalyst for change.

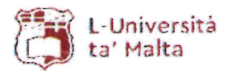
The vision, mission and values of SEA-EU are boosted by our communities' desire to embrace challenges driven by sustainable development, in the blueprint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit. In this agenda, two of the goals are intended to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, and to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Climate change and global warming are threatening coastal areas due to the rise in sea levels. The expected consequences include destructive erosion, wetland flooding, submersion of low-lying islands, aquifer and agricultural soil contamination, loss of habitats for fish, birds and plants, and more powerful storm surges. Our oceans and seas also face other threats related to the high densities of population and massive tourism pressure in coastal areas (heavy urbanisation, damaged natural landscapes, loss of biodiversity, higher stress on endangered species, reduction of freshwater resources, increase in



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industrial and municipal waste, cultural disruption and change in local livelihoods, gentrification), pollution (pesticides and nutrients coming from agriculture, plastics and microplastics, sewage discharge, oil spills), appearance of invasive species disrupting the ecological balance, overexploitation of living resources, etc. Our seas are also the main route by which the vast majority of migrants and refugees have crossed into Europe, and are likely to continue to do so. Some 134,000 migrants came to Europe in 2018 via the Mediterranean Sea: unfortunately, around 2,200 migrants are reported to have perished trying to make the crossing in the past year. In addition to the humanitarian crisis, migrant arrivals have seen European countries trying to cope with the influx, creating division in the EU over how best to deal with accepting and/or resettling people.

All these challenges require joint efforts of knowledge-generating institutions and decision-making bodies. We strongly believe that SEA-EU marine / maritime expertise and perspective can nurture fresh, new approaches to this great civilisational challenge which we currently face.

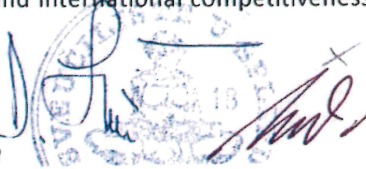
SEA-EU wants to be recognized as:

- An international reference point in knowledge, through excellence in teaching and research, providing leadership in the "Science – Technology – Business" nexus, contributing to the competitiveness of industries and technology, and hence to the sustainable economic development of the territories where it is located and which it serves.
- A public space for transnational collaboration between universities, centres of professional training, and businesses, developing an integrated European campus to strengthen the mobility and the continuous education over the course of the professional life of university students and staff, especially in marine and maritime oriented areas, with a multidisciplinary approach covering natural sciences, social sciences, the humanities, health sciences and engineering.
- A focal point in Europe for creativity, innovation and a generator of knowledge on the marine environment, marine resources and the sustainable management of the seas.
- An international reference pivot for other universities, across Europe and beyond, and for public agencies, guiding and advising in the construction of sustainable management models, and capable of combining economic and social development with the preservation of natural / marine resources; and
- A standard for social, institutional, business and territorial integration, raising public awareness of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the sea and the importance of the oceans for European identity.

Our vision is to establish a distinctly international, pluri-ethnic, multilingual and interdisciplinary European University. This vision is rooted in the high quality and excellence in education and research of the alliance with the intent to strengthen the links between teaching, research, innovation and knowledge transfer. The convergence of media and digitalisation has changed the way we work and live. Change, going forward, will continue to be rapid, in a world of perpetual connectivity. Consequently, traditional training models are being found wanting. Developing both critical-thinking and creativity with students is key. This is our mission as a consortium: to create the conditions in which a student will be able to freely and confidently move between disciplines, languages, countries, sectors. Seamless mobility across borders and academic disciplines will provide a substantial leap in quality, performance, attractiveness and international competitiveness. We will



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work to make our university alliance a universe of possibilities in which each student will have to feel free but accompanied to develop their own path.

As an alliance, we share an integrated, long-term strategy for education, committed to offer outstanding education and research. SEA-EU will engage in concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet. In this long-term vision, we are committed to taking a flagship role in the creation of a European Education Area, strengthening European identity and values and securing the international competitiveness of education and research linked to innovation and knowledge transfer. SEA-EU will actively foster an entrepreneurial, ownership-taking, mindset, supporting green/blue growth and sustainability. We will develop innovative pedagogies and promote the latest digital technologies in order to deliver personalised content, enable sharing and promote open science. This will result in good practices which will from start embed adaptability to different regions in Europe and beyond Europe.

Mission

The social responsibilities of our universities and, at large, the scientific, academic, artistic and intellectual communities, are at the forefront of global mobilisation movements, the full implementation of the sustainable development goals and of the Agreements on Climate Change.

The SEA-EU mission will target three different levels: (1) people, who are the heart of our considerations, including students, staff and citizens, (2) each university and the alliance, (3) European education/research area and international cooperation.

By joining the efforts, expertise and capacities of six allied universities from Croatia, Germany, France, Malta, Poland and Spain, SEA-EU will discover, develop and share multidisciplinary knowledge, as a representative platform of European sustainable development. The choice of academic partners enables us to continue ongoing effective cooperation in the field of common research interests and didactic profile, but also covers practically all European sea basins with its geographical scope. In this way, our alliance also intends to reconsider and rethink the knowledge from the periphery, supplying other vision about equality and development in higher education for Europe.

Higher Education's commitment to the 2030 Agenda does not come free of obstacles, including both external structural factors and internal limitations. The SEA-EU mission is to serve these deep aspirations of sustainable development, through the provision of higher education and research of high-standard quality. Its core aims are to develop an academic, innovative and entrepreneurial milieu that promotes excellence in education, training and research in its areas of specialization, and to transfer knowledge, enthusiasm and activities to society. To this end, the impetus for this project springs from a fusion of the ambitions of its partners, which are leading international education, research, economic and institutional organisations placed in different coastal areas around Europe.

In that sense, the SEA-EU mission is to develop the conditions that:

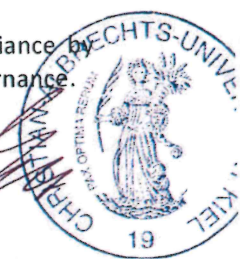
- permit an increase in the level of integration between the universities of the alliance by sharing analyses, policies, procedures, services, databases, infrastructures and governance.

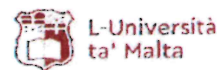


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- offer a broad spectrum of personalised skilled-based curricula and a development-oriented education environment to strengthen European student's creativity and engagement.
- offer a full range of mobility (international, intersectoral, virtual) within SEA-EU, for both student and staff, and foster multi-linguism/ multi-culturalism, providing them with the widest scope of opportunities for developing their potential.
- offer research-based education and make the knowledge triangle a reality.
- promote inclusion and situate its educational and research activities within the broader social context.
- foster open educational resources, open science and open data to our communities and the world at large.
- guarantee the sustainability of the alliance in the future.

These aspirations need to be seen in the broader **international perspective offered by the SEA-EU alliance**, with sustainable cooperation offered across various levels of the organisation, all the while acknowledging and respecting each university's individuality in terms of language and culture.

Values

As signatories of the Erasmus + Charter, members of the European Higher Education Area and proponents of the Bologna Process, and in respect to **Article 2** of the EU, SEA-EU upholds the set of values encompassing academic freedom and integrity, institutional autonomy and accountability, participation of students and staff in governance, and public responsibility. SEA-EU is **socially committed and pluralistic**, with universities open to all students, regardless of their ideological, political, cultural or social background. SEA-EU values and recognizes societies in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, mutual respect, justice, solidarity, full integration of people with disabilities and members of minority groups, and equality between women and men prevail.

SEA-EU wants also be recognised by such values as:

- **Sustainability:** Advancing the harmonious development of the alliance and its activities from environmental, social and economic perspectives.
- **Resilience:** Using knowledge to increase our opportunities to bounce back quickly from hazards and threats.
- **Excellence:** Ensuring the highest quality in all actions that the alliance undertakes or supports.
- **Differentiation and Specialisation:** Promoting a unique and differentiated project that strengthens the distinctive areas of excellence of the partners.
- **Cooperation:** Developing teamwork for achieving the objectives of the alliance.
- **Creativity:** Generating new ideas in a multidisciplinary context.



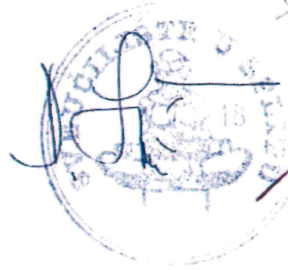
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