

# NEWSLETTER TRANSFORM4EUROPE

## 4/2025

### OUR INITIATIVES

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

### PAST EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Dear T4EU People, we bring you the next edition of the T4EU newsletter. If you would like to express your opinion, ask a question, or suggest changes, please contact us at [transform4europe@us.edu.pl](mailto:transform4europe@us.edu.pl).

### OUR INITIATIVES

#### → A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE T4EU ALLIANCE

The official ceremony to mark the establishment of the Alliance as a legal entity was held during the T4EU Strategic Policy Conference at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. The signing of the document constitutes an important stage in the development of the Alliance, proving its sustainability and readiness to act independently on the international stage. [Find out more](#).

#### → A MILESTONE FOR T4EU COOPERATION

As the Transform4Europe Alliance takes a decisive step towards institutional maturity by gaining legal personality, a new chapter opens for cross-border academic cooperation in Europe. What once functioned as a network of partner universities now evolves into a structured entity ready to pursue long-term goals. In [this exclusive interview](#), representatives of the University of Silesia in Katowice reveal how this transformation reshapes the future of European higher education alliance.



Saarland University  
Germany



University of Alicante  
Spain



EKA  
Estonian Academy of Arts  
Estonia



University of Silesia in Katowice  
Poland



Sofia University  
"St. Kliment Ohridski"  
Bulgaria



University of Trieste  
Italy



Vytautas Magnus  
University  
Lithuania



Universidade Católica  
Portuguesa  
Portugal



University of Primorska  
Slovenia



Jean Monnet University  
France



Mariupol State University  
Ukraine (associated partner)

## → **T4EU EXPANDS GLOBAL NETWORK**

The Transform4Europe alliance significantly broadened its global presence during the 2025 Global Partnership Forum held in Kaunas as part of the Alliance's Strategic Assembly and Policy Conference. The event concluded with the formal approval and signing of three cooperation agreements with universities in Australia, the Caucasus, and Africa—marking a major step forward in the Alliance's global engagement strategy. [Find out more.](#)

## → **PODCAST I FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE ESCAPE ROOM**

In the [ninth episode of T4EU Reach Out Podcast](#), guest speaker Monika Frania, PhD at the University of Silesia in Katowice Institute of Pedagogy, takes us into the world of innovative teaching methods that are reshaping higher education. The expert shares the story of the award-winning Educational Escape Room – a creative approach that in 2022 received the T4EU Innovative Teaching Award.

## → **VERTICAL MOBILITY PATHS**

Vertical mobility within the Transform4Europe Alliance has officially become a reality. Thanks to the commitment and collaboration of Jean Monnet University and the University of Primorska, the first four vertical mobility agreements have been signed in the field of Applied Foreign Languages. For more details on vertical mobility paths, [visit the T4EU website.](#)

## → **T4EU GREEN CAMPUS STRATEGY AND CERTIFICATES**

Sustainability lies at the heart of the Transform4Europe Alliance. Drawing on best practices from 11 partner universities, we developed the Green Campus Strategy to strengthen our shared commitment to a sustainable future and to guide the long-term evolution of our campuses. [Find out more about the Green Campus Strategy and Certificates.](#)

## → **CATÓLICA INAUGURATES T4EU STUDENT GARDENS**

Created with the aim of involving students and the academic community in sustainable practices, the T4EU Student Gardens are collaborative green spaces that promote ecological literacy and green skills, strengthening the spirit of community within the Alliance. [Find out more.](#)

## → **THE GREEN SKILLS E-COURSE IS NOW LIVE!**

The [Transform4Europe Green Skills E-Course is officially live](#) and open to all students, staff, and campus communities across the Alliance.

The self-paced online course, Sustainable Green Campus, offers practical knowledge and tools to support sustainability in everyday university life — from energy and mobility to food systems, biodiversity, and waste management.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

### → **3RD CALL FOR T4EU SEED FUNDING PROGRAMME**

Apply by 15 March 2026

Transform4Europe has officially launched the [third call for its Seed Funding Programme](#), open from 8 December to 15 March 2026. The programme supports innovative, cross-university educational projects involving at least two T4EU partner institutions. What's on offer: up to €22,000 in funding to turn your teaching and learning ideas into reality, co-create joint study programmes, pilot micro-credentials, design new PhD tracks, or rethink mobility.

### → **TRAINING SESSION**

13 January 2026

The online webinar 'Training Session – Navigating Horizon Europe: Finding and Anticipating Funding Opportunities' will take place on 13 January 2026. The event is aimed at students, researchers, and staff who are relatively new to Horizon Europe and would like to understand how to navigate its main funding opportunities and terminology. [Find out more.](#)

### → **DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN SEARCH OF EPHEMERAL**

26–30 January 2026

We'd like to invite final-year bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students to participate in the course 'Digital Archaeology in Search of the Ephemeral | Creative Research Capacities' (BIP), which will take place at the Estonian Academy of Arts. [Find out more.](#)

### → **SPATIAL DIMENSIONS IN HERITAGE CONFERENCE**

27–28 January 2026

We are pleased to share information about the upcoming T4EU Transforming Heritage Conference, hosted by the Estonian Academy of Arts on 27–28 January 2026 in Tallinn. The conference, titled '[Spatial Dimensions of Heritage | Creative Research Capacities](#)', explores the intersections of heritage, space, and creative research across disciplines such as architecture, art, design, digital humanities, and history.

### → **FROM TRACES TO HERITAGE?**

3–5 February 2026

Université Jean Monnet is pleased to announce [‘From Traces to Heritage?’](#), a three-day event which will take place from 3 to 5 February in Saint-Étienne. The event will include a regional workshop on sustainable heritage and the 4th International Seminar ‘Cultural Heritage and Digital Tools’. We are inviting Transform4Europe researchers and PhD students interested to present their research at the International Seminar on February 4th at Université Jean Monnet.

## → **COMMON EUROPEAN HERITAGE WEEK 2026**

16–20 March 2026

From 16 to 20 March 2026, Universidade Católica Portuguesa will host the T4EU Common European Heritage Week in Porto, Portugal. Under the slogan HERITAGE FUTURE(S) / FUTURE HERITAGE(S): ON THE THRESHOLD OF CHANGE, the Transform4Europe Common European Heritage Week will bring together scholars, practitioners and students for an intensive programme of formative activities, including workshops, public lectures, a roundtable and a scientific conference. [Find out more.](#)

## → **THE SPRING OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2026**

16 March–3 April 2026

The [Spring of Sustainable Development 2026](#) will take place from March 16 to April 3 at Université Jean Monnet (St-Etienne, France) and online throughout the T4EU Alliance! This three-week event is dedicated to raising awareness within our university community about today’s most pressing environmental and social challenges, while also showcasing the many initiatives that promote sustainability on our campuses and beyond.

## **PAST EVENTS AND INITIATIVES**

### → **T4EU WEEK IN KAUNAS**

From 20 to 24 October, the Transform4Europe Alliance held its [T4EU Week ‘TransformEd: Renaissance of Liberal Arts’](#) at Vytautas Magnus University. For five days, Kaunas became a space for European cooperation, creativity, and civic imagination, where the liberal arts tradition met contemporary transformations in science, technology, and society, and participants created, debated, and questioned the boundaries between disciplines.

### → **UNIVERSITIES PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN TIMES**

On 21 October, Vytautas Magnus University hosted the [Strategic Policy Conference](#), which was devoted to the importance of resilience in the modern world and marked the conclusion of VMU’s presidency of the Transform4Europe Alliance. The

conference focused on resilience and its importance today amid growing uncertainty and global crises.

### → **FIRST-TIME RESEARCHER ACADEMY**

The [First-Time Researchers' Academy](#), held from 17–21 November at Universidade Católica Portuguesa, brought together 57 early-career PhD researchers from Católica and the Transform4Europe Alliance for a week of training on academic writing, research integrity, well-being, and career development. Beyond the sessions, the event fostered international networking, cross-cultural exchange, and reflection on future research paths.

### → **QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES**

The [2025 European Quality Assurance Forum](#), hosted by Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary) on 12–14 November 2025, was focused on how quality assurance can strengthen resilience across the higher education sector. The Head of the T4EU Joint Quality Assurance Office Izabela Savickiene participated in the forum, engaging in exchanges that highlighted how university alliances both benefit from and help shape resilient QA practices at the European level.

### → **THE GARDEN OF THE (IN)VISIBLES**

Following its first stop at Saarland University in Germany, the travelling exhibition [The Garden of the \(In\)visibles](#) next arrived in Gorizia, where it was hosted in the library of the University of Trieste's Gorizia campus. Promoted within the Transform4Europe University Alliance, the exhibition has been organised by the Department of Humanities of the University of Trieste in collaboration with the University of Primorska.

### → **ETHNOBOTANICAL WALK AROUND THE CIESZYN CAMPUS**

The [ethnobotanical walk around the Cieszyn Campus](#) was the first of the planned events in the 'Garden of Shared Memories' project, implemented as part of the T4EU Alliance. During the meeting, which took place on 20 October 2025, a group of students from the University of Silesia had the opportunity to learn more about the project and gather inspiration for further activities by learning about examples of the most interesting community gardens in Poland and around the world.

### → **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE USIL**

On 9 October 2025, the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Silesia in Katowice hosted an international academic conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Institute of Political Science. The conference served as an opportunity to exchange experiences, discuss the challenges of contemporary political science, and strengthen collaboration within the Alliance. [Find out more.](#)

## → **NETWORKING OF THE YOUNG GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS**

Between 4 and 5 September, numerous doctoral students and young researchers gathered in Koper at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska for a networking event organised by the Transform4Europe Alliance, where they exchanged their experiences, working methods and, in mutual dialogue, explored ideas for future cooperation. [Find out more.](#)

## → **SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOFIA**

From 1 to 5 September 2025, the UNITE Centre of Excellence hosted the Summer School for Refugee Researchers. The training was organised by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski as a joint initiative of the Transform4Europe Alliance and the EURAXESS ERA Talent project, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the inclusion of refugee researchers in the European labour market. [Find out more.](#)

## → **EMMANUEL MACRON AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE BY USAAR**

French President Emmanuel Macron has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Human and Business Sciences at Saarland University in recognition of his exceptional contributions to European higher education and to scientific and academic cooperation. The award ceremony took place in Saarbrücken on 3 October as part of the German Unity Day celebrations. [Find out more.](#)