

# D2.1.1.4

## Report on International Key Actors and Initiatives in the field of teaching and learning innovation

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## Critical Edge Alliance (CEA)

Critical Edge Alliance is a global collaborative framework for universities that focus upon student-centered learning, critical thinking, interdisciplinary teaching and research, and social engagement.

The Alliance aims to create a new global community of learning and research, but also to promote the following ideals:

- Democratic participation, social inclusion and social justice in order to encourage active citizenship in communities and the world at large.
- Human understanding and empathy across national, ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual and religious differences.
- Collaboration and partnerships of knowledge exploration, between university and society, across academic disciplines and among faculty and students.
- Active and mutual learning towards personal and communal development

- Combination of practice and theory in order to encourage reflection and critical questioning to identify and address problems in the world.

## The Consortium for Innovative Environments (CIEL)

The Consortium for Innovative Environments in Learning is a working group of twelve institutions and programs that trace their roots to the best of innovative and reform practice in American higher education.

### Activities:

1. Mutual support—to develop effective means and measures to support continued improvement and innovation in student learning;
2. Institutional sharing—to implement a process for the concrete sharing of powerful practices and pedagogical approaches, as well as personnel, students, and curriculum through collective cost-effective projects, programs, and products; and
3. Outreach—to implement transfer processes by which other colleges and universities seeking to transform all or parts of their learning environments and institutional structures can adapt consortium members' best practices.

The exchange of students seems to be the prime activity of the alliance. However, the alliance also holds an [annual conference](#).

## Circle U.

Circle U, is grounded in a dedication to ethical principles and a sustainable society, links together their missions in education, research, innovation and service to society, and paves the way for the universities of the future. Initiatives in key areas make these links stronger and concrete and focus efforts on sustainability. The Alliance transforms their way of interacting with each other and with their external partners, and helps them to shape the future of the European Education and Research Areas to the benefit of our students, staff and society at large.

### Activities:

#### [Knowledge Hubs:](#)

The Circle U. Knowledge Hubs are physical and virtual spaces for students and staff to co-create knowledge and solutions across disciplines with external stakeholders and find new ways of working together.

### Academic Chair Programme:

The Circle U. Academic Chair Programme will ensure strong and sustainable connections across our universities, between research and teaching, between students and staff, and between universities and society.

### Think and Do Tank on the Future of Higher Education:

The Circle U. Think and Do Tank engages with students and external stakeholders with the aim to influence the policy agenda on higher education.

### Student-Led Sustainable Innovation:

Circle U will contribute to a sustainable economy and a green transition, they will substantially increase their number of graduates with entrepreneurial and, more globally, innovation skills and experience. Europe is going to be the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

Circle U will contribute to making this a just and socially-fair green transition, by launching sustainable innovation activities such as the Circle U. Challenge, in cooperation with businesses, public institutions and civil society actors.

### Open School of Public Governance:

The interdisciplinary Circle U. Open School of Public Governance is a long-term framework for coupling societal problem solving to academic research in multiple fields with the development of research-based educational offers in public governance.

## **European Consortium of innovative Universities (ECIU)**

The ECIU University is the first European university where learners, teachers and researchers cooperate with cities and businesses to solve real-life challenges.

Activities:

### Engage in solving challenges:

- Work in multidisciplinary and international teams.
- Engage with business companies and societal partners across Europe.
- Tackle local, national and global problems with a help of a novel, challenge-based learning model.

### Join micro-modules:

- Fill in the skill and knowledge gap in a particular area, for example, energy and sustainability, circular economy.
- Develop transversal skills, for example, intercultural communication.
- Learn foreign languages.

Learners can take micro-modules together with challenges or separately.

### Challenges for Professionals and Lifelong Learners

The alliance also has several challenges for professionals and lifelong learners.

- Participate in challenges which enable you to gain experience of open community culture and agile ways of working.
- Gain insights and perspectives from experts and learners from different European universities and join a network of people with diverse professional, cultural backgrounds and expertise.
- Be able to acquire or deepen your knowledge in the area you are interested in and practice critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and entrepreneurship skills.

## Ashoka

The envision for Ashoka is a world where EVERY student acquires the skills, confidence, and motivation to create change for the good of all through different projects, which can be seen beneath.

Activities:

### The Ashoka U Exchange:

- Took place annually from 2011-2021
- 11 exchanges in total

### The Ashoka U Publications:

Ashoka U is about changing the frameworks and possibilities of what higher education can be. Ashoka U's community of higher education leaders has spent the last 13 years focused on innovation in higher education and graduating millions of changemakers. These publications share real-life stories, best practices and how-to's for advancing change on campus, and are practical in nature.

### Changemaker Campus:

Changemaker Campus is an Ashoka designation that recognizes colleges and universities with a proven track record of campus-wide excellence for social innovation and changemaking. These institutions collaborate with each other and Ashoka to advance social innovation and changemaking across higher education to graduate millions of changemakers.

## **Open Society University Network (OSUN)**

OSUN aims to educate students for tomorrow's global challenges, fostering critical thinking and open intellectual inquiry to strengthen the foundations of open society amid the current authoritarian resurgence.

Activities:

### Network Collaborative Courses:

OSUN Network Collaborative Courses are co-designed and taught simultaneously across partner institutions. Students enroll in and receive credit for these courses at their own institution. The courses may differ by institution but share key assignments and bring students at different campuses together to have class discussions and collaborate online

### Critical Theory Summer School:

The Critical Theory Summer School at the University of London Birkbeck Institute for Humanities enables students and academics to engage in a two-week course of study with acclaimed critical thinkers.

### Center for Liberal Arts and Sciences Pedagogy:

The Center for Liberal Arts and Sciences Pedagogy (CLASP), a project of the Bard College Institute for Writing & Thinking, works with faculty and institutions across OSUN and the Bard International network to promote student-centered teaching methods, writing-based teaching, and experiential learning.

### Developing Teaching Professionals (DTP):

DTP strengthens the pedagogical training, mentoring, and ongoing development of individuals throughout OSUN who are preparing for careers as higher education instructors. Project collaborators the American University of Central Asia, Bard College, Central European University, the European University Institute, the London School of Economics, and Universidad de los Andes partner with teachers and learning centers to provide high quality, student-centered pedagogical training that is inclusive and diverse. DTP delivers a

research-informed, systematic, and scalable approach that supports early-career teachers and academics in the Global South, aiming to narrow inequalities within the classroom while engaging meaningfully with technology.

### [Global History Lab:](#)

The Global History Lab offers a blended, free, and open-access course on The History of the World since 1300 covering the history of globalization and taught at Princeton University for students around the world. Students interact across OSUN's network and learn global history globally. Partner institutions provide tutors and in-class engagement.

### [Global Teaching Fellowship Program:](#)

Central European University's [Global Teaching Fellowship Program](#) (GTFP), one of the most successful global outreach initiatives in CEU's history, is now becoming an OSUN trademark. GTFP is designed to give CEU doctoral candidates and recent graduates the experience of teaching at other universities for one semester or one academic year and to contribute to the needs of teaching and learning of CEU's partners.

### [Certificate in Global Education and Development:](#)

The OSUN Certificate in Global Education and Development (GLOBALED) is a progressive micro-credential that combines coursework and practicums for students in the field of global educational development policy and practice. Faculty from across OSUN institutions guide curriculum development and advise and mentor student participants. GLOBALED is open, modular, and networked, enabling students from across the globe to learn side by side through synchronous and asynchronous connected learning. Additionally, GLOBALED offers an executive education track for professionals in the field of education policy at NGOs or related government agencies.

### [Hannah Arendt Humanities Network:](#)

The Hannah Arendt Humanities Network nurtures a culture that values and strengthens the humanities as the foundation of an open society. The Network supports the integration and accessibility of humanities studies across OSUN institutions.

### [OSUN Online Courses:](#)

OSUN Online Courses are offered by a single institution to students across the OSUN network. They take place entirely online and include students from the host institution. Students register through a centralized application portal and are then enrolled at the institution that offers the course and receive course credit transferred from that institution.



### [Threatened Scholars Integration Initiative \(TSI\):](#)

TSI offers Fellowships in OSUN institutions for scholars who have lost their academic positions or cannot remain in their home countries due to threats or actions from authoritarian regimes, persecution for their views or identities, or other risks. Fellowship activities can include teaching, research, writing and other creative activities, and participating in the scholarly and cultural life of host institutions and the broader OSUN community.

## **Global Liberal Arts Alliance**

The Global Liberal Arts Alliance is an international partnership of colleges and universities advancing liberal arts education within the contexts of its member institutions. The Alliance fosters a community of institutional leaders, faculty, staff, and students to address the pressing intellectual, social, political, educational and cultural issues of the highly globalized twenty-first century.

The Alliance fulfills its mission by:

- Strengthening the ability of our liberal arts institutions to operate effectively and globally; and,
- Facilitating global course, curricular, co-curricular connections and scholarly activities among our institutions, and the mobility of students, faculty, staff, and leadership within the Alliance network.

Activities:

### [Athens Democracy Forum:](#)

- Since 2017, the Global Liberal Arts Alliance has partnered with [Deree-The American College of Greece](#) to participate in the annual [Athens Democracy Forum](#) held in Athens, Greece. The Forum is organized by the [Democracy and Culture Foundation](#), in association with the New York Times.

### [Student Leadership Seminar:](#)

- The Global Liberal Arts Alliance will offer a seven-day leadership development seminar for students at Alliance schools. The seminar will be hosted by the Leadership Development Institute at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. Through a generous grant from the Endeavor Foundation, there is support for one student from each of the 30 Alliance institutions.

- Students are required to bring a project to develop. The seminar will offer a mix of theory and practice, will include sessions on leadership theory and characteristics, engagement with the local community leaders, student presentations, and opportunities to develop the student's project. There will also be free time for discussion and excursions to local points of interest.

### Global Course Connections:

- Global Course Connections “connects” courses offered on Alliance campuses in different countries providing the courses with an authentic international dimension they would not otherwise have.
- Globally connected courses need not be from the same discipline. What matters is that the international connection provides different perspectives on course topics and has students from different countries working collaboratively on those topics. Some of the richest course connections have been cross-disciplinary. Courses that meet a “global learning” graduation requirement are good candidates. The courses can be new or adaptations of an existing course.

### Grand Challenge:

- The goal is for Alliance schools to collaborate on one or more dimensions of the Grand Challenge in ways that bring multiple perspectives to bear and that will lead faculty and students not just to a more global understanding of the topic, but also to the development of productive ways to engage people internationally in the understanding of significant global problems.

### Oral History in the Liberal Arts:

- Oral History in the Liberal Arts (OHLA) is a faculty collective supporting faculty and students who engage in community-based learning and undergraduate research using best-practice interview methods and a curated set of digital tools. OHLA projects result in public-facing digital exhibits, as well as pedagogical strategies, reflections, and tutorials developed for OHLA's online resource hub.
- The [OHLA site](#) has resources and reflective essays written by OHLA faculty, students, digital librarians, and instructional technologists.

## **Alliance of Asian Liberal Arts Universities (AALAU)**

All AALAU members share common values, a global vision and a commitment to educating future leaders. Central to these values is the importance of liberal arts education in this era driven by innovation. Liberal arts education emphasizes the breadth of knowledge, critical

thinking and creativity, an ability to deal with novel problems and a love of learning. We believe that this type of education is conducive to the training of future leaders for a rapidly changing world.

AALAU's Vision:

- To address the major challenges of liberal arts education in Asia
  - Members will work together to identify the major issues with reference to international best practices in higher education.
  - Members will search for innovative approaches to liberal arts education given the current and future landscape in higher education in Asia.
  - Members will join efforts in addressing the new challenges and opportunities in liberal arts education.

Activities:

*Annual President's Forum:*

- An alliance meeting will be held annually. The representatives of member institutions will work together to identify the major issues and challenges with reference to international best practices in higher education, search for innovative approaches to liberal arts education given the current and future landscape in higher education in Asia and join efforts in addressing the new challenges and opportunities in liberal arts education.

*International Summer School:*

- Lingnan University Jockey Club Liberal Arts Summer Institutes offers students of member universities an opportunity to come together to study and share ideas. Through the close interaction with students from other universities, participants will be able to cultivate a sense of global citizenship and leadership. Local students in the host institution will also be able to engage with students of different cultural backgrounds.
- Visiting scholars from member universities are invited to teach at the international summer school to enhance teaching and learning quality as well as encouraging cultural exchanges in the classroom.

### Research Collaboration Group:

- For the purpose of promoting research collaboration, a pilot research collaboration group will be set up. The group will, based on a commonly shared research interest area among interested alliance members, explore the possibility of conducting joint research projects. The group is also expected to share knowledge on internationally available funding streams and at the same time provide funding advice to the alliance researchers.

## **Pacific Alliance of Liberal Arts Colleges (PALAC)**

PALAC is a new alliance of liberal arts institutions across the Pacific Region to support and strengthen geopolitical relationships within and among Pacific Region countries, and the vital role that higher education plays and will continue to play in international and intercultural understanding.

Activities:

### Meeting 2022:

During our PALAC launch meeting, we convened a group of 20 educational leaders representing six of our nine PALAC institutions at the Soka University of America Athenaeum.

Activities mentioned on the website as being done in the past but not specifically when:

- Collaborative teaching and research initiatives, involving collaborations with the faculty across the 9 PALAC institutions to advance interdisciplinary teaching and courses that advance notions of global citizenship
- Dissemination of library and pedagogical resources, through a jointly arranged set of agreements to share digital collections across the PALAC institution
- Collaborative Research on global problems such as advancing the UN Sustainable Development goals and working collectively to better understand and mitigate global climate change
- Faculty workshops on philosophical underpinnings and specific pedagogical techniques in common to our liberal arts institutions.

## **ENLIGHT**

ENLIGHT aims to undertake a fundamental transformation of European higher education that empowers learners as globally engaged citizens with state-of-the-art knowledge, skills,

and innovation potential to tackle major societal transitions and to promote equitable quality of life and sustainability.

ENLIGHT wants to establish the foundations of an open integrated European University System to ensure the free movement of students and staff and sharing of resources.

Activities:

### Courses:

While constructing our interconnected campus all ENLIGHT partners have high-quality courses on offer.

In addition to the integrated learning offer, ENLIGHT is developing new challenge-based courses to empower students and learners with the necessary knowledge and skills to become globally engaged European citizens. During these courses you will work closely with international peers around real-world problems and acquire first-hand experience of developments from ENLIGHT top-academics about the most complex societal issues facing Europe and the World today, such as climate change, social inequalities, threats to health and well-being, renewable energy supply, and the digital revolution.

### Joint and Double Degree Programmes:

Within ENLIGHT there are currently 16 international joint or double degree programmes which involve two or more ENLIGHT partner institutions. Several programmes were awarded the prestigious Erasmus Mundus and/or EIT label and comprise a consortium with external European and global partners.

In the framework of a joint or double degree programme you spend one or more semesters at a partner university, leading to a joint or double diploma. The programmes are built on complementary courses at the partner universities, which put their leading expertise on offer.

### Doctoral Network:

Activities such as workshops, summer schools, courses etc. for doctoral students across the alliances universities.

## **INVEST**

Lead by the idea of strengthening the link between teaching, research, innovation and knowledge transfer, encouraging mobility and enhancing the high quality and excellence in education and research, the five European universities unite their efforts.

Activities:

### [Virtual Campus:](#)

Virtual campus is the main tool of the INVEST university alliance that will act as the main information and communication platform.

### [Bachelors:](#)

Are you a student in the 2nd or 3rd year of your bachelor's degree? INEVST invites bright students motivated to work on pressing real-life problems to take a look at the five INVEST Bachelor Specialization studies starting in late August/early September 2022. The specialization studies are intended for 3rd and 4th year B.Sc. and exchange students. A specialization year consists of 2 semesters of 30 ECTS each. The multidisciplinary approach allows students from different educational backgrounds to engage in study. You will study and work together with fellow students from other countries, spending several months in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Greece, Finland or the Netherlands - depending on the specialization of your choice. The first semester comprises 5 or 6 study units directed to the specialization subjects. Lecturers originate from the participating universities. Clients, being stakeholders in the regions or "Living Labs", in the vicinity of the host university, provide students with assignments. The second semester can be done from your home country and includes a thesis. If you successfully complete both semesters, you will receive an INVEST certificate in addition to the diploma from your own university.

### [Masters:](#)

INVEST invites curious, ambitious, and intelligent students to their master's programs. Once you've obtained your Bachelor's degree, you may be ready for the next step. INVEST are looking for motivated students eager to collaborate with researchers, fellow students, and clients. Students that are excited to solve complex problems, seize identified opportunities, and capitalize on the knowledge and competencies acquired during the Bachelor phase. In the master's phase, special attention will be paid to advanced research and excellence in the chosen subject that the student will "master". INVEST Master's are a logical follow-up to the INVEST Bachelors, but students from other studies or countries can be eligible as well, provided that prerequisites are being fulfilled. Depending on the number of ECTS of foundation Bachelors an INVEST Master degree program consists of 60-90 ECTS.

### *Winter/Summer Schools:*

- Two summer schools were held in 2021, one Winter School and one Summer School. ([Summer School 2021](#) and [Winter School 2021](#))
- On the website there are announcements for both Winter and Summer Schools in 2022. ([Summer School 2022](#) and [Winter School 2022](#)) and

## The CINTANA Alliance

### Activities:

- CINTANA is different from the other alliances, because it seems to be more centralized with the founding institution Arizona State University providing opportunities for the alliance members.
- However, the website mentions several activities that universities can benefit from being part of the alliance; [the website](#).
- Study Abroad: A range of global learning options including the opportunity to study at an ASU campus in Phoenix, Washington D.C., or Los Angeles.
- Dual Degrees: Coordinated program opportunities where students study one or more years directly with ASU and earn two degrees (e.g. 2+2, 3+1, 4+1).
- Academic and Research Collaborations: Opportunities for faculties to collaborate with ASU academic counterparts.