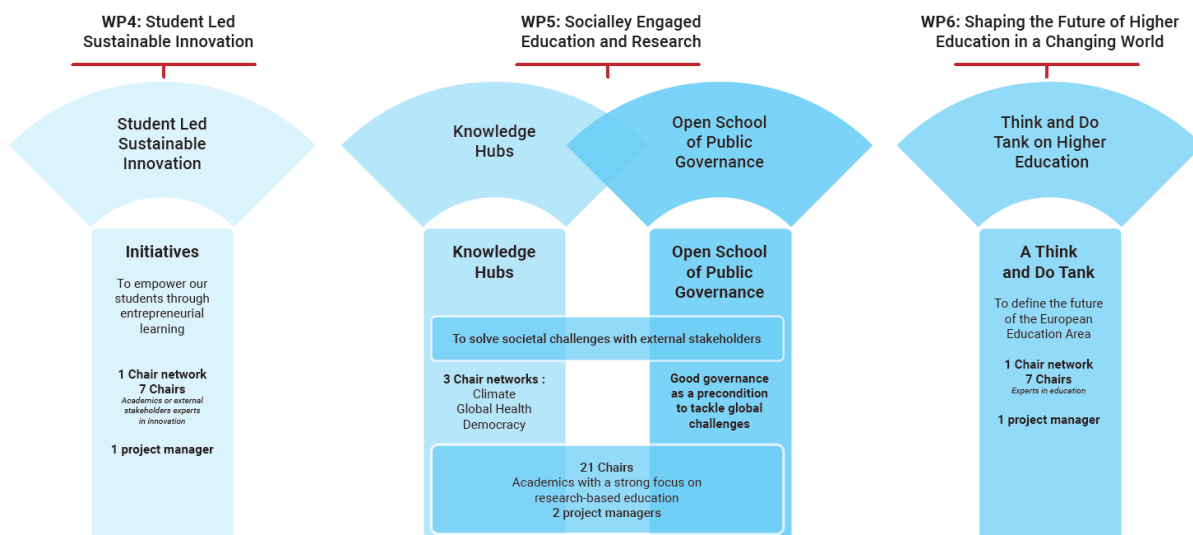


## Academic Chairs – Circle U Alliance

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Academic Chairs Programme will build strong academic links between the partner universities in the Circle U alliance, in both education and research. Academic Chairs will provide strategic guidance and be key drivers in the activities of the Alliance, especially linking initiatives in the Knowledge Hubs on democracy, climate and global health; student-led innovation and entrepreneurship, and innovation in education. Chairs are expected to support the establishment of links between Circle U’s students, staff and society.

In the pilot phase of the alliance, each university will appoint 5 Academic Chairs: one to focus on student-led innovation, one each for the three knowledge hubs on democracy, climate and global health, and one for the Think & Do Tank on the future of higher education.



Each Circle U member university will set up their own selection procedure and committee, with a vision to foster diversity of profiles, including gender diversity. Chairs will be recruited from each university’s permanent staff and can be professionals at any stage of their careers; they will be expected to dedicate 20% of their time on Circle U activities. Chairs linked to the student-led innovation activities (WP4) can be recruited from external stakeholders. They will build teaching and learning activities based on their respective research and field of expertise.

Chairs will remain employed by their home institution. They will receive the administrative support of full-time project managers, and will also be able to apply for seed funding to support innovative new projects that foster socially-engaged research and education. The appointment will be for two years.

Chairs will play a key role in the development of the Chair Academy, a network of all current and former Academic Chairs that will oversee the coordination of the activities of the five Chair networks, ensuring that activities maximise impact and sustainability. The Academy will also be responsible for

selecting the future themes for the Knowledge Hubs after the initial three-year pilot phase. The aim is to create a vibrant academic community that will foster exchange of ideas, research and knowledge transfer, whilst contributing to an exceptional student experience.

The Academic Chairs will contribute to reporting and will work closely with the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer to ensure that pathways to impact are well defined.

## **Terms of Reference for Academic Chairs in Student Led Sustainable Innovation (WP4)**

We need to educate the leaders, employers and innovators of the future, and we need to give them an entrepreneurial mind set to enable them to contribute with new approaches fostering new solutions. As stated in the Circle U. mission, we need to empower students and to engage with external stakeholders when preparing students to be important contributors to a more sustainable future. They will need entrepreneurial skills e.g. to develop health care systems that fit a future with a changed demography. The three building blocks in WP4 are Circle U. Challenge, Female Founder Network and online training on sustainable entrepreneurship and innovation.

### **The role of the Academic Chairs in WP4**

Academic Chairs should be a combination of academics and external stakeholders that are experts in innovation or have interesting start-up experiences to share with students and to empower students by adopting innovative pedagogical approaches. They should be persons willing to pave the way beyond the already very ambitious European Universities project with all the risks and potential barriers that this implies. They can be professors, researchers, or entrepreneurs but also extra-academic experts, e.g., coming from Circle U. associated partners.

We are seeking a variety of profiles for Chairs in WP4. We want to create a network of highly qualified individuals, with a mix of diverse competencies, experience and disciplinary backgrounds. The profiles of the Chairs should be diverse in 3 ways:

- Diversity of disciplines
- Diversity of competences and interests (digitalisation, research-based education, multilingualism ...)
- Diversity of scope (some people more “micro” –e.g. methods of teaching but also more “macro”, “political” or “managerial” profiles).

## Terms of Reference for Academic Chairs in Socially-Engaged Education and Research (WP5)

To make significant contributions to Agenda 2030 with its accompanying 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to the EU Green Deal, we need to work together across disciplines, sectors and borders. The aim of this work package is to create a structure, which will enable us to do just that as part of our commitment to expand and deepen our interactions with society. In consultation with academic staff and students, we have identified three thematic areas where we can pool our existing strengths within education, research, and innovation, to make substantial impact. The objectives of this work package are to:

- Develop thriving structures where researchers and students co-create knowledge and solutions with external stakeholders and engage in policy development.
- Co-develop and implement challenge-based courses and programmes across universities and disciplines.

The two building blocks in this work package are **Knowledge Hubs** and **Open School of Public Governance**.

- We will develop **three interdisciplinary Knowledge Hubs on Climate, Democracy and Global Health**. Students will actively contribute to and shape activities in the hubs, and through this interdisciplinary and multi stakeholder engagement, they will acquire and develop transferable skills.
- Drawing on activities in the Knowledge Hubs, we will build an interdisciplinary **Open School of Public Governance**. The Open School of Public Governance will use Circle U. architecture and common scientific agenda to reinvent democracy and to educate future leaders and professionals with different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds. The School will cut across disciplines and integrate public governance with Circle U's interdisciplinary research on climate change, global health, and democracy.

### The role of the Academic Chairs in WP5

Twenty-one Circle U. Academic Chairs will be appointed to be the driving forces in realising the activities in this work package. The main tasks are:

- Setting up three thematic Knowledge Hubs
- A gap analysis will be conducted to identify need for new courses
- Planning and implementing thematic seminars and events
- Planning and implementing Summer Schools within thematic areas: Climate, Democracy, Global Health
- Co-developing teaching and learning activities
- Contributing to the development of the Circle U. Open School of Public Governance and its joint PhD and Masters programmes in Public Governance.



Chairs should have expertise in one or more of the thematic areas of the Knowledge Hubs (Climate, Democracy, Global Health) and be equipped to contribute to the development of the Open School of Public Governance.

## **Terms of Reference for Academic Chairs in The Think and Do Tank (WP6)**

The Think and Do Tank is a multi-stakeholder networking platform mandated to engage in critical reflection on the role of higher education in creating a sustainable world, and on how to contribute to transforming curricula and teaching methods towards sustainable education practices. Amongst its priorities, the Think and Do Tank will tackle challenges and solutions for the European Union's ambition to have all Europeans speaking two foreign languages as well as overcoming challenges related to the IT skill gap or the future of digital education.

The Think and Do Tank will present frontline white papers and engage in debates with politicians from European and national parliaments, students, university leaders and academics, and other stakeholders from the private, public and civil sectors.

### **The role of the Academic Chairs in WP6**

The Academic Chairs will be the driving forces of the Think and Do Tank on the future of Higher Education. Their role will be to:

- organize and engage in widespread discussions with students, professors, researchers, and external stakeholders in order to think, co-create and build projects fostering sustainable education.
- analyse innovative learning activities within Circle U.
- build reflective and issue structured recommendations on how to strengthen multilingualism among our students and in Europe.
- disseminate the ideas that have emerged through conferences (for example the Week for Higher Education), articles and policy papers.
- build close relationships with the other Chairs so that Circle U. can capitalise on the innovative learning activities undertaken in the other networks. They will be kept informed of the learning and teaching activities undertaken by their Circle U. colleagues, notably during the annual Chair Academy meeting.
- feed in their own reflection on the future of European Higher Education and on how to facilitate synergies between the European Education Area and the European Research Area, as well as to engage with policy makers to shape the European Education Area.
- engage with their colleagues at their home university, to solicit their participation in Circle U.

Chairs should be in a position effectively to promote the Circle U. vision for the future of Higher Education and to base their proposals and activities on interdisciplinarity. They are 'connected people' and in capacity to call on colleagues. They should be aware of the challenges of digitalization and not only be linked to the education and research levels of the universities, but also be able to act at the policy level.

Chairs will be active co-creators in the European Education Area. They will be persons willing to pave the way beyond the already very ambitious European Universities project with all the risks and potential barriers that this implies.

We are seeking a variety of profiles for Chairs in WP6. We want to create a network of highly qualified individuals, with a mix of diverse competencies, experience and disciplinary backgrounds. The profiles of the Chairs should be diverse in 3 ways:

- Diversity of disciplines
- Diversity of competences and interests (digitalisation, research-based education, multilingualism ...)
- Diversity of scope (some people more “micro” –e.g. methods of teaching but also more “macro”, “political” or “managerial” profiles).