

# Unite! Policy on Multilingualism and Multiculturalism

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## Summary

Unite! is committed to valuing and promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism in order to foster global competence among its students and staff, in line with the aims and values of the EU and the Alliance's mission statement.

English is the common language in Unite!. At the same time, functional multilingualism is encouraged in order to leverage the linguistic richness offered by the Alliance, maximise outreach and facilitate inclusivity.

Unite! promotes global competence education to acknowledge and benefit from existing cultural diversity and to provide industry and society with graduates equipped with the competences needed to contribute to solving global challenges.

To achieve its objectives, Unite! will strive to integrate multilingualism, multiculturalism and global competence education into its educational provision, research activities and daily activities, and will monitor and evaluate its efforts.

## Unite! Policy on Multilingualism and Multiculturalism

Unite! aims to be a model for a European University of innovation, technology and engineering to address the UN sustainable development goals, creating a hybrid, multilingual trans-European campus. This will be a meeting place of academic cultures with a global reach, imbuing its member universities with a rich diversity. To do this, we need to foster the ability to understand, communicate, and work effectively and appropriately with people from different backgrounds to address global challenges, which is essential to engineering education, international collaboration and work. We are committed to fostering this in students and staff by leveraging the linguistic and cultural diversity in the Alliance.

By embracing cultural diversity, we aim to equip the members of our community with the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to engage with a rapidly changing world, to collaborate across borders and cultures, and to unleash our full potential for innovation, creativity and excellence. These are fundamental components of a successful and inclusive European University Alliance and play a crucial role in furthering the EU's aims of promoting peace, sustainable development, scientific progress, social justice, and respect for diversity. Furthermore, we believe that promoting this is not only a matter of academic excellence, but also a moral imperative, reflecting our common humanity and commitment to building a more just, peaceful and sustainable world for all, in line with the EU's motto "United in diversity".

Unite! values and celebrates cultural diversity in its broadest sense. By recognising cultural diversity as an asset we actively promote cultural awareness, intercultural exchange and dialogue. The development of a multicultural perspective contributes to the creation of a community that engages everyone as equal partners and actively works to create an inclusive environment.

Linguistic diversity is one of the EU's strongest cultural assets. Unite! actively encourages all its members to learn, use and draw on multiple languages, to enhance employability and mobility, promote linguistic and cultural diversity and foster a sense of European identity. English is the common language of the alliance and facilitates education, communication and collaboration between members, and allows the exchange of ideas and talent within and beyond the Alliance. At the same time, we encourage functional multilingualism – the use of multiple languages for practical and functional purposes – to capitalise on the linguistic diversity within the Alliance, extend its reach and foster a more inclusive community. Using plain and inclusive language will help ensure that all within Unite! and external stakeholders are able to fully engage with the Alliance.

Unite! recognises that the development of an individual's global competence in a multilingual and multicultural environment does not happen spontaneously. We are therefore committed to actively nurturing global competence by integrating multilingualism, multiculturalism and global competence education into our educational provision, research activities and daily activities. We will provide resources and effective support and encouragement for language learning and the development of global competence, make systematic use of learning opportunities, and regularly monitor and evaluate our efforts to promote multilingualism, multiculturalism and global competence on the basis of feedback from all relevant stakeholders. This policy will be accompanied by supporting documents for its implementation and evaluation.