

# EU4Dual – The European Dual\* Studies University

## Who we Are

The EU4DUAL European University Alliance on Dual Education is constituted by Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (Germany), Mondragon Unibertsitatea (Spain) FH JOANNEUM Gesellschaft mbH (Austria), Savonia UAS (Finland), ESTIA Institute of Technology (France), Neumann János Egyetem (Hungary), PAR University of Applied Sciences (Croatia), Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (Malta) and Koszalin University of Technology (Poland), who are professional higher education institutions strongly engaged with the business environments located in highly industrialised regions and have developed their own dual education models where learners combine periods of practical apprenticeships in business and organisations with periods of academic learning.

## Mission & Vision

Our mission is **to use transnational dual education, a model involving close collaboration between learners, academics and business stakeholders, to help Europe address major societal challenges.**

Our vision is to become **the global top-quality reference for Dual Education.** We will form the largest integrated dual education institution in the world – a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary institution, committed to close integration between academia, industry and regions.

We intend to use our collective expertise to help solve global challenges of industry to society – using Dual Education to make Europe greener, more equitable and more economically successful.

*Dual education, sometimes referred to as Cooperative Education, is the process which takes place in shared responsibility between providers from the world of work and education institutions in a learning/education partnership. Dual apprenticeships are those organised and managed in cooperation between educational institutions and placement providers. They vary in terms of governance, some being more placement providers led and others more educational institutions led, but they are always associated with a curriculum and are designed as means for apprentices to put theory into practice and master knowledge in a way that empowers them with professional autonomy.*

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## Organisational Culture

The EU4Dual university fosters a shared culture between its internal and external stakeholders, across its multiple campuses throughout Europe, that is characterised by:

### Tight Integration between Research, Teaching and Industry experience

As the core principle of dual education, we apply this principle in everything we do. All activities of the university generate or apply research for use in specific contexts, all teaching involves industry experience, and industry experiences are wound tightly into our learning and teaching offer.

Students, teachers, researchers and industry representatives (the so-called strategic square) are equal stakeholders within our structures.

### Academic Autonomy

Our mission to address societal grand challenges through dual education can only be addressed if we hold ourselves up to the highest standards of academic integrity, rigour, and independence. While our priorities are set collaboratively with industry and contextualised for our regions – our academic output will always be objective, trustworthy, and free of any influences.

### Regional and European Integration

Dual Education has a long tradition of being tightly integrated into the economies of the regions in which it operates – training and supporting the industrial backbone of Europe, in particular through its close collaboration with small and medium enterprises, as well as regional governments. As institutions are located outside capital regions, our links to and role in the development of the regions where we operate take on a special significance. We will continue to support and build on this rich heritage, while at the same time enhancing and expanding it through close cooperation at European level.

### European Values

We share the European Union's vision of a society in which inclusion, tolerance, justice, solidarity and non-discrimination prevail. We not only respect principles of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, and human rights. We embed them in our every activities and we express them in our research, teaching and practice. Topics which will be addressed at the university such as human-centric manufacturing or healthy ageing exist precisely to make such instantiations real. We also intend to share the dual model based on European Values as a best practice model globally.

### Student-Centred Approach

We understand that in today's environment every person will be required to be a lifelong learner – exchanging between university, business and personal life fluidly across decades. Our learning and teaching approach delivers this through a unique model of alternating periods spent in school and with industry partners, to enable a holistic work-based learning experience.

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It is our mission to allow learners to access learning in a time, place and manner that is suitable to their personal circumstances and using pedagogies that are best suited to their individual strengths. Their time in our university should enhance their professional and personal lives.

## Promotion of Diversity

Recognising that education can upskill populations, increase their participation in society, and enhance opportunity, we believe that is not enough for us to be open to people from all cultures and backgrounds. It is also not enough for us to merely reflect the diversity of our societies in our activities. We see our role as actively promoting and enhancing diversity – we aim to contribute to fairer, more inclusive, and more diverse societies through the makeup of our own student population, but also through the values they take with them throughout their careers.

## Principles

### Dual Education is a Best Practice to be shared and Enhanced

Every activity of our university should embed the values of dual education, and involve collaboration between students, academia and industry, as well as society. We intend to serve both as a laboratory, where new ideas on dual education may be incubated, as well as a global best practice on how this model of education can drive forward development in societies.

### Development & Growth

We intend to increase the share and quality of dual education in Europe. We do this by growing the scope and quality of the dual education programmes within our own university, by collaborating with and possibly admitting new members to our university, and by supporting overall research and development of the entire dual education sector. We will support this quality and growth agenda both individually and in collaboration with our stakeholders, with each member moving forward at their own speed, and within their own context, but always contributing to the overall goal.

### Shared Priority Setting

As a mission-based organisation, our priorities are set by our stakeholders –the needs of industry, and of our regions. These priorities are interpreted and implemented by our staff and students, who participate in the institution. The university is run collectively by the leadership of each of our individual institutions, but while strategy is set collectively, the collective may not impose its will on a minority. While we boost our collective identity, we also maintain our individual identities.

### Multilingualism

We support the overall goal of the European Union’s multilingualism policy and encourage all our stakeholders to have the ability to engage on a regular basis with more than one language for university activities. Gaps in language knowledge should not be solved by harmonisation around a single language, but through encouragement of language learning and promotion of linguistic diversity. These principles extend to our cooperative mission in that we strongly support and promote a multilingual mobile workforce.

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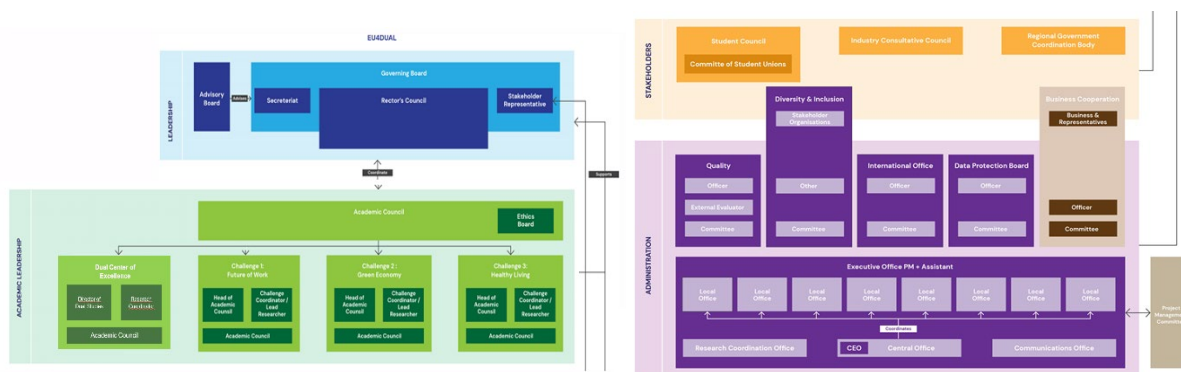
## Policy

The highest decision-making body of the institution is the **Governing Board** which is made up of rectors of our institutions, student representatives as well as regional and industry representatives. No group has a controlling majority, and all have a stake in decision making, and participate as equal peers in all leadership bodies. This multi-stakeholder vision of governance puts our principles of collaboration into action.

The **Rectors' Council** made up of rectors of the partner institutions shall be responsible for the proper execution and implementation of the decisions of the Governing Board.

Academic Policy is set by the **Academic Council** and approved by the **Rector's Council**. The Academic Council shall consist of the nine academic representatives of each institution, the Director of Dual Studies, the Head of the Research Coordination Office and the Academic Director.

The administration of the institution will be run by a **Central Office**, with a local office in each member university. Functions of a 'student office' will be incorporated into the local offices.



In the running of the organisation it is our guiding policy to:

- meet the needs and requirements of our stakeholders, and quantify our impact accordingly;
- promote the development of dual education in Europe and beyond;
- surpass all applicable legal and accreditation requirements where we operate;
- continually review our processes and procedures to ensure highest quality;
- be at the leading edge of educational, scientific and technical developments;
- provide a best-practice example of integrate social, environmental and civic responsibility;



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## Objectives

We commit to work together to achieve the following concrete objectives. By 2025 we intend to:

- establish a cooperation mechanism to collaborate across borders on teaching, research and industry outreach around societal grand challenges
- ensure that the majority of programmes offered by the dual university include research, teaching or internship elements from at least two members of the institution
- launch a joint micro-credential portal, offering continuing career development and new skills created by us as well as our industry partners, linked to our grand challenges
- launch an ecosystem of joint research projects, at micro-, meso- and macro-level supporting the development of our grand challenges
- create an unparalleled transnational work-based learning programme with strong support from local and global businesses.
- formalise our cooperation through the creation of an independent legal entity – the “European Dual University”;
- set up a Centre of Excellence on Dual Education, which promotes research and development of the sector generally;
- enable automatic recognition of study-periods between our institutions, and have made considerable progress to a goal of 50% of students and staff benefiting from mobility experiences



MISSION STATEMENT

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