



# EUTOPIA IN ACTION

## From NOVA to Europe

**eUTOPIA**  
Alliance of 10 European Universities

**NOVA**  
UNIVERSIDADE NOVA  
DE LISBOA



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# eUTOPIA

Alliance of 10 European Universities

*Contents and Review by EUTOPIA  
management team at NOVA*

# eUTOPIA



Internationalization is a central pillar of NOVA's mission. In an increasingly interconnected world, universities must work together to expand knowledge, foster innovation, and address complex global challenges.

Within this context, EUTOPIA represents a key strategic platform for NOVA's international development. By engaging with a network of universities that share a common vision for the future of higher education in Europe, we strengthen our capacity to collaborate across borders, disciplines, and perspectives.

For NOVA, this alliance reinforces our commitment to academic excellence, openness, and societal engagement. It also reflects our belief that universities thrive when they are connected: when ideas, people, and knowledge circulate freely and contribute to a broader community of learning and discovery.

Through this collaboration, NOVA continues to deepen its international partnerships while contributing to a shared European ambition for a more innovative, cooperative, and forward-looking higher education landscape.

This booklet highlights how NOVA brings this vision to life through its engagement in EUTOPIA and through the initiatives that connect our academic community with partners across Europe.

*Paulo Pereira* ■ NOVA's Rector



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## **EUTOPIA in Action: An Alliance for the Future**

EUTOPIA is more than just a project: it is a strategic alliance of 10 European universities committed to creating the campus of the future. Through the collaboration between Universidade Nova de Lisboa and its partners across Europe, we are building an academic community without borders.

Our goal is clear: to address 21st-century global challenges through innovation in teaching, excellence in research, and mobility that connects students, researchers and staff. With over 270,000 students and 35,000 staff members across 10 countries, EUTOPIA is our answer to a more integrated, sustainable and inclusive Europe.

Since joining the EUTOPIA European University Alliance in 2021, NOVA has played an active role in shaping the alliance's development and vision. By contributing its strong culture of interdisciplinarity, internationalisation and societal engagement, NOVA has helped advance key initiatives that promote collaborative research, innovative educational models and new opportunities for mobility and co-creation across partner institutions.

Through EUTOPIA, NOVA strengthens its commitment to building a truly European campus, one where students, academics and staff can learn, teach and collaborate across borders. This booklet highlights how NOVA puts EUTOPIA into action, showcasing initiatives, partnerships and achievements that demonstrate the alliance's impact on our university community and beyond.



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## **EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy (YLA)**

The EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy (YLA) is a two-year programme designed to support the career development of high-potential early to mid-career researchers across the EUTOPIA Alliance. It offers advanced training in research leadership, supervision, and grant writing, while fostering interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration. YLA Fellows join a community of emerging research leaders committed to strengthening an interconnected European academic environment. Through research mobility, networking activities, and joint initiatives, Fellows expand their international visibility and build lasting partnerships.



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# EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy (YLA)

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## Testimonials



**“The programme is a great opportunity to expand your network and meet people who are doing cutting-edge work in areas different from yours. These can always be a source of inspiration and help you see things from a different angle.”**

*Nausica Palazzo* ■ NOVA School of Law

**“The productive programme allows to contribute to the promotion, support, and growth of an international network of universities.”**

*Felipe Conzuelo* ■ ITQB NOVA



**“Personally, it represents an excellent platform for improving the conditions offered to young scientists interested in pursuing a career in research in Portugal.”**

*André Marques* ■ NOVA Medical School



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## **EUTOPIA Research Days**

The EUTOPIA Research Days are a initiative integrated into the EUTOPIA Weeks, designed to showcase and debate outstanding research. This event brings together senior researchers from the ten European universities that form the EUTOPIA Alliance, as well as experts from its six global partners. Each edition is built around a central theme and gathers leading researchers in person to present some of their work, exchange ideas, and strengthen connections across the Alliance.



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# EUTOPIA Research Days

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## Testimonials



"The Research Days at Warwick were an inspiring opportunity to connect with researchers from diverse fields, sparking new ideas and potential collaborations. As an AI researcher, I found the cross-disciplinary discussions, particularly with experts in Law, both enriching and thought-provoking. The event has opened exciting doors for future partnerships, setting the stage for joint projects that will hopefully shape the future of AI."

*Leonardo Vanneschi* ■ NOVA IMS

"I think this event it's really useful to have an overview of the other partners at EUTOPIA, really seeing the different aspects and working with cultural heritage. You can have a broader networks and also to share different experiences, practices and methodologies for future working collaborations."

*Márcia Vilarigues* ■ NOVA FCT



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# EUTOPIA Research Days

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## Testimonials



"I am truly pleased to be here at the Research Days during EUTOPIA Week. I presented the most recent program we launched yesterday: a Marie Curie PhD network focused on the Silk Road, led by the University of Warwick in partnership with NOVA and the University of Ljubljana — and this is precisely the spirit we want to bring to the network, which we have just submitted under the framework of HORIZON-MSCA-DN."

*Maria Cardeira da Silva* ■ NOVA FCSH



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## EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges

The EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges are collaborative events that bring together students and researchers from across the EUTOPIA Alliance to tackle real-world problems. Innovation Challenges for Students (undergraduate and master's) focus on open, interdisciplinary topics, with diverse teams developing creative solutions, while Innovation Challenges for Researchers are thematic, addressing specific societal or scientific issues. Participants gain hands-on experience in critical thinking, communication, and project management, and engage with mentors and industry professionals. Through teamwork, workshops, and cross-cultural collaboration, they expand networks and gain practical insights. These events offer a unique opportunity to apply knowledge, innovate, and connect across Europe.



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## Testimonials



"I lived this experience as an exciting journey where I truly felt the impact of disinformation and the importance of questioning what we see online. Working with students from the EUTOPIA member universities made me feel part of something bigger and showed me how different ideas can come together to create good solutions. The people from NOVA who joined me were amazing, we laughed a lot, and the strangers from day one quickly become friends, which made everything even better. I came back feeling that I grew as a person and as a professional, and I would love to live something like this again."

*Carolina Duarte Alves* ■ NOVA School of Law

"The EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Researchers at NOVA were truly inspiring! From the design thinking crash course, to mentoring sessions and a vibrant atmosphere, I really enjoyed exploring NOVA's campuses, networking, and the after-challenges hangouts. Best of all, our group kept in touch and is planning on submitting a project together!"

*João Pequeno* ■ NOVA FCT



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## Responsible Internationalisation

The Responsible Internationalisation group seeks to explore the challenges and strategies for a responsible approach to international cooperation and practices in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Responsible internationalisation is essential for science and innovation, as it promotes equitable global collaboration, ensures the ethical and safe exchange of knowledge, broadens the societal impact of research, and simultaneously safeguards shared values and resources.

### Testimonials



"Collective engagement in these topics also supports compliance with European regulations. Ultimately, such discussions empower universities to internationalise responsibly, maintaining academic integrity, trust, and long-term global cooperation."

*Isabel Craveiro* ■ IHMT



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## IDEAS Club

The EUTOPIA Ideas Club is a student-led debate program within the EUTOPIA European University Alliance that promotes European identity, active citizenship and intercultural dialogue. Open to students from all ten partner universities, it combines online preparation with intensive two-day in-person sessions to address pressing global issues.

The initiative empowers students by developing public speaking skills and encouraging engagement with complex social and political topics. Through structured discussions on human rights and solidarity, it fosters an informed, engaged student body capable of navigating diverse perspectives and contributing to a shared European narrative based on inclusion and collective reflection.

### Testimonials



The Ideas Club was a great space to reflect on a current and relevant topic (climate change), enriched by the cultural diversity brought by both the EUTOPIA community and the participants. It was very rewarding to be part of a project of sharing, debate, and learning, where solutions could emerge. A great opportunity to step out of our comfort zone and deepen our critical thinking!

*Carolina Santos* ■ FCSH



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## **Connected Communities Ocean Challenges**

Connected Communities bring together students, educators, and researchers across the EUTOPIA Alliance through thematic cross-campus networks. These communities foster collaboration on joint activities, projects, and outputs, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange. Many initiatives take place online or in blended formats, making participation accessible across institutions.



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# Connected Communities Ocean Challenges

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## Equitable partnerships:

Help ensure that international collaborations are mutually beneficial and aligned with ethical standards.

## Knowledge transfer:

Strengthens innovation ecosystems and enables universities to contribute more directly to social and economic development.

## Research security:

Protects institutions against risks related to intellectual property and the potential misuse of scientific results.

## Testimonials



“EUTOPIA network is an unique learning value multiplier network - it has been incredible effective in leveraging the impact of my teaching in sustainable blue finance and position the Master of Law and Economy of the Sea as true international hub for intellectual development in ocean management “

*Ruben Eiras* ■ Connected Community of Ocean Challenges (NOVA LAW)



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## **Student Career Ambassadors**

Student Career Ambassadors brings together a network of selected students across the EUTOPIA Alliance who promote career opportunities and support peer engagement. Ambassadors help incoming students integrate into new academic environments while organising workshops that explore national job markets and career pathways across Europe.



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# Student Career Ambassadors

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## Testimonials



“Serving as NOVA’s Student Career Ambassador to EUTOPIA for the past two years was an extraordinary privilege and a profoundly enriching experience. This role allowed me to apply and expand my academic knowledge in meaningful, real-world contexts while engaging in dynamic cross-cultural collaboration. Working closely with diverse teams across institutions enabled me to gain deeper insight into higher education ecosystems, to strengthen my intercultural communication skills, and to contribute to initiatives that foster innovation, international collaboration, and academic excellence. Beyond professional growth, this journey was personally transformative, reinforcing my commitment to international cooperation and to building bridges between students, institutions, and communities across Europe.”

*Carolina Pessoa* ■ FCSH



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## Job Shadowings

The Job Shadowing programme enabled participants to observe institutional practices and exchange experiences on preventing and responding to transgressive behaviour in academic settings, contributing to the development of shared ethical frameworks and safer academic environments across the alliance.



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# Job Shadowings

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## Testimonials



“The workshop was very positive, providing an opportunity to learn and share about: how power operates in academic contexts, strengthening ethical leadership capacities, recognising and responding to transgressions, and promoting safer and fairer environments. The atmosphere was very positive and fostered networking among the various EUTOPIA participants present.”

*Susana Costa* ■ Medical School

“Participating in the EUTOPIA research officers job shadowing gave me a clear and practical view about research support from pre-award to post-award and enabled valuable experience-sharing among EUTOPIA members on EU funding, AI in grant support, open science, legal/IP, and ways to stimulate participation in European projects.”

*Patrícia Cardoso* ■ SBE



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**Did you know that each NOVA  
school/faculty has a contact point  
for EUTOPIA matters?**

For more information, contact: [eutopia@unl.pt](mailto:eutopia@unl.pt)