

European Union Values in the ACE²-EU European University Alliance

A practical brochure for integrating EU values into teaching and learning, mobility, alliance activities, governance, volunteering, research and innovation.



Democracy



Human dignity



Freedom



Equality



Rule of law



Human rights



Peace



Solidarity

How to use this brochure

Use this brochure as a practical guide for planning, implementing, reflecting on and improving ACE²-EU activities.



What it helps you do

- plan value-oriented activities
- embed concrete safeguards and participation formats
- reflect with guiding questions
- collect evidence of implementation



What is inside

- Democracy
- Human dignity
- Freedom
- Equality
- Rule of law
- Human rights
- Peace and Solidarity



Where to use it

- courses and pedagogical design
- mobilities
- alliance activities and governance
- volunteering, research and innovation



Plan



Implement



Reflect



Improve



Democracy

Participation, representation, transparency and accountability.
In ACE²-EU this means that students, staff and partners have meaningful influence in governance, learning and mobility.



1. Pedagogical approaches

- Co-created learning objectives
- Student-led sessions and debates
- Inclusive participation formats for all learners



2. Mobilities

- Mobility ambassadors
- Transparent criteria and right to appeal
- Student panels to improve mobility rules



3. Alliance activities / governance

- Student and staff councils
- Rotating leadership
- Transparent minutes and public consultations



4. Guiding questions

- Who is involved and who is missing?
- Can students and staff place items on the agenda?
- Are decisions documented with reasons?
- Do quieter students and non-native speakers have safe ways to contribute?
- Are mobility criteria and appeals transparent?



5. Evidence of implementation

- Student/staff representation in alliance bodies
- Number of consultations per year
- Participant rating of influence
- Share of feedback receiving documented action



Human dignity

Every person has inherent worth and must be treated with respect, safety and protection of physical and moral integrity.



1. Pedagogical approaches

- Respect-based classroom culture
- No shaming pedagogy
- Accessible and dignified participation options



2. Mobilities

- Zero tolerance for harassment
- Buddy/mentor system and mental health support
- Privacy and equal treatment for all participants



3. Alliance activities / governance

- Visible Code of Conduct and Safe Contact Person
- Ethical volunteering and respectful storytelling
- Do-no-harm and credit for contributions



4. Guiding questions

- Could any task humiliate or expose someone?
- Can everyone participate without pressure to disclose personal information?
- Do participants know who to contact if they feel unsafe?
- Are photos and videos based on explicit consent?
- Is anonymous reporting possible?



5. Evidence of implementation

- Participants feel respected and safe
- Code of Conduct is visible
- Safe Contact Person is known
- Reporting channels are trusted



Freedom

Freedom includes academic freedom, freedom of expression, movement, association and open exchange of knowledge across borders.



1. Pedagogical approaches

- Academic freedom and critical discussion
- Multiple assignment formats and participant choice
- Multilingual freedom and anonymous questions



2. Mobilities

- Simplify procedures and remove barriers
- Flexible formats and support for fewer-opportunity participants
- Clear rights and safe complaint routes



3. Alliance activities / governance

- Freedom of association and bottom-up initiatives
- Open knowledge sharing and idea labs
- Volunteering remains voluntary and ethical



4. Guiding questions

- Can participants disagree without fear?
- Is critical thinking about the EU itself allowed?
- Are linguistic or financial barriers restricting participation?
- Can participants raise complaints safely?
- Is participation truly voluntary?



5. Evidence of implementation

- Diverse viewpoints are present
- Multiple participation formats are offered
- Mobility guidance is accessible to all
- Complaints can be raised without retaliation



Equality

Equal treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunities. In ACE²-EU this requires equitable access and targeted support for disadvantaged groups.



1. Pedagogical approaches

- Equal voice through structured turn-taking
- Accessible materials
- Fair assessment and language support



2. Mobilities

- Fair selection procedures
- Targeted outreach and equal support
- Transparent recognition of certificates and credits



3. Alliance activities / governance

- Equality monitoring and anti-discrimination policy
- Balanced participation targets
- Mentoring for underrepresented participants



4. Guiding questions

- Who would like to join but cannot?
- Are materials accessible?
- Are selection criteria public and understandable?
- Can disadvantaged participants receive additional support?
- Are assessments fair for different learning styles?



5. Evidence of implementation

- Balanced participation across gender, partner and status
- Accessible formats are used
- Selection and appeal procedures are transparent
- Feedback from underrepresented groups is positive



Rule of Law

Procedures should be lawful, transparent, consistent, accountable and not arbitrary. Rights must be protected through clear rules and fair remedies.



1. Pedagogical approaches

- Clear written rules and responsibilities
- Decisions are recorded and justified
- Conflict-of-interest declarations and right to appeal



2. Mobilities

- Published criteria and scoring
- Balanced evaluation panels and independent review
- Learning outcomes, attendance rules and code of conduct are stated clearly



3. Alliance activities / governance

- GDPR and consent procedures
- Academic integrity and ethics review
- Safe reporting channels for harm or misconduct



4. Guiding questions

- Are decisions predictable, documented and consistent?
- Can individuals challenge unfair decisions safely?
- Is selection fair and traceable?
- Are data collected responsibly and legally?
- Are authorship and community rights protected?



5. Evidence of implementation

- Selection criteria and scoring are published
- Minutes and decisions are archived
- Conflict-of-interest declarations are completed
- Appeals and reporting channels are functional



Human rights

Human rights are fundamental protections belonging to everyone. Minority rights require protection from discrimination, hate speech and exclusion.



1. Pedagogical approaches

- Rights-based classroom charter
- Inclusive and non-discriminatory curricula
- Accessible materials and safe participation



2. Mobilities

- Non-discrimination guarantee in mobility
- Confidential support systems
- Privacy, consent and protection of vulnerable groups



3. Alliance activities / governance

- Zero tolerance for hate speech
- Rights-respecting innovation
- Inclusive leadership and mentoring for minorities and underrepresented groups



4. Guiding questions

- Do students feel safe from ridicule or discrimination?
- Are minority experiences represented respectfully?
- Are reporting mechanisms clear and safe?
- Are minority students safe in mobility destinations?
- Could an innovation unintentionally harm minorities?



5. Evidence of implementation

- Anti-discrimination rules are communicated
- Inclusive content appears in curricula and activities
- Confidential support and reporting are in place
- Rights impact is considered in innovation projects



Peace and Solidarity

Peace builds dialogue and conflict prevention; solidarity builds mutual support and fair sharing of resources and responsibilities.



1. Pedagogical approaches

Peace

- dialogue-based learning, intercultural teams, conflict-sensitive facilitation

Solidarity

peer learning, shared resources, flexible participation



2. Mobilities

Peace

- buddy systems, pre-mobility cultural sensitivity, reflection activities

Solidarity

emergency support, mental health support, support for fewer-opportunity participants



3. Alliance activities / governance

Peace

- projects against hate speech and misinformation, mediation mechanisms, peace-focused celebrations

Solidarity

solidarity grants, shared innovation resources, peer-to-peer mentoring and long-term community partnerships



4. Guiding questions

- Does the activity build trust across differences?
- Do learning formats encourage cooperation instead of only competition?
- Are students prepared to handle disagreement peacefully?
- Are opportunities open to all, not only the privileged?
- Do projects reduce prejudice and strengthen social cohesion?



5. Evidence of implementation

- Intercultural teams and buddy systems are used
- Solidarity support schemes are active
- Conflicts are handled constructively
- Community partners report fair and equal cooperation

ACE²-EU Values Checklist

Use this one-page checklist for any ACE²-EU activity before publication or implementation.



1. Participation

Students, staff and partners have a real voice; feedback has a response.



2. Dignity and safety

Code of Conduct, Safe Contact Person, consent and confidentiality are clear.



3. Freedom

Critical thinking, choice and complaint routes are protected.



4. Equality and access

Selection, materials, mobility and support are accessible and transparent.



5. Rule of law

Rules, criteria, data protection and appeal mechanisms are written and traceable.



6. Human rights

Discrimination and hate speech are prevented; vulnerable groups are safeguarded.



7. Peace and dialogue

Activities build trust, intercultural understanding and constructive disagreement.



8. Solidarity

Resources, support and responsibilities are fairly shared across the alliance.



What will we change in the next edition because of what participants told us?