

European Space University for Earth and Humanity

UNIVERSEH is an alliance of five European universities established to develop a new way of collaboration in the field of Space, within the "European Universities" initiative.

The alliance aims to create new higher education interactive experiences for the university community, teachers and students, and for the benefit of society as a whole. Such initiatives will enable broadminded, informed and conscientious European citizens to capture and create new knowledge and become smart actors of European innovation, valorisation and societal dissemination within the Space sector, from science, engineering, liberal arts to culture.

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Organisation responsible for this deliverable: UT

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Dissemination level



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Document History

Version	Date	Author	Partner	Summary of main changes

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EuroCharter on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity 'in the Space sector':

towards European standards

Vision and present commitments of the UNIVERSEH Alliance

All the UNIVERSEH Alliance Partners:

- 1. Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of each person, the variety of different attitudes and perspectives that result from individual attributes and lifestyles.
- 2. Aim at an inclusive, diverse and supportive environment for students, staff, and project supporters and stakeholders.
- 3. Strive to ensure that learning, teaching, and research areas are highly accessible and inclusive for all.
- 4. Take actions to minimize the barriers that some students or general public face to enter space studies.
- 5. Vouch for a zero-tolerance policy for acts of discrimination, exclusion, disrespect. Any acts of harassment, bullying, racism, exclusion or inequality are taken seriously, if necessary in a legal sense.
- 6. Are mindful of (cultural and other) biases resulting, among other factors, from different physical, psychological and sociocultural characteristics that are (can be) ascribed to every person.
- 7. Aim to assure that in project management, among teams and among participants, there is a diverse representation in terms of gender, age, culture, education, status, and background.
- 8. Adopt gender-inclusive nouns to describe people who may be of any gender (everyone, everybody, distinguished guests, humans, individuals, chairperson). When referring to individuals, that person's identified pronouns are used. When pronouns are not known, to avoid assumptions about an individual's gender the forms "they", "them", "theirs" are used.
- 9. Make project documents and educational content and materials accessible, upon request, for people with disabilities (hearing, visual, etc.).
- 10. Consider parenting duties when planning work activities, e.g. avoid meetings during vacations or when schools are closed.
- 11. Take concrete action toward providing teaching staff with adequate knowledge and skills on how to be inclusive and mindful of diversity issues in class-related interactions.

The standards we set?

1. We will target a fair representation of genders and will aim at fair career prospects regardless of people's background and origin, to support equal opportunities.

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- 2. Space sciences are strongly dependent on transnational cooperation, which requires open-mindedness, tolerance, language skills and cross-cultural competences. We will highlight diverse viewpoints as they not only reduce inequalities and intergroup conflicts, but also broaden perspectives and debates.
- 3. The Space sector is highly uncertain which implies that people with fewer opportunities tend to benefit less from rewards as they are less able to sustain the possible losses of a risky endeavor. We will highlight and address these hurdles.
- 4. As a lot of people are passionate about Space and wish to succeed in the Space sector, they might accept unethical behaviors. We will act against harassment or bullying.
- 5. Like any confined space remote from any help, long space missions confront human beings to extreme challenges. We will promote the design of institutions, training programs and rules to protect the most exposed people (in particular women, young people, and people with specific needs).
- 6. The Space environment may offer yet unknown opportunities to people with specific needs. We will strive to identify those opportunities and to make them available to people with specific needs.

Objectives and future commitments of the UNIVERSEH project:

- 1. We will make sure to keep high, equal and inclusive standards and meaningful values in our future endeavors.
- 2. We will reinforce the values of being respectful of everyone on Earth, in Space, and in Deep Space.
- 3. Our training programs for students will include raising awareness about previous inequalities stemming from past colonization, to prevent similar occurrences in the new Worlds.
- 4. We commit to make the most of the new opportunities that Space discoveries will open, to build a fairer, sustainable and healthier society.
- 5. Space exploration will open a new Human era with new rules, new behaviors and new institutions. We will ensure that these new rules take care of human beings, living beings, plants and the whole of the natural world in a fair and respectful way.
- 6. We will spread the conviction that human beings must monitor and evaluate the impact of their activities in Space and on other planets, and implement relevant actions and programs in order to reduce the downsides and enhance the positive effects of any activities affecting the environment or humankind.

If you need more information and guidance on these subjects: contact your University's office or representative for people with specific needs and from disadvantaged background, or such an office at any partner University.

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