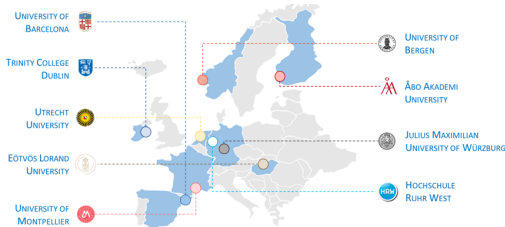


CHARM-EU

CHARM-EU is an university alliance from nine European Universities, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme. CHARM-EU (**Ch**allenge-driven **A**ccessible **R**esearch-based **M**obile **E**uropean **U**niversity) is created to actively contribute to the development of future European higher education and research agendas.

University alliances are an initiative by the European Commission to forge alliances among higher institutions across Europe, enhancing mobility, and fostering the quality, inclusiveness, and competitiveness of European higher education. CHARM-EU is one of the first university alliances.



CHARM-EU GOALS



Contribute to **solving global societal challenges** beyond country borders, cultures and languages in line with the **sustainable development goals**.



Create and embrace **transdisciplinary, innovative, international** and **sustainable** educational programmes, research initiatives and collaboration between universities.



Achieve a **transnational** challenge-driven university.

CHARM-EU values support the goals of the alliance.

Meritxell Chaves Secretary General CHARM-EU



WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU & YOUR UNIVERSITY?



Securing a strategic position

Through CHARM-EU, the partner universities play a **pivotal role in co-shaping innovative, competitive European Education**, not only via [FOREU4All](#) but also through projects like [ED-AFFICHE](#), thereby **securing a robust strategic and influential position** at EU level.



Swiftly responding to calls

Universities can quickly **engage on new calls** for collaboration as **researchers and experts in the network** are readily available to be incorporated into specific thematic projects, which makes the collaborative drafting of proposals very efficient.



Externally financed innovation

CHARM-EU's **externally financed funds** can provide **essential financial support to CHARM-EU colleagues**, enabling them to advance their projects even amidst budget cuts at their institutions.



Access to a broad international and external network

The CHARM-EU network can support and facilitate **regional, national and international collaboration** in education, research, and societal impact. Long-term partnerships are built with **external partners** committed to investing in a structural, enduring alliance.



Test-bed platform with experts

CHARM-EU provides a **testbed to experiment** with new institution forms and educational innovations. Local universities **can leverage the international, transdisciplinary and challenge-based experience** CHARM-EU acquired over the years.



Regional ecosystem

CHARM-EU is collaborating with partners to **create a regional ecosystem**, consisting of business and civil society organisations. The ecosystem **supports transdisciplinary education, research and impact**; and benefits external stakeholders.

Meet the CHARM-EU Trinity Team



Jake Byrne
CHARM-EU CO-DIRECTOR



Doris Alexander
CHARM-EU CO-DIRECTOR



Conor Spillane
CHARM-EU MANAGER



Annemarie Bennett
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



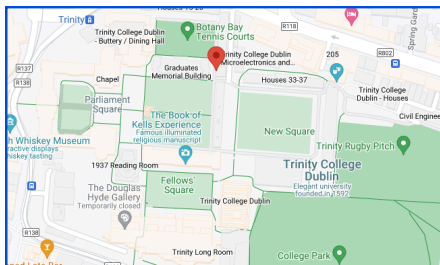
Jenny Kirkwood
JOINT VIRTUAL
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Silvia Gallagher
RESEARCH FELLOW



Nandini Gupta
TEACHING FELLOW



Our office is located on
the 3rd Floor of House
27

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE

As flagships of the European Education Area (EEA) and the European Research Area (ERA), **European Universities alliances are leading the way in developing new and innovative concepts** for deep transnational institutional cooperation **to stimulate long-lasting transformation of European higher education as a whole.**

As published in the [Political Guidelines of the European Commission](#): it is important to boost and refocus skills funding to answer to a fast-moving economy, emphasizing the need to ensure that a high-quality skill acquired in one country is recognised in another, for example through a European Degree. Hence, collaboration between European Higher Education Institutions is crucial to the development of the European labour market.

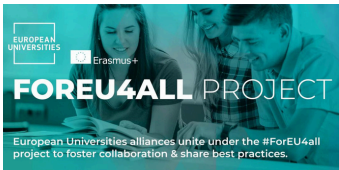
'To lead on innovation, we need to create the conditions for researchers to thrive. It also means attracting new talents and retaining the best and brightest minds here in Europe. To do this, I want to strengthen the collaboration between research departments, higher education and business – notably by strengthening our University Alliances.'

Statement at the European Parliament Plenary by **President Ursula von der Leyen**, candidate for a second mandate 2024-2029 (18-07-2024).



FOREU4ALL

European Universities alliances are joining forces in a project called FOR-EU4All. **The project brings together all current and future European Universities alliances**—numbering over 60—into a unified, cohesive structure. The goal is to foster a collaborative and supportive environment where best practices and experiences can be shared not only among the alliances themselves but also with the broader European Higher Education sector. **CHARM-EU is an active member in this project, leading the communication and dissemination workpackage.**



ENHANCING IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Through CHARM-EU, opportunities for the partner universities are created to promote and develop values, such as **Open Science, recognition and rewarding, sustainability and trans- and interdisciplinarity**. Additionally, the prominent role of CHARM-EU in different projects such as the **FOREU4ALL** allows us to shape the European Commission and EU agenda, **enabling our universities to impact the future of the European Higher Education Area.**

Funding

CHARM-EU secured funding from the European Commission under the Erasmus+ European Universities Call.

Funding from the European Commission:

2019 - 2022: €5 million

2023 - 2026: €12,8 million

Some partner universities secured national funding as well.
Your local contact person can share more about that.

Future possibilities: 2028 - 2034 investment pathway

The European Commission is collaborating with European Universities alliances, education stakeholders, and EU countries on an investment plan for 2028-2034. The goal is to create a **comprehensive funding strategy** that supports all alliance missions, including research and innovation, while aligning with national and regional funding sources.



CREATING INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

MASTER GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

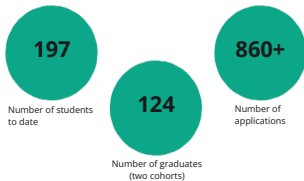
In 2021, our first Master's programme started: **Global Challenges for Sustainability**. This is the first European joint-degree programme in Europe where the didactic concept and [educational principles](#) were piloted. In the master programme, Students address the pressing need for sustainability by **working on societal challenges** and **doing transdisciplinary research**. Students become experts in a particular field by choosing one of three tracks: Life & Health, Water and Food. In the final phase, [the Capstone](#), students work on real-life sustainability challenges together with peers, academic staff and extra-academic actors. Learn more about [the Master's programme Global Challenges for Sustainability](#) and [the educational principles](#) it is based on.

'This Master's has a very innovative programme: it brings together people from different disciplines to work together to solve challenges related to sustainability. Students will not only have the chance to grow professionally, but also at a personal level, expanding their knowledge.'

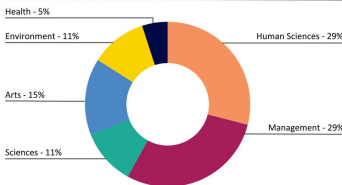
Alba Redon Lago CHARM-EU Master student



STUDENTS OF MASTER GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY



ACADEMIC BACKGROUND STUDENTS



CHALLENGE-DRIVEN

The CHARM-EU curriculum is **challenge-driven** and **centered on solving global issues** through **trans-institutional** research missions. Using **Challenge-Based Learning (CBL)**, students engage with real-world challenges co-developed with multidisciplinary stakeholders, including both academic and non-academic actors.

TRANSDISCIPLINARITY

Global challenges are complex problems that require input from equally complex networks of individuals and groups to identify and define problems. CHARM-EU is a **transdisciplinary university** in which all stakeholders – students, academic and non-academic actors – collaborate equally to work on global challenges.

MOBILITY

CHARM-EU offers **synchronised learning** across all partner institutions. Partner universities deliver weekly lectures in [the hybrid classroom](#). The hybrid classrooms are state-of-the-art, interconnected spaces designed to facilitate local and remote education seamlessly.

Moreover, virtual exchange programs, physical mobility opportunities, and blended mobility experiences provide students and staff with diverse and **immersive learning opportunities**.

STUDENT-CENTERED AND INCLUSIVE

Students are active partners in the design, development, and organization of CHARM-EU. CHARM-EU educational programmes are designed to respect the **diversity** of students and are adapted to different students' learning needs and preferences taking into consideration their backgrounds or abilities. They will enable all students to take part in learning and fulfill their potential.



RESEARCH & INNOVATION

CHARM-EU common [Research and Innovation agenda](#) strengthens academic and research networks and promotes a challenge-driven transformative approach with a transdisciplinary and intercultural vision.

CHARM-EU **supports researchers** with matchmaking events, a shared directory of researchers within the alliance, an interactive tool to find collaboration networks, and a search engine for joint publications.

'I am designing an innovative professional development course for teaching staff within CHARM-EU, which is also adaptable for implementation at Utrecht University and the other partner institutions.'

Annet van der Riet CHARM-EU Educationalist



Research HUBs

Research HUBs are innovation spaces in faculties collaborating with researchers, professionals, and societal partners. This European Student Research HUB network teaches future professionals essential skills. Within the HUB, students learn within an international network, framing and researching complex issues like future pandemics, gaining crucial skills for future challenges. An article about CHARM-EU Research HUBs is published in [Nature](#).

[Water4All Joint Transnational Call](#)

A CHARM-EU research group, coordinated by Eötvös Loránd University, focused on the water-related challenge of combatting climate change and its impacts. The team submitted a proposal to the European partnership Water4All. Their research proposal, titled ClimEx-PE (Climate Extremes buffering through groundwater flow-based Managed Aquifer Recharge and Public Engagement), was selected as one of the 27 winning projects.



COLLABORATION

CHARM-EU supports and participates in many projects and initiatives on institutional, regional, European and international level. Projects vary in theme, format, goal and impact. Knowledge, results and good practices are shared within the partner universities, with external partners and with the European Commission. Some examples:

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

Support in re-designing modules

Interested in using living labs or including stakeholders or transdisciplinarity in a module? Colleagues from all partner universities have been supported by CHARM-EU in re-designing modules as CHARM-EU has developed [resources and frameworks for various educational innovations](#).

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Collaboration with South African Universities

For the [Capstone](#), CHARM-EU students do research in [collaboration with the University of Pretoria](#) and local communities on human-wildlife conflicts. In their project, students reflect on their positionality and intercultural experiences as European researchers in South Africa. Furthermore, CHARM-EU is exploring partnerships for hybrid collaboration with the University of the Western Cape. Hybrid teaching is a way to make education more inclusive, sustainable and accessible worldwide.

EUROPEAN LEVEL

Transnational Online Learning Course Catalogue

CHARM-EU has developed an [online Course Catalogue](#) that allows students from all partner universities to take online courses at other CHARM-EU institutions, gaining international experience without leaving the home campus.

Sharing modules: Living Pasts, Exploring Futures

CHARM-EU facilitates international collaboration by sharing innovative modules like '[Living Pasts, Exploring Futures](#)'. This module involves multidisciplinary student teams working on cultural heritage projects.

As a result of an explorative visit to Utrecht, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) will implement the module in September 2024. During the module, students at UU and ELTE will have hybrid sessions to collaborate and share their experiences. Partners at the University of Montpellier will adopt the Utrecht Time Machine concept and create a similar concept.

WHO ARE WE

GOVERNANCE

STRATEGIC BOARD

Formally approves the strategic decisions for the alliance and decides on the directions to take. Members of this board are the rectors of the partner universities.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Is responsible for all tactical and operational matters for the alliance and executes the strategic decisions approved by the Strategic Board. The board is constituted by the CHARM-EU Directors. Students are represented in the SB and EB.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Is responsible for the standards in teaching and research within the Alliance. And oversees the academic matters and quality follow-up of all joint and common educational and research activities. Constitution is based on expertise.

PROGRAMME BOARD

Is responsible for the final design, day to day delivery, admissions, assessment, mobility and implementation of a programme in line with the quality standards and procedures set by the Academic Council and resources allocated.

INNOVATIVE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

CHARM-EU's governance model is flat, flexible, and bottom-up, empowering innovators and incorporating both common and local structures. It is designed to promote interculturalism, ensure sustainability, handle emergencies and adopt best practices from partner universities.

The **virtual thematic support offices** of CHARM-EU complete and support the operational work of the alliance. They unite staff located in the different partner universities, allowing flexibility and providing inter-institutional and intercultural diversity for adapting to the specific needs arising in CHARM-EU. They secure the continuous, comprehensive and equal representation of each member university in the joint operation of the alliance.

Joint Virtual Administration Office

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office

Joint Virtual IT Office

CHARM-EU Management Office

Read more about [CHARM-EU's organisational structure](#).

STUDENTS IN CHARM-EU

The Student Council is the representative body of students enrolled on CHARM-EU programmes offered by member university partners. As CHARM-EU is a **student-centred alliance**, the Student Council may contribute to strategic decisions and engages with high-level decision bodies such as the Strategic Board and the Executive Board.

CHARM-EU STAFF

9

Partner Universities

100+

Masters
Teaching Staff

16

Project Work
Packages

200+

People involved in
CHARM-EU
activities



CHARM-EU colleagues at the annual conference (2023) in Würzburg

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAFF

The CHARM-EU alliance offers all kinds of opportunities for students and for staff. Staff members can submit proposals for HORIZON or ERASMUS+ calls, develop educational initiatives or engage in other collaborative projects using the CHARM-EU alliance and network. Explore various themes, opportunities and examples below.

RESEARCH HUBS: TACKLING HEALTH CHALLENGES IN INTERNATIONALLY LINKED RESEARCH HUBS

'Tackling health challenges in internationally linked research hubs: Framing solutions' (Sept - Dec 2024) is a part time module in which students prepare interdisciplinary research by writing a proposal for a Europeans Research Call (ERC) starting grant. The module will be a hybrid format between Utrecht and Montpellier.

LIVING PASTS COLLABORATION WITH UU AND ELTE

NETWORKING EVENTS

[European Engineering Schools](#) organised at University of Montpellier

[Life Sciences Network meeting](#) organised at University of Barcelona

[Applied Data Science Network event](#) organised at Utrecht University

Upcoming events:
Networking Language Centers Event at Turku (2024) and University Libraries Meet Up (2025) at Eötvös Loránd University

DEVELOPING THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY MASTER DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

SHAPING EUROPEAN POLICY

Developing a European Degree (label) in the [ED-AFFICHE project](#).

Exploring the possibilities of a legal status for European universities in the [STYX project](#).

COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS OUTSIDE EU

[Botswana](#)

[South-Africa](#)

PARTICIPATION IN WORKING TEAMS CO-CREATING CHARM-EU

MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES

[Staff Mobility Week](#) at University of Bergen

[Staff Training Program](#) at University of Barcelona

TRANSNATIONAL COURSE CATALOGUE

In the Transnational Online Programme, the partner universities share existing online courses for all students studying at a CHARM-EU partner university for an international and transdisciplinary experience.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES & TOOLS

[CHARM-EU Guide of Experts](#) provides a platform for academics to start the development of (or join) inter- institutional and multidisciplinary research collaborations.

[TORCH Bibliographic Apps](#) to help search and find publications and identify the network of collaborations between authors as well as between CHARM-EU partner universities.

[WATER4ALL Project](#): A multidisciplinary team will work on a nature-based solution that mitigates the impact of extreme climate events and contributes to securing water supplies.

DEVELOPING THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY MASTER PLANETARY HEALTH (2025)

COLLABORATION ON A CHALLENGE FOR THE CAPSTONE PHASE

Stakeholders and academics can submit challenges for student collaboration in the Capstone project. Next to new insights and knowledge, the results can include scientific analyses, business models, policy briefs, communication materials, software, methods, tools, or prototypes.

LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR LEADERS IN EDUCATION

CONTACT

- Utrecht University: [Rianne Giethoorn](#)
- University of Barcelona: [Jaime Llorca](#)
- University of Montpellier: [Julien Lorentz](#)
- Eötvös Loránd University Budapest: [Bétekiné Gál Anikó Judit](#)
- Trinity College Dublin: [Conor Spillane](#)

- Hochschule Ruhr West: [Ines Mueller-Vogt](#)
- Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg: [Martin Kufferath-Sieberin](#)
- Åbo Akademi University: [Harriet Klåvus](#) & [Pia Le Grand](#)
- University of Bergen: [Camilla Borrevik](#) & [Rosa Nogueira](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The CHARM-EU alliance offers all kinds of opportunities for students. Students can participate in the different educational programmes and mobility opportunities. Explore various themes, opportunities and examples below.

TRANSNATIONAL COURSE CATALOGUE

In the Transnational Online Programme, the partner universities share existing online courses for all students studying at a CHARM-EU partner university for an international and transdisciplinary experience.

MSC IN GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Our flagship Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability is open for admission to Bachelor graduates from any and all disciplines.

PARTICIPATION IN BOARDS AND COUNCILS

Students can gain skills in governance management and participation by representing students in the CHARM-EU boards and councils.

NETWORKING AT CHARM-EU CONFERENCES

Students attend CHARM-EU conferences and can network and collaborate with students, academics and stakeholders from other universities and countries.

SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN NETWORKING

CHARM-EU facilitates and supports students seeking to participate in European student congresses such as the European Student Assembly

CONTACT

For general information, please visit the website of [CHARM-EU](#).

Welcome to CHARM-EU from Trinity College Dublin CHARM-EU Manager Conor Spillane



Conor Spillane
CHARM-EU MANAGER

What is CHARM-EU?

CHARM-EU is an ambitious Alliance of nine diverse European universities looking to collaborate in all aspects of the university; staff development, programme delivery, research, mobilities, student learning, communications, networking and everything in between! While the Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability is our flagship achievement to date, there is much more to the Alliance and there are multiple activities in which colleagues can get involved.

Tell us about your role as Manager

As Manager here in Trinity, I am responsible for local structures and managing cross functional relationships to ensure that the expertise of the College community and the relevant stakeholders (internal and external) are used effectively to help advance the successful implementation of the European University Initiative. I have always stated that my job is a very straight forward one: ensuring the right people are in the right room at the right time! Getting the experts from across the Alliance speaking to each other has been key to our successes over the last five years.

I recall when I started the role, I explained to family and friends that I was participating in a project that would establish a university from scratch! And this is still my motivation today. To have an opportunity like this doesn't come around too often and I love working with creative and dedicated people on a day-to-day basis.

What makes CHARM-EU unique for you?

I think what makes CHARM-EU unique for me is the strength of the network which has been gradually increasing over the last five years. We work daily with people from the other universities and if we have an issue or problem, we know immediately who to contact in order to resolve it. The trust and working relationships that have been built up means that anyone who engages with CHARM-EU here in Trinity has an established support network to call upon, as well as a fantastic, dedicated local team.

Recently, our first cohort of Masters students graduated at a ceremony here in Trinity. To see the realisation of all of the hard work and effort of the last few years was a very satisfying experience but also left me thinking about what else we, as an Alliance, can achieve together!

What challenges does CHARM-EU face?

Of course there are challenges in establishing an Alliance of this scale. However, over the last few years, I have seen that one of our great strengths here in Trinity is that colleagues are always keen to find a way of making things work. The flexibility and adaptability shown by TCD staff we have engaged with has ensured the success of the Alliance as a whole. We are rightly very proud of Trinity's contribution to CHARM-EU and I am excited at what the future holds.

Based on your experience, what advice or insight would you give staff or students interested in CHARM-EU?

There are so many opportunities within the Alliance for academic, research, professional and technical staff and for students. We facilitate incoming and outgoing mobilities to ensure that ideas and experiences are being shared at every level of the university. We are also very keen to develop the Research and Innovation area of the Alliance ensuring that researchers have a 'one stop shop' for finding collaborators, projects and supports. But we also want Trinity staff and students to come to us with their ideas and to explore what is possible with our Alliance partners.

If you had to use one word to describe your impression of the CHARM-EU alliance, what would it be?

One word to describe CHARM-EU? That's difficult. Probably the one that is most apt is "eclectic". And by that, I am referring to how we have taken the various methods of different areas of our universities and combined these elements to produce an operational and functioning system that meets our needs. It's been a fascinating journey!