

CHALLENGING  
CONVENTIONAL  
THINKING



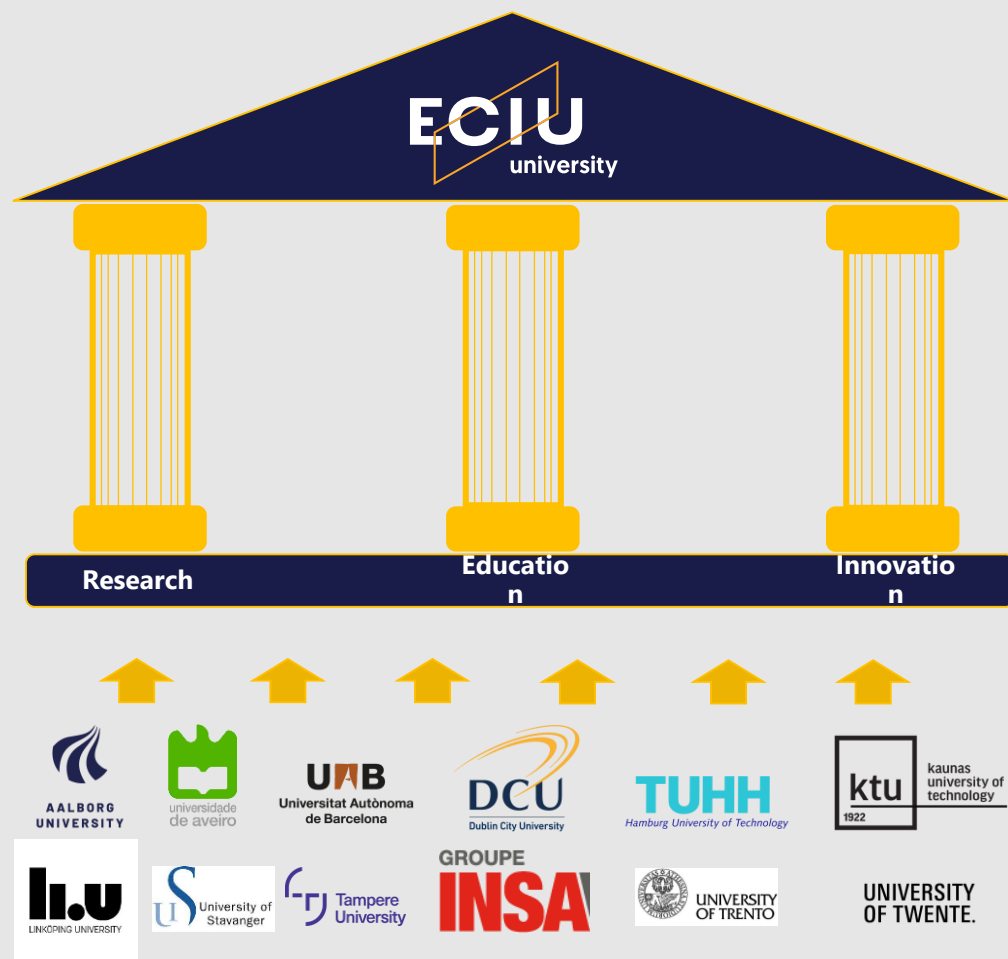
# The ECIU University

What is it, what's in it?



1. What is the ECIU  
University?

# What is the ECIU University?



The European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU)

## The ECIU University is a network University...

That means a group of Universities works together to:

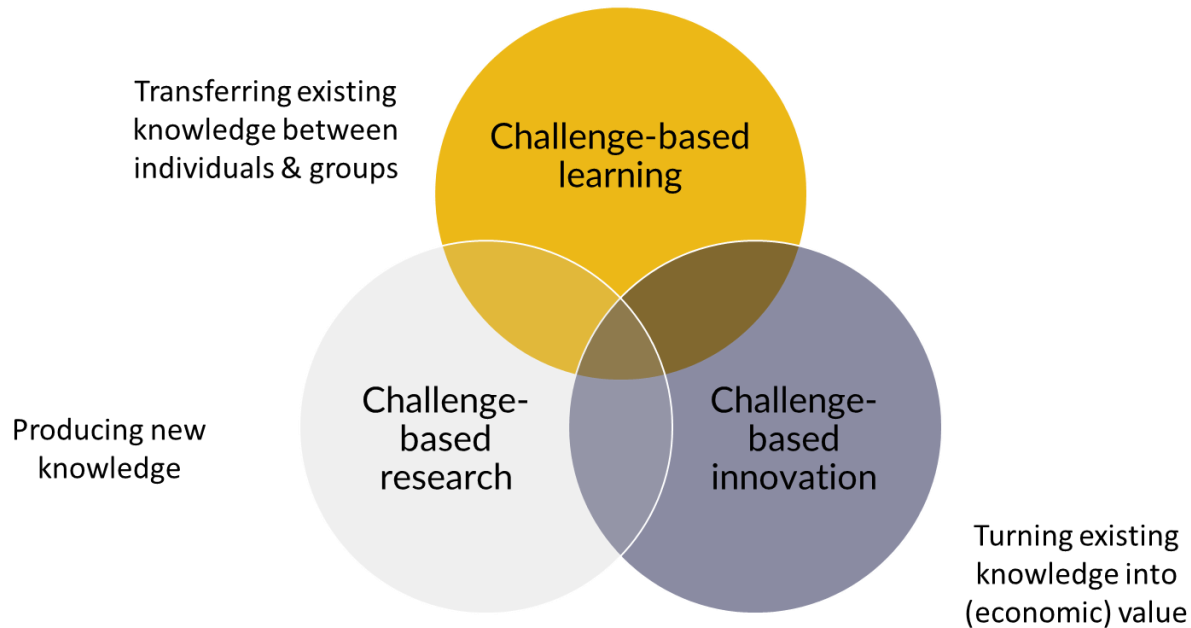
- Make their higher education offerings available to each other's students and learners (**CBL and micro-modules**)
- Develop and offer personalised and flexible learning paths and **micro-credentials**
- Make it easy to move flexibly throughout the consortium
- Engage structurally in joint European research and innovation programmes that match their local research agendas

*While doing so, each participating University works closely with their local societal ecosystem of partners in industry, government, education and civil society. The ECIU University becomes a European motor for regional innovation and growth.*

## ... built by a group of like-minded universities.

*The European Consortium of Innovative Universities is a network of 12 universities united since 1997 by a common profile of shared beliefs, interests, and mutual trust. The network comprises universities with an entrepreneurial profile and innovative culture that play a catalytic role for innovation in society.*

## The ECIUU takes a challenge-based approach to research, education and innovation

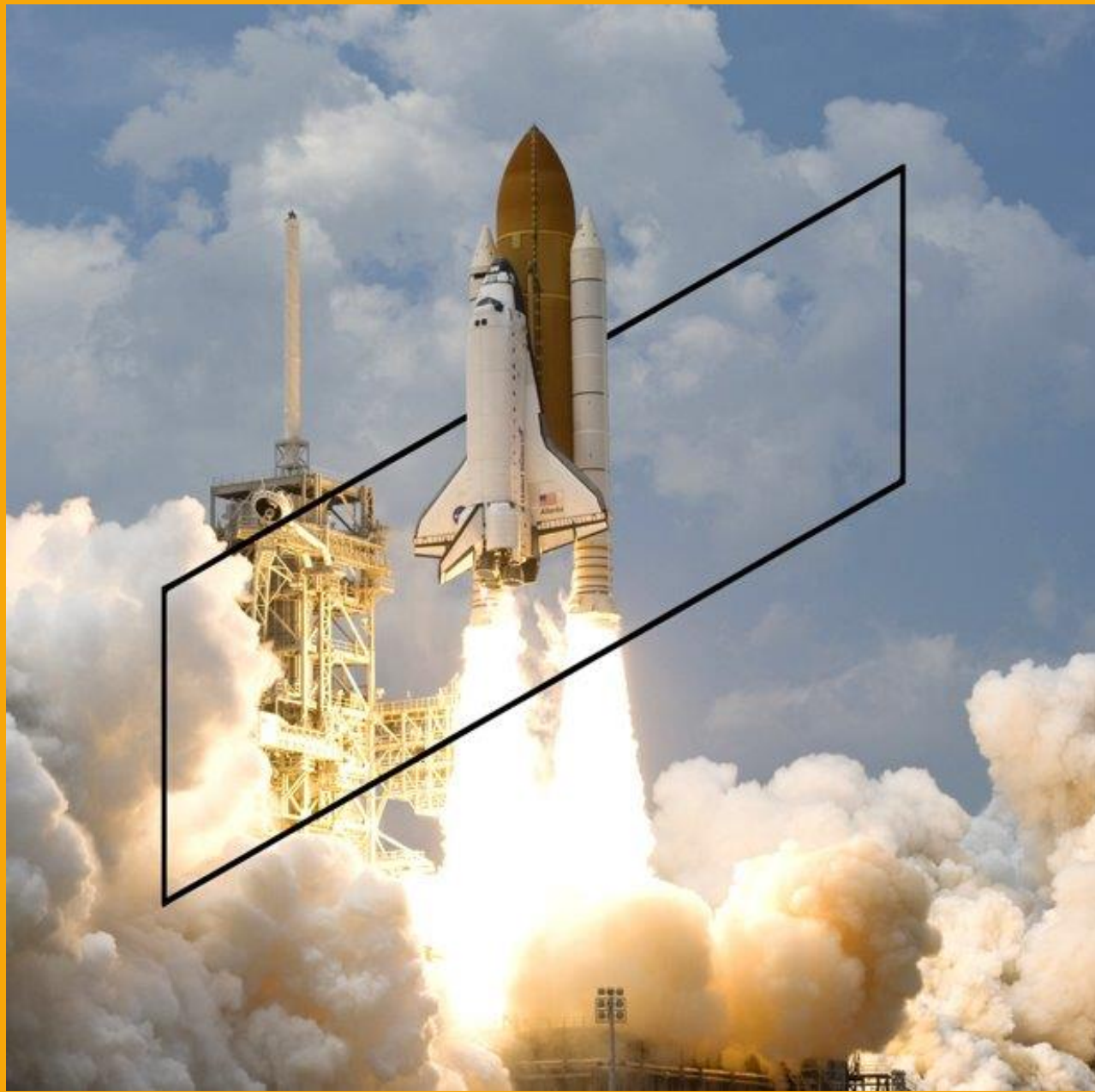


### What does it mean to work challenge-based?

- Learning, researching and innovating together with partners in society
- Using the challenges these partners face in reality as point of departure
- With the objective of contributing to the solutions to these challenges to create impact
- Typically, this means:
  - working with multi-disciplinary teams in a programmatic way
  - often combining learning & R&I to tackle challenges and develop societal ecosystems

### Some examples of challenges

- Increasing the resilience of European towns to floods
- Finding fitting solutions to cope with migration influx in European cities
- Reduce the dependency on non-renewable energy sources in European regions



2. What's the point of the ECIU University?

# The ECIU University helps make education, research and innovation European

## Why build a European University?

### *Research and Innovation benefits*

- Joint R&I agendas in multiple European regions means the toughest challenges on the continent are researched more systematically and solutions will improve in quality
- R&I will make their way to local, national and European policies quicker and more coordinated
- Companies and citizens find local, easy and trusted access to the collective intelligence of the network

### *Education benefits*

- The European workforce stays competitive compared to other world regions whilst remaining open to nurturing overseas talent as well
- European values as equality, academic freedom and inclusiveness are safeguarded within European Universities

All of which support **European values and competitiveness**

## And where does it fit?

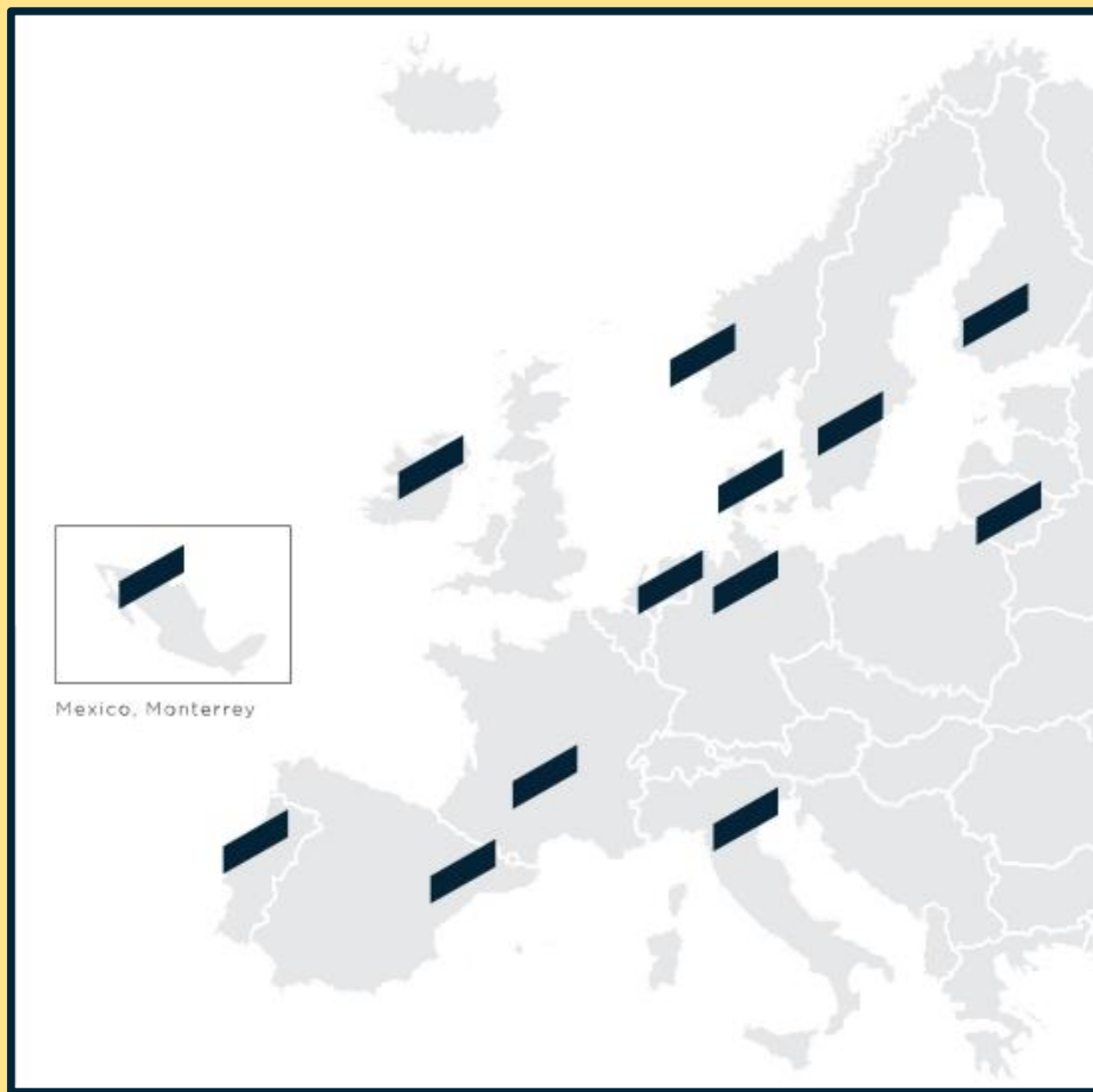
### The ECIUU responds to the European University initiative of the European Commission



*"The aim of this initiative is to bring together a new generation of creative Europeans able to cooperate across languages, borders and disciplines to address societal challenges and skills shortages faced in Europe."*

# The value of ECIU University

## 3.2. Participating universities



# Why does our university participate in the ECIU University?



## 1. To fulfil our ambitions and increase our impact

- Increased impact and exposure of our research (outputs) through European collaborations
- Access for our students and learners to the offerings, expertise and populations of our partner institutions and vice versa
- Further strengthening our partnerships with regional stakeholders by connecting our joint activities to those of similar consortia in Europe. Opening the collaboration between member universities to these stakeholders.
- Increase our influence on national and European policy agendas by attuning our needs and messages and communicating these as one
- Targeting upcoming continents such as Asia and Africa with a convincing joint value proposition
- Increased opportunities for our staff's personal and professional development through effective within-ecosystem mobility



## 2. To help prepare us for the future

- Strengthening our funding opportunities through European sources (including ERC-grants), which increasingly require mature regional consortia that operate in European networks
- Take the lead in the global digitalisation and flexibilisation of higher education
- Exploring and further developing our challenge-based approach towards E&R&I together with partners with a profile that is similar and complimentary at the same time
- Mitigate potential risks presented by regional or national fluctuations or uncertainties (funding sources, student influx, economic situation)



## The value of ECIU University

3.3. Involved staff in research, education and support

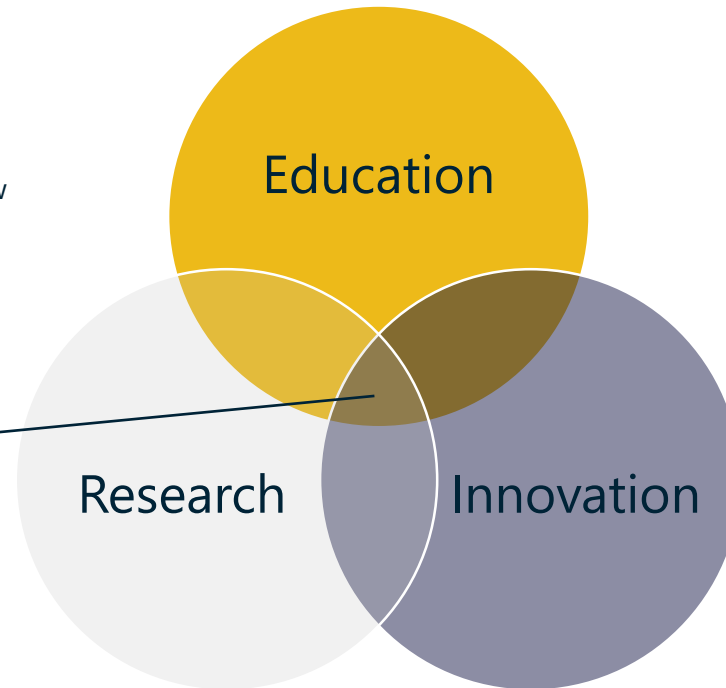
# Key benefits of connecting parts of your work to the ECIU University

## To teaching staff

- Connecting your educational innovations to a bigger movement (exposure, collaboration)
- Offering your courses/modules to a larger and more specialised audience
- Working directly with experts and businesses from other universities and countries
- Opportunities to adopt models/courses from fellow members
- Access to additional education innovation funds



*In practice, you often engage in all of these activities*



## To research staff

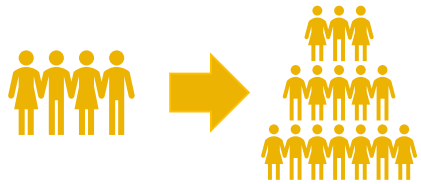
### *Research excellence*

- Good infrastructure for multi-institutional R&I programmes
- Improved chances for large European grants that require consortium-based European collaboration
- Support for within-consortium mobility/exchange at all career levels

### *Research impact*

- Good infrastructure to support in connecting your regional/national innovation ecosystems to similar ecosystems in Europe
- Opportunities for pan-European scalability of programmes, strengthening collaborations with big industry
- Quicker dissemination across Europe via partners' ecosystems

# Connecting your teaching to ECIU University: key benefits

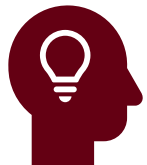
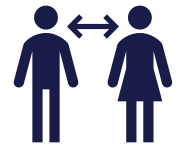


## 1. Extended reach

Your education will be opened to students and learners from all 12 alliance partners. That means that the possibility to attract students and learners that are interested in the specific topic you are teaching increases. These students are potential PhD candidates whereas the learners can connect you to organisations that might be interesting to you and/or might bring in interesting perspectives themselves.

## 2. Sharing experiences & workload

Teachers from multiple ECIU members can collaborate to share lessons learned and reduce educational pressure when teaching students collaboratively.



## 3. Support for educational innovations

The ECIU University seeks to help develop the higher education of the future and provides an exciting international environment in which educational innovations can be tested and scaled up. Innovation of education by members' teaching staff is encouraged and financially supported by the consortium.

## 4. Ways to get involved

*How you can contribute to the  
ECIU University*



# Opportunities for supporting departments



## Business Development

- Increasing the size of the innovation market by connecting regional/national innovation ecosystems to similar ecosystems in Europe
- Strengthening connections with big industry



## Strategy & Policy

- Piloting innovative education, research and valorization strategies within an international experimental space
- Partnering with fellow members and the ECIU University to influence European policy agendas



## HR

- Sharing best practices for flexible staff mobility with fellow members



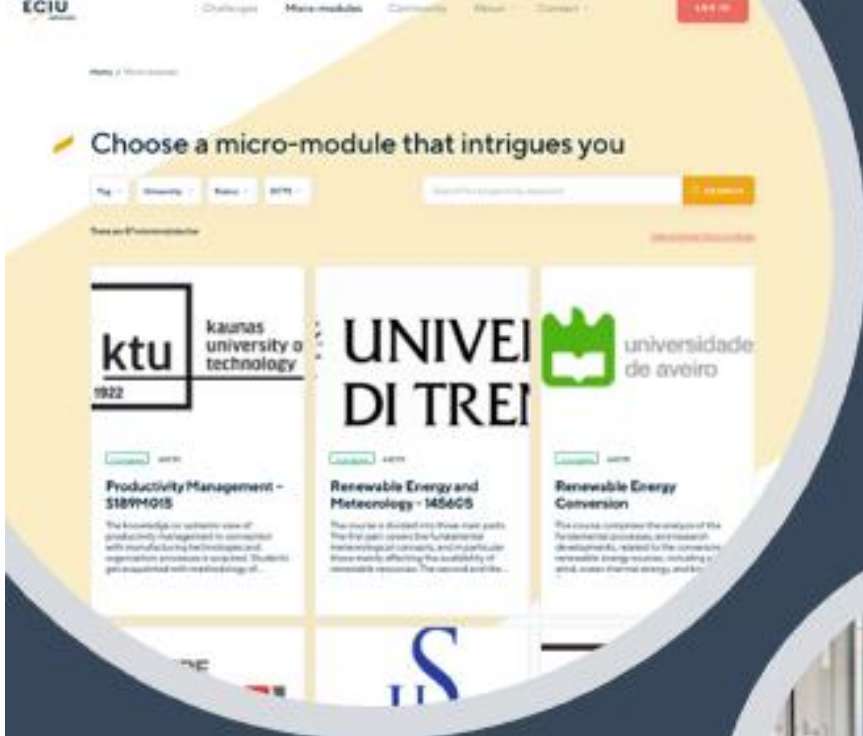
## Finance

- Mitigate financial risk by generating additional sources of income and capital



# How to get involved in the ECIU University

	CBL	CBR	CBI	Flexibilisation / Micro-credentials
Open up new or existing education to students from partners	✓			
Develop CBL modules (master, minor, extra-curricular or LLL)	✓			
Develop and offer (micro-)modules	✓			✓
Pilot with CBL master thesis projects	✓			
Develop new educational offerings together with ECIU members	✓			✓
Direct own students to offerings of fellow members	✓		✓	
Build regional R&I-ecosystems and prepare them for European collaborations		✓	✓	
Connect to and contract large industrial partners in joint efforts		✓	✓	
Pilot with awarding micro-credentials and competency passports				✓
Develop challenge-based R&I projects	✓	✓	✓	



## Broad range of learning offerings leading to Digital Credentials

- Two kinds of learning offerings in ECIU University
- Piloting with Challenge-based learning activities
  - May or may not attach with existing study programs
  - Often extra curricula activities that do not carry credits
- Piloting with Micro- and standard modules
  - Includes learning offerings from 11 ECIU University partner universities
  - SDG11- and language-learning related modules
  - Includes assessment of the learning outcomes
  - Micro 1-3 ECTS, Standard up to 8 ECTS
  - Provided in online or in a hybrid setting

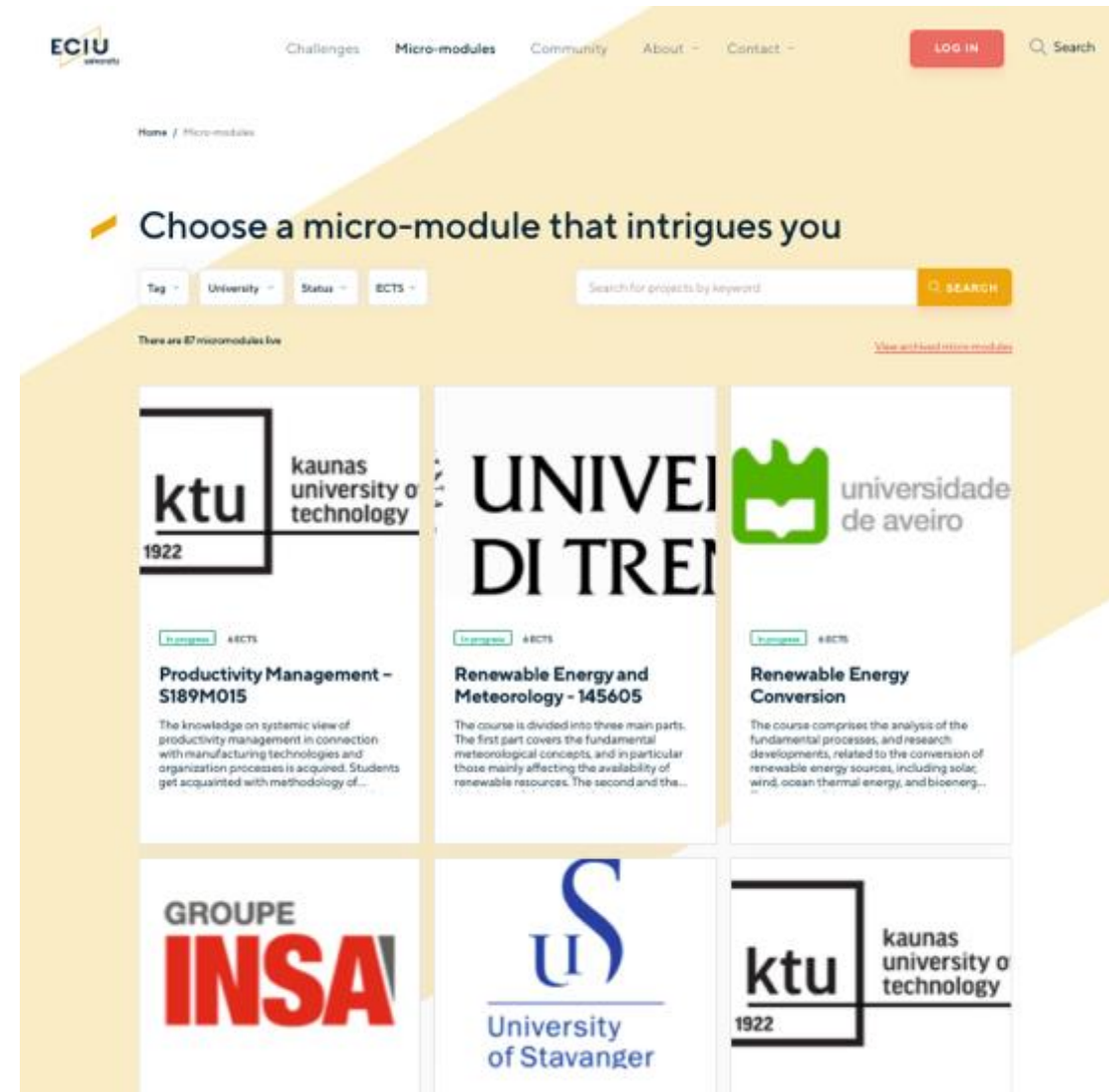
<https://challenges.eciu.org>

# Micro-modules

- *"A **micro-module** is a short learning experience that is formally assessed and supports learners to fill their knowledge gaps and boost their capabilities in order to successfully engage in ECIU University challenge-based activities."*

## Characteristics (2021-2022):

- Provided by an accredited institution or program (currently via ECIU network)
- Preferably **1-3 ECTS** (or unbundled from a larger module)
- Is preferably master's level, but can be also bachelor's level
- Preferably addresses specific and limited set of learning outcomes
- Is of one of the following types: 1) SDG11, 2) Language learning, 3) supports online learning (e.g., intercultural competence)
- Priority for **online** provision, offline possible
- Provided in **English**



# ECIU forefronting on European Digital Credentials for learning

## European Digital Credentials for Learning

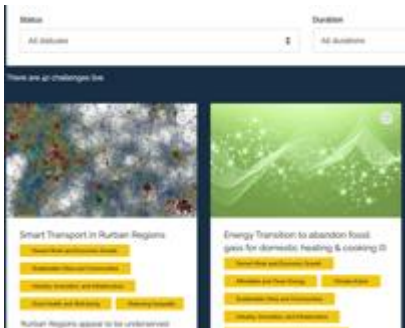
European Digital Credentials for Learning are statements issued by an organisation to a learner, documenting their learning.

### Individuals

- can build an online portfolio to track all of their learning while being in full control of their data
- can easily reuse their credentials to get a job or apply for further training all across Europe
- can present and have their credentials verified at any point in their career, even if the institution who issued them closes, or if the data used to create them is lost



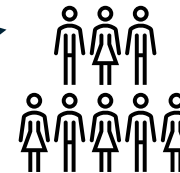
ECIU micro-modules



ECIU challenges



Digital credential as a proof of learning  
(containing competence data)



Learners store digital  
credentials in their own  
competence passport

*12 ECIU partners onboard Europass  
EDCL early adopter programme to  
develop competence and know-how in  
digital credentials*



The ECIU University is an EU-funded initiative that creates a ground-breaking and innovative educational model on a European scale.

[www.eciu.org](http://www.eciu.org)



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