uninovis

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

DATA FOR L.I.F.E.

MALAGA, January 13th, 2023.

We, the Rectors and Presidents representing the students, teachers, researchers, and staff of University Sorbonne Paris Nord, France; Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt, Germany; University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Italy; Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Finland; Kaunas University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania; University of Malaga, Spain; and University of Tirana, Albania,

Hereby declare our intention to build the UNINOVIS FOR L.I.F.E. (henceforth UNINOVIS) European University Alliance, committed to data-centred learning at all stages of life, and in all fields, so as to contribute to a safer, sovereign, more inclusive Europe and to pave the way for a successful green and digital transition.

WHO WE ARE

Our seven Universities are public higher education institutions, employing 14,000 teaching, research and administrative staff and delivering multiple learning programs in various academic fields to more than 140,000 students per year.

United by the common purpose of offering high-quality teaching and cutting-edge research in our various specializations, and committed to be at the service of our local communities and society at large, we embody Europe's diversity as our alliance encompasses various regions of Europe, from the Mediterranean to the Baltic Sea. Promoting intercultural understanding and the learning of European languages and cultures, we not only offer academic and cultural activities in Albanian, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Lithuanian and Spanish, but also practice English as a common language.

Our alliance builds on strong complementarities both in teaching and research, with our universities having developed recognized specializations in multiple fields, from Health and Medicine to Applied Sciences, from Engineering to Linguistics, from Business and Economics to Social Sciences and the Humanities; and draws on already established bilateral and multilateral connections for student and staff mobility, joint educational programs and research projects. Our universities, furthermore, hold a strong track record in innovative projects such as innovation camps and summer schools, bridging science and culture.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

We believe in the right to education and training for every individual at every stage of life, in accordance with Article 14 of the European Union Charter on Fundamental Rights.

We believe in the need for a strong and united Europe and are convinced that trans-national European university alliances are a key vector for strengthening European cohesion and citizenship.

We believe in the need for a successful green and digital transition, which will enable Europe to lead the way in sustainable development strategies and inclusiveness.

We believe in democratic participation and the inclusiveness of learning and research, involving all, from students to teachers, researchers and administrative staff, from businesses to public and not-for-profit organizations, from local communities to European institutions.

OUR VISION

Data is the new uranium. It can be used for the better or for the worse. It is present in all aspects of life, and represents new challenges for collective security, material and immaterial well-being, and the health of our democracies. Data is also central for the green and digital transition, which constitutes Europe's ultimate frontier.

Understanding, analysing, managing, using and securing data require certain skills: established skills, cutting-edge skills, skills that do not exist yet but

need to be invented. Europe, by declaring 2023 as the Year of Skills, has taken a strong position in this new economic and social battleground.

But, beyond skills, this new data-centred world also requires better information and greater public awareness, so that the new competencies do not remain confined within the walls of universities teaching rooms or labs, or factories: a more secure and inclusive Europe requires a diffused and improved understanding of data, what it means, its risks and promises.

To successfully face the challenge, Europe needs adequate teachers, infrastructures and tools. More importantly, it needs new transnational actors capable of delivering lifelong learning in Data Sciences across fields and European cultures. This is what UNINOVIS is about.

OUR LONG-TERM GOALS

The purpose of UNINOVIS is to create a strong and durable alliance of European Universities, fully operational by the year 2027. In particular, by creating UNINOVIS we are pursuing four main goals:

1. To provide Lifelong learning in data: UNINOVIS aims at **becoming a leading European University in learning how to understand, analyze, use, manage, and secure data** in all fields, from Medicine to the Bio-technologies, from Engineering to Linguistics, from Business to the Social Sciences, from Economics to the Humanities.

2. To Integrate innovation ecosystems for collaborative education and interdisciplinary research around data sciences: UNINOVIS aims at **becoming a lighthouse of higher education and research by stimulating modern pedagogies, innovations, and partner integration**, to create and strengthen learning hubs in UNINOVIS partner countries, establishing a network of actively involved social and business actors.

3. To Foster green and digital transition for sustainability within the Alliance and in European society at large: UNINOVIS aims at **becoming a trans-European hub**, reinforcing interactions between the UNINOVIS members, associated partners and European society by **using smart and green digital solutions, supporting the green transition for collaborative research and learning applied to social needs and European policies.**

4. To achieve **Excellence** in understanding, analysing, using, managing, and securing data: UNINOVIS aims at **becoming a source of advanced data science competences and skills for current and future generations in support of a sustainable and inclusive European society.**

In the long term, our ambition is to work tirelessly towards these common goals and make UNINOVIS the leading European university in data sciences, with active, and dynamic innovation ecosystems among the member universities, and with strong ties to other regions of the world.

Christophe Fouqueré, President of the University Sorbonne Paris Nord

Robert Grebner, President of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt

Giovanni Francesco Nicoletti, Rector Of University Of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli
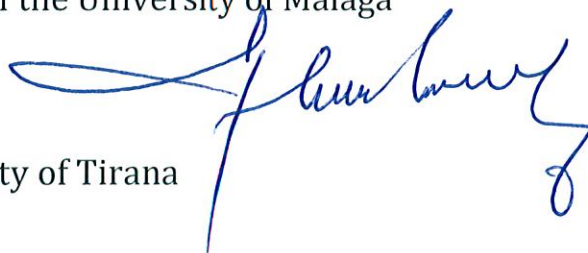
Mikko Naukkarinen, Service Director of the Tampere University of Applied Sciences

Paulius Baltrusaitis, Director of the Kaunas University of Applied Sciences

José Ángel Narváez Bueno, Rector of the University of Malaga

Artan Hoxha, Rector of the University of Tirana