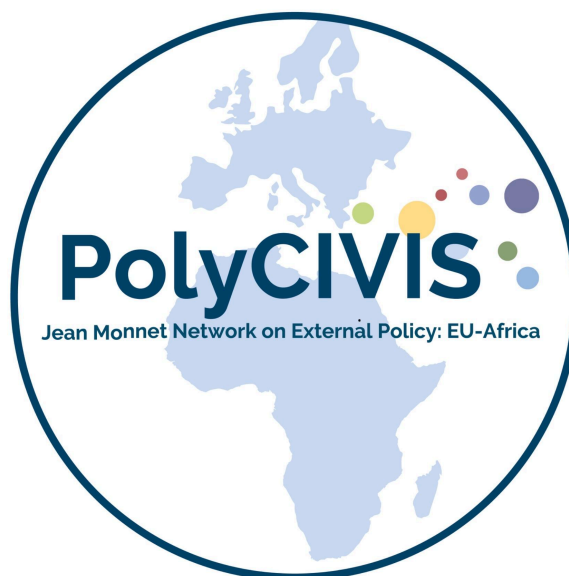

A Joint Master in the making: PolyCIVIS starts designing its Erasmus Mundus Programme (EMDM)


December 2025



Written by: Dr.Olfa Ammar and Prof. Ines Ellouze



Grant agreement No 101127795 PolyCIVIS: Confronting the
polycrisis in Europe and Africa.



At a time when global crises are increasingly interconnected, education itself must cross borders, disciplines, and continents. The PolyCIVIS Erasmus Mundus Design Measure (EMDM) embodies a long-term commitment to collaborative, cross-continental education, uniting universities from Europe and Africa around a shared ambition: to co-create a joint master programme capable of equipping future generations with the knowledge, skills, and collective mindset needed to understand and tackle the polycrisis. More than a programme in the making, this initiative reflects a belief in sustained cooperation, shared responsibility, and the transformative power of joint education.

By officially launching the design phase, the PolyCIVIS network is marking a major milestone in the project's ambition to develop a joint Erasmus Mundus Master Programme (EMJM) dedicated to understanding and tackling the polycrisis.

Following the publication of the EMDM call on 18 November 2025, a dedicated PolyCIVIS EMDM Task Force has been established, bringing together partner universities from Europe and Africa. The institutions actively involved in this initial design phase include Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (PLUS), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), University of Sfax, Makerere University (MAK), and Hassan II University of Casablanca (UH2).

Through a series of coordination meetings, partners discussed the strategic rationale of the EMDM, clarified the application framework, and began identifying existing accredited master programmes at each institution. These programmes cover core dimensions of the polycrisis, including ecology and biodiversity, geoinformatics, European and international studies, economics, development, water management and agriculture.

The discussions highlighted the importance of academic feasibility, interdisciplinarity, and alignment with PolyCIVIS pedagogical innovations, including the integration of thematic content developed through the project's BIPs. Language models, mobility pathways, governance structures, and student involvement, supported by exchanges with the CIVIS student council, are also integral to the ongoing design process.

The next phase will focus on drafting the core sections of the EMDM application, refining the consortium structure, and advancing institutional coordination. As such, the EMDM represents a foundational step toward a sustainable, long-term joint master programme extending beyond the project's lifetime.

PolyCIVIS: confronting the polycrisis in Europe and Africa

PolyCIVIS is a Euro - African collaboration that brings to the forefront the global polycrisis, allowing a better understanding of the impacts of several concurrent major societal crises challenging the world in the form of a polycrisis.

In the wake of the global polycrisis, urgent challenges have emerged, prompting PolyCIVIS to take action. Our initiative is dedicated to addressing these pressing global issues and their interconnected consequences.

Contact information

Email. polycivis@ulb.be

Website. <https://www.civis.eu/polycivis>

