

CIVIS IS NEWS

SEVEN YEARS OF SHARED IMPACT

Making CIVIS a European laboratory of ideas and transformation



From 10 to 12 June 2026, Bucharest will become the centre of celebration and debates about CIVIS Alliance's achievements and the challenges ahead for European Universities alliances. Hosted by the University of Bucharest, CIVIS Days 2026 will bring together academic leaders, students, policy-makers.

Bucharest - Romania

The opening at the Romanian Atrium will set a strong tone, placing Universities alliances at the heart of debates on their role as

actors of democracy and diplomacy. Over the following days, a rich programme of open and livestreamed sessions will share the work of CIVIS beyond the event itself — from joint learning pathways and mobility impact to research collaboration, skills development and civic engagement.

The flagship event will celebrate seven years of transformative initiatives and host strategic debates

CIVIS Days will also celebrate what makes an alliance thrive: its people. Moments such as "Who wants to be a citizen?", a lively and participatory quiz, and the CIVIS Orchestra concert will highlight the importance of connection, creativity and shared identity alongside policy and strategy.

This special edition of CIVIS is News captures the spirit of CIVIS Days 2026 — an alliance that debates openly, acts collectively and builds community across borders.

PROGRAMME

All the sessions of the 2026 edition of CIVIS Days

10 JUNE

13:00-14:30 Registration and Welcome Cocktail (*Romanian Atheneum*)



14:30-18:30
CIVIS Conference – CIVIS is news – seven years of shared impact
(*Romanian Atheneum*)

14:30-15:00 Official opening

15:00-15:45 CIVIS and the double retention imperative

15:45-16:00 Intermezzo musicale

16:00-16:45 Alliances poster session and coffee break

16:45-18:15 Round Table - European university alliances as a new academic diplomacy pathway for europeanisation

18:15-18:30 Intermezzo musicale

11 JUNE

9:00-10:30

- Steering Committee (*Room Stoicescu*)
- **DISSEMINATION SESSION: European alliances, joint learning, new pathways: a CIVIS conversation** (*Room Antonescu, ground floor*)
- Service-Learning marketplace: from EG resources to actionable pathways (*UB Learning Centre, 3rd floor, Room C3*)
- CIVIS Agora (*Room 2.22, 1st floor*)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30

- Steering Committee (*Room Stoicescu*)
- **DISSEMINATION SESSION: Mobility beyond numbers: aligning quantity, quality and impact** (*Room Antonescu, ground floor*)
- CIVIS Museum University Forum Doctoral Network: Building a student-led structure for sustainable joint doctorate (*Room 2.06, 1st floor*)
- Shaping the future of civic engagement: Co-creating projects from CIVIS learnings (*Room 2.07, 1st floor*)



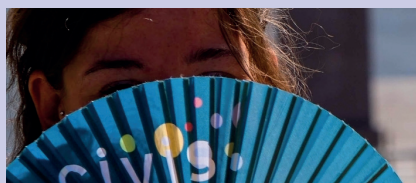
11:00-15:00
Student Creathon & Student fair
(*Room 2.22, 1st floor*)

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00

- Not working? Knot working! Strengthening collaboration and continuity in CIVIS (*Room Stoicescu, 1st floor*)
- **DISSEMINATION SESSION: Open Labs without borders: Why cross-border collaboration matters** (*Room Antonescu, ground floor*)
- Collaborative Climate Futures: community and academic approaches to climate action (*Room 2.10, 1st floor*)

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break



15:30-17:00
CIVIS Trivia: Who wants to be a CIVIZEN?
(*UB Creative Media Studio, Student Accommodation building, 1st floor*)

15:30-17:00

- Crossing the bridge: Four years of African-European collaboration in CIVIS (*Room 2.06, 1st floor*)
- In what ways do universities facilitate student engagement? (*Room 2.10, 1st floor*)
- **17:15 Group Photo** (*Faculty of Law*)
- **17:30-18:30** Concert - CIVIS Orchestra (*Aula Magna*)

12 JUNE

9:00-10:30

- Board of Rectors (*Room Stoicescu*)
- Lifelong learning for Europe's skills agenda: what universities can do - and how civis can learn (*Room 2.10, 1st floor*)
- **DISSEMINATION SESSION: Planting the seeds for research collaboration** (*Room Antonescu, ground floor*)
- CIVIS libraries: from silent stacks to headline acts - co-designing our shared future (*Room 2.07, 1st floor*)
- Student Council (*Room 2.06, 1st floor*)

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30

- Board of Rectors (*Room Stoicescu*)
- **DISSEMINATION SESSION: Pathways for competitiveness: the role of alliances in bringing skills to all learners** (*Room Antonescu, ground floor*)
- Transforming and innovating learning through digital tools: an experiential journey (*Botanical Garden "Dimitrie Brândză"*)
- Student Council (*Room 2.06, 1st floor*)

12:30-13:30 Farewell Lunch

ALLIANCES AT THE CENTRE OF EUROPEANISATION DEBATES

Academics and policymakers to kickstart CIVIS Days 2026



Bucharest, 10 June 2026 — CIVIS Days 2026 will open at the Romanian Athenaeum with a clear message: European universities are central actors in democracy, knowledge and Europe's capacity to act collectively. Hosted by the University of Bucharest, the opening day will bring together senior representatives of European institutions, national authorities and European Universities alliances to address the strategic role of higher education in a fast-evolving world immersed in crises.

Interventions from the President of Romania, the Ministry of Education, the European Commission and the Magna Charta Observatory are expected in a session hosted by Professors Romiță Iucu and Sorin Costreie, with Professor Marian Preda, Rector of the University of Bucharest, reaffirming the host institution's commitment to European values, academic excellence and long-term cooperation.

Two sessions to shape the future

The intellectual reflection will begin with a keynote from Professor François Heinderyckx (Université libre de Bruxelles), "CIVIS and the Double Retention Imperative". His address will explore the need for European Universities alliances to develop strategies of functional and narrative retention, as they build up a very complex body of knowledge, experience, processes, and structures.

Then, a forward-looking debate, placing "European University alliances as a New Academic Diplomacy Pathway for Europeanisation", will be moderated by Professor Romiță Iucu. Representatives of the European Commission, CIVIS Alliance, UNITA Alliance, the ERASMUS+ National Agency, the European Higher Education Area and Romanian national funding bodies will examine, among other topics, how alliances are reshaping international cooperation through integrated approaches to education, research and societal engagement. The discussion will position European Universities alliances as platforms for dialogue between academia, policymakers and society.

Musical intermezzi by ensembles from the National University of Music Bucharest will punctuate the programme.

Through policy dialogue, academic reflection and symbolic setting, the opening of CIVIS Days 2026 will affirm European Universities alliances as pillars of a connected, resilient and values-driven European Higher Education Area open to the world, setting the tone for the days ahead.

Official Open Speeches

Romanian Presidency, Ministry of Education and Research, Alina Ujupan, Marian Preda, David Lock, Romiță Iucu, Sorin Costreie

CIVIS and the Double Retention Imperative

François Heinderyckx

European University Alliances as a New Academic Diplomacy - Pathway for Europeanisation

Moderator:

Romiță Iucu

Panellists:

Alina Ujupan, Karl Stoeckel, Irina Macsinga, Adrian Georgescu, Cezar Haj, Horia Oniță, David Lock, Anne Lequy

LISTEN TO THE WAVES

CIVIS Waves is the new spot where stories, conversations and debates from our European University Alliance meet... and expand.



Listen to
the podcast

CIVIS.EU

DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Education, mobility, civic engagement, research and sense of belonging take the stage



Bucharest, 11 June 2026 — The second day of CIVIS Days 2026, hosted at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest, will focus on dissemination, participation and community-building across the Alliance. Through a rich programme of open and livestreamed sessions, CIVIS will share its work widely and invite the broader academic community to engage with the Alliance's key priorities.

Several sessions will address how CIVIS Alliance is reshaping learning, mobility and collaboration. The livestreamed discussion "European alliances, joint learning, new pathways: a CIVIS conversation" will explore new educational models emerging from alliance-based cooperation. "Mobility Beyond Numbers. Aligning Quantity, Quality and Impact", a session examining how CIVIS seeks to balance scale, quality and long-term impact in student and staff mobility, will also be livestreamed.

Follow the livestreams of the dissemination sessions on the CIVIS YouTube channel

A strong focus on collaboration, continuity and institutional transformation within the alliance will be

present through sessions such as "Not Working? Knot Working!" and the societal embedding of CIVIS will be explored through "Open Labs Without Borders".

Civic engagement and sustainability will also feature prominently, with sessions on service-learning, climate action and co-creation showcasing how CIVIS connects academic expertise with societal challenges.

Community building activities

Student involvement will be visible throughout the day, from discussions on student-led doctoral structures to the Student Creathon on disinformation and a Student Fair, reinforcing their role as active contributors to the Alliance. CIVIS Student ambassadors will contribute actively to the coverage of the sessions.

A highlight of the afternoon will be "CIVIS Trivia: Who wants to be a civizen?", a participatory session designed to strengthen a shared sense of belonging across institutions. Blending knowledge, humour and interaction, the quiz will offer a collective moment of connection, celebrating the people and values that underpin the CIVIS community.

The day will end on a high note as the CIVIS Orchestra Academy performs for the fourth time after concerts in Marseille (2022), Madrid (2023), and Rome (2025).

DISSEMINATION

Open Labs Without Borders: Why Cross-Border Collaboration Matters

11 June, 13:30-15:00, Faculty of Law - Room Antonescu, ground floor

While Open Lab projects usually start from local challenges, they can grow stronger when they connect across borders. This round table will illustrate this through three concrete project experiences and will discuss the benefits, the hurdles, and the lessons learned. Speakers will share how they collaborate with each other and with communities, and they will explore how international cooperation can spark new ideas, boost local engagement, and inspire future initiatives.

Pathways for Competitiveness: The Role of Alliances in Bringing Skills to All Learners

12 June, 11:00-12:30, Faculty of Law - Room Antonescu, ground floor

The session explores how university alliances can foster competitiveness through flexible and inclusive learning pathways. Within CIVIS, it focuses on micro-programmes and micro-credentials as tools to provide diverse learners with relevant skills. These examples show the value of stackable and interdisciplinary formats, while helping participants address practical questions on how to design micro-credentials or transform existing courses into micro-credentials or modules.

The panel connects these initiatives with the European priority of strengthening competitiveness through education, training and lifelong learning.



Watch the livestreams

CIVIS ORCHESTRA

11 June, 17:30 – 18:30, Aula Magna
 Have you ever wondered what happens when passion meets discipline, hard work, curiosity, and openness? Community, joy, and another great concert of the CIVIS Orchestra.

Students, professors and other staff members from our universities are once again sharing their love of music this year in Bucharest, for the fourth edition of the CIVIS Academy Orchestra BIP. Two cornerstones of the Viennese symphonic tradition - the 3rd symphony by Schubert and the 7th symphony by Beethoven - are being set up, under the batons of Demetrio Moricca (SUR) and Zoe Zeniodi (NKUA).

The event is supported by the National University of Music in Bucharest, which is providing the necessary instruments and accessories. Some of their musicians will also be on the stage, together with the BIP's participants, coming from NKUA, UB, UAM, SUR and UT.



Although the musicians practiced all together for only five days, their programme could easily be on the billboard of any professional concert hall, says Daniele Gorla, the programme coordinator, proudly.

The initiative, coordinated by Sapienza Università di Roma and the University of Bucharest, continues the establishment of a CIVIS orchestra in the form of a BIP, in the footsteps of the first three academies - Marseille 2022, Madrid 2023, and Rome 2025.

DISSEMINATION

Mobility Beyond Numbers: Aligning Quantity, Quality and Impact

11 June, 11:00-12:30, Faculty of Law - Room Antonescu, ground floor

Seven years into the European University Alliances, a fundamental question remains unresolved: what do we actually mean by "mobility"? As alliances strive to reach the ambitious target of 50% mobility among staff and students, the concept is being stretched to encompass an expanding range of formats. Yet this broadening raises critical questions about coherence, comparability, and value. The panel takes stock of the ongoing debate within the alliances and addresses two central tensions: physical versus virtual mobility, and quantity versus quality.



Watch the
livestreams



Will you dare?
Apply now!

Who wants to be a
 citizen
 Who wants to be a

Inspired by the famous **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** - but with less money and more acronyms, the first CIVIS competition hits the stage! Contestants will test their CIVIS journey knowledge and fight for "civizenship". **Will you dare?**

SKILLS, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR EUROPE'S FUTURE

Closing day focuses on translating collaboration into impact



Bucharest, 12 June 2026 — The final day of CIVIS Days 2026, hosted at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest, will turn the spotlight on how European Universities alliances can strengthen skills development, research collaboration and institutional innovation in support of Europe's long-term competitiveness and social cohesion.

Institutional discussions will be framed by the work of the Board of Rectors, while a series of open and livestreamed sessions will invite the wider academic community to engage with CIVIS priorities. Two dissemination sessions will anchor the day: "Planting the Seeds for Research Collaboration" will explore how alliances can create fertile ground for joint research initiatives, through initiatives like CI-

VIS Seed-Funding while "Pathways for Competitiveness: The Role of Alliances in Bringing Skills to All Learners" will address universities' contribution to Europe's skills agenda and inclusive lifelong learning showcasing CIVIS microcredentials.

Day 3 will be all about transformation and concrete impact through education & people

Skills development will be further examined through sessions on lifelong learning, highlighting how universities — and CIVIS in particular — can adapt learning pathways to evolving societal and labour-market needs.

Actors and tools for innovation and transformation

Innovation in teaching will also take centre stage, with an experiential session on digital tools for learning transformation, showcasing new approaches to pedagogy beyond traditional classrooms. Discussions on CIVIS libraries will reimagine their role from repositories of knowledge to active partners in co-designing the Alliance's shared future, while student voices will be represented through meetings of the Student Council, reinforcing CIVIS's commitment to participatory governance. By bringing together leadership, policy reflection and open knowledge-sharing, the final day of CIVIS Days 2026 will underline the Alliance's ambition to translate cooperation into concrete impact — for learners, institutions and European society.

DISSEMINATION

European Alliances, Joint Learning, New Pathways: a CIVIS Conversation
11 June, 09:00 - 10:30, Faculty of Law - Room Antonescu, ground floor

The session explores how joint learning can grow from early cooperation into new educational pathways across institutions, disciplines, and

borders. Through the stories of TRACEE, NAT4DD, and POLYCIVIS, the conversation will highlight innovation in programme development, student experience, and alliance-based educational design.

Bringing together staff, students, and external guests, the session will offer an engaging reflection on what it takes to build learning

together in Europe today. Open to both onsite and online audiences, it will showcase the educational ambition of CIVIS and the practical lessons emerging from its evolving portfolio.

Watch the
livestreams



DISSEMINATION

Planting the Seeds for Research Collaboration

12 June, 09:00 - 10:30, Faculty of Law - Room Antonescu, ground floor

The session will showcase research projects developed as part of the CIVIS seed-funding call with the aim to reflect on the benefits and

limitations of this type of initiative in implementing long-term research collaborations across the Alliance. Following the presentation of four significant projects selected from calls launched over the last two years and representing the diversity of initiatives supported (e.g., early-career researchers training, citizen science projects, transdisciplinary networks, etc.), an open discussion with the au-

dience will provide the opportunity to reflect on the challenges and leverage points of this type of initiative in institutionalising and sustaining collaborations at the level of a European alliance.

Watch the
livestreams



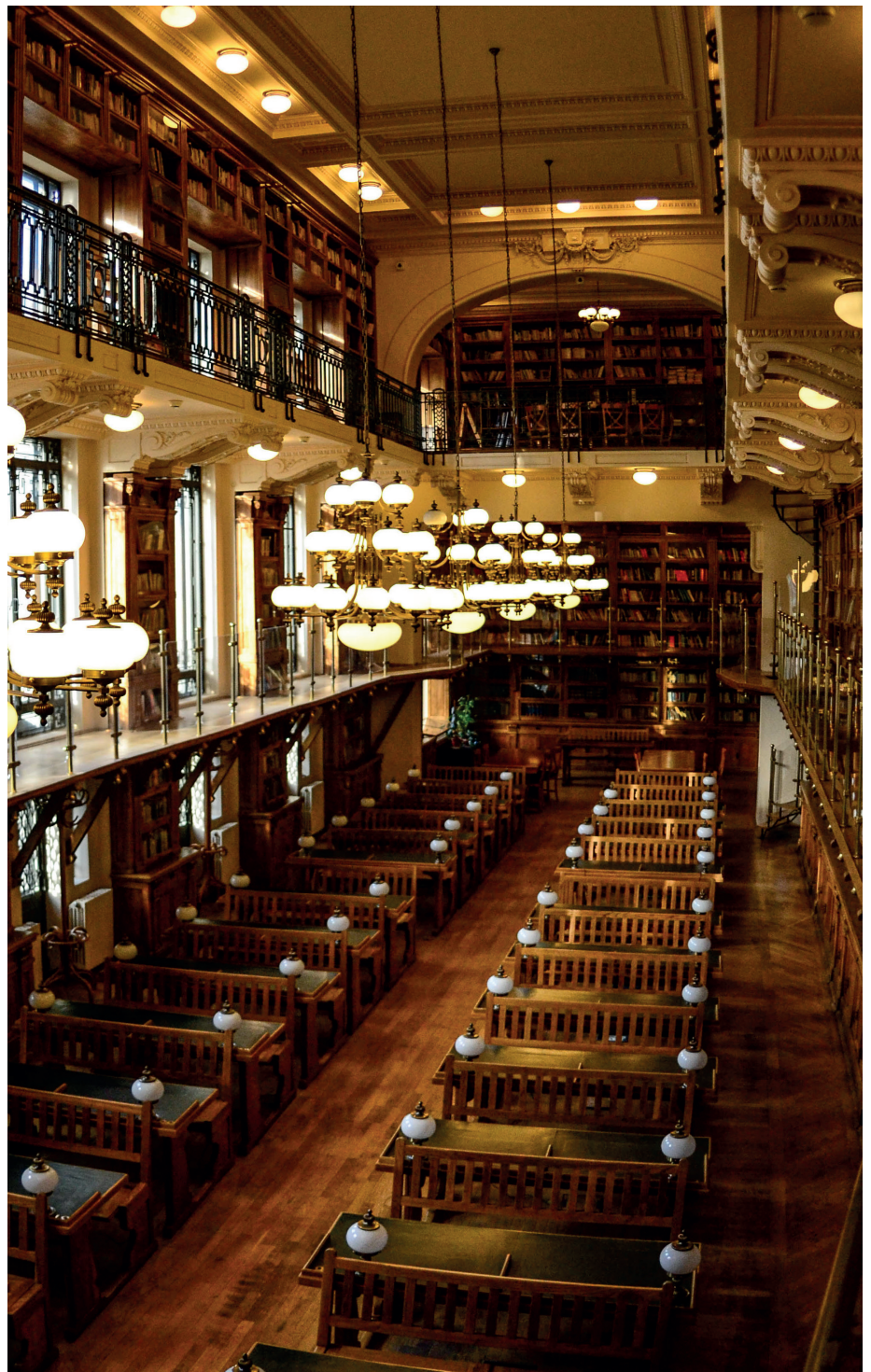
THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

Seven years of novelty, news, and information,
Seven years of policies, practices, and experimentation,
Seven years of trials, success, and many unanswered questions,
Seven years of being and working together,
Seven years of academic diplomacy,
Seven years of academic Europeanisation.

The future after seven years means transformation, flexibility, new structures, and new teaching and learning arrangements, mobilising research and impact for society and within society for CIVIS and Europeanisation.

If CIVIS Days 2025 was about understanding, inclusion, and transclusivity, CIVIS Days 2026 is about togetherness, diplomacy, and Europeanisation—probably the most significant messages that CIVIS can communicate to the academic community.

CIVIS UB coordination Team



civis

days 2026

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AVINCIS
TRADIȚIE ȘI MODERNITATE



Art Safari
New Museum

