



## Setting the Scene for RI

Responsible Internationalisation Workshop 1  
14 March 2024

### Academic Freedom and Collaborations with Universities in Regions of Geopolitical Conflict

Universities are not political organisations BUT operate in a political space, thus they have the responsibility to address sensitive issues and define an ethical strategy with respect to both academic freedom and human rights.

Tensions between academic freedom and human rights may occur. Academic freedom is just one thing to consider when dealing with sensitive issues and it needs to be integrated with other rights and freedoms (e.g. political and civil freedom, right to housing, work, and education).

#### Key Themes & Words:

- Consideration on a case-by-case basis.
- Critical assessment of where funds come from.
- Institutional collaboration – formal and informal should be taken into consideration.
- Standing behind international & national laws.
- Academic freedom & human rights.
- Values → lead to and guide appropriate strategies.
- Take into consideration Local values & Alliance values.

### Responsible Internationalisation in Practice

The cultural, political and social context should be taken into account, treating each possible contact as an individual particular case.

Besides legislative rules and principles (which define red lines) we should entrust in (and develop) the individual researcher's personal judgment and responsibility (since academic freedom also involves academic responsibility). This also applies to internationalisation practitioners in general.

Responsible Internationalisation **goes beyond just Responsible Research** in the context of comprehensive internationalisation, and must also include, for example, discussions regarding services to students that permit their greater integration at the host university, and onboarding documents and training of staff to foster intercultural competencies and soft skills.

### Fair Partnerships Roundtable

Key themes & words to consider as we are working towards fair, inclusive and sustainable partnerships:

- Crucial to remember and address history to decolonise and critically contextualise “fair partnerships”.
- Cooperate (not mere competition).
- Must produce social impact and consist of concrete actions.
- Must entail functional engagement and active collaboration that is mutually beneficial, complementary, equitable, reciprocal and transformational.
- Knowledge sharing and transfer should also promote better common understanding.
- Promote and reinforce collaborations that are socially and ecologically sustainable.

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# Responsible Research

## Responsible Internationalisation Workshop 2

### 27 – 28 November 2024

#### Perspectives: European and Global

There are lots of geopolitical changes, which are impacting many sectors of the economy and society. Research is defined by openness, which is also its vulnerability. It is also decentralised, which further increases the challenges for effective coordination on risk management.

There needs to be an ethical dimension to avoid complicity in human rights and other violations. Universities need to self-regulate: with academic freedom comes responsibility.

Governments also need to play a part through responsible disclosure of information that can help universities understand the nature of risks and possible countermeasures.

Although there are various evolving risks we must be careful to not retreat into a type of “research nationalism”. Risk-side policy changes to bolster security need to consider opportunity costs that come from the risk of non-collaboration. The tension between convergence and divergence should be taken into consideration.

**Balance of risks: Need to balance (‘as open as possible, as secure as necessary’) including support for academic partnerships, alongside the maintenance of trust (public, funders etc.).**



#### Examples of Good Practice:

- Good practices include lists and case studies, which provide clarity and certainty (removing ambiguity from the “grey zone” by defining the field of non-cooperation).
- Government financial support for information and guidance development for responsible research.
- **Important:** When universities are given support to develop the tools to make decisions, the intention of governments must be: **To support, not to impose.**
- The goal needs to be to work towards greater research policy cohesion and alignment.
- University self-governance is part of the picture, allowing for a bespoke approach where needed (this should be welcomed).
- Governments can make mistakes, so increased individual literacy on RI builds in resilience.
- We should be learning to build trust with other sectors, as well as being confident about the role that universities can play.
- The harder job is for universities to avoid overloading those who need to make decisions on risk (over-bureaucratisation).

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# Responsible Knowledge Transfer

Responsible Internationalisation Workshop 3

3- 4 April 2025

## Key Takeaways

- Need for ongoing fair and equitable partnerships as the basis for Technology and Knowledge Transfer, including a recognition that Global South and indigenous knowledges both offer mutual benefits to successful TT/KT.
- Innovation and Technology Transfer Working Group, Responsible International Working Group, and wider EUTOPIA (governance and our institutional colleagues) have mutual interests in TT and KT, which merit ongoing attention, cross-pollination and collaboration.
- EUTOPIA should consider a case-study-based approach to sharing good practice, which is at once flexible (potentially bilateral) according to specialisation, but also monitors Alliance-wide interests
- EUTOPIA should review wider models and frameworks, alongside Alliance-specific strategies to effect positive approaches to TT/KT
- Alliances need a glossary to understand cultural nuances of interpretation in TT/KT practice

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## RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONALISATION

# Towards Responsible Internationalisation

## A EUTOPIAN Approach

### Our Guides

#### Our Eutopia Values:

- Excellence as a purpose of our teaching, research and innovation models.
- Inclusion.
- Sustainable, responsible and ethical attitudes towards the planet.
- Cooperation and openness.
- Academic freedom in search of truth.

#### International Partnership Charter:

Through the International Partnership Charter, the EUTOPIA members and global partners agreed to respect the Guiding Principles of:

- Academic freedom of speech, enquiry, and conscience.
- Excellence as a core value of our teaching, research, and innovation activities.
- Collaboration, respect, transparency, and parity of esteem.
- Inclusivity and non-discrimination within higher education institutions, as a role model for society, without regard for differences of gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, migration background, capability, sexual orientation, transgender identity or expression.
- A sustainable, responsible, and ethical attitude towards the effects of our actions on the planet.

Within the above pledge the members and global partners are committed to:

- Working together in building transformative, connected, challenge-driven universities.
- Through our educational offerings, collectively producing globally aware and engaged students.
- Exploring bottom-up collaborations across academic disciplines and at all levels of study.
- Engaging internationally and collectively with governments, businesses, and agencies in areas of vital importance for global sustainability and socioeconomic improvement.

- Encouraging a deeper understanding of the institutional, regional, and national ecosystems in which we operate.
- Sharing opportunities, be they virtual, blended, or physical, for partners to join existing institutional, bilateral, or multilateral initiatives.
- Encouraging peer-learning activities in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals, other participating institutions, and the wider community.

#### Towards Responsible Internationalisation:

The Alliance commits to strengthening Responsible Internationalisation **by activating and encouraging a shared understanding of our values and commitments** expressed in the International Partnership Charter through:

- Our activities: Connected Communities, Research & Innovation, Initiatives for students, Study programmes, Science Diplomacy, building bridges and Fostering cooperation.
- Engaged navigation between institutional, national, regional and international obligations, allowing for nuanced, possibly divergent viewpoints of Alliance members and our partners due to their context and placemaking.
- Engagement with International Higher Education, Civic society, Public society, Business and Industry.
- Addressing global challenges, e.g. sustainable development, geo-political instability and global economic uncertainty.

**As global uncertainties persist, EUTOPIA recognises that internationalisation must be both principled and proactive. Through our collective values and practices, including our commitment to science diplomacy, we aspire to shape a more connected, cooperative, and resilient higher education landscape.**