

## FIRST CALL FOR TRANSFORM4EUROPE VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

As part of T4EU Alliance, the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and the University of Silesia in Katowice will host visiting professors from outside the Alliance active in the them of:

### **Societal transformation: populism, rising (neo)nationalism, euroscepticism**

The Transform4Europe University Alliance<sup>1</sup> seeks to establish a new model of transnational university collaboration and contribute to the advancement of the European Education Area. The Alliance comprises 11 universities from different regions in Europe:

- Saarland University (Germany)
- The University of Alicante (Spain)
- The Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia)
- The University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)
- Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria)
- The University of Trieste (Italy)
- Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)
- Jean Monnet University (France)
- University of Primorska (Slovenia)
- Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)
  
- Mariupol State University (Ukraine, associated partner)

Transform4Europe aims to educate and train knowledge-entrepreneurs as drivers of transformation for the benefit of sustainable and resilient European societies that can embrace and solve the most important civilisation challenges. To achieve this, the Alliance partners have pooled their efforts to foster knowledge entrepreneurialism for:

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<sup>1</sup> Learn more about the Alliance:

<https://transform4europe.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Transform4Europe/>

<https://www.instagram.com/transform4europe/>

- Digital transformation and smart regions;
- Environmental transformation and sustainability;
- Societal transformation, community building and inclusion.

## **Objective**

The Visiting Professorship initiative addresses the Transform4Europe specific objective to connect the Alliance with external academic ecosystems at European and global level. Therefore, it seeks to attract academics from outside the Alliance for both teaching and research purposes who can provide expertise complementary to the expertise available within the Alliance. The visiting professors will be hosted by two T4EU partner universities.

## **Eligibility**

The Visiting Professorship is open to distinguished academics holding the position of professor and/or researcher (Emeritus Professor, Professor, Associate Professor, or a high-level researcher) at their home educational and/or research institution. The candidates are expected to exemplify academic excellence demonstrated by their scholarly expertise and impactful publication output; effective teaching that nurtures intellectual curiosity and fosters critical thinking; integrity and high academic standards; leadership and a genuine passion for advancing knowledge and transforming lives.

More specifically, the candidates have to be able to demonstrate academic excellence in one, or more, of the three priority areas of the Alliance: Digital transformation and smart regions; Ecological transformation and sustainability; Societal transformation, community building and inclusion; or in any other area identified by the host universities and considered as relevant to the Alliance. Affiliation to T4EU values, intercultural competence and a knowledge entrepreneurial mindset will be considered an asset.

The T4EU Visiting Professorship Call welcomes candidates affiliated to educational and/or research institutions outside of the Transform4Europe Alliance regardless of the country of origin.

## **Scope of responsibility**

The Visiting Professorship award envisages teaching and extracurricular activities specified by the two host universities. The selected visiting professor will be required to engage in teaching and research activities according to the planned program of the mobility at the host universities. They will conduct lectures/seminars in their field of expertise and employ innovative interactive approaches to engage their audience. In addition to the teaching activities, the visiting professors are expected to actively

engage in networking and explore potential collaborative research opportunities in areas of mutual interest to the sending and the host institutions as well as to the Alliance as a whole. They are encouraged to engage with and/or reach out to the broader community by giving public talks, participating in conferences, organising workshops, etc. Where feasible, visiting professors will commit to communicate and enhance the visibility of the Alliance universities internationally.

### **Evaluation criteria**

The Visiting Professorship is awarded on the basis of a competitive independent application process. The visiting professors will be hosted by at least two T4EU partner universities. Candidates addressing one or more of the three focus areas or the topic of knowledge entrepreneurialism will be prioritised. The following criteria will be taken into consideration in the evaluation of applications:

#### **Quality** (40 points)

- Thematic relevance and quality of the working plan
- Added value of the proposed mobility plan
- Innovative and interdisciplinary approach

#### **Contribution to Transform4Europe goals** (30 points)

- Capacity to expand and strengthen collaboration between Transform4Europe universities and the international community as part of the Alliance's academic and research growth
- Capacity to promote and enhance the visibility of the Alliance

#### **Impact** (30 points)

- Capacity to reach out to a variety of target audiences (i.e. students, fellow-academics, external stakeholders, etc.)
- Ability to engage in collaborative research within the priority areas of the Transform4Europe alliance
- Ability to establish and maintain academic networks for knowledge transfer and scholarly collaboration in the long run

### **Application procedure**

The candidates for a Transform4Europe Visiting Professorship submit an online application form. The T4EU Selection Committee conducts the selection based on the established award criteria.

## Application documents

The candidates are expected to submit the following set of application documents in English:

- CV (max 2 pages);
- teaching and/or research working plan (demonstrating relevance to one/more of the priority areas of T4EU) and a brief proposal for future collaboration with the Alliance;
- invitation letter/email from both host institutions that confirms the visit and the planned activities.

## Specific conditions

This section specifies the thematic area in which host universities aim to invite visiting professors, along with other pertinent details.

### Partner universities:

- **Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"**
- **The University of Silesia in Katowice**

Visiting professors are invited to complete a visit in the spring semester of the 2024/2025 academic year or in the 2025/2026 academic year. Visiting professors are expected to engage in teaching/research/extracurricular activities that focus on the theme of: **Societal transformation: populism, rising (neo)nationalism, euroscepticism**

### Details about:

- the time and the exact duration of the visit (at least four working days excluding the days for travel);
- the envisaged workload (teaching/research and extra-curricular activities);
- funding of the visit (travel, accommodation, fees)

will be jointly decided by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the University of Silesia in Katowice on a case-by-case principle.

For any questions, please reach out to:

- University of Silesia in Katowice – Prof. Magdalena Bąk, Dr. Habil.  
[magdalena.bak@us.edu.pl](mailto:magdalenabak@us.edu.pl)
- Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Dr Desislava Karaasenova  
[dkaraasenova@phls.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:dkaraasenova@phls.uni-sofia.bg)

### **Deadline for submission of applications**

The application process is open from 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025.

