

Approved by Transform4Europe Executive Board, October 22, 2025

Fostering European Collaboration in T4EU: 6 Key Principles

Preamble

Effective collaboration across Europe's diverse regions relies on continuous negotiation, inclusive exchange, and professional integrity. These guidelines outline clear, agreed-upon principles supporting equitable, accessible, transparent, and culturally sensitive collaboration within T4EU.

1. Mutual Respect

Recognize that cultures develop continuously through dialogue and negotiation; actively avoid ethnocentric assumptions based on your own cultural biases. Respect individual boundaries, institutional norms, and diverse communication practices across all interactions.

2. Open and Transparent Communication

Encourage clear and constructive dialogue; address concerns and misunderstandings proactively and promptly, not retrospectively. Maintain respectful, courteous, and diplomatic discourse at all times, even when disagreeing or providing critique.

3. Inclusive Participation and Transparent Criteria

Foster welcoming environments inclusive of all participants: students, staff, guests, and partners – regardless of background or status. Create environments where diversity is valued and accessibility is a standard that all participants respect and make effort to meet. Clearly identify and communicate any criteria (e.g., academic merit, resources, geographic balance) that restrict participation, in advance. Maintain openness while actively safeguarding discussions from any disruptive misuse.

4. Professionalism and Ethical Integrity

Consistently uphold high standards of professional behaviour, communication, and academic integrity. Encourage critical thinking and debate grounded in diplomatic communication and scientific rigor. Explicitly commit to ethical standards set forth by the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ALLEA) and other related EU foundational documents.

5. Cultural Sensitivity

Mutually understand and respect cultural customs, norms, and expectations of host institutions, participants, and stakeholders. Ensure awareness and active consideration of cultural differences in all planning, communication, and implementation phases.

6. Clear Organizational Structure

Provide explicit and transparent organizational checklists for joint activities, clearly detailing mandatory and voluntary components, roles, responsibilities, and expectations to prevent ambiguity or misunderstanding. Regularly update and circulate these checklists and documents to all stakeholders, ensuring clarity and consistency in operational practices. Strive for structures and documents that proactively support accessibility and inclusion.