

Utrecht Network Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Mission

The Utrecht Network is a group of leading research universities in Europe, dedicated to advancing internationalisation and global engagement. Built on a strong foundation of long-standing collaboration among experts, the Network enhances the global presence of its member institutions by providing professional fora for cooperation in internationalisation, development of their communities through practice sharing and joint initiatives as well as establishing strategic partnerships worldwide.

Vision

We aspire to promote internationalisation through innovative and diverse mobility formats and initiatives that foster global competences. We work to strengthen collaboration within the Network and with our global partners by delivering high-quality international experiences throughout the university community. We engage with European HE policies by utilising internationalisation expertise to shape discussions and support initiatives to promote sustainability and inclusiveness. We aim to enhance the visibility of the Network through strategic communication and effective promotional tools.

Strategic objectives

1. Promote internationalisation

Objective

Promote internationalisation taking into account equality, diversity and inclusiveness by expanding and diversifying mobility formats and initiatives that build global competencies, while providing professional development, financial support, and opportunities for staff, students and faculties.

Key actions

- Provide professional development opportunities for staff to enhance international

competencies.

- Offer international training programmes and share best practices in responsible internationalization activities.
- Expand exchange programmes and blended learning opportunities, combining online and in-person formats.
- Enhance financial support for students, staff and faculties to boost mobility participation.
- Track, analyse, and report mobility activities within the Network and with global partnerships to assess impact.

2. Strengthen collaboration

Objective

Strengthen collaboration within the Utrecht Network and with our global partners to deliver high-quality international experiences for students, staff and faculties, fostering a culture of shared learning and continuous improvement.

Key actions

- Identify key areas of interest and launch joint activities between member institutions and global partners.
- Provide resources, guidelines, and templates to support members and global partners in designing and delivering internationalisation activities.
- Implement regular surveys and feedback loops to evaluate collaboration quality and refine future initiatives.

3. Engage with European HE policies

Objective

Engage actively with European higher education policies by leveraging the Network's internationalisation expertise to influence policy discussions and support initiatives that promote sustainability, inclusiveness, and global collaboration.

Key actions

- Monitor participation in EU policy events and the successful implementation of funded initiatives, reporting back to members.
- Contribute Network expertise to EU discussions on internationalisation, sustainability, inclusiveness and digital transformation.
- Promote and support sustainable and inclusive practices through workshops and shared resources.

- Organise training sessions on navigating EU funding opportunities to support education and research initiatives.

4. Enhance communication and visibility

Objective

Enhance the Utrecht Network's visibility and reputation by developing a strong brand identity, amplifying our digital presence, engaging stakeholders, and showcasing the impact of its initiatives.

Key actions

- Regularly publish newsletters featuring key updates, success stories, and internationalisation insights.
- Implement social media campaigns with a planned content calendar to highlight Network achievements and initiatives.
- Launch a user-friendly web portal serving as a central hub for internationalisation resources, training, and collaboration.
- Develop promotional materials to increase visibility at conferences and in media outlets.
- Track engagement with newsletters, social media, and the website to refine the communication strategy and maximize impact.

Implementation and Monitoring

This strategic plan will be supported by operational plans, updated regulations and guidelines where appropriate to ensure effective implementation and alignment with our goals.

Steering Committee and Task Forces are assigned to oversee specific priorities, with annual objectives set for each area, ensuring alignment with strategic goals. Performance will be measured through clear metrics, including participation rates, engagement levels, and mobility figures.