CIVICA Engage Criteria

Civic engagement with the Engage track: criteria of eligibility for Engage bachelor courses
CIVICA Engage courses

• A course can be seen (accredited) as an Engage course if it has all of these 4 elements
  1. Engagement with external partner(s)
  2. Topic relevant to society
  3. Topic related to a European challenge
  4. A project component
1-Engagement with external partner(s)

• The course needs to engage with a partner external to the Education provider (the university), preferably at the local (city, region/country) level. Such partners can be organizations, charities, NGOs, Unions, Political parties, Think Tanks, or any businesses

• Partners must have a civic engagement focus either as their mission, vision or operations

• This civic engagement focus of the partner should ideally appear in the course syllabus (e.g., a line or two as ‘why’ this partner for an Engage course)
1-Engagement with external partner(s) cont.

- Engagement with a partner can range from a guest lecture to having a full project together (see also point 4: project component)

- Engagement with a partner can be done either at the course level (e.g. organised by the course director) or by the students (e.g. students have individual projects or do interviews with partners)
2-Theme relevant to society

• The course needs to address a specific theme that is relevant to society

• Themes relevant to society can touch on specific communities, or generations, or population groups

• Preference is given to themes that can be addressed at a local (municipal/regional/national) level for interpersonal interactions with partners and (rapid) tangible impact

• Relevance to society is assessed in the way the project contributes to a stronger society
3-Theme related to a European challenge

• What constitutes a European challenge is defined broadly along aspects such as
  • Link to our (contemporary) European society or European ethos
  • A relevance that is also found in other European countries
  • A present or future challenge
4-A project component

• The course can develop a project in its engagement with the external partner(s) (e.g. in data presentation or collection, in delivering outcomes to the partner)

• The project component ideally bridges theory and practice. It is related to civic engagement.

• Project components can vary in size and length, from welcoming guest speaker(s) to have a panel discussion in class followed by student reflection projects, to several week long live case with one or several organisations to develop solutions to a social challenge.