

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.