CIVICA4All: Inclusivity, Accessibility and Activity in European Universities

Workshop on November 25th, 2026

The workshop aims to provide a forum for participants to share experiences and jointly develop good practice relating to accessible teaching and learning, as well as accessible research, across universities within the CIVICA Alliance. The workshop will be participatory and practice-oriented, providing opportunities for networking, collaboration and the further internationalisation of participants.

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome coffee

09:30 – 09:45 Opening of the workshop

Moderation:

Magdalena Kocejko, PhD

Joanna Felczak, PhD

Justyna Kapturkiewicz, PhD

Edyta Zduńska-Leseux, PhD

09:45 – 11:00 Simulation workshop

The aim of this session is to raise participants' awareness of the barriers and challenges that may arise within the academic environment. Participants will take part in practical exercises using:

- wheelchairs,
- walking stick, crutches walking frames,
- ageing simulation suits,
- vision impairment simulation glasses,
- white canes used by blind people.

The exercises will include, among other things:

- navigating university facilities,
- using digital and technical infrastructure,
- accessing information and communication,
- performing everyday academic activities.

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45 Parallel thematic workshops

Group I: Accessible and Inclusive Teaching and Learning

Accessible and inclusive teaching and learning is not limited to providing individual adjustments for students, doctoral researchers or staff members who formally request support. This workshop goes a step further by jointly developing principles for applying Universal Design for Learning (UDL) within higher education.

Topics:

- Moving from a model based on individual adjustments to an approach based on Universal Design for Learning – what does this shift involve and what are its practical implications for teaching?
- Accessibility and the achievement of intended learning outcomes – how can modules, programmes and learning activities be designed using universal design principles without compromising academic standards?
- Accessibility from the perspective of academic staff – what barriers do lecturers encounter and how can these be addressed?
- Principles of universally designing teaching materials and educational resources.
- Principles of inclusive teaching practice – how to create an inclusive learning environment in practice?
- Good practices implemented across CIVICA universities.

Particular attention will be paid to the accessibility of teaching and learning from the perspective of people with different types of disabilities, both as learners and as members of academic staff involved in teaching.

Group II: Accessible and Inclusive Research

Within the academic community, ensuring accessibility and appropriate support should not be limited to students and doctoral researchers. The purpose of this workshop is to highlight the barriers and challenges associated with conducting research and to explore ways of ensuring accessibility for academic staff.

Topics:

- identifying barriers and challenges arising at different stages of the research process,
- accessibility of recruitment to research projects and participation in research,
- accessibility of research methods, tools and materials,
- organising support and reasonable accommodations for researchers with disabilities and other access needs,
- accessibility of academic conferences, publications and the communication of research findings,
- embedding research accessibility within university strategies, policies and procedures,
- good practices and solutions implemented across CIVICA universities.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the meaningful involvement of researchers with disabilities as researchers and co-researchers, as well as on identifying systemic solutions that support accessible research.

12:45 – 13:15 Coffee break and networking

13:15 – 14:30 Presentation of group outcomes, reflections and closing discussion

Each group will present:

- the barriers and challenges identified,
- key findings,

- examples of good practice,
- recommendations.

Following the presentations, participants will have the opportunity to:

- share their reflections on the workshop themes,
- discuss opportunities for future collaboration within the CIVICA alliance.

14:30 Lunch