

Lisbon, 11th of January 2024

LETTER OF SUPPORT

I, Elvira Fortunato, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, am writing to express my support for the Applied, Connected, Entrepreneurial and Engaged – European University Alliance (ACE²_EU), a dynamic initiative involving leaders from universities across eight European countries. This transnational alliance of professional higher education institutions, spearheaded by the Polytechnic Institute of Santarém (IPSantarém – Instituto Politécnico de Santarém), has submitted a proposal under the call for proposals launched in the framework of the European Universities – Development of Deep Institutional Transnational Cooperation (Call ERASMUS-EDU-2024-EUR-UNIV-1).

The goals and mission of ACE²_EU align seamlessly with IPSantarém's goals and with the pressing needs of contemporary higher education, emphasizing human, digital, research, education, and innovation synergies. Through the active participation of students, researchers, teachers, and external stakeholders, ACE²_EU aims to co-create sustainable solutions for real-world challenges.

ACE²_EU's mission is to offer diverse opportunities in education, research, innovation, and services to society through collaborative partnerships with external stakeholders in the world of work. Not only the Alliance is dedicated to fostering a more inclusive and connected European higher education system, but also to co-create a model involving challenge-based learning, innovative research, and shared governance, ensuring the active involvement of all stakeholders. As a University, ACE²_EU places a high priority on promoting an inclusive, equitable, and dignified society by providing equal, accessible, and inclusive opportunities for education and research.

Additionally, it is noteworthy that the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Higher Education through the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) actively supports alliances such as ACE²_EU, through doctoral scholarships and other forms of support. There is now the possibility to polytechnic institutions award doctoral degrees, thereby enhancing the significance of its application and with the financial support from FCT, it further underscores the value and impact of the ACE²_EU initiative. This endorsement affirms the Alliance's role in advancing higher education and research, demonstrating the commitment to success of ACE²_EU and its contributions to an inclusive and innovative European society.

Thank you for your dedication to making a difference in the future of higher education. I anticipate the success and impact of the ACE²_EU Alliance, not only in Santarém but throughout Europe.

Sincerely,

Elvira
Fortunato



Assinado de forma digital
por Elvira Fortunato
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Elvira Fortunato
Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education