



## Ceremonial Opening of the PIONEER Alliance Project at Université Gustave Eiffel, in Paris

The PIONEER Alliance, a prestigious European University Alliance Project focused on developing consortium on sustainable cities and smart transportation, was officially launched at Université Gustave Eiffel in Paris. From February 25 to 27, 2025, experts, coordinators, and representatives from ten leading European universities gathered to kick-off this groundbreaking initiative aimed at shaping the future of urban development across Europe.

The PIONEER Alliance brought together ten impact-driven renowned universities from across Europe, focusing on the developing of a new generation of learners, knowledge producers and innovators for society and future cities. The goal of the project, taking place from 2025 to 2028, is to shape the future of urban areas and collaborate on solutions that will improve quality of life, mobility, and environmental conditions in cities.



Author: Université Gustave Eiffel

*„In a world facing new risks and challenges, Europe finds itself at a crossroads, compelled to assert its position and values. This pioneering consortium is actively shaping a new vision for Europe—one in which scientific knowledge flows freely across borders and a shared European identity is fostered among students and staff alike,“* said Gilles Roussel, president of Université Gustave Eiffel



Author: UNIZA - University of Žilina

The meeting in Paris kicked-off a three-day program, during which participants acquainted themselves with the main goals of the project and the whole alliance. The vision and ambitions of the PIONEER Alliance, focused on sustainable development and building smart cities. Following this, an exhibition of partner universities took place, providing an ideal space for exchanging experiences and best practices, exploring new opportunities for collaboration and mobility between students, educators and researchers.

The PIONEER Alliance focuses on addressing key issues such as urban transitions, climate change adaptation, biodiversity protection, mobile technology development, and improving public health improvement. To achieve these goals, the alliance makes use of the expertise of its members in the fields of innovation and research.

The PIONEER Alliance focuses on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11, which supports the creation of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. As part of the project, universities will focus on research and implementation of solutions in areas such as urban mobility, energy efficiency, digitalization, and climate adaptation.

Members of the PIONEER Alliance: Université Gustave Eiffel (FR), Avans University of Applied Sciences (NL), ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon (PT), Laurea University of Applied Sciences (FI), TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences (DE), Huelva University (ES), IUAV – Università Iuav di Venezia (IT), UTB – Tomas Bata University in Zlín (CZ), UNIZA – University of Žilina (SK) and Bern University of Applied Sciences (CH) - associated partner. In total over 130,000 students and 17,000 faculty and staff across Europe.

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