

## PRESS RELEASE

### First RUN-EU networking meeting gathered regional, national and European partners

Leiria, 8 July 2021

The first networking meeting between the Regional University Network – European University (RUN-EU) and its associated partners and regional stakeholders was held in online format on 29 June. The event was organised with the main purpose of presenting the overall objectives and structure of RUN-EU, promoting mutual knowledge among associated partners and RUN-EU member higher education institutions and receiving valuable contributions related to RUN-EU activities.

Representatives of the associated partners from each country drawn from industry and enterprise, regional government and society reaffirmed the shared values and goals sustaining the relationship – improvement of their regions' competitiveness and quality of life, and promotion of sustainability, excellence, and European values. RUN-EU's associated partners also reiterated their commitment to engage in a collaborative relationship and provide opportunities to raise the innovation potential of their regions.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, RUN-EU is one of the 41 European Universities recently recognised by the European Commission within the framework of the [European Universities Initiative](#). It is an alliance of eight like-minded and regional development-oriented higher education institutions located in Portugal, Ireland, Finland, The Netherlands, Austria and Hungary, aiming to create a new type of multinational interregional coalition, a European Zone for Interregional Development (EZ-ID).

Passionate about reducing regional economic, social, cultural, and environmental disparities in the European Union, RUN-EU will provide its students and regional stakeholders with the future and advanced skills necessary to meet new and emerging regional and global challenges. Networking meetings with its regional, national and European stakeholders will ensure the maximum relevance and impact of the activities to be developed by RUN-EU.

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