

20 February 2024

Invitation to the COLOURS Kick-Off Meeting at Paderborn University

Dear COLOURS Alliance partners,

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." Plato

In July 2023, the University Alliance COLOURS (COLlaborative innOvative sUustainable Regional univerSities) was selected to be one of the 50 European University Alliances that will be funded by the European Commission as part of the prestigious "European Universities initiative – Partnerships for Excellence" for the next four years. Paderborn University, along with all partners and stakeholders in the COLOURS Alliance, is very much looking forward to designing and implementing innovative collaborations in research, education, and transfer.

COLOURS unites nine universities with around 126,000 students and 12,300 staff members. Apart from Paderborn University as coordinating institution, the members of the Alliance include Le Mans University (France), the University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain), the University of Ferrara (Italy), Kristianstad University (Sweden), Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa (Poland), Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek (Croatia), Ventspils University of Applied Sciences (Latvia), and the University St. Kliment Ohridski Bitola (North Macedonia).

These institutions are joined in their collaboration by 55 associated partners who will act as multipliers in regional innovation ecosystems. The COLOURS approach is reflected in the Alliance's planned activities, linking open innovation, challenge-based teaching, and impact-driven research to regional Smart Specialisation goals. Thereby, COLOURS will initiate and inspire social and technological innovation for citizens all over Europe.

To mark the start of this exciting journey and to celebrate COLOURS as a European University Alliance, we would like to cordially invite you to join us for the official

Kick-Off Meeting
at Paderborn University, Germany
on
18 & 19 March 2024

The event will provide a great opportunity for Alliance members and associated partners to embark on this path together, meet in person and network. In the attached agenda you will find an engaging interactive programme, ranging from a festive opening to a COLOURful marketplace and various networking opportunities. For more information, please see the attached agenda or the [event website](#). Please register until 29 February 2024 via our [online form](#).

We look forward to welcoming you in Paderborn to be part of our COLOURful journey and to explore new pathways in research, education, and transfer!

Kind regards,



Prof. Dr.
Birgitt Riegraf
President of Paderborn University



Prof. Dr.
Torsten Meier
COLOURS Alliance President