

# Connecting and empowering the research community

**ENGAGE.EU**

The European University  
Engaged in Societal Change

University of Malaga, DiPYUA, January 2026



# ENGAGE.EU

## The European University Engaged in Societal Change

**ENGAGE.EU aims to empower** a new generation of European citizens in the areas of business, economics, and social sciences, equipped with a research-based approach to frame and **solve future challenges.**

Through **collaborative efforts and comprehensive interdisciplinary approaches** drawing from business, economics, and social sciences and other disciplines such as humanities, law, public and health... **we strive to drive innovation, promote sustainability, and, ultimately, have a positive impact on the world.**



**Dr James Small**  
 Tilburg University  
 Task lead of ENGAGE.EU  
 research communities

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 Community manager

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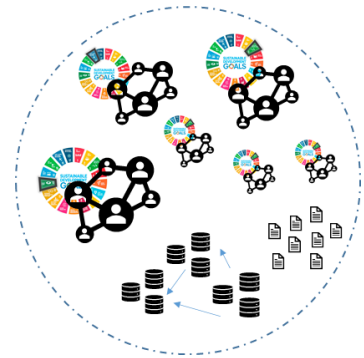


# ENGAGE.EU Research Networks Ambition

...create a climate that fosters new connections and collaborations in and across many different fields of research

...bring researchers into contact with each other to find solutions for international societal challenges

...via ENGAGE move faster towards solutions and contribute to society, education, policy making and the international debate.



# ENGAGE.EU Research Networks Strategy



## Top-down approach

- Identify common research topics related to societal challenges - SDGs
  - Define formats for in-person meetings – workshops, seminars, conferences...
  - Publish calls and organize events
  - Publish results and repeat
- but **Little added value over existing institutional approaches**

## Some Context....

- **ENGAGE.EU launch 2020...**
- **Coincided with COVID and what seemed like a new reality in mobility**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**a focus on future research opportunities not past publications**

**a shift to a Bottom-up approach**

Develop digital infrastructure  
support an alliance wide community,  
support connections, collaborations  
and user generated content



## a Bottom-up approach

### Some design principles

- Themes rather than academic “disciplines” help to stimulate a multi / interdisciplinary approach to societal challenges
- Collaborations framed as Opportunities
- Language is important, needs to be seen as a “Means to an end” – How can we Help you?
- User centric – based on needs assessment – focus groups feedback on prototypes ... then repeat, continuous improvement

**Alliance** added value lies in the **connections** –  
... fundamentally the **people** who  
work together to **co create** and **co deliver across** institutional  
boundaries





## a Community Platform - an entrepreneurial approach


### Early choices - internal versus external resources


Internal: integrate into Course Catalogue, LMS and Credentials initiatives - early stage, little experience, high complexity, divergent goals, low priority, not a deliverable!

External: + draw upon existing experience, technical and social networking best practice, consultative approach, agile and sprint-based experimentation

External: - contractual, security and GDPR complexity

# ENGAGE.EU Research Community Platform



Collaboration ▾ Community ▾ My Account ▾ About ▾ Help ▾ 

Create New Opportunity

## How can we help you?

In this platform you can find and create new opportunities for research collaboration. Are you looking for ways to make your research project more interdisciplinary, international and/or societally relevant? The ENGAGE.EU community is there to take your research project to the next level!

### You can search for:

- collaboration opportunities >
- colleagues with similar interests >
- job opportunities >
- grant applications >
- events >
- inspiration and reports >

### You can create:


- a call for support >
- a collaboration group >
- your own event >
- an inspiring article >
- your profile page >

## Take your research project to the next level!

Get your research done by collaborating with colleagues from ENGAGE.EU partner universities.

" We are giving shape to a new, innovative form of collaboration that is relevant for the researchers of all partners. With ENGAGE.EU, we are building a future of international research and it is great to be part of that. "

— Dr James Small  
Task lead of ENGAGE.EU research communities



# ENGAGE.EU Research Community Platform

## Themes

Below you can find 12 themes that address European societal challenges. Each theme holds several research projects and opportunities.



**Digital transformation**



**Justice and peace**



**Sustainable business**



**Sustainable society**



**Sustainable planet**



**Health and wellbeing**



**Inequality**



**Global economy**



**Research Ethics**



**Grants**



**Open Science**



**Teaching**

# ENGAGE.EU Research Community Platform

## Latest News & Events

You can find the latest news, blogs, articles, events and inspiration below. Do you want to share your own news or event with the community? Then create it [here!](#)

ne  
emes ▾

SDG  
SDGs ▾

Jan 23, 2026

In Inspire By [Rianne Strijker](#) 0

### NEW on the platform: academic publications from our community members

We've just launched our newest release of the community platform, with a substantial impact on how you can use the platform for

[Continue Reading](#) →



Jan 19, 2026

In Inspire

In Reports By [James Small](#) 0

### Sustainable collaborations during the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank at Tilburg University

Tilburg University hosted the first ENGAGE.EU Think Tank, jointly organized with ESADE/Ramon Llull, WU Vienna, and Hanken School of Economi

[Continue Reading](#) →

## Upcoming Events

### MSCA DN Webinar 4: The Launch — Proposal Writing and Smart Submission Planning

Jan 27, 2026 @ 14:00 -15:30 CET

### Practical Conference for Early Researchers and Young Scholars

Feb 5 -7, 2026

### Across the Atlantic: What European Institutions Can Consider from the U.S. IRB Model

Feb 10, 2026 @ 10:00 -11:00 CET

### 17th EURAM Early Career Colloquium - Future- proofing early academic careers: thriving with AI and beyond

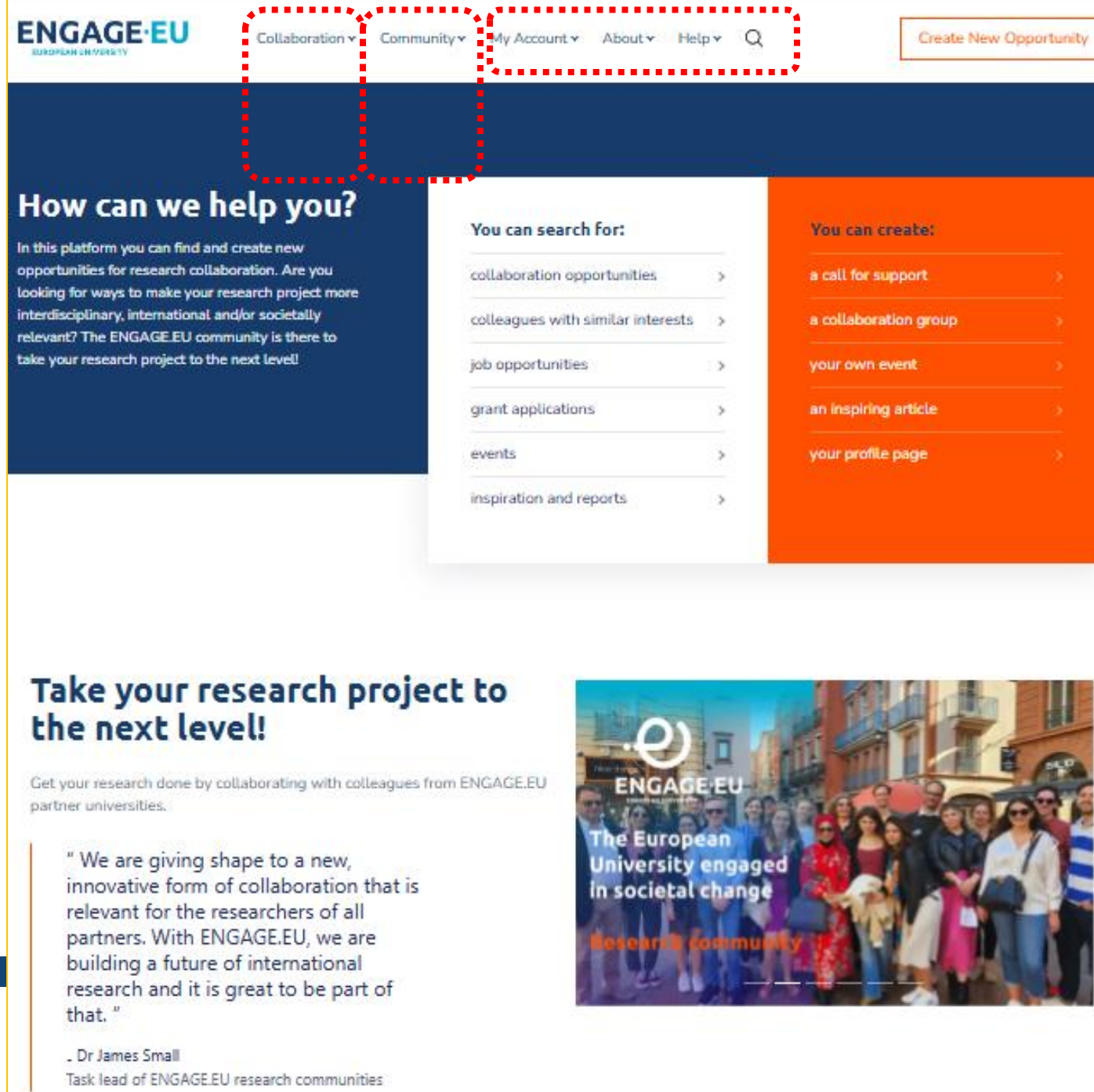
Mar 25 -27, 2026






# ENGAGE.EU Research Community Platform:

## Features and Functionality tour



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# ENGAGE.EU Community Platform

## Lessons (some)

- Notifications (subject specific) are a key driver of interactions
- Enhanced profile information was a clear desire from the community
- Visible, cascade search functionality is important to users
- File and video upload extends the range of “use cases”
- “Users” should extend beyond the academic community to partners
- Expect a dynamic technical/functional environment, so a “sandbox” is essential
- A good project management system is essential (e.g. Trello)
- Stay flexible / agile - allow for “use cases” that were not planned
- ...

# ENGAGE.EU Community Platform



## Future...

Extend support for Outreach and Challenge based learning use cases

Work on AWARENESS - an ongoing challenge

Improve ease of access - extend SSO

...

...



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# Questions?

## Connecting and empowering our research community?

Join the community!



<https://www.research-community-engage.eu/>



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You can find us here!

@engageuniversity

[www.engageuniversity.eu](http://www.engageuniversity.eu)

