

Editorial

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This book is based on an invitation, an invitation to the academic community of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, to think about itself as a community and as an institution at the service of larger communities. Colleagues from the most diverse disciplines and in the most diverse roles at the University (students, researchers, teachers, staff) have accepted the challenge to write about their understanding of “Community. Communities.”

As editors, we gave only a few hints concerning our own expectations for the topic, mainly a reference to the occasion which led to this project: a meeting of our European University Alliance *Transform4Europe*. The occasion implies an inquiry about where we stand with and within this alliance, in the context of our country, in Europe and concerning the global outreach that we might aim at. This inquiry seeks response in many different ways: as a discipline, as a school, as a facility, as an institution at the service of stakeholders and society at large. None of the texts presented in this book claims to give a comprehensive answer – not even any kind of representative perspective. They stand for a certain view by a certain person in a certain context for a certain moment.

As such, the contributions to this volume have become an invitation themselves, an invitation to the reader to pick up those who might interest most or those which you always were curious about. You might enjoy some of them, others you will not like and there may even be many you won’t even read.

That is what usually happens to books and to communities: you may accept their invitation or not, fully or in part. However, one thing is certain: it is an opportunity to understand where we stand.

As an invitation, the book wants to be a gesture of hospitality: Look, here we are. You are welcome to share with us our *Community. Communities*.

Lisbon, May 2026