



European Commission

## EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

A key pillar of the European Education Area

More than 570 higher education institutions

Up to EUR 14.4 Million from Erasmus+ per alliance for 4 years

65 European Universities alliances  
35 countries, including all 27 Member States

Teaming up with around 2200 associated partners, including higher education institutions from Bologna Process countries

### WHY EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES?

In our interconnected world, **addressing global challenges requires a collective effort**. It is a shared responsibility to enable current and future generations to acquire **future-proof skills** for their own and Europe's benefit.

The rapidly evolving labour market and societal transitions require higher education institutions to adapt and provide students, academics, university staff, and lifelong learners with the skills they need to navigate the **twin green and digital transition and build a resilient society**. Beyond their core tasks of **teaching, research and innovation**, universities are key actors in Europe to address big societal challenges, being true **engines of development for cities and regions** and promoting **civic engage-**

**ment**. In addition, students from all across the continent seek for high-quality and meaningful study opportunities to evolve professionally and personally.

In this context, **transnational education** is no longer an option but a crucial necessity, with a much deeper level of cooperation needed between universities, and with all key actors. The European Universities initiative aims at fostering **excellence, innovation and inclusion** in higher education across Europe and at accelerating the transformation of higher education institutions into the **universities of the future with structural, systemic and sustainable impact**. European Universities embody the freedom to learn, work together, research, innovate, share knowledge and capacity across borders

### WHAT ARE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES?

European Universities are **ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions** developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation.

#### Key criteria

Minimum of **3 higher education institutions**, from **3 EU Member States** or third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme.

#### Key cooperation principles

Alliances develop **joint long-term strategies** for education with, where possible, links to research and innovation to drive systemic, structural and sustainable impact at all levels of their institutions

Alliances create and implement **European inter-university campuses**, where:

- students, academics, university staff, researchers and lifelong learners enjoy **seamless mobility** (physical, virtual or blended) to study, train, teach,

do research, work or share services across borders and disciplines

- transdisciplinary and transnational teams** of students, academics and external stakeholders tackle big issues facing Europe (such as climate protection, digitalisation, health, democracy, migration, security)

- students can design their own **flexible curricula**, leading to a European Degree

- practical and/or work-based experience** is provided to foster an entrepreneurial mind-set and develop civic engagement

- the student body reflects the social, economic and cultural **diversity** of the population

Cooperating partners should come from **different parts of Europe**



“Higher education institutions from all over Europe participate, not only from capital cities but also from more remote European regions “

## THE WAY FORWARD

In November 2017, the 28 EU leaders debated the future of education at the Gothenburg Social Summit in Sweden. In the same month, the European Commission set out a vision for a European Education Area to be built by 2025 “in which learning, studying and doing research would not be hampered by borders”. The European Universities initiative is a flagship initiative of the European Education

Area. It enables a new generation of Europeans to cooperate across languages, borders and disciplines, developing a strong European identity. It is also a flagship initiative of the European strategy for universities that sets the ambition to support at least 60 European Universities alliances involving more than 500 higher education institutions by mid-2024.



**October 2018** European Commission launches 1st Erasmus+ call to higher education institutions to start testing different models for European Universities

**June 2019** Results of 1st call announced

**November 2019** First 17 European Universities start cooperating

**November 2019** Launch of 2nd Erasmus+ call

**July 2020** Results of 2nd call announced

**November 2020** 24 new European Universities start cooperating

**November 2022** Launch of 3rd Erasmus+ call announced

**July 2022** Results of 3rd call announced – full roll-out phase

**Autumn 2022** 44 European Universities consolidating and expanding their cooperation and launch of 4th Erasmus+ Call

**July 2023** Results of 4th call announced

**Autumn 2023** Launch of 5th Erasmus+ call

**Summer 2024** Results of 5th call announced. 65 European Universities involving more than 570 higher education institutions from all parts of Europe are transforming higher education

## NOW JUST IMAGINE BEING A PART OF IT

By mid-2024, 65 European Universities alliances...  
representing more than 570 diverse types of higher education institutions...  
from all over Europe...  
are funded through Erasmus+

Find out more about the European Universities alliances and future developments of the initiative...

#EuropeanUniversities

[https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative_en)



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