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# The Models of Academic Cooperation and the Reasons of their Institutionalisation. The Unita experience.

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# 12 universities and a legal entity / 7 countries / 1 alliance



250.000  
Students



21.000  
Staff



50  
Associated  
partners



32  
Geminae partners  
worldwide



# The Unita Choice: The European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG)

EU CONSORTIUM set up to pool means and other resources and share losses and costs  
(Reg. EEC n. 2137/85 of 25 July 1985)

Statute written and discussed in 2021-2022



Formally approved by each member in summer 2022



EEIG registered at the Turin Chamber of Commerce in Jan. 2023



Presentation and funding of a pilot project in Jan. 2023 (EGAI)



EEIG funded within the UNITA second phase in June 2023



# The European University Initiative

A shift from informal to formal networks?

Informal network: networks that come into existence spontaneously, thanks to **personal relationships between individuals** who share the same culture

Not stable, not visible, not accessible



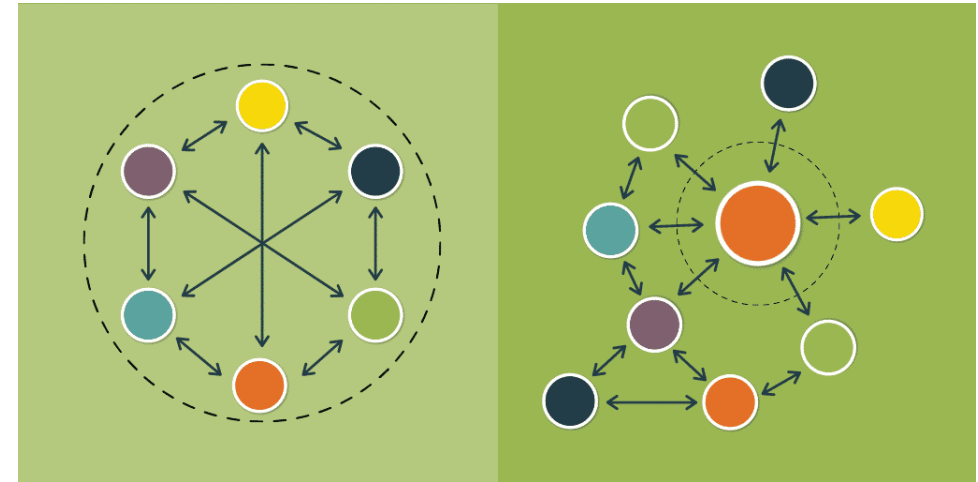


# Network Governance Models

a) Non institutionalized options, formal or informal (agreements, contracts...):

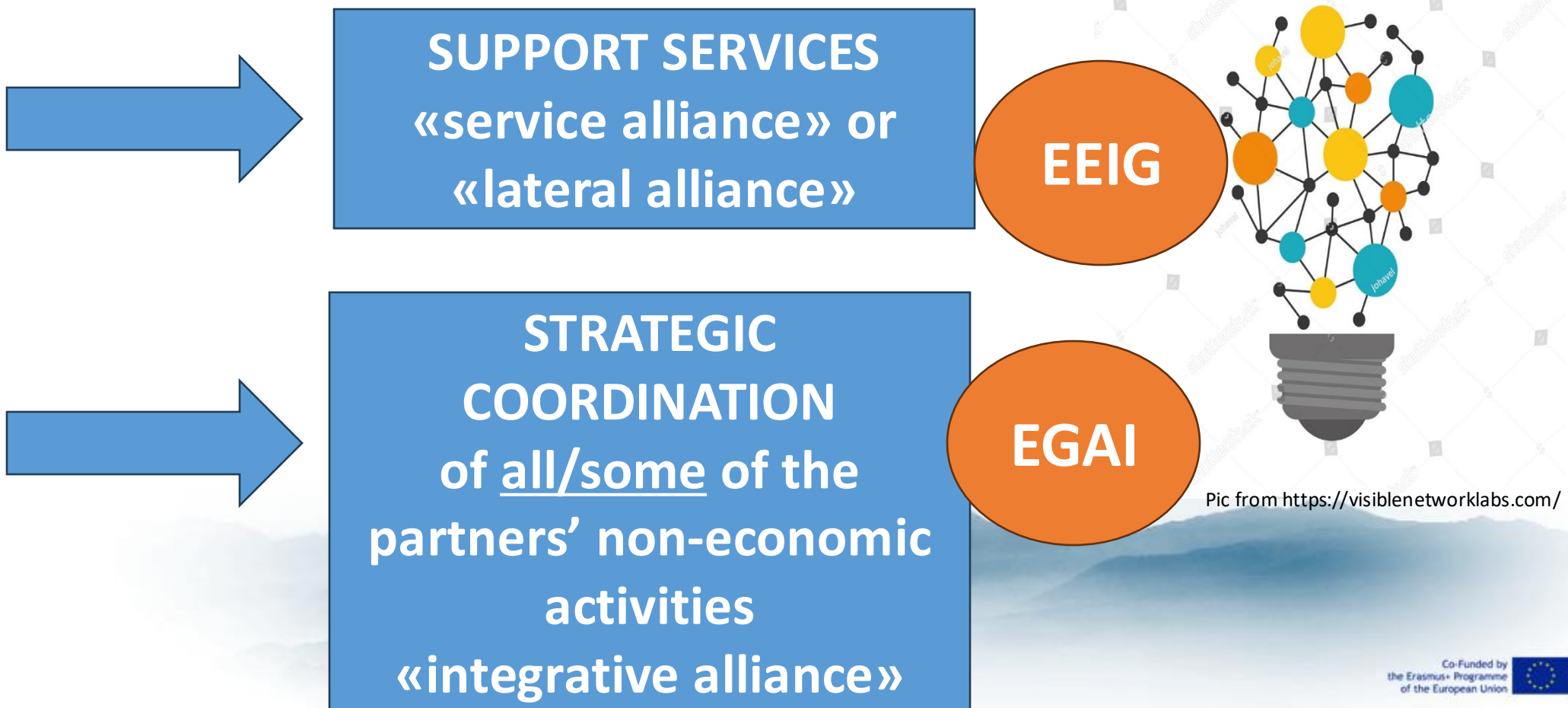
- Participant-Governed Networks (involvement and commitment of all, symmetrical power);
- Lead Organization-Governed Networks

b) Institutionalized options (legal entities): Network Administrative Organization (NAO) = separate administrative entity set up specifically to govern the network and its activities



Pic from <https://visiblenetworklabs.com/>

# Institutionalizing Cooperation: What for?



# The Existing Instruments

## EU LEVEL

- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
- European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG)
- European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)
- Societas Europea

## NATIONAL LEVEL

- For Profit Options
- Non Profit Options:
  - Association
  - Foundation



# Is it the EEIG a suitable solution?

The reasons of our choice: **flexibility and easy establishment**

## First EU-Specific Company Form

«more than a joint venture, but less than a merger» (Fleischer, 2010)

### Model of the **ENTREPREUNERIAL UNIVERSITY**:

Innovation and creation of opportunities; development of a comprehensive internal system for knowledge commercialization, including patenting and licensing, new companies creation, custom-made further-education courses, consultancy services, contract research by providing a support structure, "natural incubator", through different stakeholders (RADKO et al., 2023)

LIMITS: ANCILLARY AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES





# How should the EGAI be?

EXPLICITLY DEVOTED TO  
ACADEMIC COOPERATION



Based on ACADEMIC FOUNDING VALUES:  
ACADEMIC FREEDOM and INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY



For easier ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL, EU AND  
NATIONAL FUNDING for HE



For easier recognition in ACADEMIC STAFF CAREER  
PATHWAYS



Under the RESPONSABILITY OF HE NATIONAL  
MINISTERS

University is not an administration like any other

