

OpenEU

The Open
European
University

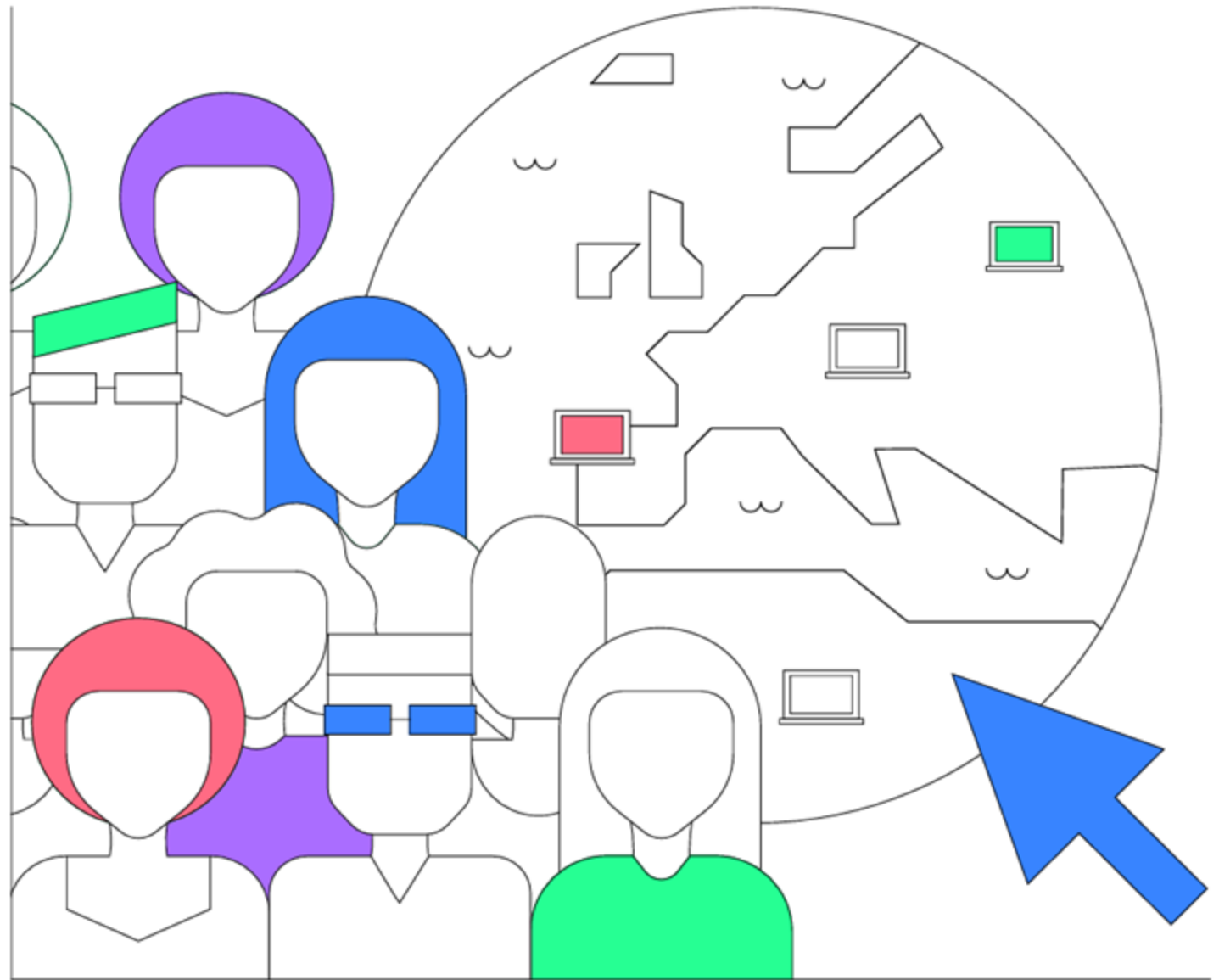
Crossing bridges in the digital age:

Open Infrastructures for
Collaborative Alliances

Àlex Hinojo

Secretary general OpenEU

Leipzig, April 2025



Co-funded by
the European Union

OpenEU's Consortium

14 Universities

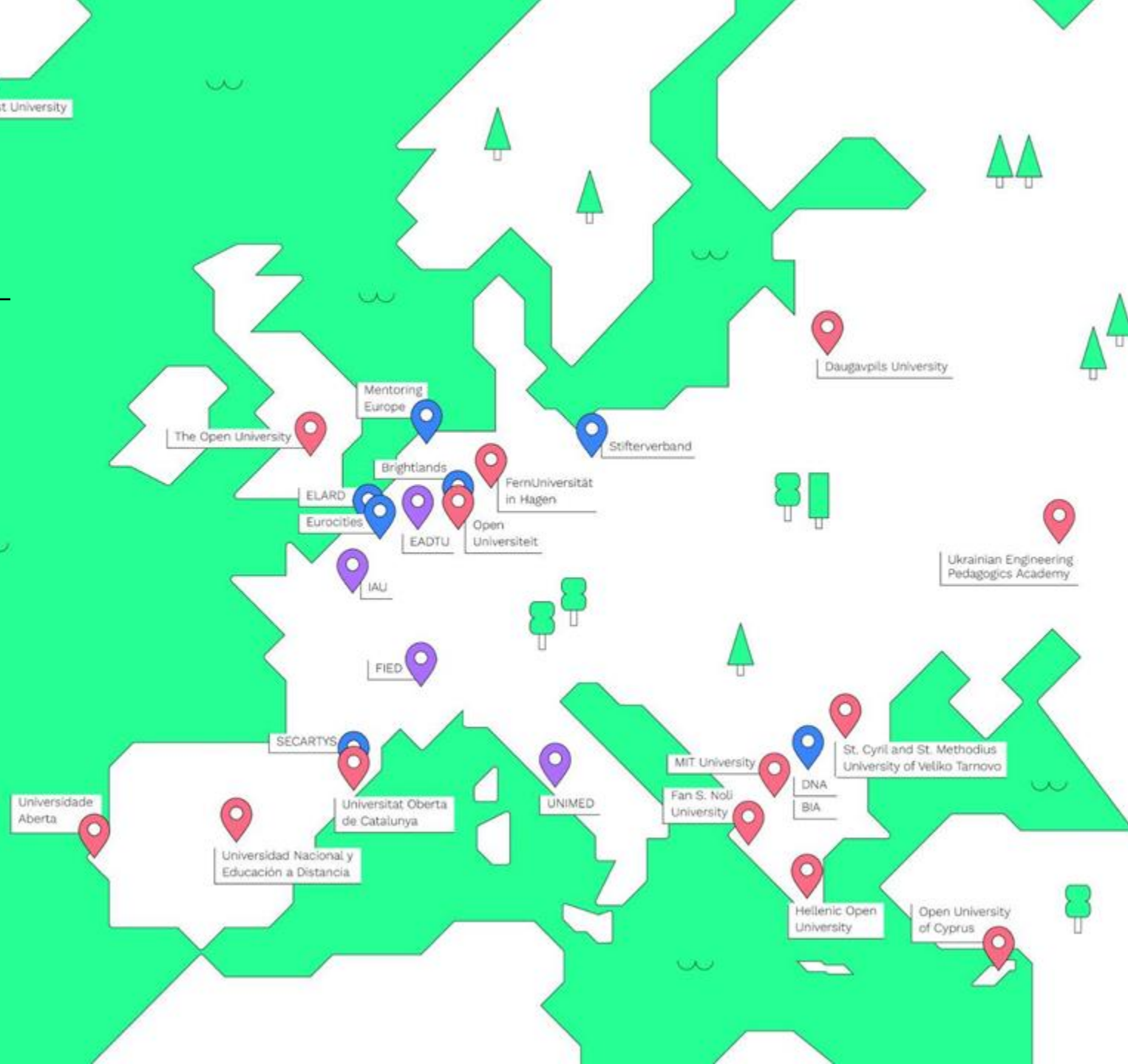
- 10 Full + 4 Associated partners
- 9 Open + 5 Traditional

4 University Associations

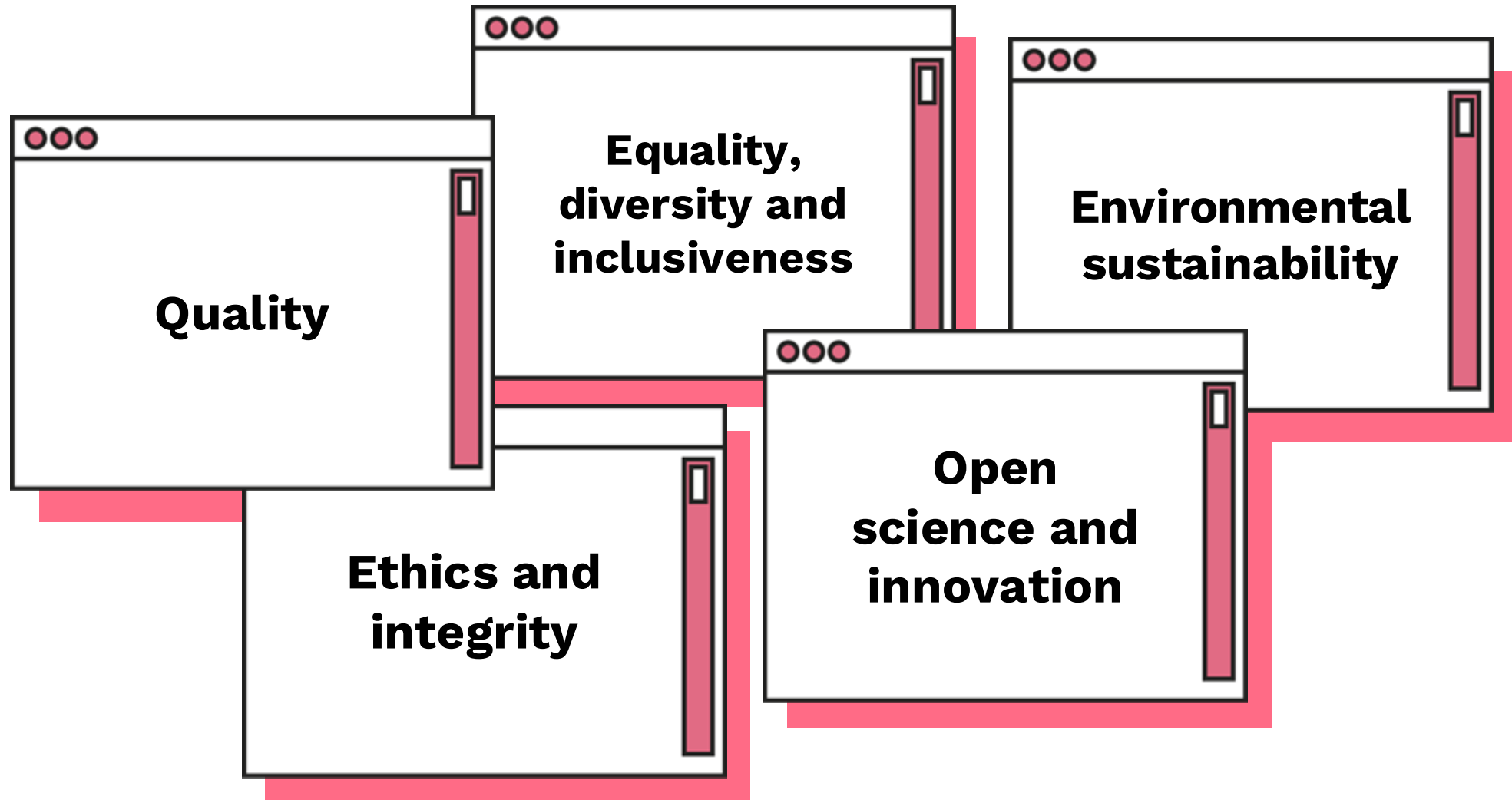
- 1 Global + 2 European + 1 national (FR)

8 Non-academic partners

- 5 industrial associations
- 1 digital network
- 1 cities + 1 local rural groups associations
- 1 association of mentorship

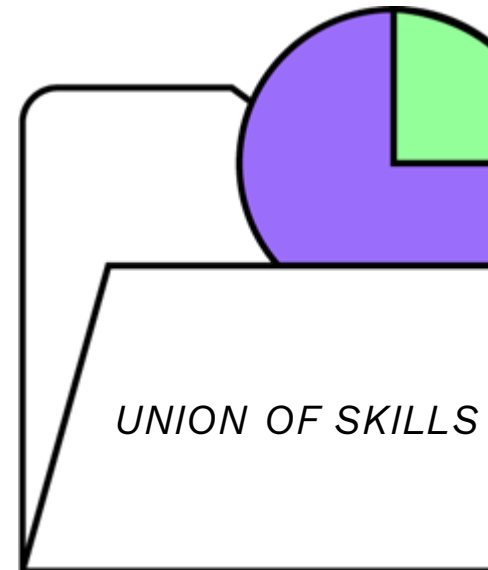


OpenEU's common values



Which Crossroads? Changes always challenge us

- **Geopolitical changes**
- **Demographic shifts**
- **New job market trends**
- **Technological advancements**
- **HEIs role in society**
- **Information ecosystem**



The European strategy for universities

Universities as **lighthouses** of our European way of life, **actors of change** in the twin green and digital transitions, and **boosters** of competitiveness and attractiveness.

The **European Universities Initiative** paves the way towards “the universities of the future”.

OpenEU added value to the EUI

- A more robust, inclusive and greener **digital dimension** of HE
- Making the **European Interoperable Framework for HE** a reality
- Integration of **emerging technologies**
- **Lifelong Learning at University**
- Broader **diversity in the student body**
- HE in **rural areas**
- **Internationalisation for all** thanks to technologies

Dealing with interoperability



“Interoperability is not (only) about tech.

*It’s (also) about orgs, people...
...and mindsets.*

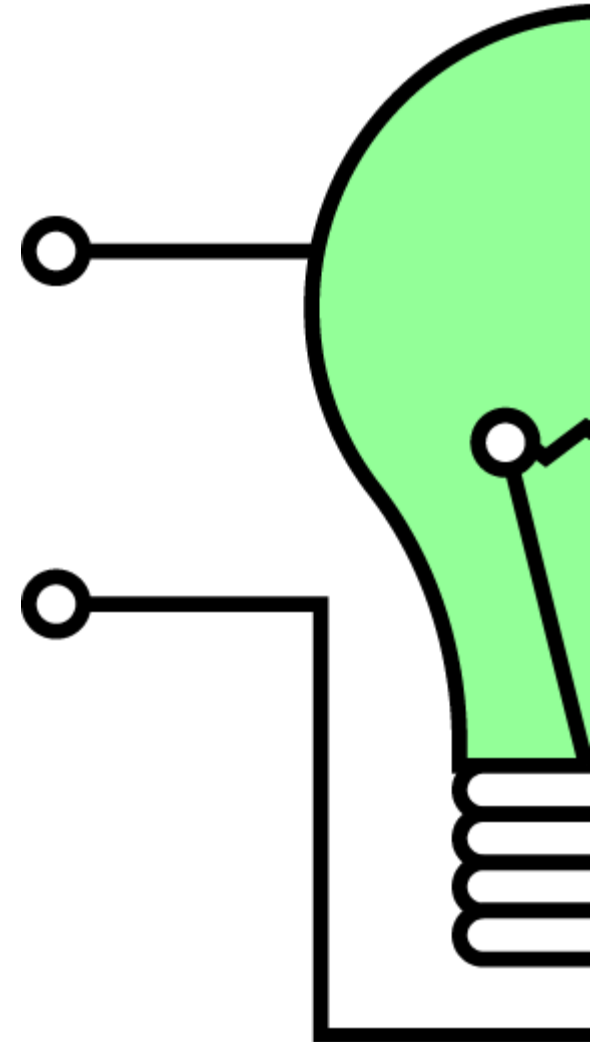
A random internet guru

Existing relevant initiatives at EU level addressing Education and Lifelong Learning

Author: **Luís Ariño Martín** (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)

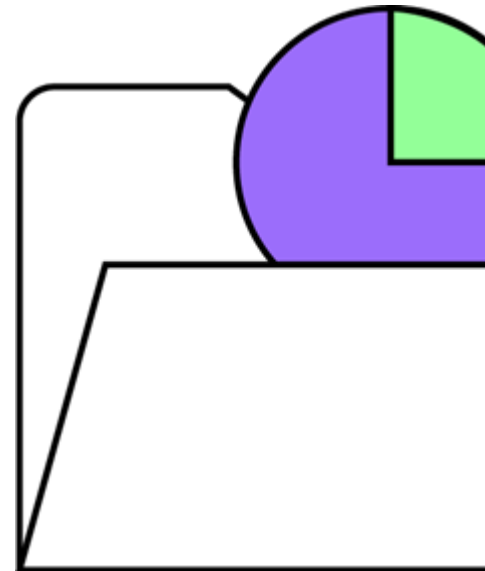
Focusing on problem solving

- **We are 65 alliances.** Our challenges are shared.
- **Alliances are the path, not the destination.**
- We need an **open science approach.**
- Let's **keep it simple.** We are part of the solution.
- Best tech is **transparent** to the user.
- We need **everyone** on board, reuse existing networks.
- Go where **communities** are, don't build from scratch.



Interoperability & Lifelong Learning

- **Open, flexible and continuous learning pathways** for students based on their interests & needs.
- **Student guidance related to the EU labour market** with the [OpenEU GPS tool](#) relating skills gaps and the EU and local labour markets.
- **Upskilling and reskilling programmes.**



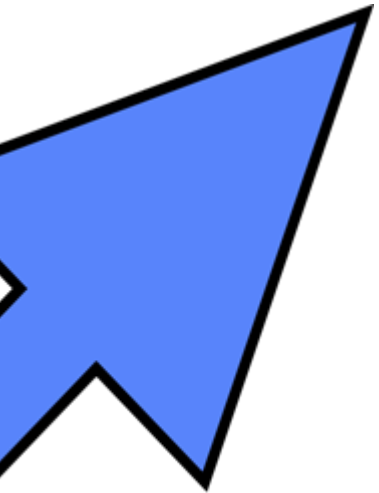


Interoperability & participation in HE

- **OpenEU joint participatory and learning platforms empowering students** and developing interoperability between partners ([FOLIO](#) & [Decidim](#))
- **Widening participation of underrepresented groups in HE** by improving **access** pathways.
- **Student and staff training** on **digital readiness**, inclusive gender equality, languages in an intercultural environment. Mindset is key.

Interoperability for Internationalization

- **Joint educational offer** with attractive **transnational degrees** and programmes and microcredentials.
- **OpenEU mobility framework for all** with online, hybrid and physical mobilities for a more inclusive, green and digitally enhanced international experience.
- **Multilingual virtual classrooms** promoting an intercultural learning environment while enabling students to communicate in their own languages.



*“Interoperability is just
about making things work”*

A random internet user

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