OpenEU The Open

European University

#### **Crossing bridges in the digital age:** Open Infrastructures for Collaborative Alliances

**Àlex Hinojo** Secretary general OpenEU

Leipzig, April 2025





## **OpenEU's Consortium**

#### **14 Universities**

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

#### **4 University Associations**

1 Global + 2 European + 1 national (FR)

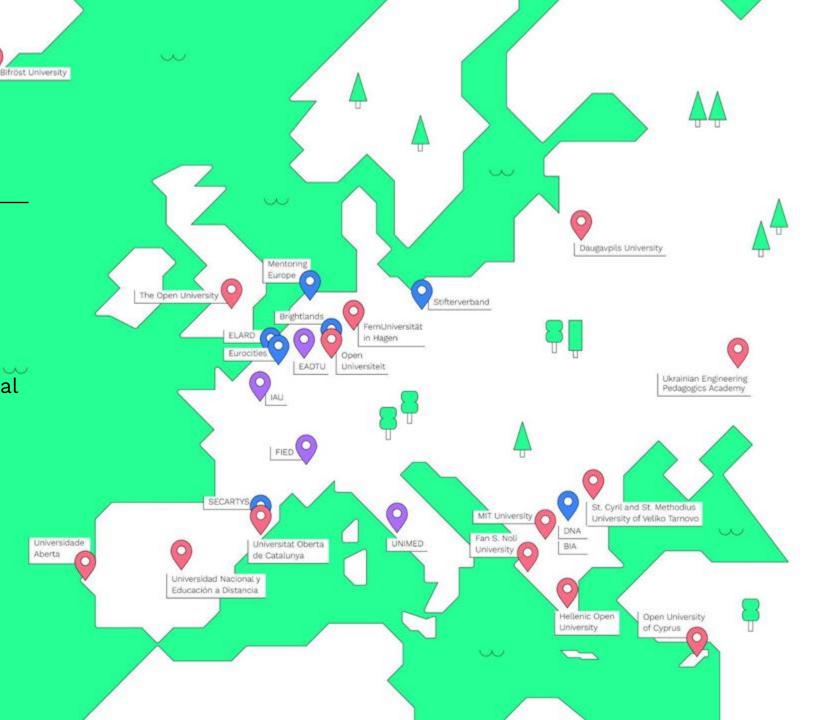
#### 8 Non-academic partners

- 5 industrial associations
- 1 digital network

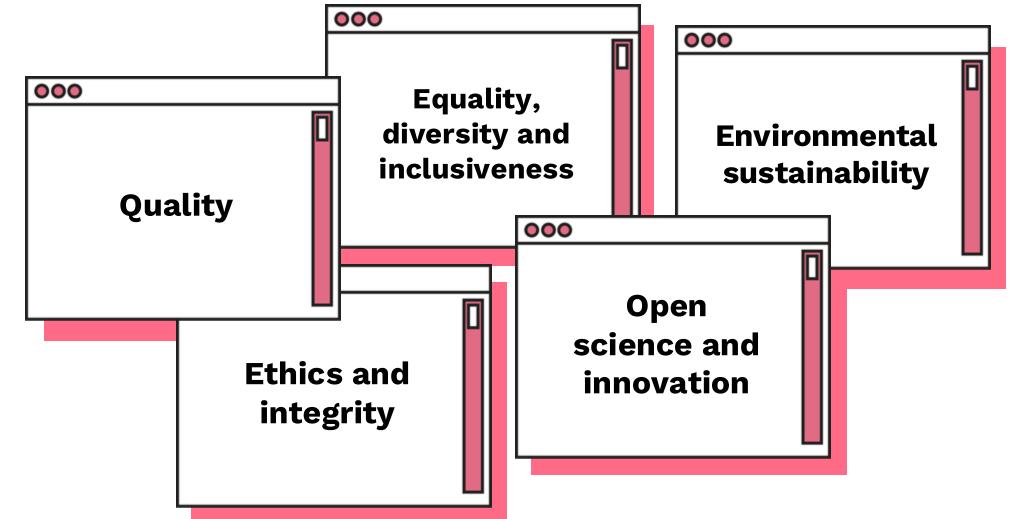
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- 1 cities + 1 local rural groups associations
- 1 association of mentorship

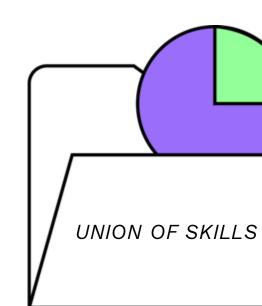


## **OpenEU's common values**



## 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





## The EC Landscape for Education and Lifelong Learning

Existing relevant initiatives at EU level addressing Education and Lifelong Learning

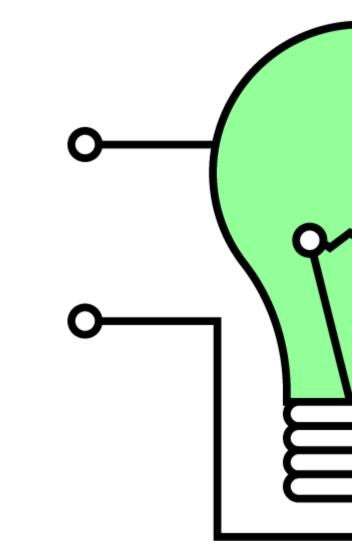
Research and Upskilling force in a Green Co Innovation Deal Context		Competence Framew	100000 200	dult and TVET ducation	Primary, Secondary & Tertiary education. Mobility in Europe (Erasmus+)	Single Digital Market, Entrepreneurship and SMEs		Digital identity, and ne technologies (Europe the Digital Age)		
DG-RTD	DG-ECFIN	DG-JRC		DG EMPL	DG-EAC	DG-G	ROW	DG-CNECT		DG INTPA
Competence framework for researchers	Upskilling of the workforce	DigComp, DigComp.Edu (Teachers), DigComp.Org (Organisations)		/ocational Education and iraining (VET) & Adult iducation	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary Education	Single Digital Gateway (SDG)		Digital Education Ac Plan (DEAP)		obal Education operation
European Research Area (ERA)	Mitigate employment risk and issuers	Digital Education A Plan (DEAP) Resear Support		UROPASS	Erasmus+	Applying for a tertiary education study financing, such as study grants and loans from a public body or institution Submitting an initial application for admission to public tertiary		elDAS Regulation	ion Erasmus+ Internati	
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	Investment in Human Capital	Future of Work and the Digital Econom	N 1	NyLibrary (Europass Wallet)	European Universities Initiative			European Blockchai Services Infrastructo - policy aspects	Conference of the second s	Education in Emergencies
STEM Education and Research Careers	Youth Employment and Skills Initiatives	EntreComp (Entrepreneurs) GreenComp, AlComp, EthComp, EntComp		uropean Digital Credentials nfrastructure (EDCI)	Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)	education institu Requesting acad	education institution Requesting academic	Artificial Intelligence Education		pacity Building in Higher ucation
Synergies between Research and Higher Education	Promotion of Skills for Digital and Green Transitions			LM V3.2 (European earning Model)	How EQF supports the European Education Area (EEA)	recognition of diplomas, certificates or other proof of studies or courses		European Strategy for Data		
Green Deal and Education	European Semester and Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs)	STEM Education		mployability and labour narket alignment' EQF elated aspects	Microcredentials for Lifelong Learning and Employability	EURES		European Data Spaces initiative		
Career Development for Researchers	Development for		Education (	SCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications, and	European Student Card Initiative	d Recognition of Professional and Vocational Qualifications		Data Governance Act		
		Researcher Competence Profile Entrepreneurship and SMEs (Educational Context)		Qualifications, and Occupations)	European Digital Student Service Infrastructure (EDSSI)	Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD)		Data Space Support Centre (DSSC) Digital Europe Programme		
				uropean Skills Agenda	Erasmus Without Papers (EWP, OLA,) Green Skills for Indu		r Industry			
(Educational Context)				uropean Skills Data Space	European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and	Industry 4.0 and Digital Skills		"3rd countries" initiatives		
			0	Council Recommendation on Individual Learning Accounts and VET	Training (EQAVET)					
DG-DIG	- technical SIM	PL - technical lea	EBSI - technica		nly Technical Technical Lead Interoperabilit				for public sector	

DC4EU

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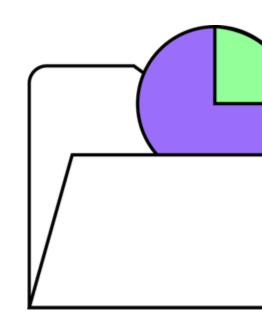
## Focusing on problem solving

- 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.



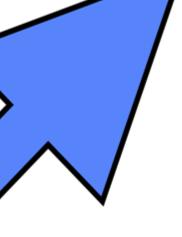


# Interoperability & participation in HE

- OpenEU joint participatory and learning platforms empowering students and developing interoperability between partners (<u>FOLIO</u> & <u>Decidim</u>)
- 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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