



European Commission



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

A key pillar of the European Education Area

41 ALLIANCES

More than 280 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Up to €5 million from Erasmus+
Up to €2 million from Horizon 2020 per alliance

27 MEMBER STATES + Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Turkey + United Kingdom

WHY EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES?

Demand for highly skilled people is increasing; by 2025, half of all jobs will require high-level qualifications. The COVID-19 pandemic has suddenly accelerated the **digital transformation** of higher education institutions. Yet, much more needs to be done for deep **technological and structural changes to the benefit of learning and teaching**, allowing for more inclusion and flexible learning approaches.

The fast-changing labour market and societal transitions require higher education institutions to provide students, staff and researchers 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, able

to address big societal challenges, become true **engines of development for cities and regions** and promote **civic engagement**. The **transformation of our universities** needs to be accelerated so young people are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow in a fast-changing society, and future generations are empowered to find solutions to big societal challenges that Europe and the world are facing.

This requires a much deeper level of cooperation between universities. With its European Universities initiative, the European Commission aims at fostering **excellence, innovation and inclusion** in higher education across Europe, accelerating the transformation of higher education institutions into the **universities of the future with structural, systemic and sustainable impact**.

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 other Erasmus programme countries.

Key cooperation principles

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

➤ Alliances must create a **European inter-university 'campus'**, where:

- students, staff and researchers enjoy **seamless mobility** (physical, virtual or blended) to study, train, teach, do research, work or share services at cooperating partner institutions
- **transdisciplinary and transnational teams** of students, academics and external stakeholders tackle big issues facing Europe (such as climate protection, democracy, health, big data, migration)

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

- 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**

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 will enable a new generation of Europeans to cooperate across languages, borders and disciplines, developing a strong European identity.



October 2018

European Commission launches 1st call to higher education institutions asking them to submit their proposals to start testing different models for European Universities

June 2019

Results of 1st call announced – pilot phase

November 2019

First European Universities start cooperating

July 2020

Results of 2nd call announced – pilot phase

November 2020

All 41 European Universities cooperating

2021-2027

Roll-out under the future Erasmus programme, in synergy with Horizon Europe and other EU instruments

NOW JUST IMAGINE BEING A PART OF IT

In July 2020, 41 European Universities...
representing over 280 higher education institutions...
from a diverse spectrum of higher education institutions...
from all over Europe...
were funded through Erasmus+, complemented by Horizon 2020

Find out more about each European University, new selection rounds & next steps...

#EuropeanUniversities

https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative_en

