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Training and Cooperation Activity (TCA)

Spreading innovative results from

European University Alliances to other higher education institutions

The European Universities is a flagship initiative of the [European strategy for universities](#) that sets out an ambition to establish transnational alliances of higher education institutions, aiming to develop long-term structural and strategic cooperation. Initiated in 2018, the action intends to support 60 European Universities (involving more than 500 higher education institutions), which will link up education, research, innovation and service to society in an interconnected and innovative way.

During several years of intense cooperation, more than 40 European University Alliances have developed outstanding results, which are of great interest for other European higher education institutions and various stakeholders. The aim of this of this conference is therefore twofold:

- To identify and spread innovative results and best practices from European University Alliances to other higher education institutions, and
- To discuss and explore the transformative impact of the European University Alliances on higher education in Europe.

The conference is co-created by four Erasmus+ National Agencies, based in Austria (OeAD), Germany (DAAD), Hungary (Tempus Public Foundation) and Norway (HK-dir). The conference is hosted by the Norwegian Directorate of Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir). It is organised as a fully onsite event, which will take place in **Bergen (Norway)** on the **3-5 of May, 2023**.

The conference is scaled for ca. 140 participants, representing European University Alliances, National Agencies, other higher education institutions, national authorities, the European Commission and other stakeholders. The programme includes four plenary sessions, twelve of workshops and several networking events, which will provide participants with opportunities to connect, share experiences, identify good practices and learn more about the transformative footprint of the European university alliances. We look forward to welcoming you in Bergen, the gateway to the Norwegian fjords!

Programme

Day 1: Wednesday 3 May, 2023

Venue: [University of Bergen, Aula](#) (address: Museplassen 3)

Plenary session 1

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme post</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Registration, coffee & sandwich Walk & wonder at the University Garden
15:00 – 15:05	Welcome to the conference on European Universities Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gro Tjore, Deputy Director, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
15:05 – 15:15	Musical delights from Bergen/Western Norway <ul style="list-style-type: none">SiUn Fong, Student, University of Bergen
15:15 – 15:25	Welcome to the University of Bergen <ul style="list-style-type: none">Benedicte Carlsen, Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations, University of Bergen
15:25 – 15:40	The importance of the European cooperation in higher education <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sveinung Skule, Director General, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
15:40 – 15:55	The European strategy for universities - European universities alliances as role models in the higher education landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none">Svein Hullstein, Policy Officer, European Commission
15:55 – 16:30	The impact of European University Alliances on national and European policies for higher education <ul style="list-style-type: none">Martin Gradl, Head of Sector Erasmus+ Higher Education, Austrian Agency for Education and InternationalisationStephan Geifes, NA DAAD Director, German Academic Exchange ServiceMárton Beke, Deputy Director, Directorate for the Internationalisation of Higher Education, Tempus Public Foundation HungaryVidar Pedersen, NA Director, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gro Tjore, Deputy Director, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
16:30 – 16:55	Coffee break
16:55 – 17:55	Great expectations - what does it mean to be a role model? How do European University alliances and other stakeholders interpret this role?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camilla Brekke, Pro-rector for Research and Development, the Arctic University of Norway, EUGLOH • Sara Repo, ULYSSEUS Coordinator, MCI Management Center Innsbruck • István Tarrósy, International Director, University of Pécs, EDUC • Christina Hansen, Vice-President for International Affairs and Diversity, University of Passau • Svein Hullstein, Policy Officer, European Commission <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veronika Kupriyanova, Senior Policy Coordinator, Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)
17:55 - 18:00	<p>Concluding words</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gro Tjore, Deputy Director, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
19:30 – 22:00	Networking dinner at Scandic Ørnen Hotel

Day 2: Thursday 4 May, 2023

Venue: [Scandic Ørnen Hotel](#)

Plenary session 2: Re-thinking education, research, innovation and social dimensions – the transformative impact of the European University Alliances

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme post</i>
08:00 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:05 Venue: STORM	<p>Welcome to the session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator Jon Gunnar Simonsen, Head of Department for European Cooperation and Quality Enhancement, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
09:05- 09:20	<p>The potential impact of European University Alliances – challenges and benefits in the Norwegian context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agnete Wiborg, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
09:20 – 09:35	<p>Focus on Education in the European University Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUniWell: Beatrix Busse, Vice-Rector Student Affairs and Teaching, University of Cologne
09:35 – 09:50	<p>Focus on Research in the European University Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arqus II: Andreas Raggautz, Head of Performance and Quality Management, Supervision of the Joint Research Action Plan, University of Graz
09:50 – 10:05	Focus on Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the European University Alliance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RUN EU: Eszter Lukács, Vice President for Global Strategy, Széchenyi István University
10:05 – 10:20	Focus on European Values, Inclusion & Societal Outreach in the European University Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage.EU: Stig Tenold, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, NHH Norwegian School of Economics
10:20 – 10:30	Summing up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator Jon Gunnar Simonsen, Head of Department for European Cooperation and Quality Enhancement, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
10:30 -11:00	Coffee break

Workshop session 1: Re-shaping the landscape of higher education in Europe – how can the transformative impact of European University Alliances be transferred and multiplied?

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme post</i>
11:00 – 12:30 Venue: STORM 1	<p>WS 1A: Re-shaping education within European University Alliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENHANCE: Julian Irlenkäuser, Mobility Officer, Technische Universität Berlin Circle U.: Mette Oftebro, Project Coordinator, University of Oslo and Viktoria Menczel, Project Manager, University of Vienna <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elisabeth Tauch, Senior Officer EU-Programmes, NA DAAD Birgit Siebe-Herbig, Head of Unit Research and Internationalisation, University Networks, DAAD <p>Through their deep transnational collaboration, European University Alliances are experimenting with a variety of innovative forms of teaching and learning. By developing joint programmes, micro-credentials or common learning infrastructures as well as by offering more mobility opportunities and supporting sustainable education, Alliances also identify barriers to cooperation and test solutions in a safe space of collaboration. In the workshop, two Alliances will present their innovative forms of education. They will discuss with participants the potential benefits for other HEIs, the outcomes and good practices to be shared, and the most appropriate means for the transfer to happen.</p>
Venue: KULING 1	<p>WS 1B: The impact on research within the European University Alliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Alliance: Thomas Baumgartner, Head of Aurora Office, University of Innsbruck Arqus II: Andreas Raggautz, Head of Performance and Quality Management, Supervision of the Joint Research Action Plan, University of Graz <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martina Friedrich, EU Programme Officer, OeAD - Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation

	<p>With the research dimension, European University Alliances expanded their joint activities to another core mission of higher education. At least starting with the H2020 SwafS funding, the Alliances started the capacity building and experimenting with activities for ESR and joint research actions like workshops, skills trainings or project applications. Alliances also learned on barriers to cooperate and tested new formats of collaboration. In the workshop, two Alliances will present their approaches and lessons learned. They will discuss with participants their respective experiences, helpful tips and possible hurdles on further joint research activities.</p>
Venue: KULING 2	<p>WS 1C: The impact on innovation by the European University Alliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RUN EU: Eszter Lukács, Vice President for Global Strategy, Széchenyi István University <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Márton Beke, Deputy Director, Tempus Public Foundation, Hungary <p>The Alliances are expected to contribute to „the ambitious vision of an innovative, globally competitive and attractive European Education Area and European Research Area, in full synergy with the European Higher Education Area”. This means that the Alliances themselves should develop their members’ innovative potential and influence on other higher education institutions, as well as a wide range of partners and stakeholders. The RUN-network comprises higher education institutions that through their activities, in cooperation with their partners, stakeholders and the surrounding innovation ecosystem, intend to increase the competitiveness of their regions. During the workshop, the representative of the Alliance will present this approach and, with the involvement of other participants, will explore the possibilities the EUI alliances can present to all European HEIs.</p>
Venue: STORM 2	<p>WS 1D: The impact on the societal dimension: What’s it all for? How do we ensure outreach and multiply impact from the European University Alliances?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FORTHEM: Claire Jortveit, Institutional coordinator, University of Agder • Anders Hereide, Student and member of Engage.EU Board of Learners <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENGAGE.EU: Linda Rutledal, Institutional Coordinator, NHH Norwegian School of Economics <p>In this interactive workshop we will focus how the European University Alliances can reach out to create lasting impact beyond the participating institutions themselves. The European University Alliances have been identified as lighthouses in the higher education landscape, forging new paths to increase the attractiveness and quality of higher education and research in Europe. Little is so far known about the effect of these alliances outside the institutions directly involved. If the alliances are to serve as inspiration for the wider higher education sector, and create impact both locally and at the European level, the question becomes: how do we achieve this? We will hear from alliance representatives, students, and stakeholders from local ecosystems. Participants will be invited to share their own good practices of involvement, outreach, and impact building, and discuss the potential benefits for both other HEIs and society in general.</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch

Workshop session 2: Building innovative and sustainable structures on different levels

Levels of Impact: Which impact to expect in relation to various target groups? What are solutions and hindrances for further transfer and adoption?

Time	Programme post
14:00 – 15:30 Venue: STORM 1	<p>WS 2A: Mobilising and including students, researchers and administrative staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHARM EU: Ferenc Takó, Head of Office, Rector's Cabinet CHARM-EU Office, Eötvös Loránd University <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Márton Beke, Deputy Director, Tempus Public Foundation Bettina Ugródsy-Beregi, Senior Internationalisation Coordinator, Tempus Public Foundation, Hungary <p>The European University Alliances are expected to deliver outstanding results in the field of mobility for both a significant proportion of their students, as well as both administrative and teaching staff. They need to re-think the possibilities, as well as the limits of physical, blended and virtual mobility. The Alliances need to tackle the challenges of inclusiveness and the various obstacles we all face in the current world. Members of the CHARM-EU Alliance intend to establish mobility as a norm for European students and university staff. They identify mobility as a key tool for enhancing the quality of the teaching and learning. Therefore, they developed a tailor-made mobility framework for intra-alliance mobility that has plenty of potentials to be expanded in various directions of extra-alliance mobility. The Interactive Mobility Matrix is a dynamic network of concepts and implementation tools in support of embedding mobilities into the curricula, teaching and learning strategies, and services. This, and several further aspects of their mobility strategy, will be presented in the workshop.</p>
Venue: STORM 2	<p>WS 2B: Building new institutional cooperation structures at the European University Alliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORTHEM: Ludmila Samochwalow, Project Officer, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU), Germany <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yvonne Schnocks, Team leader EU-Programmes, NA DAAD <p>In this workshop we will focus on the governance of European University Alliances. What institutional cooperation structures have been developed, what challenges have to be faced and what are possible solutions? A project representative will give an insight into the cooperation structures of a European University Alliance. The aim of the workshop is to share knowledge about the institutional cooperation structures of the European University Alliances and to discuss how these solutions can be transferred to other universities.</p>
Venue: KULING 1	<p>WS 2C: European University Initiative: Impact, outcomes and learnings for National Agencies</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martina Friedrich, EU Programme Officer, OeAD - Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Gradl, Head of Sector Erasmus+ Higher Education, OeAD - Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation <p>In this workshop we will focus on the role of NAs in accompanying European University Alliances. We will exchange our experiences and activities with representatives from National Agencies, HEIs and other stakeholders. The aim of the workshop is to collect ideas for the future role of Agencies to support the European Universities and the dissemination of their work to HEIs, which do not take part.</p>
Venue: KULING 2	<p>WS 2D: Piloting innovative European structures and instruments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-creating new cooperation structures - the role of University Alliances and other university networks: Veronika Kupriyanova, Senior Policy Coordinator, Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) • Increasing student engagement in European University Alliances: Juan Rayon Gonzales, President of Erasmus Student Network (ESN) • Towards a possible European Degree, Flavia Soares de Oliveira Colus, Researcher, Public Policy and Management Institute (PPMI) <p>European university alliances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YUFE: A Pilot on European Degrees, Magdalena Kohl, Policy Advisor, Maastricht University • ECIU: A Legal Status for European Universities, Trym Holbek, ECIU Institutional Coordinator, University of Stavanger <p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadia Manzoni, PhD researcher of EU's higher education policy and the European Universities Initiative, Central European University <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ieva Serapinaite, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills <p>European University Alliances are expected to build bridges and shape innovative structures for European higher education cooperation. By pooling capacities and resources, alliances are expected to co-create new approaches and instruments enabling European higher education institutions to cooperate closer and deeper, to facilitate joint transnational programmes and degrees, or award new quality labels. This session will open for presentations of new experimental developments, experiences from European University Alliances and the discussion on possible future steps, which may have a significant impact other higher education institutions.</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break

Plenary session 3: Sharing experiences, knowledge and results

Challenges and solutions concerning the dissemination of results, transferring models and innovations from EUI to other higher education institutions.

Time	Programme post
16:00-16:05	<p>Welcome to the session</p> <p>Moderators:</p>

Venue: STORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beate Körner, Head of Unit Erasmus+ Partnership and Cooperation Projects, NA DAAD • Martina Friedrich, OeAD - Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation
16:05 – 16:30	Existing strategies for outreach and dissemination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPICUR: Nora Korp, European University Manager, BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences • CIVICA: Enora Palaric, Manager International Alliances, Hertie School Berlin
16:30 – 17:00	World café round 1: Discussion of strategies with European University Alliances
17:00 – 17:30	World café round 2: Discussion of strategies with European University Alliances
18:00 – 19:00 Optional	Walk & wonder at Bryggen – the UNESCO’s heritage site at the heart of Bergen
19:30 - 22:00	Conference dinner at the Scandic Ørnen Hotel

Day 3: Friday 5 May, 2023

Venue: [Scandic Ørnen Hotel](#)

Workshop session 3: Co-creating knowledge and innovation eco-systems

How can effective cooperation structures be created and maintained? How is inclusion and wider societal outreach achieved?

Time	Programme post
09:00 – 10:30 Venue: STORM 1	WS 3A: Impact and Learnings on European University Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E³UDRES²: Hannes Raffaseder, CEO and Lead Coordinator of the European University, St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina Friedrich, OeAD - Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation <p>Co-creating knowledge and innovation ecosystems is key to solving the societal and economic challenges of our time, both at regional and European levels. This session discusses first impacts of European University Alliances and shares their experiences and best practices to engage with regional communities, empower multi-directional knowledge exchange with various stakeholders across the knowledge-square and benefit from pan-European collaboration.</p>
Venue: KULING 1	WS 3B: Strengthening impact on other higher education institutions in the European Alliances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIVICA: Enora Palaric, Manager International Alliances, Hertie School Berlin, Germany • Christian Brauweiler, University of Applied Sciences Zwickau, Germany Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beate Körner, Head of Unit Erasmus+ Partnership and Cooperation Projects, NA DAAD

	<p>Effective cooperation structures are a need for (the internationalization) all HEIs in Europe regardless of their involvement in a 'European University'. This session looks at the needs of non-EUI and how they can benefit from newly created models or good practices at existing EUIs in terms of innovative and inclusive cooperation structures in general and with respect to the wider society.</p>
<p>Venue: KULING 2</p>	<p>WS 3C: Impact on national structures (round table discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Sinóros-Szabó, Head of Department for Strategy and Institutional development, the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, Hungary • Lene Oftedal, Senior Adviser, Section for EU/EEA, the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research • Kristin Hess, Desk Officer Unit, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research • Stephan Venzke, Head of Unit 22 "State Universities", Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (Germany) representing the Bundesrat (federal states) <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettina Ugródsy-Beregi, Senior Internationalisation Coordinator, Tempus Public Foundation, Hungary <p>European University Alliances are transnational partnerships, yet we must not forget impacts need to take root at national levels in case positive changes and long-term effects are expected. This round table discussion focuses on how the benefits of the Alliances can be adopted and utilized by the domestic educational frameworks and what transformational changes are catalyzed by the alliances. The aim is to investigate how different countries transmit their achievements and outcomes to their ministries, how do they manage the information received, what is the impact on national structures and where all this can take us. The discussion is open to all participants of the conference. Questions are welcome.</p>
<p>Venue: STORM 2</p>	<p>WS 3D: Co-creating strategic impact on European education and society at large in the European University Alliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECIU: Trym Holbek, ECIU Institutional Coordinator, University of Stavanger <p>Delivering on all four university missions is important to achieve strategic impact at European level and co-create the future of universities. This requires a holistic approach to long-term strategy and cooperation and cross-programme funding. This session looks at how the ECIU University alliance works to establish a sustainable organizational structure, its overall impact framework, how joint structures deliver solutions on funding challenges and regional community building activities all contribute to achieving systemic impact at European level.</p>
<p>10:30 – 11:00</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>

Plenary session 4: European higher education in the future?

<i>Time</i>	<i>Programme post</i>
11:00-11:05	Welcome to the closing plenary session Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ragnhild Tunesvik, Head of Division for Higher Education and Research, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
11:05 – 11:35	Highlights from the conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student perspective: Erlend Aag, Student, Circle U – University of Oslo• European University Alliance RUN-EU: Ms. Frauke Dobers, Project Coordinator RUN-EU/RUN-EU+ at FHV – Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences• Higher Education Institution: Zsuzsa Béda, Head of International Relations Office, University of Nyíregyháza• National Agency perspective: Josephine Ravenstein, Senior Policy Officer, National Agency Erasmus+, Nuffic
11:35 - 12:20	The role of European University Alliances in European higher education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bjørn Stensaker, Vice-Rector for Education, University of Oslo
12:20 – 12:30	Conclusions and further steps Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ragnhild Tunesvik, Head of Division for Higher Education and Research, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch

Thank you for your participation - have a safe trip home!



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