EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Erasmus+

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

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
A key pillar of the European Education Area

- **50 alliances**
- **35 countries, including all 27 Member States**
- More than **430** higher education institutions
- Up to EUR **14.4** Million from Erasmus+ per alliance for 4 years
- Teaming up with almost 1700 associated partners, including higher education institutions from Bologna Process countries

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 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**.

European Year of Skills 2023: people need to be prepared for the jobs of tomorrow in a fast-changing society, and future generations should be empowered to acquire the future-proof skills and competences that they and Europe need to meet the challenges of our time .

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 third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme.

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 will 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, digitalisation, health, democracy, migration, security)

  - 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. It is also a flagship initiative of the European strategy for universities that sets the ambition to support 60 European Universities involving more than 500 higher education institutions by mid-2024.

October 2018 European Commission launches 1st Erasmus+ call to higher education institutions to start testing different models for European Universities

June 2019 Results of 1st call announced

November 2019 First 17 European Universities start cooperating

November 2019 Launch of 2nd Erasmus+ call

July 2020 Results of 2nd call announced

November 2020 24 new European Universities start cooperating

November 2022 Launch of 3rd Erasmus+ call announced

July 2022 Results of 3rd call announced – full roll-out phase

Autumn 2022 44 European Universities consolidating and expanding their cooperation and launch of 4th Erasmus+ Call

July 2023 Results of 4th call announced

Autumn 2023 50 European Universities are up and running and launch of the 5th Erasmus+ call

Summer 2024 Results of 5th call announced. 60 European Universities involving about 500 higher education institutions from all parts of Europe are transforming higher education

NOW JUST IMAGINE BEING A PART OF IT

By end 2023, 50 European Universities…
representing more than 430 diverse types of higher education institutions…
from all over Europe…
are funded through Erasmus+

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

#EuropeanUniversities

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

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