

Stronger Higher Education Institutions in their regions

European Week of regions and cities 2022

Workshop "Building cross-border university alliances as drivers for border regions" Ioana Dewandeler, Policy Office Higher Education, European Commission, DG Education and Culture



Empowering European Higher Education







Proposed recommendations for effective European Higher Education cooperation

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

The Eu transna studer for a tra States resear

The European strategy for universities and the proposal for a Council recommendation on transnational cooperation *"will benefit the entire higher education sector, first and foremost our students.* They need modern transnational campuses with easy access to mobility abroad to allow for a truly European study path and experience. We stand ready to join forces with the Member States and higher education institutions across Europe. Together we can **bring closer education, research and innovation in service to society.**"

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITIES

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS EUROPE



A European shared vision to support all types of higher education institutions to adapt to changing conditions across all their missions

Priority areas for transformation based and clear objectives

Concrete actions at EU level to enable and support the sector

Synergies with actions and national reforms

Council Conclusions adopted by EYCS Council 5 April 2022



Four key objectives

Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research

Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness

Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills

In a fast changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills

Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality

More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities

Promote and protect European democratic values

Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research

Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions

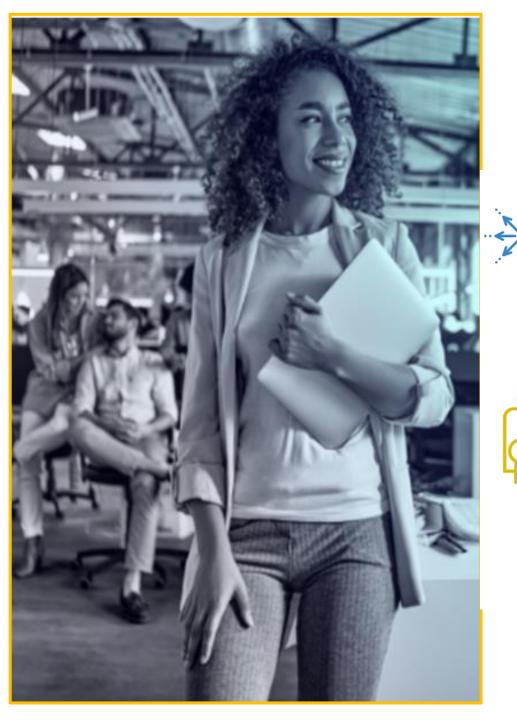
Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition

Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make 'connected universities' a reality

Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

Universities are instrumental in building Europe's connections with the world





Four flagship initiatives

Expand to 60 European Universities with more than 500 universities by mid-2024,

with an Erasmus+ indicative budget totalling EUR 1.1 billion for 2021-2027.

Explore common criteria leading to a potential **European label for joint programmes**, to be piloted as of 2022 under Erasmus+. Later on, the possible design and delivery, on a voluntary basis, at national, regional or institutional level, of joint degrees at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, could be envisaged



Examining the need for and feasibility of institutionalised cooperation instruments, such as a possible **legal status for alliances of higher education institutions:** pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the implementation of existing European instruments



Widening the implementation of the **European Student Card** initiative.



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION

Reinforce European transnational cooperation by building bridges

Support **all higher education institutions** and enhance the **coherence** of European higher education systems

FACILITATING TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCES FIRST STEP TOWARDS:

- instruments (e.g. legal status for alliances)
- Common criteria for a European label for joint programmes, followed possibly by voluntary joint degrees based on these European criteria

WIDENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STUDENT CARD INITIATIVE Full implementation of existing instruments and exploring avenues for new ones

Recommendation for national reforms and European support

Council Recommendation adopted by EYCS Council 5 April



Universities - anchors of knowledge and innovation in their regions and cities



Strong ties with ecosytems & local communities

- ✓ hubs for innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. incubators)
- ✓ smart specialisation strategies
- ✓ sustainable development & digital transition
- ✓ knwoledge transfer

Address societal challenges

- ✓ solutions adapted to local needs (e.g. living labs)
- transdiciplinary knowledge-creating teams working through challenge-based approaches



Universities - poles for attractive job creation and preservation in cities and regions



learning opportunities for students and life-long learners

development of future-proof skills (quality/relevance)

- skills mapping reflected in curricula
- Latraining and retraining opportunities
- traineeships/ work placements / internships within partners in the ecosystems
- business community & industrial partners act as mentors within knowledgecreating teams

> reinforcement of students and young researchers' employability

- contribution to balanced mobility and brain ciculation
- engagement with private and public sectors



Thank you

More information:

Higher education initiatives | European Education Area (europa.eu)

Commission Communication on a European strategy for universities | European Education Area (europa.eu)

Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe

