



European Strategy for Universities



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 on clear objectives

Concrete actions at EU level to empower and support the sector

Synergies with actions and national reforms



Four key objectives

1 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

2 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

3 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

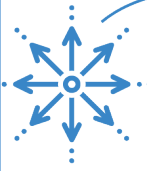
4 Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

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.



Work towards a **legal statute for alliances** of higher education institutions: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the implementation of existing European instruments



Examine options and necessary steps towards a **joint European degree**: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the first steps towards a joint European degree, in particular the development of European criteria for the award of a European Degree label



Scale up the **European Student Card initiative by starting deploying a unique European Student Identifier** to all mobile students in 2022 and to all students in universities in Europe by mid-2024



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION

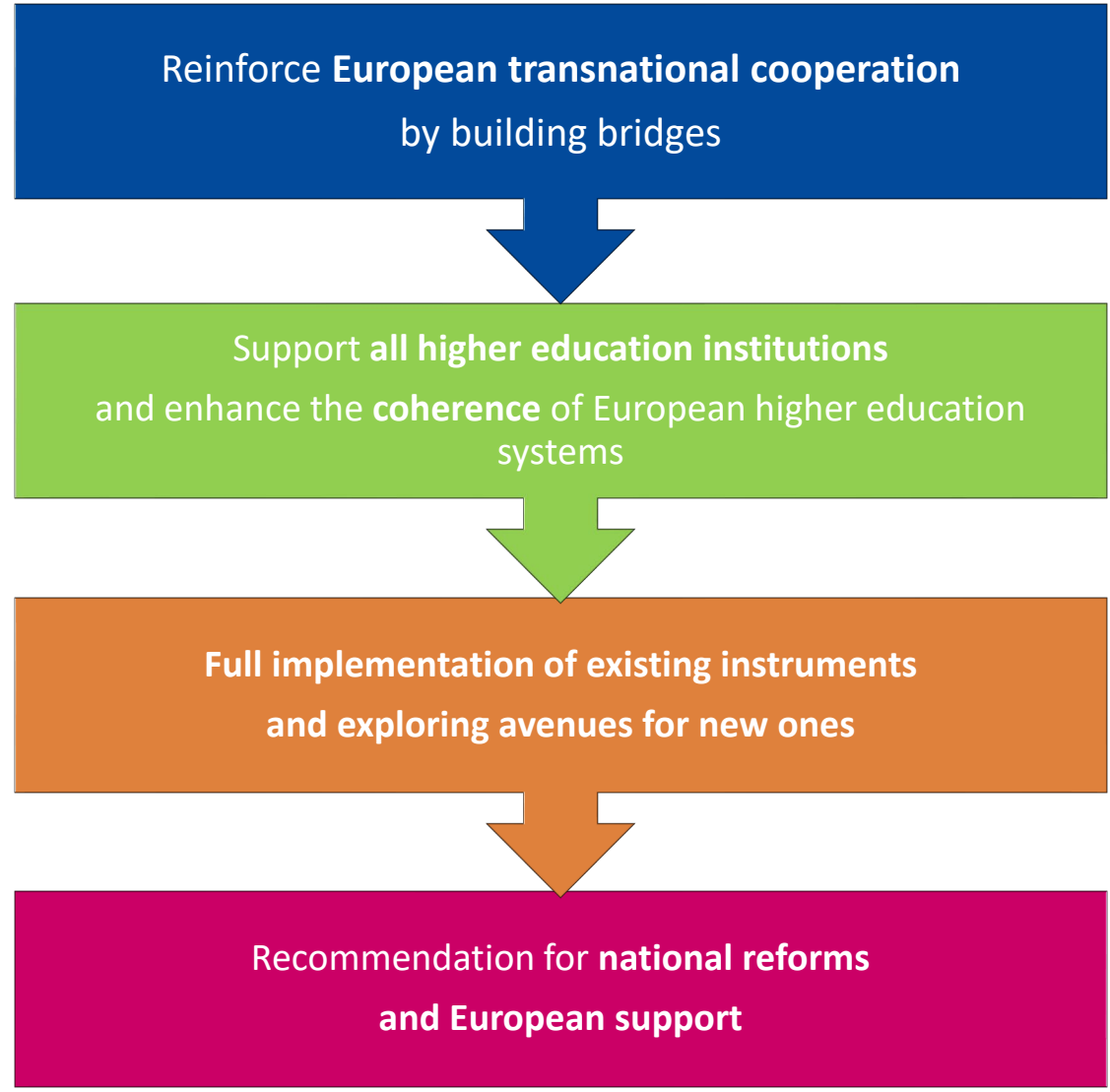
 **FACILITATING TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

 **FIRST STEPS TOWARDS:**

- LEGAL STATUTE FOR ALLIANCES OF HE INSTITUTIONS
- JOINT EUROPEAN DEGREE

 **SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCES**

 **FULL DEPLOYMENT EUROPEAN STUDENT CARD INITIATIVE**





Higher education package adopted in Education Council on 5 April

Council Conclusions on the European strategy for universities
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7936-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022H0413%2801%29>

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITIES
SUPPORTING AND ENABLING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS EUROPE

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION

FACILITATING TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS:

- LEGAL STATUTE FOR ALLIANCES OF HE INSTITUTIONS
- JOINT EUROPEAN DEGREE

SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCES

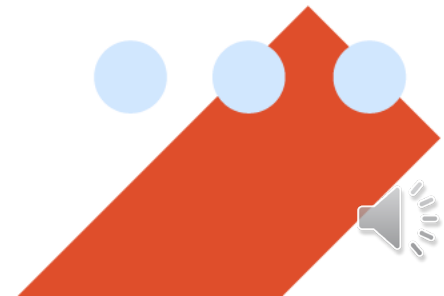
FULL DEPLOYMENT EUROPEAN STUDENT CARD INITIATIVE

© European Union 2022

European Commission

European Commission

The infographic features a central circular image of five diverse students sitting on the floor, looking at a laptop. The background is a light blue and white geometric pattern. The text is in bold blue and black fonts. There are four colored callout boxes: pink, blue, orange, and green, each with an icon representing the topic. The bottom of the infographic includes the European Commission logo and the text '© European Union 2022'.





Joint European Degree Label





A strong political commitment and flagship of the Higher Education Package

Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe, 5 April 2022

*“Unlocking the full added value of alliances of HEIs such as the ‘European Universities’ calls for further support at European and, where appropriate, national level through a step-by-step approach. (...) these alliances should, where appropriate, be supported (...) in **implementing innovative joint educational programmes at all levels, within a student-centred, research and innovation driven approach, which could possibly award joint degrees based on European criteria co-created with Member States and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the instruments of the Bologna Process.**”*

*“(...) **further steps** should be taken **to recognise the value of innovative transnational learning experiences** and to **increase the visibility, attractiveness and reputation**, both in Europe and beyond, of such **joint programmes provided by alliances of HEIs. Common criteria should be explored that could lead to a potential European label for joint programmes.** 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**, in accordance with the existing instruments of the Bologna Process. This process should occur in close cooperation with national authorities, alliances of HEIs and stakeholders.”*





A strong political commitment and flagship of the Higher Education Package

Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, 5 April 2022

Recommendation to the Member States:

*“Encourage, where appropriate, and **make it easier for higher education institutions engaged in transnational cooperation to provide joint programmes and award joint degrees**, in accordance with the Bologna instruments. In this context, and **building on the results of the exploratory actions (...) examine and facilitate the delivery of a joint European degree label**. Later on, work could be undertaken towards a possible joint degree at all levels, based on co-created European criteria, to be delivered at national, regional or institutional level, in accordance with the National Qualifications Frameworks.”*

*“Enable higher education institutions (...) to test and implement suitable approaches and measures in relation to: a) **Admission and enrolment criteria (...)**; b) Defining the **languages of learning and teaching (...)**; c) The **share of online learning (...)**; the share of **student mobility (...)**; and the **share and organisation of internships, work-based learning activities, challenge based and inter-disciplinary approaches**; e) The rules for credit allocation and transfer, and transparency in grading, in accordance with the **European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) Users’ Guide**, as the basis for transnational joint programmes, without additional rules or limitations; (...).”*

*“Strengthen mutual trust through external **quality assurance and accreditation of joint educational programmes** and other forms of joint educational offers developed by institutional transnational cooperation models, including ‘European Universities’ **in accordance with the European Standard and Guidelines (ESG)**.”*





A strong political commitment and flagship of the Higher Education Package

Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, 5 April 2022

Recommendation to the Commission:

*“Examine the options and necessary steps - in close cooperation with Member States, higher education institutions, student organisations and stakeholders - **towards a possible joint degree based on a common set of co-created European criteria.** This degree, to be delivered **on a voluntary basis at national, regional or institutional level,** could attest learning outcomes achieved as part of transnational cooperation ‘combining studies in several EU countries’, offered for example within ‘European Universities’. It should be easy to issue, store, share, verify and authenticate, and recognised across the EU. **It will build on and boost the implementation of the Bologna instruments in the Member States.**”*

a) **Pilot in 2022** the development and implementation under Erasmus+ of **European criteria for the award of a joint European degree label.** Such a label would be issued as a **complementary certificate to the qualifications** obtained by **students graduating from joint programmes** delivered in the context of transnational cooperation between several higher education institutions.

b) **Based on the results of this preparatory work,** report to the Council for further decision at each step towards **a possible joint degree based on co-created European criteria,** in accordance with the instruments of the Bologna Process.”



A step-by-step approach: where are we now?

1/ Co-develop possible criteria for a label and publish a call for a pilot (2022)

These criteria annexed to the call are the working basis on which the pilot will build evidence and explore possible future optimisations.

2/ Test these criteria in selected pilots (2023)

The pilot will have the objective to test the criteria on selected joint programmes proposed by alliances of higher education institutions.

There will not be an open call to apply for the label during the piloting phase.

Each selected pilot project will have the objective of testing the proposed criteria and making proposals.

3/ Analyse the results of the pilots (2024)

Results of the pilot will inform future possible developments towards a possible joint degree based on co-created European criteria.





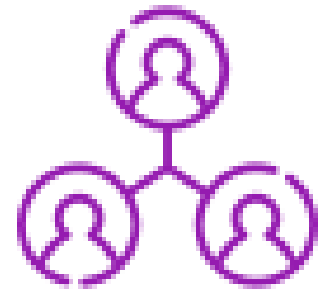
Piloting a joint European degree label with Erasmus+

Eligibility criteria for submitted proposals

1-year projects conducted by higher education institutions, as well as public or private organisations active in the fields of education and training

Proposals submitted by a **consortium of at least 2 higher education institutions from 2 different countries**

Partnerships bringing diversity in terms of **modes of cooperation** (such as European Universities alliances, Erasmus Mundus consortia, Marie Skłodowska-Curie consortia and other types of transnational alliances of higher education institutions), **geographical balance** and involving relevant national, regional and/or institutional public authorities, **is encouraged.**





Piloting a joint European degree label with Erasmus+



Objectives

Exploring and testing the relevance of the criteria for establishing a label which acknowledges the European and transnational experiences in a joint transnational programme leading to a higher education qualification at all levels (EQF level 6, 7, 8) and the feasibility of their use

Exploring and recommending possible optimisation of the proposed set of criteria in view of maximizing the attractiveness and potential impact of such a joint European degree label

Elaborating proposals, in cooperation with the relevant national, regional and/or institutional authorities, aiming to facilitate the development and implementation of joint degrees in Europe. This would **include proposing an approach that could be commonly agreed for the delivery of joint degrees based on co-created European criteria by European countries at all education levels.**

These proposals should take into account existing instruments developed by the Bologna Process, such as the European approach for quality assurance of joint programmes, and reflect on the potential need for updating these tools.



Next Steps

Read the call on the Funding & Tenders opportunities portal:
[European policy experimentation in higher education \(ERASMUS-EDU-2022-POL-EXP-HE\)](#)

Information session for applicants:

28 June, 10:30-12:30

Deadline to submit a proposal:

6 October 2022





Quality Assurance and Recognition System





Objective

Review Recommendation on further European cooperation in Quality Assurance in higher education in **2023** to develop a **European Quality Assurance and Recognition System**





Plans and Timing (1/2)

- **Study** on the:
 - implementation of the **Council Recommendation on automatic recognition**
 - feasibility of a **European recognition and quality assurance system**
- Recognition part will feed into report to Council on recognition in late 2022
- Study as a whole due for completion in Q2023





Plans and Timing (2/2)

- **Consultation** of stakeholders and Member States
 - Will continue throughout 2022 and first half of 2023
- **Drafting** of proposal
 - Second half of 2023
 - Adoption late 2023



Thank you!

Get in touch:

Julie Anderson, Policy Officer, Higher Education Policy

DG EAC

julie.anderson@ec.europa.eu