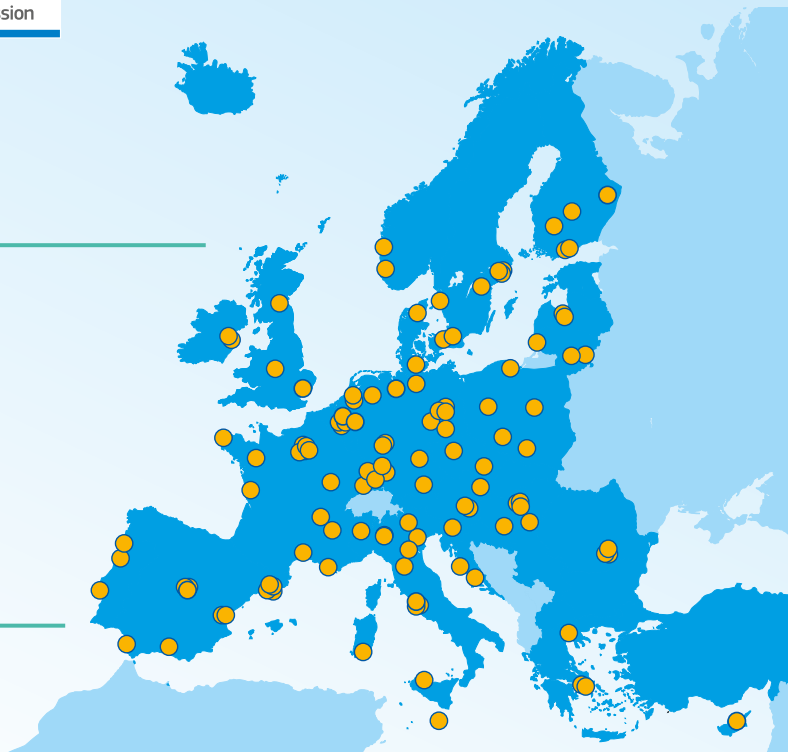# EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Erasmus+

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES A key pillar of the European education area

WHY EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES?

Demand for highly skilled people is increasing; by 2025, half of all jobs will require high-level qualifications. Education across Europe is rapidly changing as well, with deep **technological and structural changes affecting teaching and learning**. 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 gen-

erations are empowered to find solutions to **big societal challenges** that Europe and the world are facing. This transformation should lead to the Universities of the Future.

This requires a much deeper level of cooperation between universities. Today, a lot of potential remains untapped. 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 criterion

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 higher education inter-university 'campus'**, where:

  - students, staff and researchers enjoy **seamless mobility** (physical or virtual) 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)
  - 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.

November 2017
European Commission proposes European Education Area by 2025

December 2017
European Council conclusions on the future of education adopted, including goal of creating at least 20 European Universities by 2024

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

November 2019
Launch of 2nd call

Beginning 2021
Full roll-out under the future Erasmus programme

NOW JUST IMAGINE BEING A PART OF IT

In June 2019, the first 17 European Universities...
representing over 100 higher education institutions...
from a diverse spectrum of higher education institutions...
from all over Europe...
were funded through Erasmus+

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