



Information session for the Western Balkan HEIs

on the ECHE and the European Universities initiative

25 November 2022

*Joint session by the European Commission (DG EAC, higher education)
and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)*



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Part I: European Universities initiative



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

WHY ?

European Universities: setting a vision



**Increase
international
competitiveness
of
European
higher education**



**Bring
Europeans
together**



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

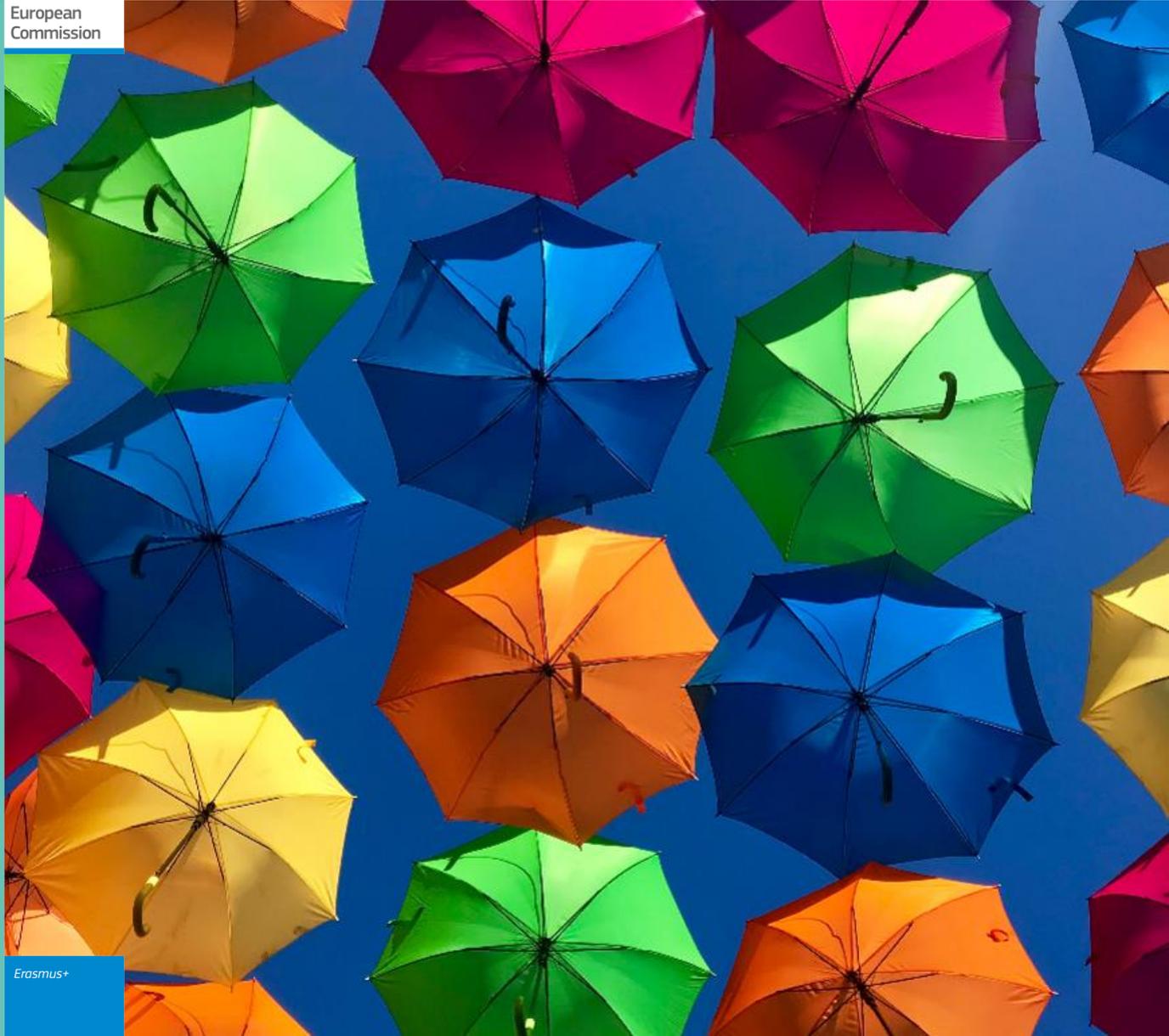
WHAT?



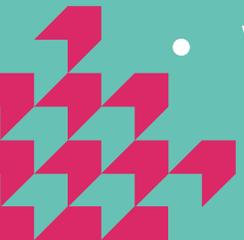
Inclusive and excellent alliances

- An alliance of higher education institutions from **EU Member States**, other Erasmus+ Programme countries + **other Western-Balkan countries (as of 2023 Call)**
- Diversity of types of higher education institutions
- Wide range of student body

European
Commission



Erasmus+





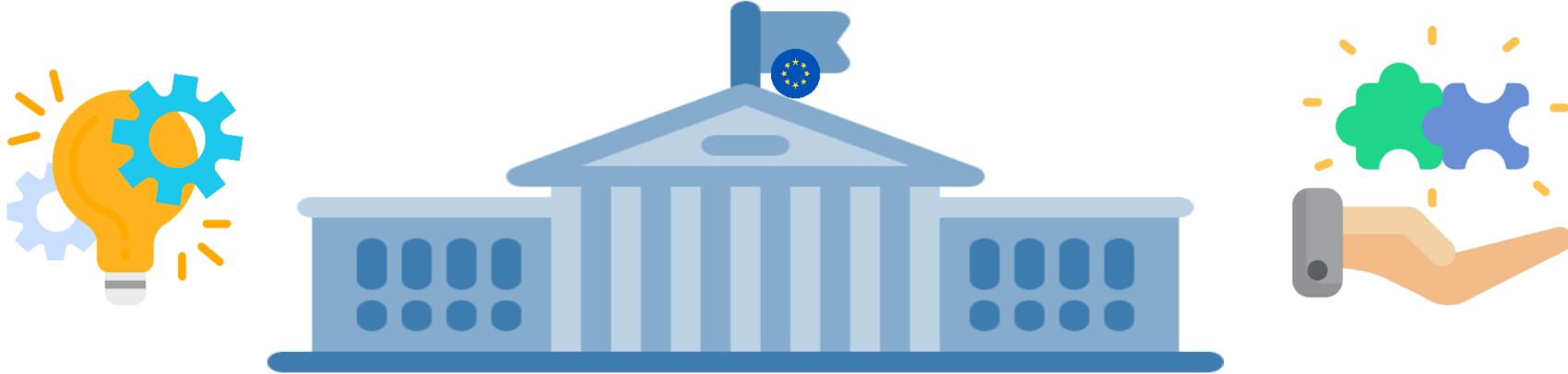
Deep level of
inter-university cooperation
with a joint long-term
strategy

Structural, Systemic and
Sustainable impact

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

European inter-university Campuses

Bachelor/Master/Doctoral levels



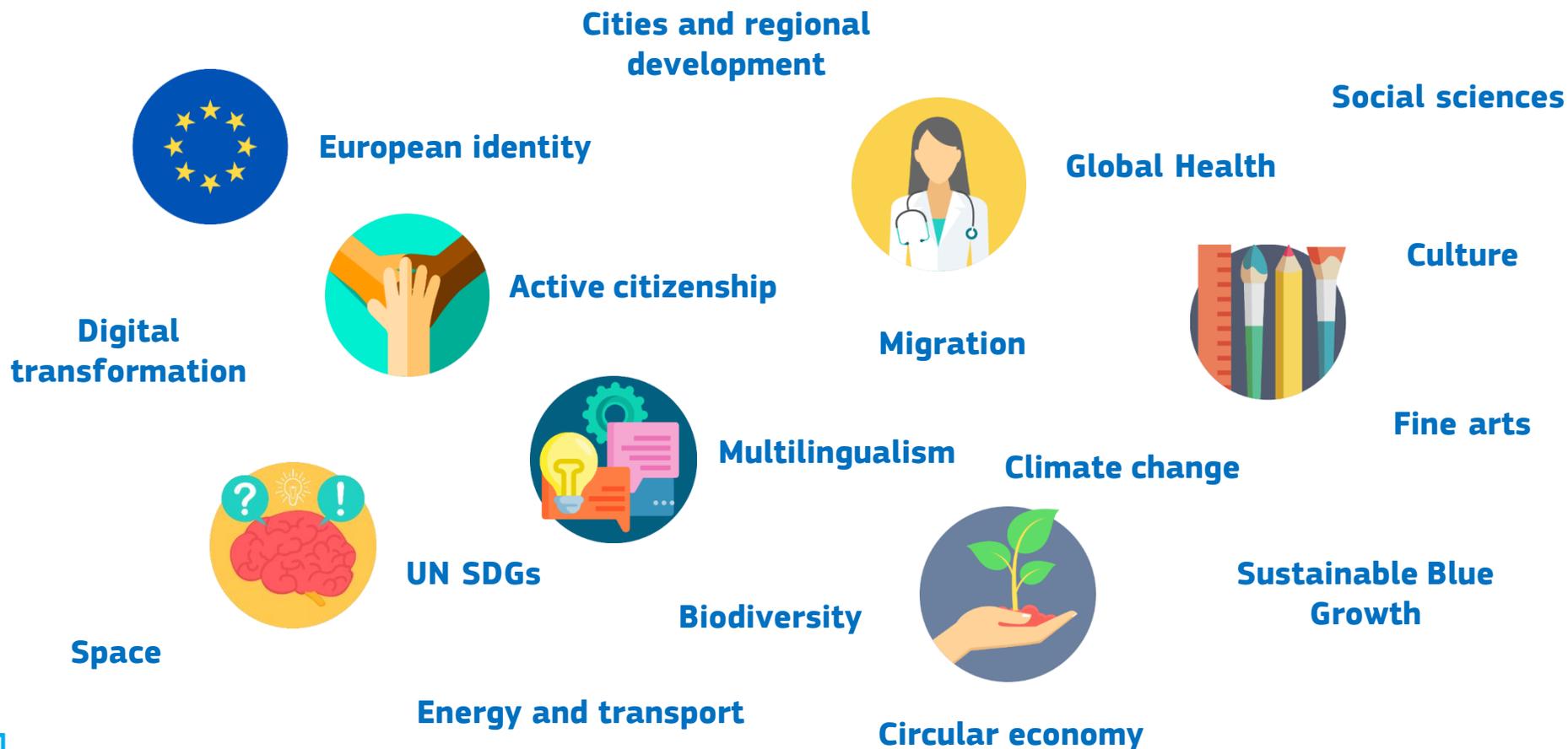
Flexible and personalised European curriculum

Innovative pedagogies and challenged-based transdisciplinary approach

Embedded and seamless student and staff mobility

Forward looking skills

Challenge-based approach: Transdisciplinary long-term visions



Some key considerations

- Systemic, structural and sustainable change
- Potential to transform the institutional cooperation
- Going beyond any existing cooperation - step by step approach
- Implemented by joint structures, pooling resources together
- Joint educational and research activities reaching out to your wider student and staff population
- Seamless mobility (with a target of 50% student mobility within the alliance)
- Challenge-based approach to education and R&I



European
Commission



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HOW?

CO-CREATION
with Member States,
higher education
institutions, students
and other stakeholders



EU level support for European Universities

ERASMUS+ FUNDING :

- **EUR 1,1 Billion 2021-2027 under Erasmus+** sustainable funding & opportunities to set up new alliances

- **Through Erasmus+ Calls for Proposals**

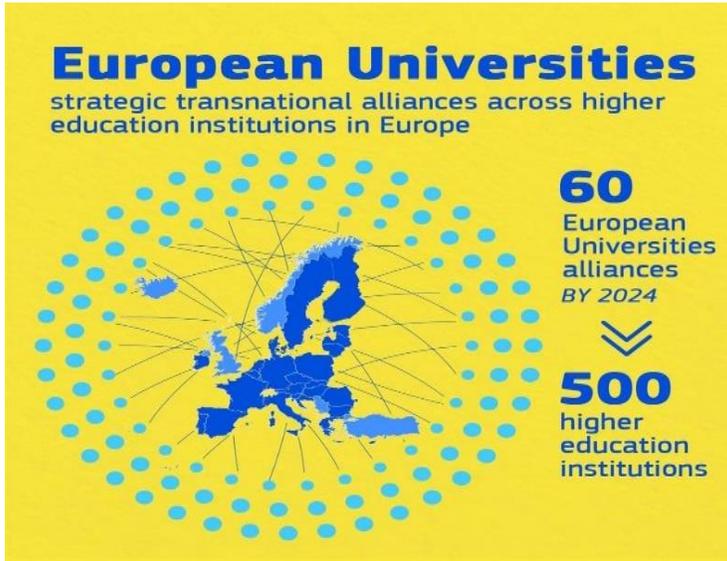
- **2019, 2020:** set up of new alliances:
- **2022:** sustainable funding & opportunities for new alliances

⇒ Resulting so far in 44 European Universities

- **2023:** call launched (application deadline 31 January 2023): sustainable funding & opportunities for new alliances
- **2024:** call launch foreseen for autumn 2023: opportunities for new alliances

=> Aim to achieve 60 European Universities by mid-2024

- Complemented by other sources, eg Horizon 2020/Europe, Digital Europe



EU LEVEL POLICY SUPPORT :

Council Conclusions May 2021 on the European Universities initiative
Higher Education Package 2022

Erasmus+ European Universities

- 340 higher education institutions in 44 alliances
- 31 European Countries
- 1200 associated partners from ecosystems
SMEs, start-ups, companies, cities, civil society, policy makers
- Up to EUR 14,4 MILLION from Erasmus+

➤ **2023 Call Ongoing**

(application deadline 31 January 2023)

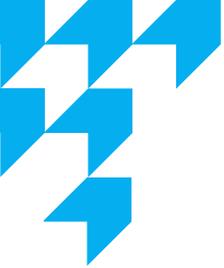
➤ **Upcoming 2024 call**
(call launch expected in autumn 2023)





EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Higher education institutions from the Western Balkan opportunities under the European Universities initiative



How can HEIs become part of a European University?

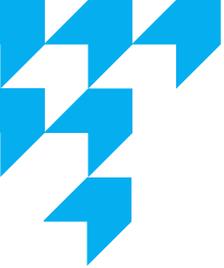
HEIs need to **apply for the Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education**



HEIs need to **apply** with partner universities **to the Erasmus+ European Universities call**

(joining an existing alliance or create a new alliance)





2023 Erasmus+ Call novelty

HEIs from all Western Balkan countries eligible as full partner

Also HEIs from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Montenegro** can now become **full partners** in an alliance

HEIs from Western Balkan countries associated to the Erasmus+ Programme - i.e. **Republic of North-Macedonia and Serbia** – were already eligible to become **full partners**

Eligibility requirement for full partners:
HEIs must be holders of a **valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)**, also HEIs from Western Balkans

ECHE call is always open, with a cut-off on 26 January 2023



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence



Timeline European Universities

Western Balkan HEIs can already partner up now
or await the 2024 E+ call (to be launched in autumn 2023)

2023 Call timeline	
Publication of the call	30 September 2022
<u>Online information session</u>	15 November 2023 (14.30 – 17.00 CET)
Deadline for submission	31 January 2023 – 17:00:00 CET
Evaluation	February-June 2023 (indicative)
Information on evaluation results	30 June 2023 (indicative)
Grant agreement signature	September - November 2023 (indicative)



Question time



The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education



Outline

- What is the ECHE?
- Call for Proposals
 - How to apply
- Selection procedure
- ECHE and guidelines
- Fundamental principles

What is the ECHE?

- EU Quality Certificate for HEIs
- Award of the ECHE = validation of status of HEI
 - Compliance with ECHE quality standards
- Entry point for participation in Erasmus+ Programme
 - Duration: entire 2021-27 E+



ECHE Call for proposals

Multiple cut-offs call for proposals
Open until 2027

Calendar

Publication	February 2022
Deadline 2023	26 January 2023
Evaluation	February – June 2023
Information to applicants + publication	July 2023

How to apply

Funding & tenders (europa.eu)

European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities | Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA) | English | Register | Log in

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS | HOW TO PARTICIPATE | PROJECTS & RESULTS | WORK AS AN EXPERT | SUPPORT | Get started

TOPIC ID: ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT-FP

Grant

General information

Topic description

Conditions and documents

Submission service

Topic related FAQ

Get support

Call information

Call updates

Funded project list

General information

Programme: Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS) | Work programme part: ERASMUS-2022

Call: Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2022 (ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT) | Work programme year: ERASMUS-2022 | See budget overview

Type of action: ERASMUS-CERT ERASMUS ECHE Charter | Type of MGA: ERASMUS Certificate [ERASMUS-CERT] | Open for submission

Deadline model | Opening date | Deadline dates

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and the **type of model grant agreement** that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Area section.

Please select the type of your submission:

ERASMUS Charter [ERASMUS-CERT], ERASMUS Certificate [ERASMUS-CERT]

Start submission

Need help?

Call data

Call: **ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT**
Topic: **ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT-FP**
Type of action: **ERASMUS-CERT**
Type of MGA: **ERASMUS-CERT**



Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Download Part B templates



Download part B templates

“Do’s & Don’t” ECHE application

- Check automatic data in Part A
 - Appropriate template
 - Part B properly uploaded
- Reply to all questions in detail
- Ignore the mention ‘N/A for Topic 1’
- Do not wait until the last minute

Evaluation process



- **Proposals evaluated against:**
 - Admissibility criteria
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Award criteria

Admissibility criteria

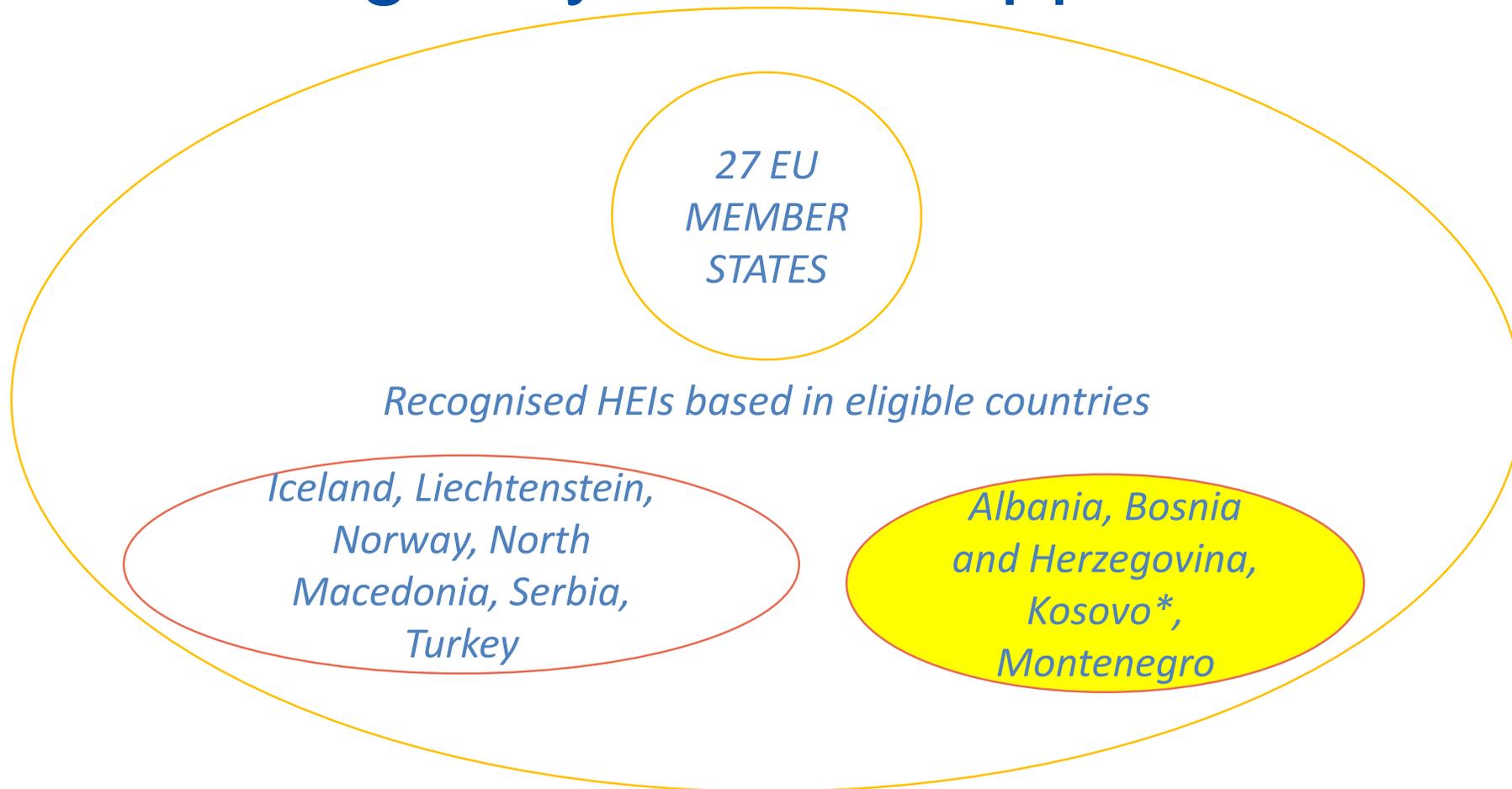
Electronic
submission

By yearly
deadline

Complete
applications: parts
A et B

Readable,
accessible

Eligibility criteria: applicants



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Award criteria

Relevance of the Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Quality of organisation and management

Implementation of the ECHE principles

The application form

Statistics

- General profile
- Students
 - Staff
 - Degree courses
- International activities

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

- Erasmus+ activities
- Strategies
- Objectives
- Impact
- Indicators

General Organisation and Management

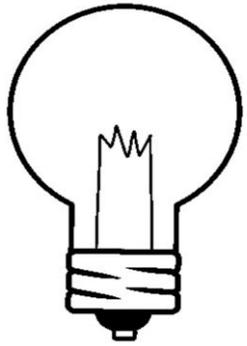
- Academic and administrative structures
- Decision making
- Distribution of tasks and responsibilities
- Quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation strategy
- Communication
- Promotion
- Visibility

Implementation of ECHE principles

- Non discrimination, transparency, inclusion
- Full automatic recognition
- Digitalisation
- Environmentally friendly practices
- Civic engagement
- Active citizenship
- Staff mobility

Relevance of the EPS

- ***Participation in Erasmus+***



- ***Strategy***
- ***Objectives***
- ***Impact***
- ***Indicators***

- What we want to see:
- How you will participate in the Erasmus+ Programme, and what you want to achieve? How does this fit in the strategies of the HEI?
- What are the objectives and impact of participation? How this will help achieve the objectives of the institution?
- Indicators to measure achievement, and a timeline

Quality of organisation and management

- Quality management
 - Structures
 - Methodology
- Implementation
- Dissemination
- Evaluation
- Sustainability

- What we want to see:
- How you will implement the Erasmus+ actions
- What administrative and academic structures are in place
- How you will ensure quality, monitoring, sustainability, dissemination and visibility



Implementation of the ECHE principles



- ✓ Full automatic recognition
- ✓ Staff mobility recognition
- ✓ Full and equitable access
- ✓ Digitalisation
- ✓ Environmentally friendly practices
- ✓ Civic engagement
- ✓ Active citizenship

ECHE and guidelines

- Information and sample certificate:

- <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education>

- ECHE guidelines:

- <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education-2021-2027-guidelines>



Part 3: Implementation of the ECHE principles

1. ECHE fundamental principles
2. Mobility activities
3. Cooperation projects

These principles will be familiar to those institutions that have participated in Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM)/KA107 projects, as they are a part of the inter-institutional agreements.

1. ECHE fundamental principles (I)

1. Non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion
2. ECTS credits
3. European Student Card and Erasmus+ App
4. Environmentally friendly practices
5. Civic engagement and active citizenship

- What we want to see:
- Familiarity with existing information published by the European Commission on these activities
- Explanations of the measures taken in the HEI to respect these principles
 - Concrete ideas
 - Examples
 - Strategies
- All questions must be answered

1. ECHE fundamental principles (II)

1. Non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion

- What measures are taken to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion?
- How will you ensure equal access to opportunities, paying attention to participants with fewer opportunities?

2. ECTS credits

- What is the methodology of allocating ECTS to courses?

3. European Student Card and Erasmus+ App

- How will you promote the E+ App, and a more general commitment to digitalisation of mobility processes?
- See how the alliance in the EUI application is approaching the ESCI, explain how you will prepare possible adaptation

4. Environmentally friendly practices

- How will environmentally friendly practices in the context of Erasmus+ be implemented and promoted?

5. Civic engagement and active citizenship

- How will civic engagement and active citizenship be promoted for incoming and outgoing students?

2. Mobility activities (I)

1. Course catalogues (before mobility)
2. Inter-institutional agreements for study and teaching mobility (before mobility)
3. Support for outgoing students/staff
4. Support for incoming students/staff (during mobility)
5. Full automatic recognition of credits (after mobility)
6. Recognition of staff mobility (after mobility)

- What we want to see:
- Familiarity with existing information published by the European Commission on these activities
- Explanations of the measures taken in the HEI to respect these principles
 - Concrete ideas
 - Examples
 - Strategies
- All questions must be answered

2. Mobility activities (II)

1. Course catalogues

- How will information on courses taught at your institution be publicly available, in accordance with the EU Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition

2. Inter-institutional agreements for study and teaching mobility

- How is your approach to establishing and monitoring inter-institutional agreements?
- Who manages the learning agreements of students and how is it done?

3. Support for outgoing students/staff

- How are outgoing students and staff prepared for departure?
- Description of mentoring and support arrangements

4. Support for incoming students/staff

- How are the mentoring and support arrangements for incoming participants?

5. Full automatic recognition of credits

- How will you ensure full automatic recognition of credits for learning outcomes during a mobility, in accordance with the EU Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition?

6. Recognition of staff mobility

- How do you support, promote and recognise staff mobility?

3. Cooperation projects

1. Promotion of cooperation projects
2. Support engagement

What we want to see:

- Willingness and ability to promote cooperation projects to potential participants
- Understanding of the importance of reaping the benefits of the projects for the benefit of the institution and the wider HE sector
- How will the institution support and recognise its staff and students' engagement in Erasmus projects throughout the application and implementation phase?
- All questions must be answered

Questions

Topic related FAQs: [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eacea-ecche/)

The screenshot displays the 'Funding & tender opportunities' page on the European Commission website. The page title is 'Erasmus Charter for Higher Education' with the topic ID 'ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT-FP'. A 'Grant' button is visible. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Topic related FAQ' highlighted. The main content area shows 'General information' with the following details:

Programme	Work programme part	
Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS)	ERASMUS-2022	
Call	Work programme year	
Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2022 (ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT)	ERASMUS-2022 See budget overview	
Type of action	Type of MGA	
ERASMUS-CERT ERASMUS ECHE Charter	ERASMUS Certificate [ERASMUS-CERT] Open for submission	
Deadline model	Opening date	Deadline dates
multiple cut-off	23 February 2022	03 May 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time 26 January 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time 25 January 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time 28 January 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time 27 January 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time 26 January 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time

EACEA-ECHE@ec.europa.eu