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)
Part I: European Universities initiative
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

WHY ?
European Universities: setting a vision

Increase international competitiveness of European higher education

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

Structural, Systemic and Sustainable impact
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

- European identity
- Active citizenship
- Migration
- Global Health
- UN SDGs
- Multilingualism
- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Sustainable Blue Growth
- Circular economy
- Social sciences
- Fine arts
- Culture
- Energy and transport
- Cities and regional development
- Digital transformation
- Space
- Cities and regional development
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 UNIVERSITIES

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)
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**

(jointing an existing alliance or create a new alliance)
HEIs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Montenegro can now become full partners in an alliance.

HEIs from all 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)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication</td>
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<td>Deadline 2023</td>
<td>26 January 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>February – June 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information to applicants</td>
<td>July 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ publication</td>
<td></td>
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How to apply
Funding & tenders (europa.eu)
“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

Recognised HEIs based in eligible countries

- Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey
- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro

* 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

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<td>Relevance of the Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of organisation and management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation of the ECHE principles</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## The application form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)</th>
<th>General Organisation and Management</th>
<th>Implementation of ECHE principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • General profile  
• Students  
• Staff  
• Degree courses  
• International activities | • Erasmus+ activities  
• Strategies  
• Objectives  
• Impact  
• Indicators | • Academic and administrative structures  
• Decision making  
• Distribution of tasks and responsibilities  
• Quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation strategy  
• Communication  
• Promotion  
• Visibility | • 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:

- ECHE 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. 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)

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