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About the European Universities Initiative

planned

targets





now



more than 560 500





European HEIs European HEIs



Currently, there are 12 Czech universities involved in the European Universities Initiative:

- Brno University of Technology (EULiST)
- Charles University (4EU+)
- Czech Technical University in Prague (EuroTeQ)
- Masaryk University (EDUC)
- Mendel University in Brno (HEROES)
- Palacký University Olomouc (Aurora)
- Silesian University in Opava (STARS EU)
- Tomas Bata University in Zlín (PIONEER)
- University of Ostrava (NEOLAiA)
- University of South Bohemia (KreativEU)
- University of West Bohemia (EUPeace)
- VSB Technical University of Ostrava (U!REKA)



What are the European **University alliances?**

European Universities are ambitious transnational alliances of Higher Education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. They should lead the way towards the universities of the future, promoting European values and identity, and revolutionising the quality and competitiveness of European Higher Education.

They should establish a more intensive mobility of students, staff and researchers, develop excellent science and research, as well as contribute to solving global societal issues. The alliances are expected to have a structural, systemic and sustainable impact, and serve as role models in the transformation of European Higher Education.

To achieve this goal, 1.1 billion euros under Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programming period was dedicated to the initiative.

Policy Context & Objectives

Currently there are 64 alliances, comprising over 560 European HEIs from 35 countries and almost 2,200 associated partners from NGOs, businesses, cities, local and regional authorities and other HEIs from the Bologna Process countries, including almost 35 HEIs from Ukraine.

The aim of the initiative was to support 60 alliances of more than 500 HEIs by mid-2024, a total of 10% of HEIs in Europe. These objectives were met and even surpassed with the latest call, which was also the last for new alliances: no call will be published in 2025, and the European Commission is preparing calls for follow-up two-year funding for existing alliances in 2026 and 2027. The 2024 call also funds the creation of a Community of Practice of European Universities to foster the sharing of experiences between alliances and to support the dissemination of the reusable results of alliances across the whole higher education sector.

The alliances support what Enrico Letta's report on the future of the Single Market calls the "fifth freedom", the ability to learn, study, teach and research without borders. The European Universities are a flagship initiative of the European Strategy for Universities and a cornerstone of the synergies between the European Education Area, the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.

2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
•	•	•	•	•
17 Alliances 4EU+ EDUC	24 Alliances Aurora EuroTeQ	20 Alliances 16 Theme 1 + 4 Theme 2 4EU+ EDUC	30 Alliances 24 Theme 1 + 6 Theme 2 Aurora NEOLAiA EuroTeQ STARS EU EULiST U!REKA EUPeace	14 Alliances HEROES KreativEU PIONEER

Brno University of Technology



European Universities Linking Society and Technology





Vision for the future

From the heart of Europe's metropolitan areas to peripheral rural regions, the diversity and complementarity of the EULiST members drives their ambition. Each of their campuses is deeply embedded in its local ecosystem, connected to the regional and national society and deeply integrated in the European Community. By linking 10 campuses, EULiST connects territories and communities and their rich social, cultural, technological and economic knowledge and experience. By integrating perspectives from the social and technical sciences and boosting challenge-based learning, EULiST fosters innovation to build a more sustainable and globally engaged Europe. It trains future generations of students, researchers, scholars and life-long learners to develop solutions to the grand challenges of today and tomorrow, notably climate change, digital transition and social cohesion.

Objectives

- Educating socially responsible European citizens who build bridges between science and society.
- Building an analogue and virtual European inter-university EULIST Campus with a culture of diversity, inclusion and sustainability.
- Developing innovative, flexible, challenge-based and interactive teaching formats and curricula integrating cutting-edge research.
- Establishing international and interdisciplinary teams of students, researchers

and regional stakeholders developing solutions to social challenges.

- Establishing a collaborative knowledge and transfer network between the involved regions in order to promote knowledge-based research, innovation and evidence-based policy making.
- Focusing on thematic synergies and areas identified under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), e.g.: High-quality education; Affordable and clean energy; Industry, innovation and infrastructure; Sustainable cities and communities; Climate action.



- EULiST Model
- Gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness
- Academic freedom
- Cultural & institutional plurality across & beyond Europe
- Democracy & social cohesion
- Responsibility
- Trust in science

EULIST's unique and creative academic ecosystem at the intersection of society, technology and sustainability, grounded in European core values.

Charles University







Vision for the future

The 4EU+ is a consortium of large, comprehensive, public European research universities that are strongly embedded in their local territories and share European values and a global outlook. The first responsibility of 4EU+ is to form the next generations of citizens to face and solve global challenges. It aims to create one comprehensive research-intensive European University through a new quality of cooperation in teaching, education, research and administration. All 4EU+ activities build on academic freedom and autonomy, ensuring a student-centred, fairly accessible and participative education. The Alliance will implement a common approach to education, research and third mission activities around four flagship themes in fields linked to Health, Europe, Information science and Sustainable development. It will also develop a comprehensive mobility framework based on integrated academic programmes and closely linked to research excellence as well as create a single knowledge and technology transfer hub.

Objectives

- A common 4EU+ Graduate Skills, Competences and Values portfolio, defining the expected profile of a 4EU+ student and a 4EU+ framework for educational activities and common joint curricula.
- A 4EU+ flexible 'learning pathway', providing a range of different measures to enable individualised curricula and the shared use of resources, facilities and infrastructure.
- A 4EU+ mobility charter, ensuring the streamlining of administrative processes and recognition of the outcomes and qualifications of 4EU+ students.
- A 4EU+ platform with training tools to prepare teachers and students for effective online collaborative teaching and learning.
- A 4EU+ life-long learning ambition and tested collaboration formats concerning life-long learning with the associate partners.

Flagships



Urban Health & Demographic Change



Europeanness: Multilingualism, Pluralities, Citizenship



Digitalisation, Modelling, Transformation



Environmental Transitions

Czech Technical University in Prague





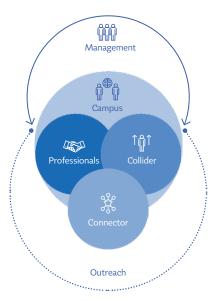


Vision for the future

The EuroTeQ builds on the belief that societal developments of recent years call for strong university alliances to make the Knowledge Square of Education, Research, Innovation and Service to Society a reality and its impacta benefit to Europe and beyond. As 8 leading universities of Science and Technology situated in innovation eco-systems and with great collaboration experience, EuroTeQ is equipped to introduce a paradigm shift in the engineering education of the future, with a strong symbiotic link to society, aspiring to responsible value co-creation in technology. The main aim of EuroTeQ is to establish joint engineering sciences study programmes across different disciplines as well as across national and institutional borders. With individually designed curricula and new digital formats, EuroTeQ promotes an open European University that fosters mutual understanding between all stakeholders responsible for collaborative technology-driven value.

Objectives

- Building the EuroTeQ Campus, a platform for open education, delivering high-quality research-led teaching.
- Training the EuroTeQ graduates to have intercultural, multilingual competences, an entrepreneurial mindset, and to think and act responsibly.
- Running the EuroTeQ Collider, building a community for students through a series of co-created, challenge-based projects and competitions (the EuroTeQaThon) including non-academic and lifelong learners.
- Ideating the EuroTeQ Professional, promoting active engagement with engineering professionals and stakeholders in local eco-systems.
- Creating the EuroTeQ Connector, agile assessment of the interaction with different societal actors, ensuring the quality of EuroTeQ Engineering University & its impact.
- Ensuring EuroTeQ Sustainability & Outreach to create a real impact, enabling other universities and stakeholders to follow the EuroTeQ example, fostering technological progress and societal cohesion.



Masaryk University



European Digital UniverCity



The eight partners of EDUC create a truly integrated European University using modern digital tools and face-to-face collaboration. They aim to strengthen the European identification process by enhancing knowledge creation and by putting forward European skills acquisition through digitally supported cross-campus and cross-disciplinary teaching activities as well as various learning opportunities. EDUC vision is to build a common academic space where students, academic and administrative staff can collaborate and move from one university to another by removing the remaining administrative, legal, social, cultural or financial obstacles and implementing appropriate structures and aligned processes. The alliance also works towards creating new, Europeanised, tailor-made curricula for its students, as well as a community of practice for experiencing and enacting the common values and cultural diversity that will bring EDUC to life.

Objectives & Activities

- Combining virtual and physical exchange scenarios (or 'innovative mobilities').
- Bridging the IT infrastructures of the partner universities.
- Creating e-pedagogies and cross-disciplinary curricula.
- Strengthening the links between education and research.
- Enhancing global visibility and building common collaboration strategies with regional ecosystems and other Higher Education institutions around the world.

- Acting as one federated entity, both within the EDUC community and with external institutions.
- Establishing an inclusive and efficient problem-solving governance and strong cooperation of the administrative offices and services.
- Developing a distributed & shared digital infrastructure supporting cross-campus collaboration, giving access to all EDUC teaching and learning resources.
- Involving all stakeholders in thematic WGs at all organisational levels.

Key areas



Mendel University in Brno



Higher Education for Resilience-Oriented and Empowered Societies



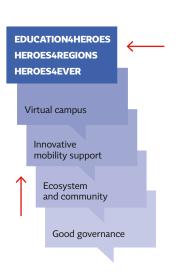


Vision for the future

The HEROES alliance is committed to transforming the talents of new generation of Europeans into superpowers that benefit their communities and advance the smart regional resilience of people, businesses and nature. The joint purpose of HEROES' 9 professional HEIs is twofold: to sustainably deepen their institutional, structural and strategic cooperation and to strengthen the resilience of people, businesses and natural environments at regional and local level. Local responsiveness and resilience to today's challenges are crucial as effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, eroding social cohesion and technological disruption are strongly experienced at the grassroots level, and practical solutions for local use are urgently needed. HEROES is made up of partners located and firmly established in small and medium-sized cities and thus ideally placed to both come up with contextualised innovative solutions that work and implement them effectively in cooperation with local stakeholders.

Objectives

- EDUCATION4HEROES, a new joint educational offer at bachelor, master and doctoral level with a strong link to practice.
- HEROES4REGIONS challenge-based learning programme where students, lecturers, researchers and local businesses will work together through collaboratively designed courses with combined (HEROLABS and HEROQUESTS) or virtual (GLOBALHE-ROES) mobilities.
- HEROES4REGIONS practice-oriented scientific research hub divided into thematic networks (agriculture & food; care & wellbeing; circular economy; digital transformation; education, learning & inclusion and regional development).
- HEROES4EVER flexible learning opportunities for working professionals focusing on digital upskilling and employability enhancement.



Palacký University Olomouc

AURORA





Vision for the future

As a consortium of research-intensive universities committed to the social impact of their activities, and with a history of engagement with their communities, Aurora aims to harness academic excellence of its members to influence societal change through research and educational activities – and to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Aurora's goal is to equip a diverse student population with the skills and mindset to contribute to addressing societal challenges as social entrepreneurs and innovators. Aurora focuses on collaboration between academic and other staff, students and external stakeholders. Sustainability of Aurora campuses and its education, research and outreach places Aurora in the forefront of sustainable universities. This vision fits the overall strategy of 'matching academic excellence with societal relevance': Aurora rejects the popular assumption that academic excellence equals exclusivity. Making its education, research and innovation as responsible and beneficial as possible to our society is the common quest.

Objectives

- Aurora Competence Framework, to equip a diverse student population with the skills and mindset to make them social entrepreneurs and innovators, willing and able to tackle the major challenges of our societies.
- Aurora Co-creation and topical platforms making inclusive collaboration with external stakeholders and students regular practice in education, research and outreach - at local, national, European and global level.
- Aurora Education Area, giving students a meaningful international experience through embedded mobilities.
- Aurora Capacity Development Support, contributing to an even distribution of higher education & research excellence across all regions of Europe.
- Aurora Sustainability Pioneers, SDG Research and Education dashboards, Alliance-level SDG education & a jointly implemented Aurora Sustainable Campus plan.

Priority domains



Sustainability & Climate Change



Digital Society & Global Citizenship



Health & Well-being



Cultures: Diversities & Identities

Silesian University in Opava

students



The Strategic Alliance for Regional Transition



Silesian University in Opava (Czechia)

- Hanze University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)
- University of La Laguna (Spain)
- Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (Portugal)
- Bremen University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- University West (Sweden)
- Cracow University of Technology (Poland)
- University of Franche-Comté (France)
- Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës (Albania)



https://starseu.org

Call 2023



Vision for the future

STARS EU is an alliance between nine complementary European universities willing to establish channels of collaboration in initiatives of different types, seeking to promote the exchange of ideas, people and innovation in both research and teaching. Innovation in the classic functions of the university is necessary in the face of a future of unprecedented social change.

Preparing future generations for increasingly automated, digitalised and fluid labour markets implies reforming both educational models (through international exchange, challenge-based education, micro-credentials and other strategies) and research models, with collaboration as the driving force.

Objectives & Priority Areas

- Create a new generation of futureoriented students.
- Deliver innovative, flexible, diverse and challenge-based educational and research systems.
- Exploit the synergies of inter-regional collaboration.
- Impact positively and substantially on sustainable regional and European development.

Thematic Interest Groups (TIGs)

- Circular economy
- Digital transition
- Energy transition
- Healthy ageing
- Entrepreneurship and innovation
- Arts and creative industries
- Living Spaces

Co-Creation Structures



Tomas Bata University in Zlín







Vision for the future

The main vision of the PIONEER alliance is to contribute to the creation of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11. This cannot be achieved without collaboration both between the partners involved and between the alliance and public and private actors. There is a need to jointly rethink the role of cities, not only as drivers of social change but also as a source of inspiration for achieving sustainability. The PIONEER alliance wants to support cities in addressing their challenges. To this end, its members will work together to create a shared pan-European ecosystem at the interface with the nonacademic world, facilitating the exchange of talents, knowledge, skills and tools, building on shared values and celebrating diversity. The alliance also aims to move beyond the traditional academic set-up with its national, disciplinary and sectoral processes and systems. PIONEER members want to transform themselves into impact and challenge-focused institutions to foster collaborative problem solving with cities and relevant stakeholders.

Objectives

- Promote talent development and circulation: Knowledge circulation through the education of students, the coproduction and publication of research results and their transfer to society.
- Foster challenge-based knowledge creation and transmission: Establishment of a challenge-based and transdisciplinary approach around carefully selected themes of urban transitions.
- Transform incentives and institutional models: Reduction of existing barriers for mobility and cooperation.

- Create a Knowledge Hub encompassing and coordinating activities in the fields of teaching, research and service to society.
- Establish an Open Campus connecting all the PIONEER partners in one physical, hybrid and virtual place. The campus will also support cross-cutting needs including mobility opportunities and intercultural experiences.
- Focus the alliance governance on realising the potential of PIONEER as an interinstitutional learning opportunity and tool for institutional transformation.



University of Ostrava



Transforming Regions for an Inclusive Europe





Vision for the future

The NEOLAIA alliance sees itself in 2030 as:

- A strong, highly integrated alliance representing a mainstay of European values and high-quality education for all the member university regions.
- An open and inclusive educational and social environment, fostering equity at university and in European society at large, ensuring that the diverse communities within academia and in the regions feel connected and committed to work together to find solutions to common global challenges and concerns such as Global Health to improve well-being for all.
- A model international educator motivating widening cohorts of students to engage in innovative research-informed and socially relevant study programmes crossing the borders of disciplines, research areas, countries and cultures, keeping pace with the digitalisation of teaching and learning as well as cherishing personal contact and a tailor-made approach.

Objectives

- Enhancing regional connectivity to prevent populism through innovation in academic mobility.
- Strengthening inclusion and interculturalism, through common standards against barriers to participation by underrepresented groups. A strong focus on the societal engagement for diversity & inclusion through open events in the regions will contribute to this.
- Increasing regional output in terms of entrepreneurial training, product ideation, start-up support and incubation.
- Increasing research impact at a regional scale through higher scientific output by building on existing regional specialisation strengths and on knowledge transfer (open science).
- Increasing the number and scope of joint teaching and learning programmes to address identified Shared Challenges (SC) through regional collaboration and in alignment with a "European space of learning".

3 PILLARS



Digital Transformation



Diversity and Inclusion



Enhanced Mobility

KEY APPLICATION AREA



Health

10 ACTION AREAS

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice



Knowledge & Creativity European University

full partners*

74,500

students

11

- University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (Czechia)
- Polytechnic University of Tomar (Portugal)
- D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics (Bulgaria)
- University of Camerino (Italy)
- University of Greifswald (Germany)
- Breda University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)
- Opole University of Technology (Poland)
- Valahia University of Târgoviște (Romania)
- University of Trnava in Trnava (Slovakia)
- Södertörn University (Sweden)
- Adana Alparslan Türkeş Science and Technology University (Türkiye)



http://www.kreativeu.ipt.pt/

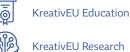


Vision for the future

The KreativEU alliance will establish a fully European University, that places the creative potential derived from Europe's cultural heritage at the heart of its teaching, research and knowledge transfer activities. The partners will jointly implement an ambitious yet inclusive vision for transforming the study of culture, identity, memory and heritage for the benefit of society. KreativEU will provide the EU with innovative concepts, methods, and solutions to address both current and future challenges, contributing to a sustainable and harmonious future for communities and the environment alike. This eco-cultural vision is the guiding principle of the KreativEU alliance, ensuring that its initiatives not only embrace cultural and environmental interconnections, but also use digital advances to improve accessibility, dissemination and understanding of cultural heritage. The new eco-cultural identity approach brings together the research perspectives of cultural and natural sciences at the key point of the human being.

Objectives

- KreativEU Education: Development of joint transdisciplinary courses for digital or hybrid delivery and creation of joint interdisciplinary Master degree programmes and PhD curricula.
- KreativEU Research: Establishment of a common research agenda for "Cultural memory and cultural material identity and heritage in intercultural relations".
- KreativEU Culture with and for society: Development of a transnational artistic and heritage incubator.
- KreativEU knowledge-creation and design network on smart sustainability: Establishment of a network bringing together students, lecturers, researchers, entrepreneurs, companies, local and regional actors, and civil society actors. Set-up of the KreativEU Smart Sustainability Think Tank.
- KreativEU Heritage European Campus: Creation of a common structure of excellence.
- KreativEU Mobility: Facilitation of mobility for students, academics, and other staff.





KreativEU Culture with and for society



knowledge-creation and design network on smart sustainability



KreativEU Heritage European Campus



KreativEU Mobility

University of West Bohemia

European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies





EUPeace believes the values of peace, justice, and inclusive societies must be continuously cultivated, studied, and shaped to define the road to an ambitious and challenging socio-political goal. Universities have a key role to play in this. Peace cannot flourish unless a set of enabling conditions is firmly in place: it goes hand in hand with a deep commitment to justice and inclusion. EUPeace is about strengthening these conditions for peace: understanding them better through research, nurturing them actively through education, and fostering them broadly through societal outreach and innovative practices. Today, societal polarisation, renewed international conflicts, bitter competition over resources, and growing intolerance, put pressure on inclusion, weaken justice and threaten peace. The fundamental mission of EUPeace is to provide tomorrow's citizens with the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to cultivate peace, justice, and inclusive societies.

Objectives & Activities

Learning Environment supporting Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies

 To train a new generation of students to nurture tolerance, diversity, and pluralism.

Space for Co-Creation of Knowledge and Impact

 To multiply the capacity of our institutions to directly serve societies in Europe and beyond.

Long Term Institutional Path

 To strengthen the EHEA and anchor core European values in university education and European societies.

- European Track
- Internationalised Teachers Training
- EUPeace Master Degrees
- Project-based Learning
- Joint Campus
- Thematic Research Hubs
- Specialised Research MA & PhD Programmes
- Creative Spaces
- Societal Dialogue Group
- Living Peace Lab
- Joint Strategic Plan
- Reunion of the Governing Bodies
 - EUPeace-wide Student
 - Organisations

Key Concepts



Peace Dealing with existing conflicts by civil means without violence or the threat of violence.



Justice

A state of recognition and a distribution of goods that allows for equal opportunity of all members of a society to participate in public life.



The fostering of a matual sence of belonging to society among their members by offering effective, non-discriminatory means of participation and involvement.

VSB – Technical University of Ostrava



Urban Research and Education Knowledge Alliance





Vision for the future

While the existing collaboration of U!REKA has focused on urban issues at large, through the establishment of U!REKA SHIFT, the partners will concentrate their resources and efforts to support the green and digital transition in Europe, by shaping professionals who will strive for the transition towards climate-neutral and smart cities. Students of the alliance Universities of Applied Sciences will go on to work in diverse sectors of the economy and society, which makes the alliance's position crucial to the European journey towards a green and digital transformations. Through the U!REKA challenge-based and collaborative approach to learning, its members support all students in developing the necessary green and digital competences. They will enable the active participation of all stakeholders and students to co-create solutions to societal challenges. U!REKA's future proof urban professionals will be well networked and skilled at working across professional and cultural borders, as they will play a pivotal role in achieving climate neutrality by 2050 in Europe.

Objectives

- To establish a sustainable U!REKA inter-university campus, based on a long-term strategy on education, ensuring seamless mobility and with respect for good governance.
- To become a lighthouse European University for challenge-based and collaborative learning and innovation.
- To shape U!REKA future-proof urban professionals who will accelerate the transition towards climate-neutral and smart cities.

Focus fields

- Governance
- Stakeholder & student engagement
- Inclusive and connected campus
- Centres of expertise with knowledge-creating communities:
 Climate-Neutral Urban Communities
 - Transition to Circular Society
 - Innovative Governance Models
 & Citizen Engagement
- Challenge-based collaborative education

U!REKA SHIFT



Inclusive and connected campus

Centres of expertise



Acceleration of the transition towards climate-neutral and smart cities

