

Evropské univerzitní aliance a jejich výzkumná dimenze

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European University Initiative (EUI)

- **2017:** Gothenburg European Council calls to “enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and contribute to the international competitiveness of European universities”
- **2019:** Erasmus+ launches pilot call of the European University Initiative supporting the setup of highly ambitious **transnational alliances of higher education institutions** that develop **long-term structural, sustainable and systemic cooperation in education**, with synergies with research and innovation, at the service of society.
- **2025:** [Report on the outcomes and transformational potential of the European Universities initiative](#); DG EAC / PPMI / Grumbinaité, I., Colus, F. and Buitrago Carvajal, H.

European University Initiative (EUI)

- All HEI missions: **education, research, innovation, society**
- **65 university alliances** currently funded by Erasmus+ (13 with Czech partners)
- 8 university alliances awarded Seal of Excellence (3 with Czech partners)
- **570+ higher education institutions**
- 35 countries
- 2200+ associated partners
- 11 million+ students (over half of European student population)
- Cumulative development
 - 2019 1st Erasmus+ pilot – 17 alliances
 - 2019 2nd Erasmus+ pilot – 41 alliances
 - 2022 Full Erasmus+ call – 44 alliances
 - 2023 Full Erasmus+ call – 50 alliances
 - 2024 Full Erasmus+ call – 65 alliances (+8 Seal of Excellence)
 - 2025 Bridge Erasmus+ call

The R&I dimension of EUI – policy goals

- **Joint research activities:** Explore joint R&I structures across the European Universities, while sharing research infrastructures and other resources. Develop a common R&I agenda and action plan to ultimately strengthen human capital, enabling balanced brain circulation, in synergy with the education mission of the alliances.
- **Engaged research:** Strive to make the knowledge square (education, research, innovation, and service to society) a reality. Strengthen HEIs' links to the R&I landscape in Europe and its outreach towards society and the economy. Involve citizens, civil society, and public/city authorities in R&I.
- **Open science:** Work towards mainstreaming comprehensive Open Science practices, including open education and open data practices.
- **Innovation and knowledge transfer:** Create and share knowledge, developing new concepts, technologies, and innovation at unprecedented speed. Fuel innovation to support the establishment and scaling up of start-ups and SMEs in Europe by setting up and reinforcing technology transfer.

The R&I dimension of EUI – funding instruments

- **Erasmus+:** EUI allows the alliances to “develop and implement an integrated long-term joint strategy for education with, where possible, links to research and innovation, and service to society”
- **H2020 SWAFS call:** 39 out of 41 pilot alliances
 - Invited only; CSA; 2 M€; 3 years
- **HE European Excellence Initiative:** 8 alliances funded
 - Widening action open to all kinds of alliances; CSA with <30% R&I allowance; 2-5 M€; 4 years
- **EIT-HEI Initiative:** dedicated call in 2025 with 17 alliances funded; previously <10 alliances supported
 - Improving Innovation capacity and entrepreneurial mindset
- **HE MSCA Cofund and Doctoral Networks:** about 10 projects
 - Doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

The R&I dimension of EUI – 2025 report statistics

- **92%** of alliances have formulated or are developing **joint R&I agendas**
- **92%** of the alliances have or are developing platforms or activities to **connect researchers** from partner HEIs with similar interests
- **87%** of the alliances grant or are in the process of granting **access** to laboratories, research centres, and research support services to their partner HEIs
- **76%** have or are developing **joint research services** at the alliance level
- **74%** of the alliances have or are **implementing funding opportunities** for joint research projects
- **74%** of alliances have successfully submitted **joint research applications** for funding
- **61%** have and or are creating **joint research support centres** or units
- **44%** have or are developing **joint research infrastructures**
- **42%** grant or are planning to grant **access to research journal** subscriptions and databases
- **29%** of the alliances implement services to **support joint publications**

The R&I dimension of EUI – lessons learned from H2020

- **2023:** [Progress of University Alliance Projects Projects funded under Horizon 2020 IBA-SwafS-Support-1-2020 Call - Pilot I](#); REA / O'Neill, G. and Acheson, H.
- **2023:** [Towards a European Excellence Initiative Policy report](#); CSES / DG RTD / SPI / Tetra Tech, Rampton, J. et al.
- **2024:** [Report on good practices from European University Alliances Projects \(pilot II\) Projects funded under Horizon 2020 : IBA-SwafS-SUPPORT-2-2020 call](#); REA / O'Neill, G. and Acheson, H.

The R&I dimension of EUI – challenges

- Consolidating new partnerships within the alliances requires **long-term efforts** in **creating incentives, fostering networking, and building trust** among alliance researchers (*vs. short-term and unstable R&I projects*)
- University alliances „R&I“ projects help **accelerate the institutional change** of all partners (*in a diverse way with diverse focus on the pre-defined transformation modules*)
- Addressing logistical and organisational challenges for shared services and facilities that often relate to differing national regulations and rules.
- Currently only EEI in Horizon Europe addresses EUI directly (*Developing R&I dimension in Erasmus+? Where is the border with education?*)

The R&I dimension of EUI – linking with education in Erasmus+

- Breaking down silos between education, research and innovation
- Pooling resources, thus creating attractive education, research and Innovation environment, contributing to nurture, attract and retain European and global talent
- Developing enhanced frameworks for joint education and training opportunities, as well as researchers' and academics attractive career development
- Promoting synergies among diverse transnational education, research and innovation ecosystems across Europe, enhancing visibility and efficiency, and enabling the private sector access to knowledge
- Supporting trans- and multi-disciplinarity and challenge-based approaches

EUI beyond 2027

- Prominent in background reports (Draghi, Letta)
- European Universities as one of Erasmus+ pillars

Article 6

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

The Programme shall support:

- (a) Partnerships for cooperation, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme;
- (b) Partnerships for excellence and innovation, building on the European Universities Alliances, Centres of Vocational Excellence, European Teacher Academies, European School Alliances, Joint study programmes, European Youth Together and Sport Collaborative Alliances.

- Little mention in Horizon Europe and ECF legislation

principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between universities and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector. It should enable the completion of the European Research Area, including via development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.

and indicate when it is included. This includes a Skills Guarantee that should enable workers in sectors undergoing restructuring to upskill and reskill, in line with relevant national, regional and/or sectoral transition strategies. The ECF should support skills intelligence, upskilling and reskilling, and foster public-private partnerships between universities, VET providers, businesses, in particular SMEs, social partners and applied research institutes. The ECF could also support activities of University Alliances, also in cooperation with employers, to improve their delivery on innovation and the development of skills and talent.

- Overall still a set of project-funding streams?

EDUC R&I activities & projects

- 2020 EDUC Erasmus+
 - joint research priorities
- 2021-2024 EDUC-SHARE H2020:
 - long-term research agenda
 - research infrastructures (Access)
 - open science
 - HR / soft skills
- 2024-2027 EDUC-WIDE HE
 - all above + research assessment
 - Seed Projects, Fellowships

11 priority research areas of EDUC

Life sciences

Lifelong Health and Wellbeing

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Behavioural/Neuroscience studies

Physical sciences and engineering

Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence

Mobility/Smart Cities

Sustainable Changes: Climate and Resources

Material sciences

Social sciences and humanities

European Union Studies

Culture and Heritage

Economics & Business

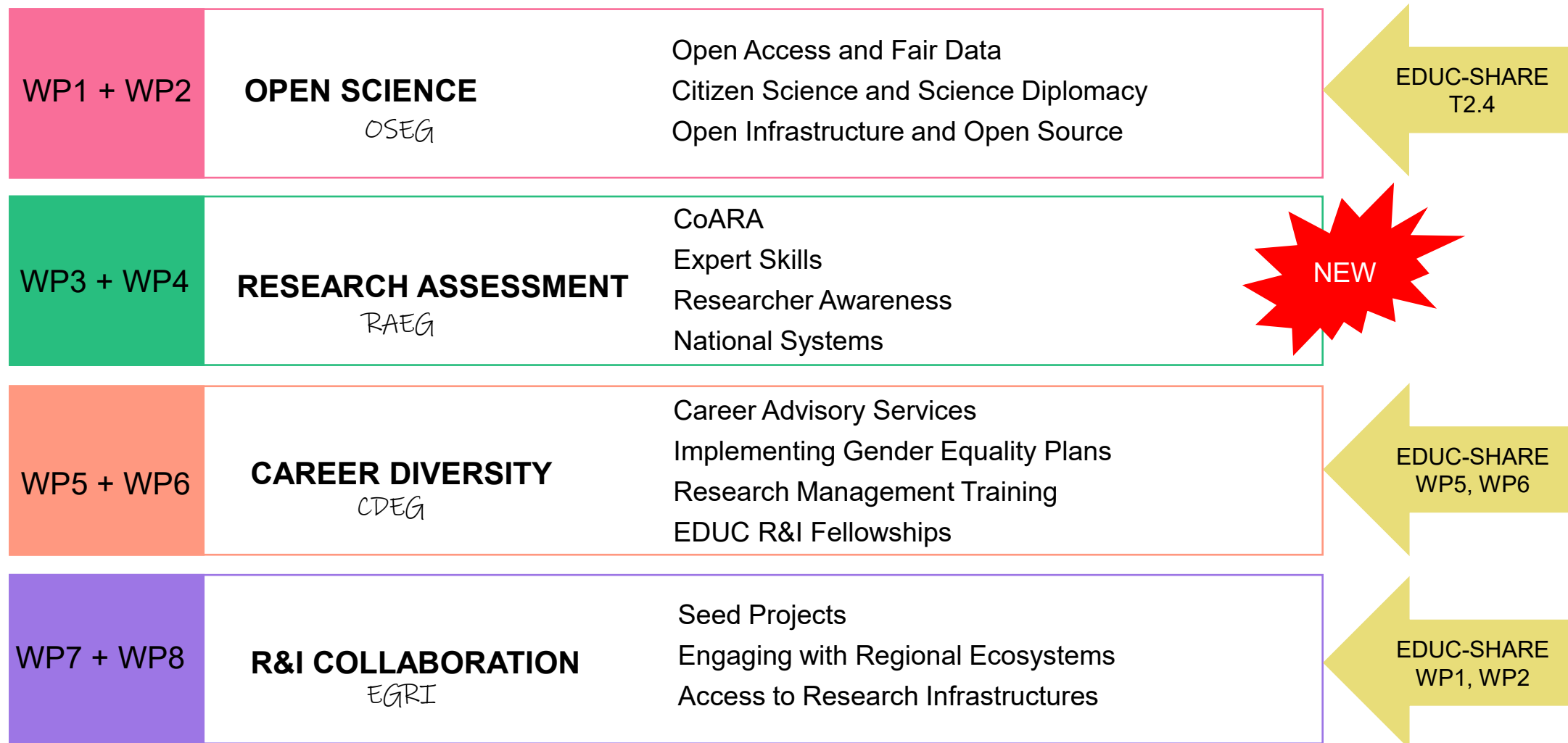
Justice, Inequality and Inclusion

EDUC-WIDE Essentials

- 1.3.2024 – 28.2.2027 (36 months)
- *Full name:* EmpoWering EDUC for Inclusive Development of the ERA
- Reg. No: 101136533
- **9 universities**
 - 6 Beneficiaries
 - 3 associated partners (UR, UPN, UPECS)
 - Coordinator: MUNI
- **3,5 mil EUR** (incl. UPECS own contribution)
- Lump sum
- Call: **WIDERA**



EDUC-WIDE focus areas



Thank you for your attention.

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