



The higher education package

Eurostudent
22 February 2022



A European strategy for universities and Proposal for Council recommendation on building bridges for Effective European Higher Education Cooperation



Empowering European Higher Education



A **European vision** for the **future of universities** and how the **Union can support**



A **call to Member States and higher education institutions** across Europe **to join forces**



Proposed recommendations for effective **European Higher Education cooperation**

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel



The European strategy for universities and the proposal for a Council recommendation on transnational cooperation “*will benefit the entire higher education sector, first and foremost our **students**. They need modern transnational campuses with easy access to mobility abroad to allow for a truly European study path and experience. We stand ready to join forces with the Member States and higher education institutions across Europe. Together we can **bring closer education, research and innovation in service to society.***”

Four key objectives

1 Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research

Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness

2 Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills

In a fast changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills

Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality

More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities

Promote and protect European democratic values

Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research

3 Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions

Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition

Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make 'connected universities' a reality

4 Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

Universities are instrumental in building Europe's connections with the world



Four flagship initiatives



Expand to **60 European Universities with more than 500 universities by mid-2024**, with an Erasmus+ indicative budget totalling EUR 1.1 billion for 2021-2027.



Work towards a **legal statute for alliances** of higher education institutions: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the implementation of existing European instruments



Examine options and necessary steps towards a **joint European degree**: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the first steps towards a joint European degree, in particular the development of European criteria for the award of a European Degree label



Scale up the **European Student Card initiative by starting deploying a unique European Student Identifier** to all mobile students in 2022 and to all students in universities in Europe by mid-2024



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Proposed actions EU level

diversity, inclusion, gender equality

- ❑ **European framework for diversity and inclusion**, including gender gaps
- ❑ **Roadmap** to address the underrepresentation of **women in STEM**
- ❑ Support for **researchers at risk** with guiding principles for universities to facilitate their inclusion.

Promote and protect democratic values

- ❑ Roll-out and monitor the new **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education** and the **new Erasmus Student Charter**
- ❑ foster academic debates on values and democracy **under Erasmus+ Jean Monnet** Higher Education activities
- ❑ **Guiding principles on protecting fundamental academic values** in synergy with **Action plan** for protecting academic freedom and the freedom of scientific research under ERA
- ❑ Support for implementing guidelines on foreign interference in R&I



SUPPORT UNIVERSITIES AS LIGHTHOUSES OF OUR EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE:

Higher education and research in Europe support our European way of life through their trifold focus on 1) quality and relevance for future-proof skills, 2) diversity and inclusion 3) democratic practices, fundamental rights and academic values and freedom of scientific research. Flexible and attractive academic careers, valuing teaching, research, entrepreneurship, management and leadership activities need to be promoted.

HE Observatory – integrate and align existing tools



European Tertiary Education Registry



U-MULTIRANK



Eurostudent



Eurograduate



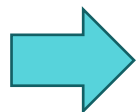
Bologna implementation (Eurydice)



Mobility Scoreboard (Eurydice)



Database of External Quality Assurance Results



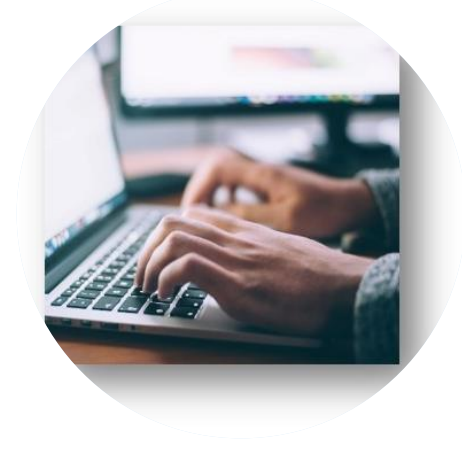
Align Strategy reporting with existing EEA and ERA policy monitoring e.g. 2025 EEA Progress Report, Expert Group on Quality Investment in Education and Training, EEA key HE indicators; European Research Area monitoring system (RISIS-ETER facility)



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Added value of the Observatory

wide, complete, coordinated and more integrated database



One stop shop portal

for reliable, complete, easy to access and analyse, comparable data across the EU

Aggregated & linked data on HE systems, HEIs & students

Simplification

Reduce administrative burden linked to **overlap** in existing data collection

NO new data collection

Rationalise existing tools for HE to foster synergies and interoperability

Does NOT question their governance, nor the indicators

Enhanced use and relevance of existing tools for policy makers, HEIs, students, academics, researchers

Enhanced international visibility

Make the Strategy a reality



Mobilise adequate financial support to higher education and research

Achieving inclusion and excellence requires appropriate funding for universities

MFF 2021-27 + NextGenerationEU = EUR 80 billion dedicated to the higher education sector



Promote **synergies between the European Education Area, the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area** in a fit-for-purpose and flexible manner



Set-up a European Higher Education Sector Observatory to monitor progress

The Observatory will combine the best of the current EU data tools and capacities in one single place and make it possible to:

- Monitor the implementation of European policy priorities
- Support data needs of Member States and higher education institutions
- Promote competitiveness and attractiveness of higher education institutions and attracting talent



Reporting through the European Education Area strategic framework and the European Research Area governance

Thank you

More information:

[Higher education initiatives | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Proposal for a Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Commission Communication on a European strategy for universities | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
FINLAND

Eurostudent research articles Case international students

Senior Ministerial Advisor
Kaisu Piironen

Eurostudent VII: Research articles – Case Finland

Programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government 2019

"We will facilitate the opportunities for foreign researchers, students and graduates and their families to stay in Finland by reforming the permit practices, streamlining the residence permit processes and reinforcing the connections between higher education and working life."



FI Eurostudent steering group work on national questions and themes



Eurostudent VII – survey (data collection 2/2020)

Core questions

FI: National additional questions for international students



Open call for researchers and research groups (6/2020)
- 6 themes, funding 80 000€

Eurostudent VII article series (spring 2021)

Juusola et al: Foreign students in Finnish higher education institutions. - Why the students came to Finland and whether they are interested in working in Finland after graduation

<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-263-833-5>



Tuononen et al: Higher education guidance to support foreign students find employment and achieve integration

<https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-263-833-5>

