



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
FINLAND

# Current issues, FI Ministry of Education and Culture

EUI Networking Day 9.12.2025  
Päivi Bosquet

# Few words of the organisation...

- Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland has all levels of education under the same roof:
  - ✓ Early childhood education and care, comprehensive school
  - ✓ Basic education in arts (extracurricular), liberal adult education
  - ✓ General upper secondary education, vocational education and training
  - ✓ Higher education

# And besides education...

- Ministry of Education and Culture also houses
  - ✓ Youth
  - ✓ Sports and physical activity
  - ✓ Culture
  - ✓ Libraries
  - ✓ Copyright
  - ✓ Religious affairs
  - ✓ Student financial aid



# EU - work done and work in the process in higher education

- Three-phase process in view of implementing a joint European degree label and later on possible joint European Degree, while considering other approaches.
- Possibly exploring the development of a framework for quality assurance for alliances based on ESG and European Approach for QA of joint programmes.
- Draft conclusions on the second cycle of EEA.



# Council Resolution on a joint European degree label, May 2025

Defines the steps and timeline for introducing the joint degree label, as well as the next steps towards a possible European joint degree.

## **Phase 1: Finalizing preparations for the introduction of the European joint degree label (2025–2026)**

The Commission will establish **a policy lab** within the EEA higher education working group to develop definitions, descriptions, and indicators **to verify compliance** with the criteria for the European joint degree label agreed in the annex to the quality assurance recommendation.

It will also prepare **guidelines and procedures for awarding the label**. The Commission will present the outcome to the Council by mid-2026.

# Resolution..

**Phase 2: Implementation and monitoring of the European joint degree label + evaluation + work on feasibility and mapping of a European joint degree (2026–2028)**

Member States and the Commission are recommended **to introduce the European joint degree label between 2026 and 2028.**

**The aim is to test the feasibility of the label and assess its impact from different perspectives, including the extent to which it addresses identified challenges in European higher education cooperation.**

The Commission will plan **measures to support** higher education institutions interested in awarding the label in connection with joint programmes.

**Together with the policy laboratory, the Commission will prepare a feasibility study on a European joint degree.**

**By the end of 2028, the Commission will submit to the Council an evaluation report on the implementation of the label and the feasibility study on a European joint degree to inform further decisions.**



# Resolution...

## Phase 3: Next steps towards a European joint degree – review and evidence-based decision-making (2029)

- Based on the Commission's evaluation report on the label and the feasibility study on a European joint degree, **the Council may decide on the long-term implementation of the label and request the Commission to propose the next steps towards introducing a European joint degree.**

## FI - Working Group on Developing Preconditions for European Higher Education Cooperation

- Working Group to enhance Finnish HEIs' capacity to engage effectively in European HE initiatives.
- 10/2024- 12/2025, continuing work until May 2026
- European Universities Initiative, EHEA commitments, and mobility and cooperation tools.
- Ministry, universities, UAS's, student unions, Finnish Education Evaluation Center and National Board of Education.
- Digital experts, student services experts, legal affairs experts from higher education.





# Work, challenges and solutions

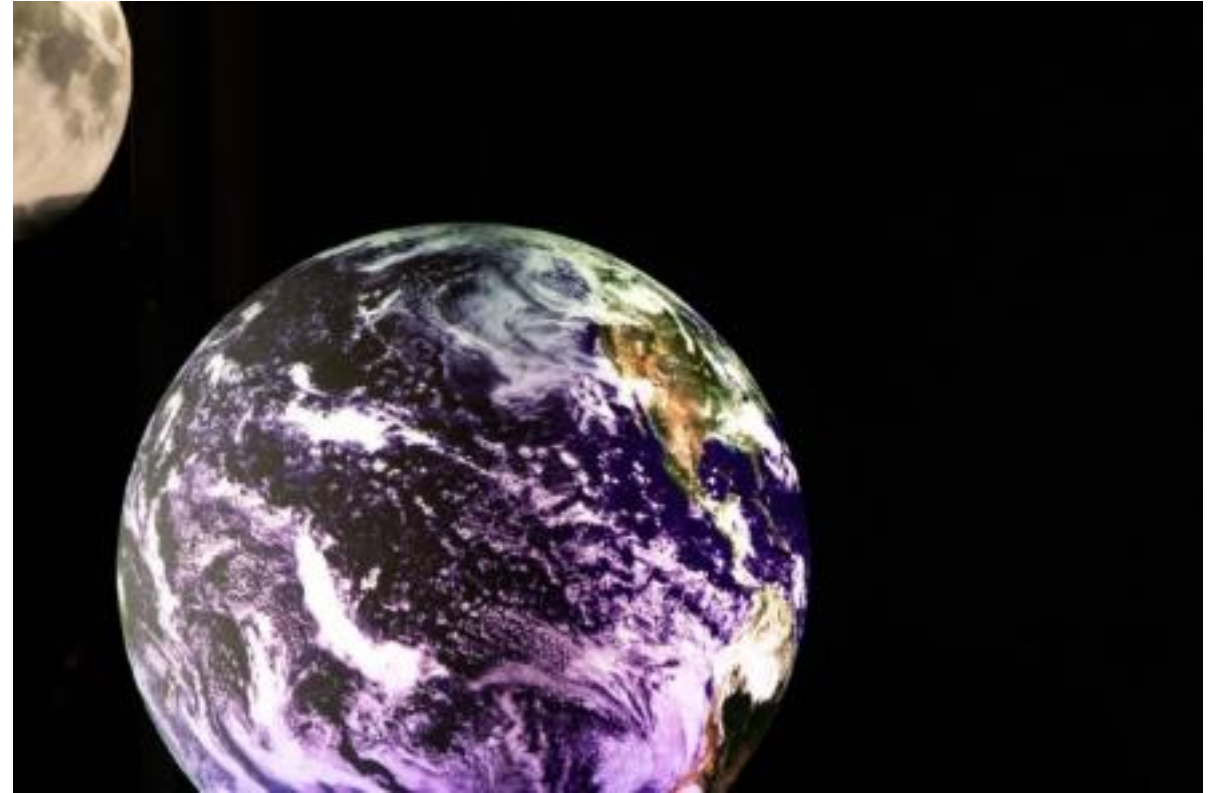


- Map, list and collect the challenges currently faced in the explore solutions. transnational higher education cooperation
  - which can be solved between alliances and which need possible reviewing of the legislation?
  - a lot can be and is being done already
- Vision for higher education and research 2040 as tool to find solutions.
- 10/ 2025 New recommendations to boost student mobility in higher education.

# Vision for Higher Education and Research 2040

# Future vision for higher education and research

- The vision 2030 was drawn up in board cooperation with HEIs and other stakeholders in 2017.
- Work towards new vision was launched November 2024
- Outlining long-term development needs and outlooks towards 2040
- Supporting quality, internationality and diversity
- Exploring different alternatives and models for improving the Finnish higher education and research system on the bases of the changes in national and international operating environment



# Future vision for higher education and research 2040

The preliminary draft vision emphasizes:

- Freedom of education, democracy, and science
- Securing educational opportunities for young people
- The importance of experts produced by higher education and research as a key to the nation's success
- The quality and attractiveness of Finnish higher education and research
- The impact and high standard of research
- Pioneering role in education

# Erasmus+ 2028-2034 proposal

# Erasmus+ 2028-2034 proposal

- Standalone programme
  - Supports EEA, Union of Skills, resilience, also competitiveness.
  - 2 pillars: mobility and capacity building
  - International mobility and European co-creation still the backbones of Erasmus+
  - New elements: talent attraction both within the EU and from third countries, introducing mobility for athletes, and enabling participation of third countries.
- Flexibility and lean allocation between Erasmus sectors
  - Proposed budget is € 40,8 billion.
    - actual growth is around 35%
  - Governance, absence of comitology
  - Denmark – Cyprus – Ireland
  - [https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/KasittelytiedotValtiopaivaasia/Sivut/U\\_62+2025.aspx](https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/KasittelytiedotValtiopaivaasia/Sivut/U_62+2025.aspx)





# Thanks! Kiitos!

[paivi.bosquet@gov.fi](mailto:paivi.bosquet@gov.fi)  
[www.okm.fi](http://www.okm.fi)



FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

# European Universities Networking Day in Kuopio 9.12.2025

Laura Lalu, AnneSophie Hokkanen, Anna-Maria Strengell  
[Etunimi.sukunimi@oph.fi](mailto:Etunimi.sukunimi@oph.fi)



# What will EDUFI do in 2026?

- **Permanent elements:**
  - Teams area, emailing list
- **Online meetings/webinars with alliance HEIs 1-2/semester**
  - Follow up on today's themes
  - Opportunity to share topical subjects
  - **Please feel free to propose themes or topics**
- **Reaching out to non-alliance HEIs** (survey)
- **Coming up:** event (online) on joint degrees and joint European Degree (TBA)

Please submit your session proposal for Spring Forum 2026 by **26.1.2026**

EUI Bridge funding call  
3.2.2026

# Erasmus+ KA3 project: Future4Alliances

- **Duration 1.3.2025-1.3.2028 36 months, EU funding 1 M€**
- **Main objectives:**
  - To establish a legislative and technical framework that is favourable to European Universities alliances.
  - To strengthen the coherence of national and regional funding for these alliances, complementing Erasmus+ and other European programme funds.
- **Three focus areas:**
  - Future of funding
  - Joint educational programmes
  - International dimension and hosting policies
- **Outcome:**
  - Policy recommendations for public bodies and HEIs involved in the EUI, but also more generally the European HE sector

# Project consortium

- **Coordinator: Campus France, France**
- **Partners:**
  - BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER BILDUNG, WISSENSCHAFT UN, Austria
  - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, Bulgaria
  - **OPETUSHALLITUS, Finland**
  - Ministero dell'università e della ricerca, Italy
  - DIREKTORATET FOR HOYERE UTDANNING OG KOMPETANS, Norway
  - FONDACIJA TEMPUS, Serbia
  - CENTER REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE ZA MOBILNOST IN EVROPS (CMEPIUS), Slovenia
  - MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACION Y UNIVERSIDADES, Spain
- **Associate partners: 23 from 13 different countries (ministries, national bodies, 9 HEIs, ESU)**
  - From Finland: Ministry of Education and Culture and Metropolia UAS

# Recommendations for interoperability 1/2

1. Interoperability, compliance, and mutual benefit among member organizations and the alliance will be ensured through formal agreements and common practices
2. National cooperation among alliance member higher education institutions will be strengthened by expanding existing collaboration networks or, where necessary, establishing new ones. This will enable the development of shared national positions that can be advanced both within the alliances and in the broader European dialogue on service and standard development.

Each higher education institution is responsible for establishing appropriate internal governance structures and ensuring the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including student administration, IT services, and international services

3. Agree nationally on key areas that promote interoperability and common solutions, ensuring these priorities are advanced within higher education alliances and in the broader context of international mobility.

Recommendations by; KOOTuki –  
Support group for European University  
Alliances



## **Recommendations for interoperability 2/2**

4. To ensure efficient and secure data transfer within alliances, particular attention must be given to interoperability of standards and protocols, compliance with data protection laws and practices, and robust identity and access management solutions for student data.
5. Promote interoperability by prioritizing widely adopted European standards and tools and leveraging existing solutions whenever available.
6. To ensure interoperability, alliances will primarily adopt a decentralized data management strategy.

## **Roadmap for international interoperability**

# Kiitos!



# FOREU4All



Community of Practice  
9th December 2025

Mona Roman  
Lead Coordinator, U!REKA  
Research Director, Metropolia UAS



Co-funded by  
the European Union



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# FOREU4ALL PROJECT

- Provides a collaborative and supportive platform where all **65 alliances + 8 Seal of Excellence alliances** come together to share best practices, exchange experiences, and strengthen cooperation.
- The community fosters a deeper collaboration by facilitating learning, joint initiatives, and the dissemination of results – enhancing knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of the entire higher education sector.
- In addition to the alliances, FOREU4ALL engages key stakeholders to take part in the governance, several topical groups and policy learning labs to enrich discussions and decision-making.
- FOREU4ALL ensures a strong voice for European alliances to engage in policy dialogue for the benefit of the whole higher education sector.



# FOREU4ALL Governance

## Key numbers:

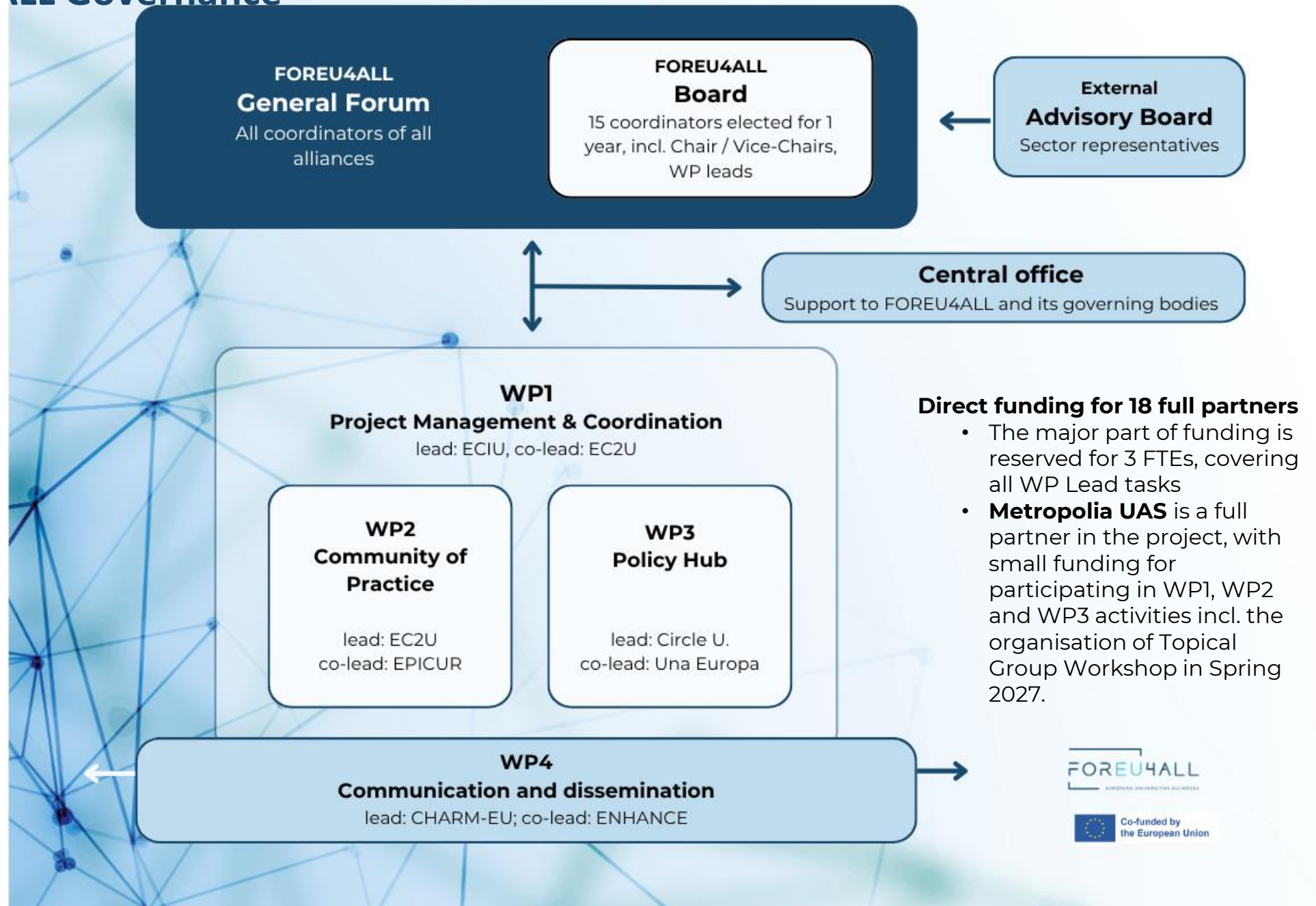
- 2,3 mln euro
- 70 partners (**All** European University Alliances + EUA, ESU, ENQA, Eurashe, ESN).

## Timeline:

- 1 November 2024: start
- 1 November 2028: end

## Board representatives

- Beatrix Busse **EUniWell**, Chair
- Andreas Winkler, **Unite!**, Vice-Chair
- Emily Helmeid, **EUGLOH**, Vice-Chair



# TIMELINE

FOREU4ALL



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# List of 20 Topical groups

- ALLIES (Alliances for Lifelong Learning, Improvement, Empowerment and Skills)
- **Communication & Dissemination**
- Community engagement
- **Cooperation with Ukraine**
- Diversity & Inclusion
- **European Degrees & joint programmes**
- European Universities Governance and legal frameworks
- **Impact**
- Innovation in Learning and Teaching
- **Internationalisation and global outreach**
- IT & Digitalization
- **Library and Open Science**
- Mobility
- **Multilingualism and multiculturalism**
- Project Management
- **Quality Assurance**
- R&I
- **Regional innovation ecosystems**
- STEAM
- **Student-led community on Sustainable and Democratic Student Participation**

20 topical groups in place, bringing together 2,000 experts from 73 alliances

# Thank you!

---

**Mona Roman, [mona.roman@metropolia.fi](mailto:mona.roman@metropolia.fi)**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
FINLAND

# Current issues, FI Ministry of Education and Culture

EUI Networking Day 9.12.2025  
Päivi Bosquet

# Few words of the organisation...

- Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland has all levels of education under the same roof:
  - ✓ Early childhood education and care, comprehensive school
  - ✓ Basic education in arts (extracurricular), liberal adult education
  - ✓ General upper secondary education, vocational education and training
  - ✓ Higher education

# And besides education...

- Ministry of Education and Culture also houses
  - ✓ Youth
  - ✓ Sports and physical activity
  - ✓ Culture
  - ✓ Libraries
  - ✓ Copyright
  - ✓ Religious affairs
  - ✓ Student financial aid





# EU - work done and work in the process in higher education

- Three-phase process in view of implementing a joint European degree label and later on possible joint European Degree, while considering other approaches.
- Possibly exploring the development of a framework for quality assurance for alliances based on ESG and European Approach for QA of joint programmes.
- Draft conclusions on the second cycle of EEA.





# Council Resolution on a joint European degree label, May 2025

Defines the steps and timeline for introducing the joint degree label, as well as the next steps towards a possible European joint degree.

## Phase 1: Finalizing preparations for the introduction of the European joint degree label (2025–2026)

The Commission will establish **a policy lab** within the EEA higher education working group to develop definitions, descriptions, and indicators **to verify compliance** with the criteria for the European joint degree label agreed in the annex to the quality assurance recommendation.

It will also prepare **guidelines and procedures for awarding the label**. The Commission will present the outcome to the Council by mid-2026.

# Resolution..

**Phase 2: Implementation and monitoring of the European joint degree label + evaluation + work on feasibility and mapping of a European joint degree (2026–2028)**

Member States and the Commission are recommended **to introduce the European joint degree label between 2026 and 2028.**

**The aim is to test the feasibility of the label and assess its impact from different perspectives, including the extent to which it addresses identified challenges in European higher education cooperation.**

The Commission will plan **measures to support** higher education institutions interested in awarding the label in connection with joint programmes.

**Together with the policy laboratory, the Commission will prepare a feasibility study on a European joint degree.**

**By the end of 2028, the Commission will submit to the Council an evaluation report on the implementation of the label and the feasibility study on a European joint degree to inform further decisions.**

# Resolution...

## Phase 3: Next steps towards a European joint degree – review and evidence-based decision-making (2029)

- Based on the Commission's evaluation report on the label and the feasibility study on a European joint degree, **the Council may decide on the long-term implementation of the label and request the Commission to propose the next steps towards introducing a European joint degree.**

## FI - Working Group on Developing Preconditions for European Higher Education Cooperation

- Working Group to enhance Finnish HEIs' capacity to engage effectively in European HE initiatives.
- 10/2024- 12/2025, continuing work until May 2026
- European Universities Initiative, EHEA commitments, and mobility and cooperation tools.
- Ministry, universities, UAS's, student unions, Finnish Education Evaluation Center and National Board of Education.
- Digital experts, student services experts, legal affairs experts from higher education.



# Work, challenges and solutions

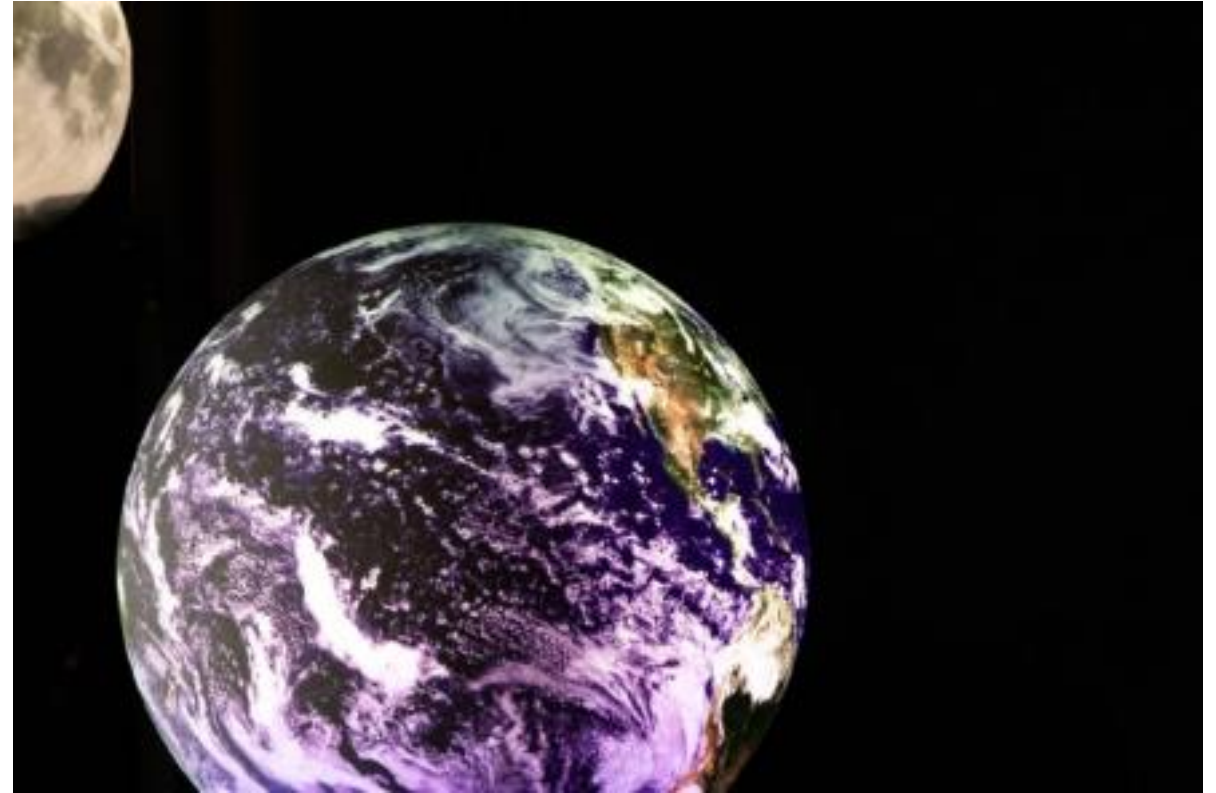


- Map, list and collect the challenges currently faced in the explore solutions. transnational higher education cooperation
  - which can be solved between alliances and which need possible reviewing of the legislation?
  - a lot can be and is being done already
- Vision for higher education and research 2040 as tool to
- 10/ 2025 New recommendations to boost student mobility in higher education.

# Vision for Higher Education and Research 2040

# Future vision for higher education and research

- The vision 2030 was drawn up in board cooperation with HEIs and other stakeholders in 2017.
- Work towards new vision was launched November 2024
- Outlining long-term development needs and outlooks towards 2040
- Supporting quality, internationality and diversity
- Exploring different alternatives and models for improving the Finnish higher education and research system on the bases of the changes in national and international operating environment





# Future vision for higher education and research 2040

The preliminary draft vision emphasizes:

- Freedom of education, democracy, and science
- Securing educational opportunities for young people
- The importance of experts produced by higher education and research as a key to the nation's success
- The quality and attractiveness of Finnish higher education and research
- The impact and high standard of research
- Pioneering role in education

# Erasmus+ 2028-2034 proposal

# Erasmus+ 2028-2034 proposal

- Standalone programme
  - Supports EEA, Union of Skills, resilience, also competitiveness.
  - 2 pillars: mobility and capacity building
  - International mobility and European co-creation still the backbones of Erasmus+
  - New elements: talent attraction both within the EU and from third countries, introducing mobility for athletes, and enabling participation of third countries.
- Flexibility and lean allocation between Erasmus sectors
  - Proposed budget for 2025 is € 40,8 billion.
    - actual growth is around 35%
  - Governance, absence of comitology
  - Denmark – Cyprus – Ireland
  - [https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/KasittelytiedotValtiopaivaasia/Sivut/U\\_62+2025.aspx](https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/KasittelytiedotValtiopaivaasia/Sivut/U_62+2025.aspx)



# Thanks! Kiitos!

[paivi.bosquet@gov.fi](mailto:paivi.bosquet@gov.fi)  
[www.okm.fi](http://www.okm.fi)