

CESAER

STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

DATED 6TH DECEMBER 2018

The universities of Science and Technology (S&T) united within [CESAER](#) welcome the publication of the pilot call on European Universities within the Erasmus+ programme, representing the first steps of a programme that has potential to accelerate transnational cooperation and integration within higher education. With this statement, we outline recommendations for the development and upscaling of the pilot call into fully-fledged alliances within the Erasmus Programme 2021-2027, contributing to the realisation of the European Education Area (EEA) and the European Research Area (ERA).

THE ALLIANCES SHOULD BE EXCELLENCE DRIVEN, ADDRESSING THE FULL KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE

For the European University alliances to have the full intended impact in cooperation between higher education institutions, it is vital that the full knowledge triangle should be addressed, giving due importance to education, research and innovation. Qualitative aspects are essential: the curricula should be based on excellent research, including technology, social sciences, humanities, entrepreneurship and arts.

This should involve sharing best practices and the promotion of novel approaches, including online education, to learning and teaching talent for business, industry, public services and society at large.

Training highly skilled graduates in disciplines such as science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) with the skills required for the 21st Century is vital for Europe to be a globally leading knowledge economy and society. Therefore, future evaluation criteria should consider STEAM topics positively.

MAINTAIN LONG-TERM AND SUSTAINABLE COLLABORATIONS

The pilot call will support institutions in implementing the first steps; however, applicants are asked to respond with a long-term vision for collaboration which will require significantly higher funding than currently provided. Therefore, we urge the European Commission to ensure that adequate financing is available to maintain long-term and sustainable collaborations in the Erasmus Programme 2021-27.

Synergies with other funding mechanisms should be encouraged, although the success of the networks should not depend upon them. European Universities should be perceived as a quality label by European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), in a similar way to the Seal of Excellence, and costs should be made eligible under structural funds. While participation in an alliance may be considered an advantage for selected calls in Horizon Europe, it must not impede selection based on excellence.

For more information and enquiries, please contact our [Communication & Education Officer](#)

[CESAER](#) is the European association of leading specialised and comprehensive universities of science and technology that: champion excellence in higher education, training, research and innovation; influence debate; contribute to the realisation of open knowledge societies; and, deliver significant scientific, social, economic, and societal impact.