A European University in the making: Achievements and Challenges
Annual Closing Conference
1 July 2020

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EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a new kind of transnational cooperation

- Management
- Coordination and internal communication
- Quality Assurance

Isabella Baer-Eiselt, WP 1 leader, LRUNiv
Milestones

- **Set up governance structures**
  - 09 2019

- **First GB Meeting**
  - 11 2019

- **Set-up of EAB**
  - 01 2020

- **European Education Area Working Group**
  - 02 2020

- **Reporting - Progress - Finances - Debriefings**
  - 04 2020

- **Creating Associated Partnerships**
  - 06 2020

- **Reflecting about an economic model**
  - 09 2020

- **Start SwafS project**
  - 01 2021

- **Mid-term Report**
  - 04 2021

- **Teaming-up with other European Universities**
  - 09 2021

- **Quality Assurance system**
  - 12 2021

- **EEA Guidebook**
  - 07 2022

- **Final report**
  - 08 2022
Challenges ahead

1. Re-structuration of governance and management system for strengthened research dimension
2. Sustainability
   1. Future European Funding
   2. Economic Model
   3. Quality Assurance System
   4. Accreditation an economic model of joint programmes/joint degrees
   5. Legal entity
3. Stakeholder involvement
   1. Public policy impact, innovation partnerships, smart specialisation
   2. Associated partnership
   3. External Advisory Board
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a new kind of learning and teaching

• University-to school
• Joint educational programmes
• Life-long training

Ana de Luis, WP 2 leader, UCV
Milestones

Decision on 2 Minors 2 Joint Master’s 1 PhD programme’s duration and titles

Legal framework overview

Common Vocabulary

School Contest proposal

11 2019

11 2019

03 2020

07 2020

09 2020

09 2020

03 2021

04 2021

04 2022

School contest winners

School contest winners

School contest announcement

Minor’s programmes: 1st intake

Charter and code of automatic mutual recognition

Skills map questionnaire

Minor’s catalogue

Syllabus (draft)

School contest announcement

School contest announcement

Skills map development of academic offers

Offer for vocational training centres

‘University to School’ Programme

Start of joint Master’s and joint Ph.D. programmes

Lifelong Learning specialisation courses

Charter and code of automatic mutual recognition

Erasmus Mundus application for joint MSc in Blue Biotechnology

Professional minor

03 2021

06 2020

10 2020

04 2021

09 2021

09 2021

09 2021

04 2022

‘University to School’ Programme

Offers for vocational training centres

Start of joint Master’s and joint Ph.D. programmes

Lifelong Learning specialisation courses

Professional minor

03 2021

06 2020

10 2020

04 2021

09 2021

09 2021

04 2022
Challenges ahead

EXTERNAL

1. **National legislation**: differences in admission, fees, student numbers, economic support, teaching language, graduation requirements

2. **Timely accreditation** of joint MSc and Ph.D. programmes (to start marketing in spring 2021, classes – in autumn 2021)

3. **COVID-19**: impact on physical workshops, potential impact on students’ application and admission for joint degree programmes

INTERNAL

1. **Economic model** to implement joint study programmes and student mobility (external funding)

2. **Urgent need of virtual teaching/learning platform**

3. **Innovation** in teaching and developing study programmes

4. **Transnational coordination** and **work overload**.
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a new kind of mobility

- Physical, blended virtual mobility
- Job shadowing
- European student card

Maja Kolega, WP 3 leader, UNIZD
Milestones for Mobility

- Mobility Office members: 09 2019
- Erasmus+ Inter-institutional agreements signed: 10 2019
- Mobility procedures and courses in foreign languages: 12 2019
- Job-shadowing scheme call for applications: 06 2020
- Increase the mobility quota for 10%: 02 2020
- Common mobility software: 09 2020
- EU-CONEXUS common procedures: 10 2021
- EU-CONEXUS student card Application for Erasmus+ funds: 02 2021
- EU-CONEXUS Mobility Information Package: 01 2021
- Platform for EU-CONEXUS Buddy system: 09 2021
- Automatic mutual recognition: 07 2022
Challenges

1. COVID-19 epidemic and virtual mobility
2. Different dates of the beginning of the semesters among the partners
3. Applying as EU-CONEXUS alliance for the Erasmus+ funds (especially for the KA107 funds – mobility with the partner countries)
4. Implementation of the EU-CONEXUS Student Card in coordination with other European Universities
5. Automatic mutual recognition
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to do research differently

Eleni Miliou, WP 4 leader, AUA

• Joint Research Institutes
• Joint standard operating procedures
• Joint projects
• Accreditation
Milestones for Research

- Set up of Joint Research Steering Committee: 09 2019
- Scientific Mapping: 04 2020
- Joint Research Institutes Configuration: 09 2020
- Project Development Fund: 03 2020
- Call for Researchers Mobility: 07 2020
- JSOPs: 11 2020
- Multilingual Laboratory Manuals (MLMs): 02 2021
- Accreditation certificates: 06 2021
- Review on Applications of Joint Research Projects: 12 2021
- Report on students and researchers mobility: 07 2022
- Joint Research Institutes Configuration: 09 2020
- Living Labs: 09 2021
Vision and challenges

VISION
To establish Joint Research Infrastructures in the context of the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability EU-CONEXUS

CHALLENGES
1. Create a common strategic research agenda: “EU-CONEXUS - Joint Research Area”
2. Submit joint research proposals and conduct collective research
3. Share resources and set Joint Standard Operating Procedures (JSOPs)
4. Promote the mobility of researchers and students
5. Co-operate with the private sector in an open innovation ecosystem (Living Labs)
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to innovation and doing business

Cezar Vladut, WP 5 leader, UTCB

• University-industry platform
• Mentoring system
• Skills-map
PCRU - Milestones

Mentoring platform: in development
University industry platform: needs defined

Skills map
First version of the mentoring platform

University-Industry and Mentoring platforms

06.2020
09.2020
02.2021

Skills map
Mentoring platform
University - Industry platform

01.09.2020 deadline for submission the questionnaire
15.09.2020 results of interpretation
20.09.2020 final results
19.06.2020 in developing
15.09.2020 first version of the platform
19.06.2020 defined platform needs
05.07.2020 waiting for JobTeaser offer
Challenges

World pandemic
The global pandemic came as a major change in society, finding us in a position from which nothing was predictable. In addition to the sentimental side of the moment of concern for both ourselves and loved ones, changing the workflow required little time to adjust, which resulted in a few delays.

Ideas timing
Remote work and meetings that did not always gather members from each partner, resulted in ideas that were formed after some directions were established, leading to changes and additional meetings for new decisions.

Connection with other WP
Many activities are dependent on multiple WPs which causes decisions to be taken late.
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a transnational campus life

- Cultural events
- Sport events
- Student engagement
- Buddy system

Slaven Zjalic, WP 6 leader, UNIZD
Milestones or how to run

Set up governance structures
09 2019

1st EU CONEXUS Festival – postponed due to COVID-19
03 2020

Culture promotion online: Long history of say hello and welcome film
06 2020

Sport challenge on line
10 2020

Culture and Sport committees established
10 2019

Student board established
05 2020

2nd EU CONEXUS Festival – Klaipeda
09 2021

3rd EU CONEXUS Festival – La Rochelle
06 2022

Summer schools
06 2021
Challenges : *Welcome to the new normal*

1. COVID-19 pandemic strongly influenced activities of WP6
2. Design of virtual and online events as main communication tools
3. Large involvement of students
4. The Student Board has been successfully established and a buddy system is being prepared.
5. Summer and winter schools, alumni networks are in preparation and in design, because now all projects have become the art of the possible.
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a “smarter” campus

Jean-Christophe Burie, WP 7 leader, LRUniv

- Harmonisation of Information System
- Virtual Campus
- Virtual learning environment
- Virtual library
- Multilingual services
Milestones

Set up of the WP7 team: 09 2019
Start of working groups: 12 2020

Inventory of Digital Environment: 11 2019

Action plan To build the Smart Campus: 09 2020

Common Authentication process: 01 2021
Beginning of Virtual campus and educational resources
- LMS Platform
- Tools for virtual courses

Virtual Library: 11 2020
Virtual Desktop: 04 2021

Multilingual services: 09 2021

Harmonisation of information system: 07 2021

Student Profiling system: 12 2021
08 2022
Challenges

1. Heterogeneity of the Information systems, Digital Services and Digital Equipment of each partner
2. Human resources dedicated to the project for analysing, develop and manage the proposed solutions
3. Where to host the Eu-Conexus digital services
4. Language issue to of technical experts (waste time)
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to be visible and stay visionary

Inga Petrauskiene, WP 8 leader, KU

• Communication and Dissemination Strategy
• Website and Social Networks
• Information Package
• Sustainability and Funding Strategy
Milestones

- Logo and visual identity: 12 2019
- Information and communication package: 03 2020
- Video: 06 2020
- Website and social media channels: 01 2020
- Communication strategy: 04 2020
- Sustainability and funding strategy: 09 2021
- European University project roadmap /guidebook: 06 2022
- Final Dissemination Conference: 06 2022

Community engagement, new identity and image materials creation and communication for all priority audiences (university community, local and national government, general population).

Continuing general communication and focused campaigns to attract new students and social partners (foundations).

Continuing general communication and focused campaigns to attract social partners (foundations), to ensure support from local, national governments and EU institutions.
Challenges

1. To achieve ultimate EU-CONEXUS communication goal: to represent the first worldwide choice for experts in urban/coastal/smart/sustainability issues as well as become the first choice for students/PhD students interested in the same topics.

2. Sustainability and Funding strategy – agreement on a concept for the structural development of EU-CONEXUS