

# EU-CONEXUS Policy Brief

N°2 – July 2023

# Introduction

The EU-CONEXUS Policy Brief is presented quarterly to the Governing Bodies of EU-CONEXUS.

It summarises major developments occurred at the European level that impact the policy context and/or their regulatory framework of European University Alliances.

It clarifies the positioning that EU-CONEXUS has taken with regard to these strategic developments and reports on the role that the Alliance has played in furthering strategies and policies.

It gives an outlook on upcoming events and strategic actions relevant for the development of the Alliance.

# Political Environment and Regulatory Framework for the Alliances

**MAY 2023**

[Erasmus Mundus: Analysis of the results of the second call 2021-2027](#) (Joint Masters and Design Measures) issued by European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA): The publication provides a summary of statistical data (participation, success rate, main characteristics of the programmes) on the responses to the calls and comparisons with previous issues of the same calls.

**REMINDER FROM FEBRUARY 2017**

[Excellent education in research-rich universities](#) issued by the League of Research Universities (LERU): The paper presents a study performed among 23 LERU member universities on quality features of research-informed education.

**REMINDER FROM JUNE 2021**

[Reimagining Research-led Education in a Digital Age](#) issued by The Guild (Author Jo Angouri) presents recommendations for the institutional/national/European level on how to best capitalise on research for excellent teaching and learning.



# EU-CONEXUS Participation/ Representation in Strategic Development Actions

## ERA POLICY AGENDA: ACTION 13 SUBGROUP MEETING

On 4th of May 2023, the Chair of the Governing Board, Jean-Marc Ogier, was invited to give feedback on the impact of Horizon 2020 funding on EU-CONEXUS partner universities and the Alliance. The presentation of the meeting is available [here](#). As an outcome of the discussion that continued in June the subgroup decided to present several proposals for the funding of universities and European University Alliances to the relevant Council of Ministers in autumn. Most relevant for European University Alliances are: a more flexible non-exclusive funding programme under the WIDERA part of Horizon Europe, a potential feed-in/top-up of Erasmus+ funding for Alliances for specific actions for research.

## THE GUILD WEBINAR: TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND MOBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD

On 24th of May, Executive Director Isabella Baer-Eiselt participated in a webinar organised by The Guild on transnational mobility exploring existing pedagogic/mobility designs and different approaches to transnational education collaboration. The recording and the relevant insight paper is available [here](#).

## EUROPEAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY

From 31 May to 2 June 2023, the second edition of the European Student Assembly (ESA) brought together 230 students coming from 40 EUAs and 28 countries. The Secretary of the Student Board Mirna Erlic and 4 EU-CONEXUS students participated in the event held in Strasbourg. [75 recommendations](#) how to enhance the strategic capacity of the EU were issued by 10 panels.

## SCORE CONSORTIUM MEETING

From 14th-16th of June, EU-CONEXUS Executive Director Isabella Baer-Eiselt participated as Advisory Board Member for EU-CONEXUS in the SCORE Consortium Meeting. The Horizon 2020 funded project "[Smart Control of Climate Resilience in European Coastal Cities](#)" is coordinated by Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Sligo, Ireland and assembles a large consortium of public and private research institutions as well as coastal cities in Ireland, Slovenia, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Greece. Most interestingly, SCORE is developing and implementing a citizen-science inspired "Living Lab" approach for conducting measurements and research on climate impacts.

## INTER-ALLIANCE LLL NETWORK

EU-CONEXUS+ WP leaders Helen Murphy (SETU) and Slaven Zjalic (UNIZD) and Neil Quinlan (Head of Department of Lifelong Learning, SETU) participated

in the launch of an inter-Alliances LLL network consisting of 8 European University Alliances and led by FORTHEM Alliance on 19th of June 2023. Definition of LLL, content identification, quality assurance, LLL structures, and microcredentials are main items raised. A next meeting is planned in September. Neil Quinlan will represent and report back to EU-CONEXUS.

## ONLINE MEETING DG EAC: INVESTMENT PATHWAY AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

On 22nd of June, Vanessa Debiais-Sainton and Tine Delva from DG EAC [presented](#) to all coordinators from the 44 Alliances the Commission's plans regarding an [Investment Pathway](#) for the post-2027/2028 funding of the EUI (European University Initiative) and a [Monitoring Framework](#) for measuring the impact of the Initiative as a whole.

## EUROPEAN STUDENT CARD INITIATIVE

EU-CONEXUS has been invited to participate in the governing bodies of the ESC. On 26th of June, Coordination Committee Members Laura Delvaux and Etienne Bellin (as well as Pascal Genot, LRUniv Director for students' affairs) participated with representatives from other Alliances in a meeting organized by the project coordinators of the European Student Card (ESC) Initiative [explaining how Alliances would be involved in the project](#). The role of representatives in three working groups (users, business needs, stakeholders) is to give feedbacks on functional and technical features of the ESC. A meeting will be held by the end of the year.

## PREPARATORY SEMINAR ON EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES, Spanish presidency, 26th of June 2023

In preparation of the Spanish Presidency event on European University Alliances planned on 14th/15th of September, a seminar held on 26th of June gathered representatives of the Member States and the institutions of the European Union for discussing two topics of the topics to be discussed at the Forum: On the one hand, the need to bring the European Universities initiative closer to European society and the challenges and instruments to do so. On the other hand, the challenges and problems posed by the development of a European joint degree by the alliances themselves. FOREU Chairs Olga Wessels and Ludovic Tilly presented main activities developed by the Alliances. EU-CONEXUS presented a [slide on the EU-CONEXUS International School Contest](#) as one of the successful initiatives of how to get closer to society.

# Upcoming Events

14/15<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2023

## 2nd European Universities' Forum, Barcelona

EU-CONEXUS can be represented  
by three representatives at the event.

[More information](#)

6-8<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2023

## 3rd Conference on Fisheries and Coastal Environment, ACECoR University of Cape Coast, Ghana "Inclusive Blue Economy"