

EU-CONEXUS Policy Brief

N°4 – January 2024

Political Environment and Regulatory Framework for the Alliances

OCTOBER 2023

[EU-CONEXUS contribution to EUI Monitoring](#)

Framework: The European Commission mandated PPMI (research agency) to set up a monitoring of the European University Initiative from a cross-alliances point of view. The results of this monitoring should clearly show off the qualitative and quantitative impact of the alliances on the European Higher Education sector. [Preliminary Results](#) were presented in a EUI coordinators' meeting on 12th of December 2024. A general report is expected in the first quarter 2024 in order to be taken into account in the currently ongoing discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework which is governing also the European funding programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon funding.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

As part of the monitoring framework exercise, EU-CONEXUS was invited by PPMI together with the CIVIS Alliance to participate in two feedbacks groups. Their aim was to gain more insights into the European Universities initiative's outcomes on governance, structural, legal and financial arrangements, education, society, and economy. In the first focus group dedicated to staff participated: Radu Vacareanu, Vice Chair of the Governing Board, Inga Petrauskiene, Head of the Joint Communication Unit, Neringa Narbutiene, EU-CONEXUS institutional coordinator UCV; Nedjeljka Balić-Nižić, Chair of the Academic Council and Laura Delvaux, EU-CONEXUS Vice-Director. A second focus group was composed by students and included Mara Jekat and Theobald

Ferdinand Goltz (BSc level, UROS), Carlo Dernini (UCV) and Eglantina Miza (FredU) (MSc level) and Ionut Bogdan Gheroghe from UTCB (PhD level).

DECEMBER 2023

[Policy Experimentation Call](#) on national regional support to alliances: The call launched in December 2023 targets public authorities (ministries, national funding agencies, etc.) for submitting a project aimed at improving the supporting environment for European Universities (and other similar long-standing institutionalised cooperation models), both in view of related legislation, its application and provided technical support in a particular region/country and improving the funding models and modalities at national/regional level. Deadline for submitting proposals is 4th of June, 2024. For keeping pace and impacting the reflections around this topic, EU-CONEXUS is seeking to participate in a project submitted.

DECEMBER 2023

[EUI Investment Pathway – Report by DG EAC](#)

In a EUI coordinators meeting called for by DG EAC on 12th of December 2023 [3 options of an Investment Pathway](#) were presented as outcome of comprehensive consultations conducted among alliances, Commission services, national authorities, other stakeholders. Only two options were included in the summary slides and refer to the Status quo or the small top-up dedicated funding

from the new 10th framework programme for research (FP 10). The option to have research activities funded within the Erasmus programme (Option C) was ruled out. Also, a clear commitment of national cofunding is not part of the proposals whereas a proposed "Investment Pathway Forum" points out the wish to work closer with Member States within the EU.

Complete slide-set
of the coordinators' meeting
on 12th of December.

DECEMBER 2023

[Overview Grid on the improvement of criteria associated to the European Degree label and the process behind it](#): This report assesses the relevance and feasibility of criteria proposed by the European Commission for the award of a European degree by taking into account the viewpoints from various stakeholders (EUI alliances, universities, national and regional public authorities, Quality Assurance Agencies, employers and students).

DECEMBER 2023

[Roadmap and advice on next steps for an institutionalised cooperation instrument](#): The final report of the ESEU project (A European Status for ECIU University) where EU-CONEXUS participates as associated partner is proposing elements to be taken into account when a new instrument for cooperation within European University Alliances based on the analyses of existing legal frameworks at the European level.

OCTOBER 2023

[Community of Practice Proposal FOR-EU4All](#): In response to the [Call for a Community of Practice](#) (Topic 2) among all European University Alliances the FOR-EU Coordinators group has worked out a proposal that aims to include all currently existing (50) and about to be selected (10) Alliances as partners or associated partners. The project proposed will provide administrative and organisational support to the coordination of joint activities of all alliances in particular on practices exchange, policy dialogue, EUI visibility. Submission deadline is 6th of February. The project is expected to start in the end of 2024/beginning 2025.

EU-CONEXUS Participation/ Representation in Strategic Development Actions

EELISA 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

5th of October 2023,
Bucharest, Romania

The Vice-Chair of the Governing Board Radu Vacareanu was invited to participate in the Plenary Session of a [conference](#) organised by the [European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance \(EELISA\)](#). The title of his input speech was "Challenges and opportunities for alliances when looking into the coming years". Research Council member Florin Baltaretu presented the EU-CONEXUS study programmes at the same event.

CIVICA RESEARCH CONFERENCE

12-13th of October 2023,
SciencePo, Paris

During [this conference](#) Aurelia Kuga, LRUniv RFS-Project Manager participated in a plenary session on key capacity building activities completed during the lifespan of the H2020-SwafS projects and on the policy landscape of funding research within alliances of European Universities.

ED-AFFICHE MID-TERM REVIEW MEETING

22nd of November 2023,
Brussels, Belgium

EU-CONEXUS institutional coordinator Neringa Narbutiene participated in the review meeting with a contribution to the panel session on "ED AFFICHE's Design of the European Degree Label and European Degree".

1ST EUROPEAN STUDENT UNION'S EVENT FOR EUI STUDENTS

7th–10th of December 2023,
Coimbra, Portugal

EU-CONEXUS Student Board Members participated in the 1st European Students' Union event dedicated to students' representatives within European University Alliances. Sessions titles included: The social dimension of European alliances, Democracy in alliances, Mobility in the scope of Alliances, Joint Degree and Quality assurance, What next for the financing of the alliances. More information: [Background Note](#), [Takeaway report](#), [Participant report](#)

RESEARCH-EU FINAL EVENT

14th of December 2023,
Cadiz, Spain

Executive Director Isabella Baer-Eiselt participated in a roundtable of sustainability of research funding for European University alliances at the final dissemination event of the H2020-SwafS project of the SEA-EU Alliance.

Upcoming Events

INTER-ALLIANCE BEST PRACTICES EXCHANGE

5th-6th of February, 2024, Bruxelles

EU-CONEXUS representatives (Kata Barac, UNIZD, Ramona Diac, UTCB, Beatriz Manrique-Huarte, UCV) have been invited to participate in an inter-alliance workshop organised by UNA Europa on discussing plans how to reach the 50% mobility target.

DG EAC/EACEA COORDINATORS' MEETING

7th-8th of February 2024

Coordination committee members Laura Delvaux and Isabella Baer-Eiselt will participate in a Coordinators' meeting organised by DG EAC and the EACEA.

ESEU FINAL EVENT

28th of February 2024

Register

"European Roadmap for a Legal Status for European Universities"

EU-CONEXUS partners are invited to the final hybrid event of [ESEU \(A European Status for ECIU University\)](#) where the [Roadmap](#) (see above) developed by the policy experimentation project will be presented and discussed with the Commission and other projects working on the legal status for European University Alliances.

ED-AFFICHE FINAL EVENT

5th of March 2024

Save-the-Date

[More information
about ED-AFFICHE](#)

**“Unlocking the transformative potential
of the European Degree Label”**

The online meeting will feature key recommendations for the European Degree Label. The project consortium will offer insights into navigating joint programmes, legislative best practices, and developments needed in the future that will shape Europe’s educational landscape.

Useful Links

[Updated European Commission EUI Website](#)

[Interactive Map of European University Alliances](#)