



# EU-CONEXUS Policy Brief

N°8 – January 2025



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# POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR ALLIANCES

## November 2024

[Maximizing the impact of European University alliances](#) (LERU Advice Paper no. 35): The League of European Research Universities highlights in this contribution the achievements of the alliances for streamlining cross-border collaboration. The paper argues for the alignment of available funding programmes and of European, national and regional sources to ensure a long-term success of the initiatives. Also, political support in reducing legal and administrative barriers for collaboration is called for.

## November 2024

[Developing common learning opportunities through interoperability](#) (EUA Briefing by Thomas Jorgensen, Clare Phelan, Liliya Kukuza): The authors analyse the obstacles of seamless and secure data sharing across institutional and national boundaries.

## December 2024

[Align-Act-Accelerate: Research, Technology and Innovation to boost European competitiveness](#): This interim evaluation of Horizon Europe was presented by a Commission Expert Group chaired by Manuel Heitor. The report calls explicitly for '(s)trengthening European Universities' Alliances to promote learning and institutional cooperation and development across borders.' This recommendation is elaborated on in Chapter 8 on 'Foster an attractive and inclusive RD&I ecosystem in the EU': Joint recruitment and joint governance systems are called for in support of harnessing the potential of alliances to develop as laboratories for knowledge development, learning across barriers and establishing good practices.

## December 2024

[Report on the final outcomes of the Erasmus+ policy experimentation projects: European Degree \(label\) and institutionalised EU cooperation instruments](#): DG EAC summarises in this Commission staff working document the analysed of all pilot projects implemented by alliances during 2023. The report includes a detailed analysis on the added value a European degree could bring. It presents a unified and consensual list of 16 co-created European criteria and the rationale for each of them. Other key suggestions include the development of toolkits and guidelines to operationalise the co-created European criteria, the definition of a clear implementation roadmap and promoting the European degree to enhance its recognition and valorisation.

Additionally, the report provides insights on the testing of existing European level solutions for a legal status for alliances of higher education institutions, along with recommendations for the future, although a roadmap for next steps is missing for this part.

# EU-CONEXUS PARTICIPATION IN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

## November 2024

### **Conference on Higher Education Policy, Ministry of Mecklenburg Vorpommern**

University of Rostock's Rector Elizabeth Prommer and Vice-Rector for Research Nicole Wrage-Mönnig participated in the conference organised by the Ministry on Higher Education. Nicole Wrage-Mönnig discussed in a panel with representatives from other alliances the benefits and challenges of developing the EU-CONEXUS Joint Research Area.

More information here:

<https://www.hs-wismar.de/hochschule/information/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungs-kalender-detail/n/zehnte-hochschulpolitische-konferenz-204941/> (in German)

## October/November 2024

### **2nd ESU Conference of Student Organisations from European Alliances, Timisoara, Romania**

The new president of the EU-CONEXUS Student Board, Theobald Goltz and SB member Philipp Schultz participated in the conference organised by the European Students Union (ESU) and the National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania (ANSOR). The conference addressed topics like student representation, inclusion, and mobility in European higher education, with sessions exploring in particular the role of student voices in the development of European Alliances. Short summaries are available [here](#) or [here](#).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**26th of February 2025, Brussels**  
**FOREU4ALL General Forum Meeting**

**26th – 27th of February 2025, Brussels**  
**DG EAC Rectors' and Coordinators meeting**

1. 26th of February: Closed meeting exclusively dedicated to exchanges between **Rectors/Presidents of the alliances**. This meeting will take place in the **afternoon of 26 February**, followed by a **networking dinner** for the Rectors/Presidents. Up to two Rectors/Presidents per alliance are warmly invited to join.
2. 27th of February: **Full day meeting** gathering the **alliances**, as well as **selected higher education stakeholders, student organisations and Member States representatives**. Up to three coordinators/representatives per alliance are warmly invited to join. Rectors/Presidents are of course very much welcome to extend their stay and also join for this part of the meeting.

More detailed information on the agenda, logistics, and invitations for registration will follow closer to the meeting date.

## USEFUL LINKS

[Working towards a European Degree](#)

[European Commission EUI Website](#)

[Interactive Map of European University Alliances](#)