



# EU-CONEXUS Policy Brief

N°5 – April 2024



Disclaimer: Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EACEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

# Political environment and regulatory framework for alliances

## FEBRUARY 2024

[Roadmap on a European legal instrument for transnational higher education cooperation](#): The final report of the policy experimentation project "A European Status for ECIU University" (wherein EU-CONEXUS participated as associated partner) presents recommendations in view of creating an institutionalised European cooperation instrument based on a thorough analysis of existing legal tools such as the EGTC regulation. (A presentation of the results of all 6 projects funded under this policy experimentation call will be done at the event "A blueprint for a European degree" announced under point III.)

## APRIL 2024

Final Deliverables ED-AFFICHE: The project ED-AFFICHE (European Degree: Advancing, Facilitation and Fostering International Collaboration) issued its final deliverables on [Best practices & recommendations on the future development&implementation of joint programmes in Europe](#) and [Policy Recommendations on the future of the European Degree Label](#). (A presentation of the results of all 6 projects funded under this policy experimentation call will be done at the event "A blueprint for a European degree" announced under point III.)

## MARCH 2024

[Higher Education Package](#): The European Commission presented on 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 three initiatives to advance transnational cooperation between higher education institutions, with the ultimate goal of creating a 'European degree':

- A Commission Communication on a blueprint for a European degree
- A proposal for a Council recommendation on improved quality assurance processes and automatic recognition of qualifications in higher education
- A proposal for a Council recommendation to make academic careers more attractive and sustainable.

Both proposals for Council recommendations go beyond the pure ambition of developing a European degree and are relevant for the wide and diverse higher education sector.

See also [Commission webpage](#).

# EU-CONEXUS participation in strategic development actions

---

## Innovations in Mobility Workshop

5-6 February 2024,  
Brussels

EU-CONEXUS representatives (Beatriz Manrique-Huarte, Ramona Diac and Kata Barac) participated in an inter-alliance workshop hosted by the University of Edinburgh and Una Europa together with participants from 6 other alliances which aimed at identifying and sharing interesting approaches, concepts, and practices in relation to achieving the shared 50% mobility target. A [summary of the outcomes](#) is available as well as the [slides presented](#).

---

## European Universities Coordinators' meeting

7-8 of February 2024,  
Brussels

Executive Director Isabella Baer-Eiselt and Vice-Director Laura Delvaux participated in a comprehensive briefing meeting on project implementation organised by DG EAC (Education, Youth, Sport and Culture) the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The [Agenda](#) included information about policy developments and presentations about successful implementation models as well as break-out sessions on Quality Assurance, KPIs, community outreach, innovative curricula, mobility rules under Erasmus+ and student engagement. [All presentations](#) are available.

---

## European Roadmap for a Legal Status for European Universities

28<sup>th</sup> of February 2024,  
Brussels

The Chair of the Governing Board, Jean-Marc Ogier participated in the final dissemination event of the ESEU (A European Status for ECIU-University) project where also other projects funded under the policy experimentation call (EGAI- and Leg-UniGR) were presenting their progress and/or results. The [relevant slide-sets](#) as well as [a recording](#) of the event are available.

---

---

## ED-AFFICHE Final Event

5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024,  
Online

Institutional coordinator Neringa Narbutiene participated in the [ED-AFFICHE Final Dissemination Event: Unlocking the Transformative Potential of the European Degree Label](#). An article [“Insights from ED-AFFICHE: Navigating the European Degree Label Journey”](#) provides a concise summary of the key discussions and takeaways. The event recording is accessible on [Youtube](#).

---

## STYX Final Event: Collective Convergence Towards a Single Institution: Condition or Prerequisite

26<sup>th</sup> of March 2024,  
Online

Executive Director Isabella Baer-Eiselt participated in the final event of the policy experimentation project STYX: Towards a Status. The slides are [available on the project website](#).

---

# Upcoming events

## A blueprint for a European degree

29<sup>th</sup> of April 2024,  
Brussels

The results of Erasmus+ pilots on the European degree label & a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions are presented in an event co-organised by by all Erasmus+ pilot projects and the European Commission. It will feature representatives from the pioneering Erasmus+ pilot projects, Member States, the wider higher education sector, and European Commission. The event is an opportunity for national and European policymakers, as well as for rectors, academic and administrative staff of higher education institutions, students and representatives of the wider higher education and business sector to engage in discussions on the necessary steps to make a European degree a reality. The [full programme](#) is available and you can [register here](#) by 24<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024.

## Useful Links

[Updated European Commission EUI Website](#)

[Interactive Map of European University Alliances](#)