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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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WELCOME to the 2nd EU-CONEXUS Annual Closing Conference A strong partnership for the long term

- Please mute your microphone.
- You can ask your questions in the chat.
- The conference will be recorded, if there is no objection.

1 JULY 2021

Disclaimer :

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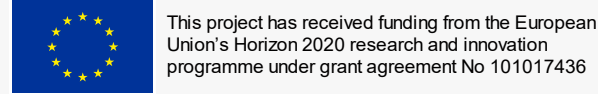
EU-CONEXUS 2nd Annual Closing Conference

From vision to reality

- The ten years political vision of EU-CONEXUS universities is aligned with the vision and ambitions of the European Union;
- EU-CONEXUS aims at becoming a global leader on our topic on research and higher education, a strong transnational university that offers common European degrees, mobilities, and has shared values regarding open science, innovation in teaching, and a multi-disciplinary approach to research and education
- EU-CONEXUS is the pillar for our universities to become stronger, taking advantage of the strengths of the whole alliance;



- EU-CONEXUS provides complex and widespread skills aiming at creating new profile of graduates with enhanced employment opportunities, as needed by the economy and society in the medium run;
- EU-CONEXUS universities become more connected at the global level, also with the European Values and involved on Higher Education priorities of the European Commission
- For UTCB, focused mainly on civil engineering, EU-CONEXUS enlarges the capacity to holistically address the hot issue of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability.



THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE STUDENT LIFE WITHIN THE EU-CONEXUS ALLIANCE

NEFELI TSAOUSHI, AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS, MEMBER OF THE STUDENT BOARD

1 JULY 2021

Join the



EU CONEXUS

CULTURE

European University for Smart
Urban Coastal Sustainability

#hellochallenge

Buenos días!

Bonjour!

Γεια σου! (Ya su)

Bună dimineața!

Labas rytas!

Dobro jutro!

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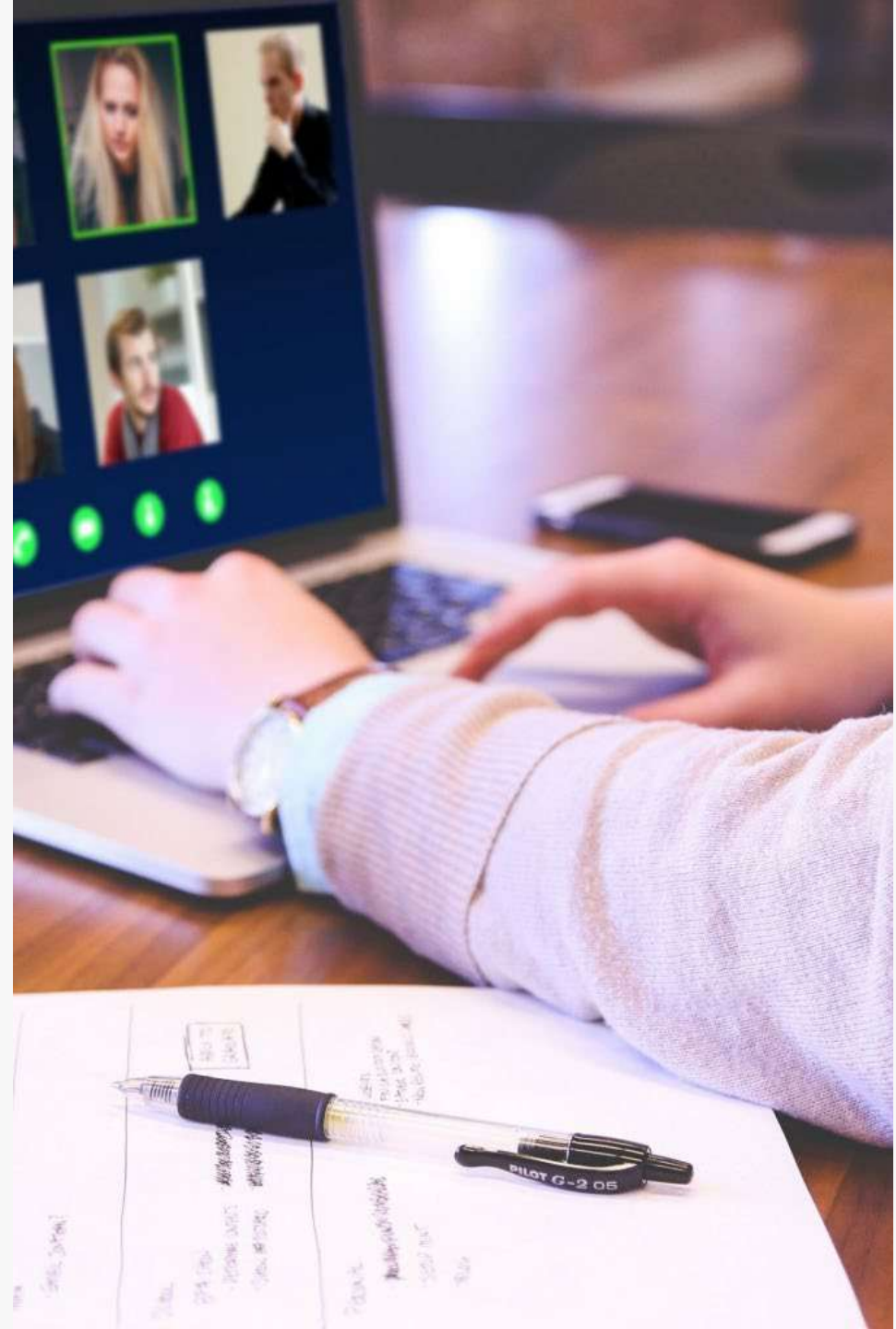
Activities

- Student Board
- Working Groups – Committees – Student representatives
- Buddy system
- FOREU session
- Welcome days for Minor programme
- FB page for Minor – Student community
- Cultural and Sports events / Social Media Challenges



Impact on study experiences

- Get to know the operation of European Universities
- Different cultures/Backgrounds → Different ways of thinking/acting
- New laboratory techniques
- Expand knowledge by learning various cases/examples in other countries



Expanding international awareness

- Different cultures → improve our work ethic and values
- Form European identity
- Not forgetting our national identity
- Build respect for different nationalities



Future expectations

- Physical interaction
 - Summer schools / Trainings in physical presence
 - Field-trips
- Training courses for specializing
- EU-Conexus students association
- Improve management skills and other soft skills
- Alumni system
- Open opportunities in the European job market





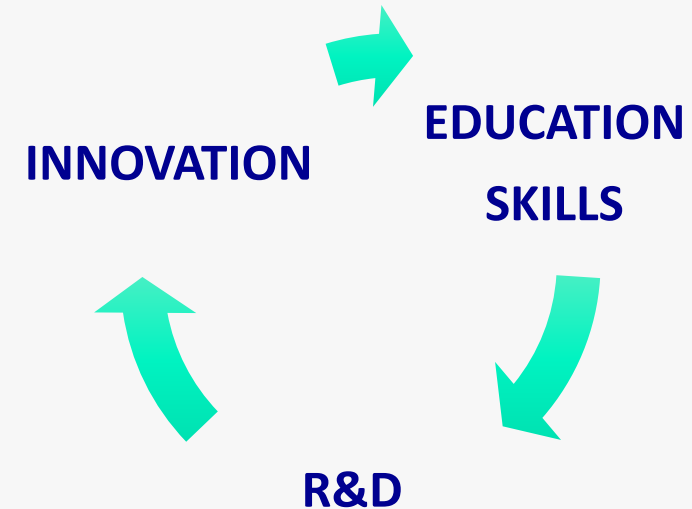
UNIVERSITY AS AN ENGINE TRANSFORMING SCIENCE INTO INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

Danica Ramljak, DVM, PhD
Senior Expert for Science and Innovation
The World Bank

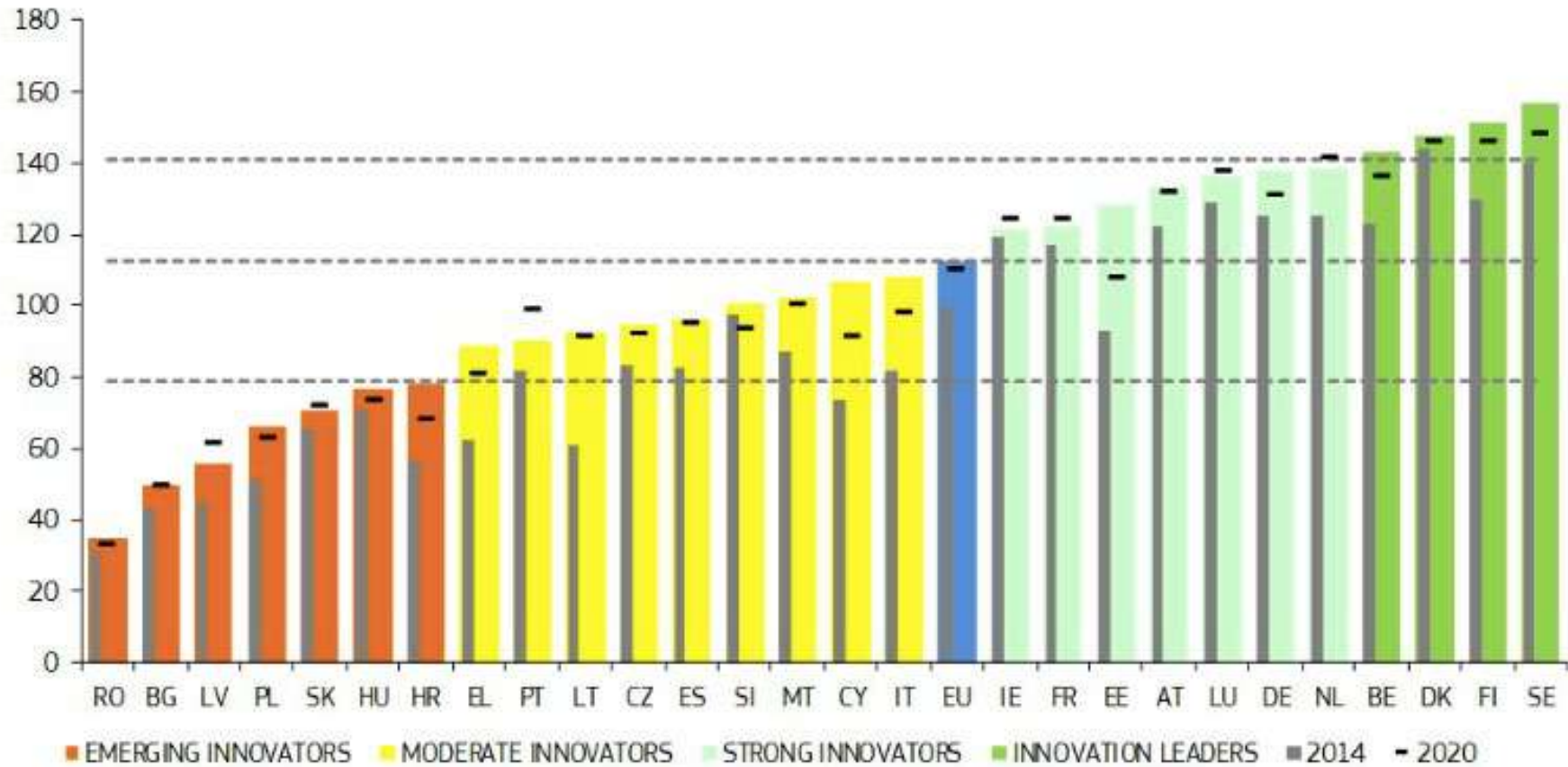
July 1, 2021

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- I. Introduction
- II. EU Innovation Union Scoreboard 2021
- III. National Innovation System
- IV. Important EU policies for innovation
- V. Recommendations for EU CONEXUS



EU INNOVATION SCOREBOARD 2021



EU has improved its innovation output by 12.5% in 2021

EU is performing better than its competitors like China, Brazil, South Africa, Russia, and India

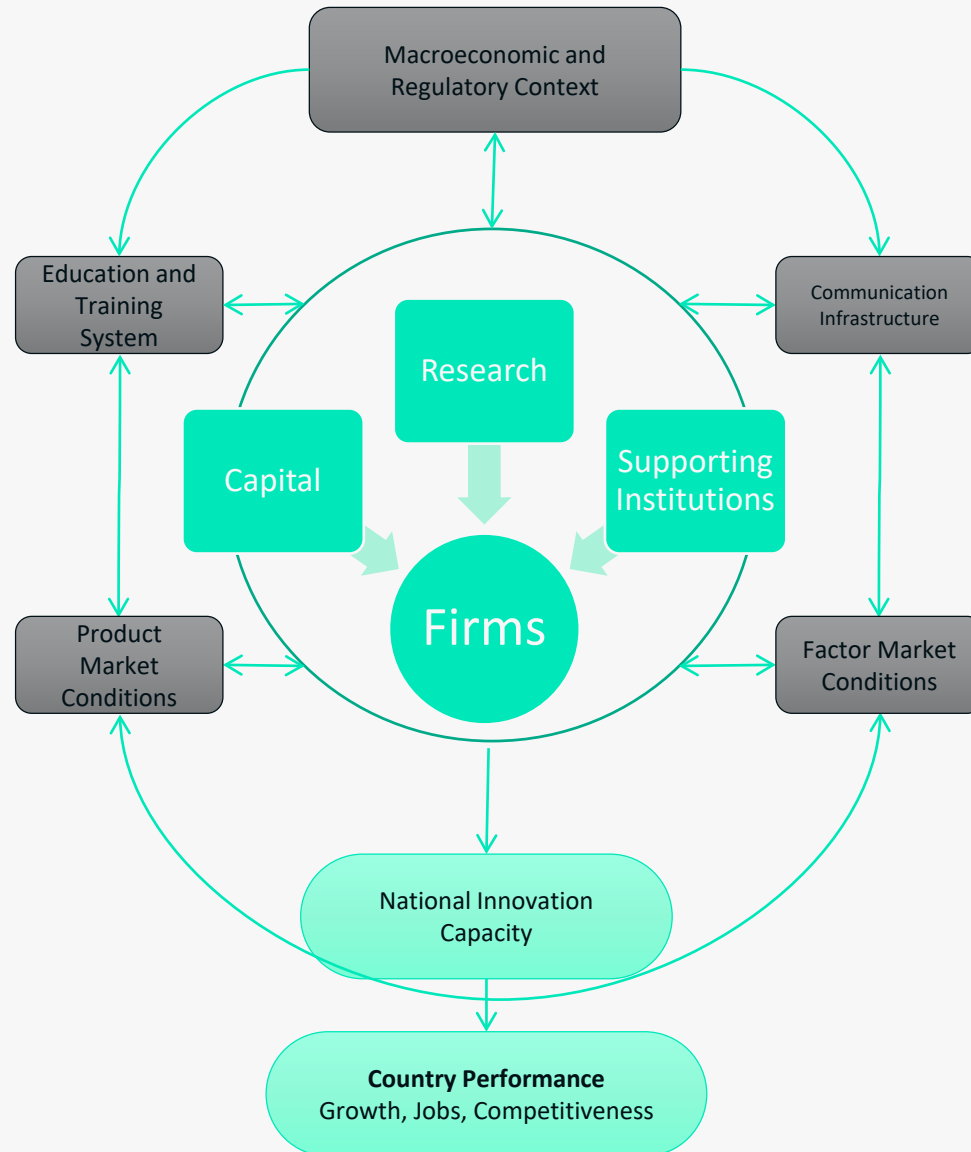
South Korea, Canada, Australia, the United States, and Japan have a performance lead over the EU.

EU Innovation in 2021

Five Member States witnessed an improvement in performance of 25 percentage points or more (Cyprus, Estonia, **Greece**, Italy and **Lithuania**).

Four Member States had a performance improvement of between 15 and 25 percentage points (Belgium, **Croatia**, Finland, and Sweden).

NATIONAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM



Knowledge generation and diffusion depend on the interaction between:

i) science and the education system and ii) the technology deployment and absorption capacity of businesses.

Linking the disparate actors within the National Innovation System is critical for

generating



in the economy

EC and funding for innovation

[Horizon Europe](#) is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of EUR 95.5 billion.

As part of Pillar 3 '**Innovative Europe**', the EIT contributes to achieving the four key strategic orientations of the [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#):

strengthening sustainable innovation ecosystems across Europe

fostering the development of entrepreneurial and innovation skills in a lifelong learning perspective and support the entrepreneurial transformation of EU universities

bringing new solutions to global societal challenges to the

EU policies for Innovation

| [European Green Deal](#)

| [Digital Compass](#)

| [EU's updated Industrial Strategy](#)

New EIT initiative launched to boost innovation in higher education

News

24/03/2021

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is launching the HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education – a new initiative to unlock the full innovation potential of higher education institutions' (HEIs) by increasing their entrepreneurial and innovation capacity whilst integrating them into Europe's largest innovation ecosystem.



Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel said: 'Higher Education Institutions play a

DECISIONS

DECISION (EU) 2021/820 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 20 May 2021

**on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe and repealing Decision
No 1312/2013/EU**

(Text with EEA relevance)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU CONEXUS

- A. Functional Innovation ecosystem and high quality institutional governance**
- B. Setting up EU CONEXUS innovation policy priorities (Joint Innovation Strategy)**
- C. Availability of innovation/commercialization support instruments (invest enough and invest smart)**
- D. Building universities for innovation development and entrepreneurship**
- E. Strengthen human capital for R&I and ensure international connectivity**
- F. Upgrading R&I Infrastructure (Research Infrastructure Roadmap)**
- G. Knowledge and practice exchange between EU CONEXUS universities**
- H. Perform Impact analysis (develop success indicators)**

EU-CONEXUS academic offer for 2019 - 2022

Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability

Bachelor's

Minor courses
under European
University label

Joint Master's

programme &
Lifelong Learning
specialisation
courses

Joint PhD

programme with
joint PhD boards

**Courses for
non-formal
education**

Transnationally integrated curricula
Innovative pedagogical methods
Strong emphasis on practical skills

Physical, virtual and blended mobilities
(50%) Mutual recognition of degrees and
curricula

Digital learning environment
Multilingualism



| EU-CONEXUS vision for academic programmes

- A unique European HEI around Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SUCS) challenges
- Innovative and professionalising teaching
- Multi and cross-disciplinary education for a better society
- Student-centered offer and flexible curricula
- A transnational community promoting inclusion and cultural integration
- Social engagement for promoting SUCS in schools and society
- An excellence HEI able to attract international students



EU-CONEXUS approach for innovation & excellence

- A true European University: Bachelor – Master – PhD - micro-credentials
- Challenge-based and research-based learning
- Blended mobilities
- Multilingualism
- Digital learning environment to enhance student exchange
- Enhanced cooperation with industry: living labs, university-to-industry platform and others
- Inclusion of industrial partners into the teaching and training to nurture talents
- University-to-school programme to raise SUCS awareness
- Enhanced cooperation and growth with our associated partners



Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SUCS) in all senses

Environment and Biodiversity

Bioeconomy Coastal resilience
 Healthcare in coastal areas
 Marine Biotechnology Landscape planning
 Coastal Species Conservation Aquaculture

Culture, Society, Organisation, Education

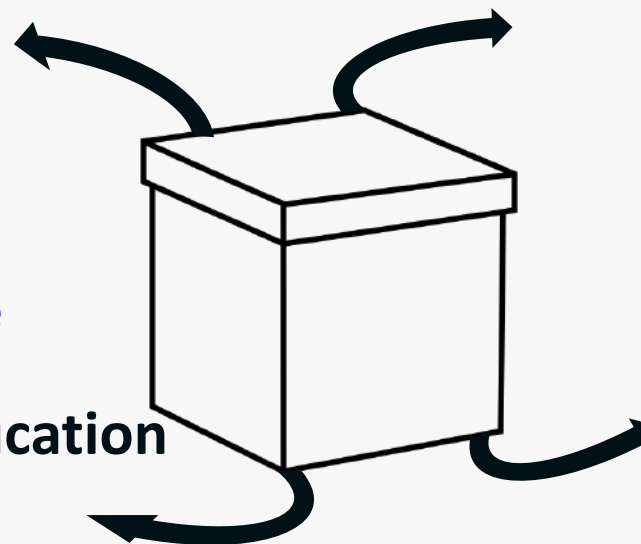
Coastal heritage Migration flows
 Life quality at coastal areas Coastal law
 Inclusive coastal cities

Energy and Sustainable Construction

Coastal Civil Engineering Green logistics
 Green urban spaces Material science
 Smart coastal cities Energy ecoefficiency

Digital Transformation

Digital humanities Internet of things
 Data security & protection
 Digital transitions



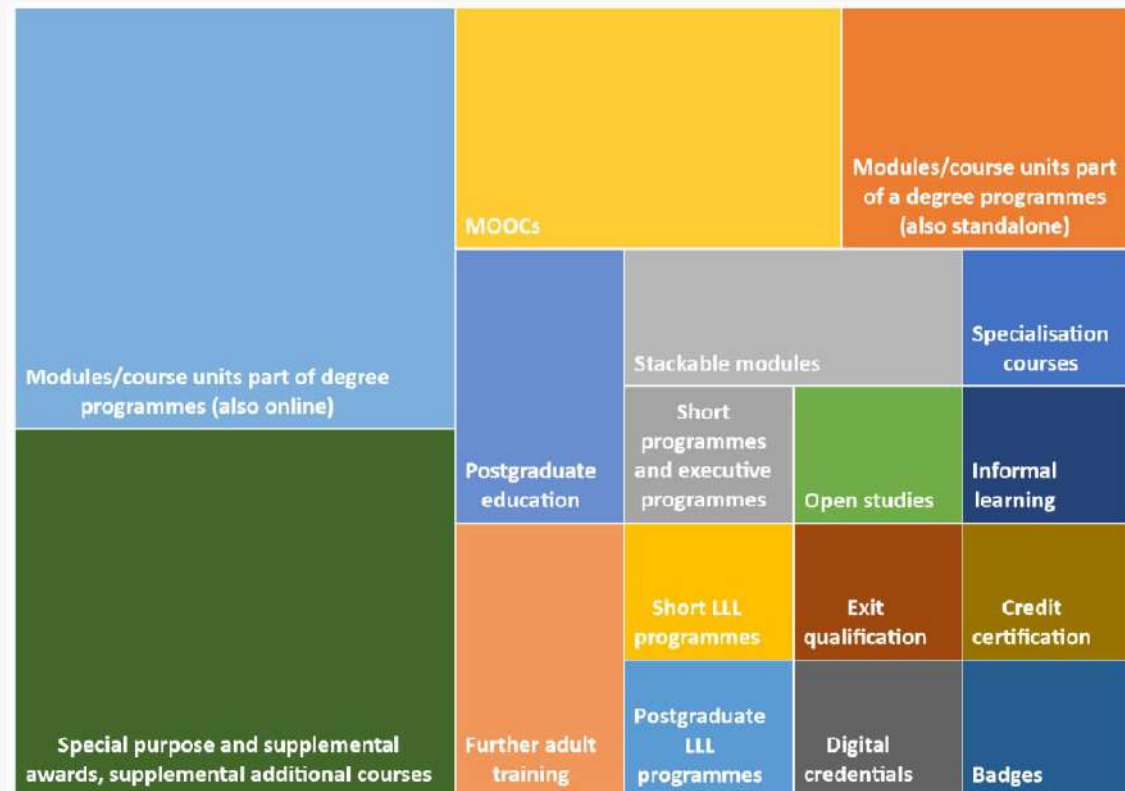
Align with European Commission initiatives (I)

Microcredentials: public consultations in progress



A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards.

The proof is contained in a certified document that lists the name of the holder, the achieved learning outcomes, the assessment method, the awarding body and, where applicable, the qualifications framework level and the credits gained. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards.



Align with European Commission initiatives (II)

European Degree: definition in progress



PROPOSED VISION

To create a globally recognised degree that will be synonymous for innovative and transformative higher education from multiple institutions in multiple European countries.



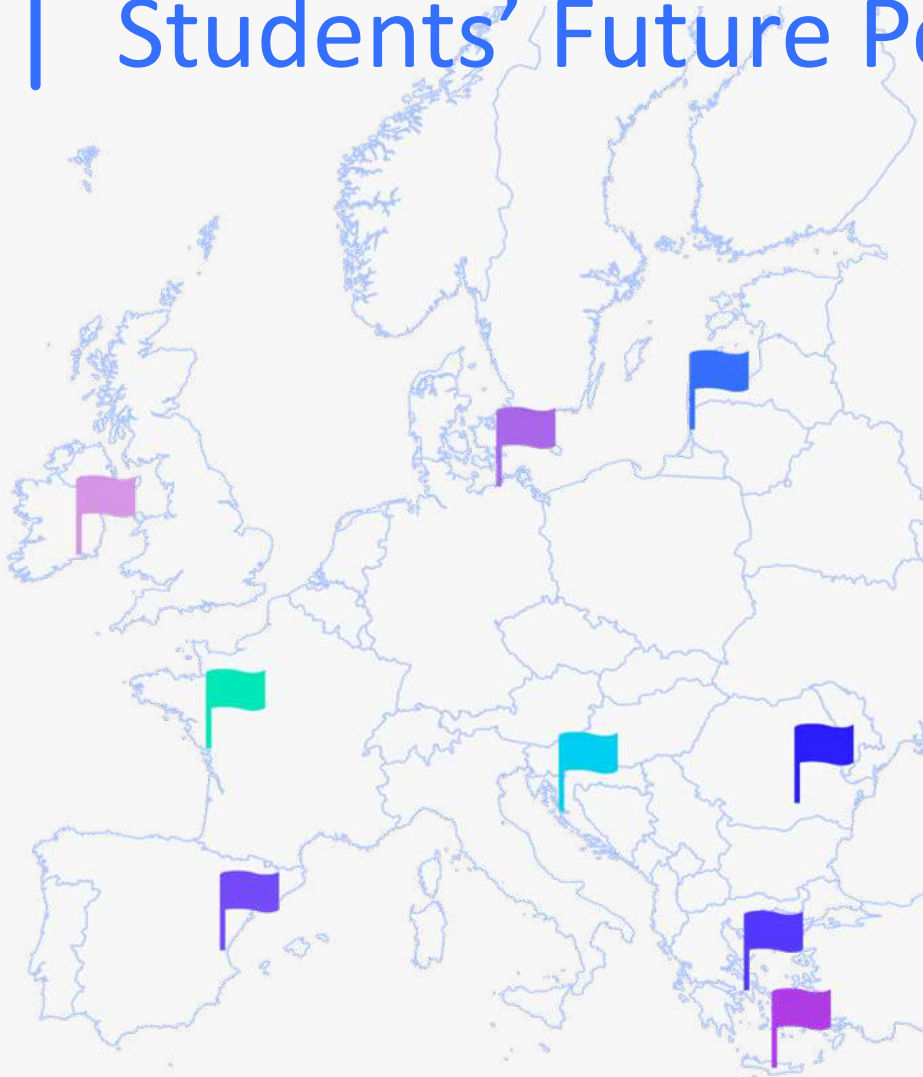
European Degree should stand for...



- Embedded mobility
- Multilingualism
- Innovative pedagogies
- Academic rigour
- Student-centred learning
- Challenge-based/experiential learning
- Exposure/ engagement with research
- Interdisciplinarity
- Alignment with future labour market needs
- Modularisation and flexibility
- Self-customisation of study track
- Civic engagement



Students' Future Perspectives



238 students (spring 2020/21)

- Multiculturalism
- English as *lingua franca*
- Interdisciplinarity: different educational backgrounds (main fields of study)
- Different educational cultures



| Students' Future Perspectives

COLLABORATION & IMPROVING SKILLS

Help students acquire & develop valuable soft skills, important in the workplace & in everyday life.

Through collaborative projects students would have a global point of view & be prepared to work in any environment.

CONNECTING WITH INDUSTRIES & LABOUR MARKET

Having a chance to get in touch early on with the related industries & have inside views.

Getting informed about needs of the labour market & how the students can benefit and contribute.



| Students' Future Perspectives

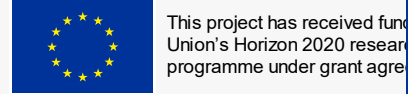
SUGGESTIONS

To have teachers & companies' experts from all 9 countries during our studies, to support our knowledge about different problems in the same field or industrial sector and learn more about the labour market of 9 countries

MORE RESOURCES

- Virtual inter-campus that includes 9 universities
- Ability to choose courses from the academic catalogues of Associated Partners
- The opportunity to learn new languages





Roundtable 3: “Common Outreach for Innovation”

Annual Closing Conference. 1 July 2021
Darius Daunys, Chair of the EU-Conexus Research Council,
Vice-Rector for Science and Innovations, Klaipeda University

14 DECEMBER 2022

where we are now?

- ERASMUS+ WP4 and RFS (thematic, complementarity, leadership)
- Joint Research Institutes (structure, priorities, concept)
- Scientific Mapping (Research Portal)
- Joint research projects (Project Development Fund)
- Information exchange platform (Research Hours)
- Researchers' mobility (starting within JRI's in autumn)



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what are we aiming at
for the next year ?

- ❓ RFS Innovation Roadmap (strategic goals, near-term objectives)
- ❓ Involvement of researchers into development of innovations (entrepreneurship, hackaton, trainings and courses)
- ❓ Integration into Knowledge and Innovation Community (call for proposals on Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems)
- ❓ Review of good practices in partnerships with industry / industry and stakeholder database -> Research Infrastructures
- ❓ Research Portal – Innovation Hub (Infrastructure, Research profiles, Services)
- ❓ Joint Curriculum for Innovation and Commercialisation



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