



**EU CONEXUS**

European University for Smart  
Urban Coastal Sustainability

# EU-CONEXUS Policy Brief

N°1 – April 2023

## I. 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.

## II. POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE ALLIANCES

### Studies and Publications

January 2023: [The European Universities Initiative: first lessons, main challenges and perspectives](#), Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies (study requested by the European Parliament, CULT Committee): The study sets out the threat of non-sustainability of the European University Initiative in light of the lack of long-term perspective of funding and a missing legal framework.

March 2023: [Final Report of the Study on the state and effectiveness of national funding systems of higher education to support the European Universities Initiative](#), Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture Youth, Education and Erasmus+: The analysis of the fragmented national funding systems for European University Alliances concludes by recommending harmonized national support via a performance-based funding system for universities participating in Alliances.

March 2023: [The road towards a possible joint European Degree: identifying opportunities and investigating the impact and feasibility of different approaches](#), Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture Youth, Education and Erasmus+: The study shows the work done and the way forward on creating a European degree first as a “label” and eventually as a “joint degree”.

April 2023: [Assessment of the Horizon 2020 support to the EUU](#) (presentation to FOR-EU), TetraTech: A summary report on the evaluation of the SwafS support to European University Alliances concluding that Horizon 2020 support benefits in particular smaller and HEIs and HEIs coming from Widening countries and that continuous support and synergy of grants are necessary for keeping up transformational potential.

## III. EU-CONEXUS PARTICIPATION/REPRESENTATION IN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

### Erasmus + Policy Experimentation Projects launched

On 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 Commissioner Mariya Gabriel announced the selection of [10 projects](#):

- 6 European degree label (21 alliances participating)
- 4 legal status (3 alliances participating)

EU-CONEXUS is participating in both pilots: UCV is representing EU-CONEXUS in ED-AFFICHE (coordinated by UNA Europa/ KTU Leuven) piloting a European degree label and EU-CONEXA participates as associated partner in ESEU (coordinated by ECIU/University of Twente). By participating in the policy experimentation projects EU-CONEXUS reaffirms its interest and strong involvement in transforming the policy context for strategic and long-term oriented transnational cooperation of universities.

→ [More information ED-AFFICHE](#) → [More information ESEU](#)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Rectors' meeting, 30/31<sup>st</sup> of January, Brussels**

44 rectors were invited to represent 44 alliances for an informal exchange of experiences and in a meeting with Commissioner Mariya Gabriel reporting on major challenges for the implementation of the EUI vision. The organisation of regular meetings of EUI rectors is planned for continuing co-creation of the initiative. EU-CONEXUS was represented in active roles by President Jean-Marc Ogier who acted as rapporteur in the conference and Director Isabella Baer-Eiselt reporting to FOR-EU1.

→ [More information](#)

## **Public consultation on the EU's Horizon Research and Innovation Programmes 2014-2027**

Through this consultation, the public at large and in particular participants in the R&I funding programmes were asked to share their views on:

- The ex-post evaluation of Horizon 2020
- The mid-term evaluation of Horizon Europe
- The Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027

By contributing to the survey EU-CONEXUS underlines its strong conviction that a policy framework for European University Alliance has to include support for the research dimension of transnational cooperation of universities.

→ [EU-CONEXUS contribution to the survey](#)

## **DG EAC/FOR-EU Coordinators meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> of March, Brussels**

Main items of discussion:

1. Post-2027 Investment pathway for European Universities
2. Monitoring framework for the EUI
3. Joint communication
4. Inter-alliance collaboration within "Coalition of the Willing"

→ [More information](#)

## **IV. UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> European Universities' Forum, Barcelona, 14/15<sup>th</sup> of September 2023**

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

→ [More information](#)

### **European Student Assembly, Strasbourg, 31<sup>st</sup> of May-2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2023**

EU-CONEXUS is represented by 5 students from UROS, UVC, UTCB, KU, UNIZD

→ [More information](#)