



## Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture

The Commission's Contribution to the Leaders' Working Lunch  
Gothenburg, 17 November 2017

**#FutureOfEurope #EURoad2Sibiu**

## NETWORK OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

### WHAT EXISTS TODAY

**10 out of the 50 top universities from the 2018 World University Rankings are in the EU.**



Source: <https://www.topuniversities.com/>

- ▶ The **EU budget** funds a small number of European higher education institutions that **deliver education on European issues**: the European University Institute of Florence, the College of Europe (Bruges and Natolin), the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht, the Academy of European Law in Trier, the Centre International de Formation Européenne in Nice and the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education in Odense. The Agency does not deliver education on European issues as such but pursues an aim of European interest.
- ▶ **Bi- and multilateral cooperation among universities** (such as the Franco-German University, l'Université de la Grande Région, the Franco-Italian University) that are often in border regions.
- ▶ **Joint/double master's degrees** through **Erasmus Mundus**: study programmes jointly delivered by an international consortium of higher education institutions from Europe and beyond.
- ▶ **U-Multirank**: independent comparison tool for performance of higher education institutions around the world (1,200 institutions covered).

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- ▶ **The Erasmus+ programme has funded more than 600 strategic partnerships in higher education.** 45% of all outputs have consisted of new or improved courses/curricula and teaching materials. But in most cases, the projects do not go as far as the joint delivery of teaching.
- ▶ Since 2004, **392 jointly delivered Master's programmes have been selected by Erasmus Mundus and 21,500 scholarships have been awarded to European students.**

## CHALLENGES

There are **many administrative and bureaucratic obstacles** to higher education institutions having fully integrated cross-border educational activities leading to formal qualifications recognised in the Member States of partner institutions.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

- ▶ Establishment of the **School of European and Transnational Governance** based on a network with partner institutions such as the College of Europe and École nationale d'administration and the Hertie School of Governance, to train managers from public, private and civil society organisations on EU affairs.
- ▶ Development further **strategic partnerships** between higher education institutions.
- ▶ **Support for 200 more Erasmus Mundus master's programmes** to bring the total number of scholarships awarded to 30,000 by 2020.
- ▶ **Increased visibility and use of the U-Multirank** tool to promote the EU as an attractive area for higher education studies.

## POSSIBLE INITIATIVES WITH A 2025 PERSPECTIVE

- ▶ **Creation of European universities' network** to reinforce and structure cooperation among higher education institutions (*first step: establishment of networks of universities and joint delivery of programmes with the use of distance learning tools; second step: establishment of joint ventures; third step: establishment of institutions*).
- ▶ Offer to well-established networks a **European statute** to allow cross-border financing from the EU budget and long-term sustainability.

*The political ambition would need to be aligned with the means to act and reflected in the future discussions on EU finances.*