UNICA

Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

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(https://www.unica-network.eu/)



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UNICA is an institutional Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

Founded in 1990 and currently made up of 56 universities from 39 capital cities.

The great achievements of the European Higher Education Area

- 1987: Erasmus programme
- 1999: Bologna process
- 2018: European Universities Alliances

The European Universities Alliances

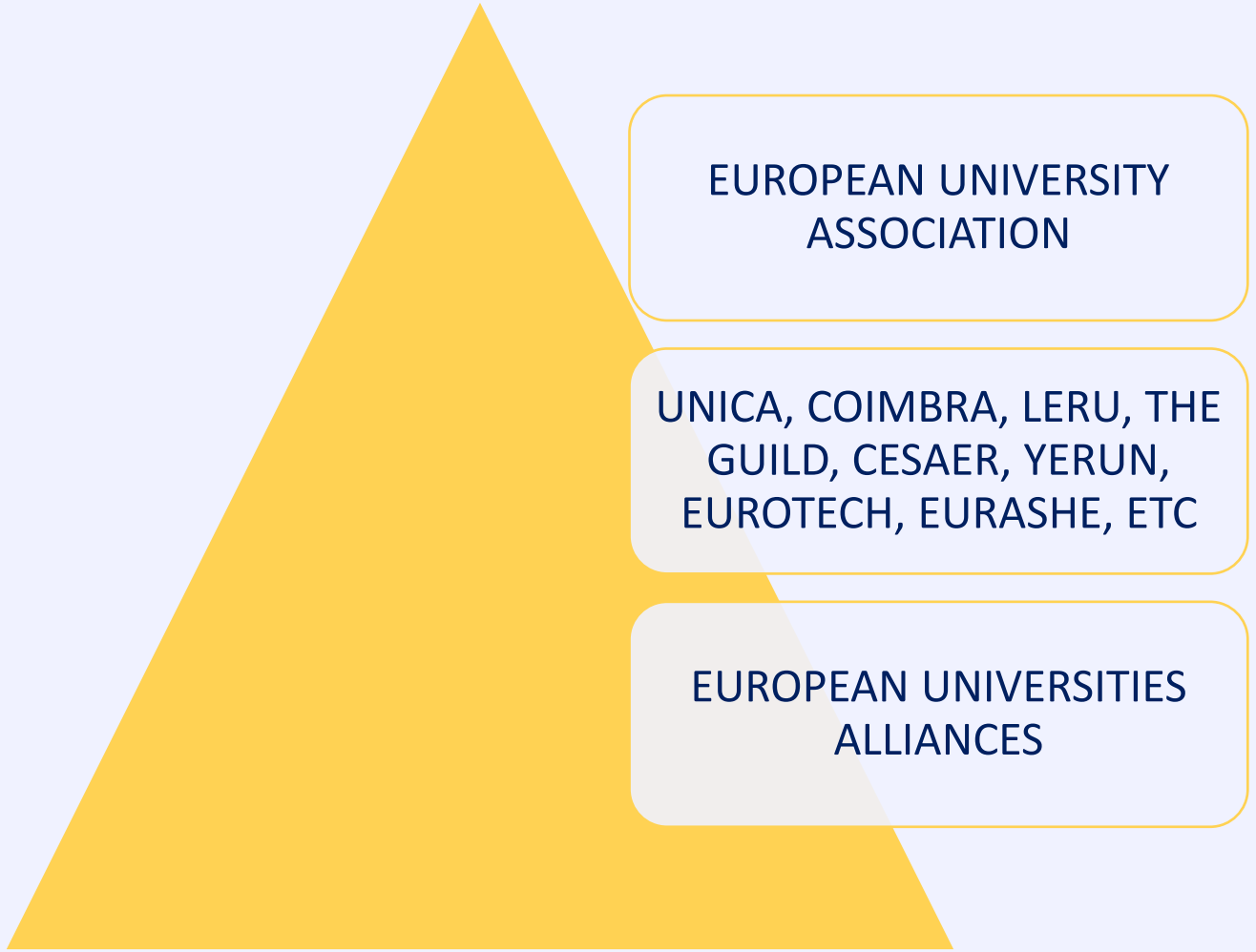
https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative



- In **September 2017** the French President **Emmanuel Macron** delivered a famous speech saying *"I believe we should create European Universities – a network of universities across Europe with programs that have all their students study abroad and take classes in at least two languages. These European Universities will also be* ***drivers of educational innovation and the quest for excellence****. We should set for ourselves the goal of creating at least* ***20 of them by 2024.***

- This brief but strong statement had an extremely significant impact leading to the first call for "European Universities" (Alliances) already in 2018. After other calls, the **total number of Alliances in Europe reached 65 (+8 seals of excellence, about 650 higher education institutions)**, much higher than initially foreseen

MAIN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORKS



- 37 out of the 56 UNICA member Universities take part in European Universities alliances.
- 23 out of the 65 alliances have at least one UNICA member University as partner
- 1 UNICA member in an Alliance with the Seal of Excellence.

Scan to discover all UNICA members in alliances

una europa
4eu+
arQus European University Alliance
AURORA EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE
Circle U. European University Alliance
civis Europe's Civic University Alliance
CHARM-EU
EELISA European University
ENHANCE
ENLIGHT
EPICUR EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
EUGLOH
EULiST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
EUTOPIA European University
euniwell European University for Well-Being
film EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY éu
forthem. Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility
TRANSFORM 4EUROPE
Ulysseus EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
UNIC
uninovis DATA FOR L.I.F.E. EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSEH
Young Universities for the Future of Europe
ACROSS EU

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IMPACT OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCES

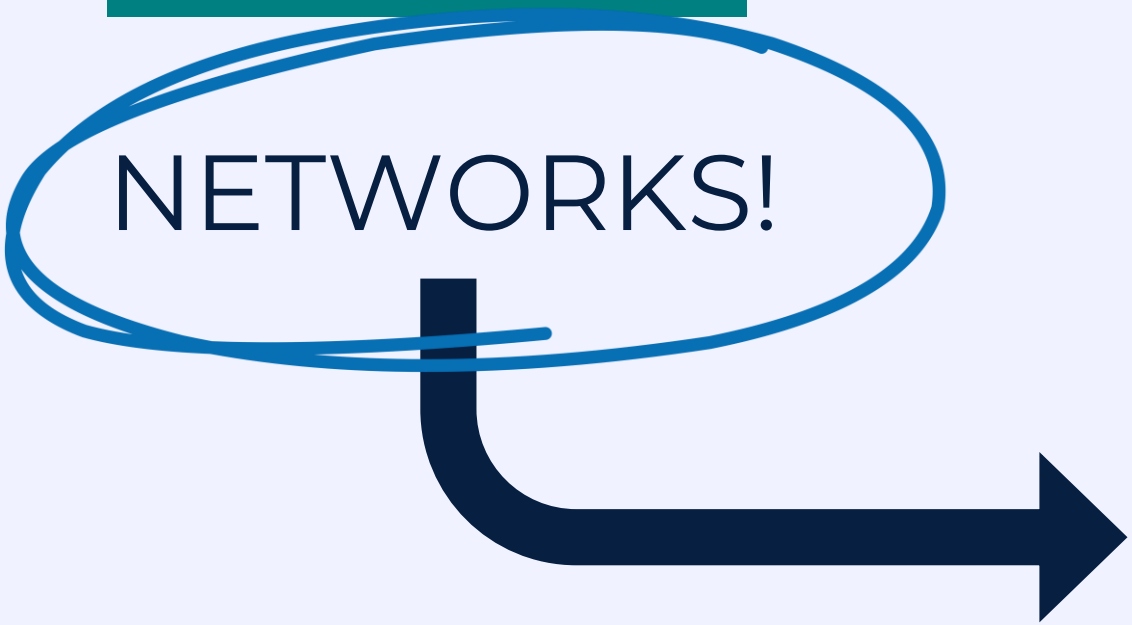
- Strong engagement of the leadership
- Involvement of the Member States
- Active in advocacy & policy at National level
- Significant funding

- European degrees, microcredentials, etc

BUT ALLIANCES

ALSO NEED

NETWORKS!



- More active in advocacy & policy at the EU level
- Less formalized
- Broader scope & membership
- Informal collaboration

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THE CASE OF UNICA

UMBRELLA ROLE

INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE, OBSERVING, MONITORING



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UNICA

UNICA DAYS

2025 BRUSSELS

“The role of university networks in the context of the European Universities alliances”

- + 100 participants
- 56 represented institutions from 28 countries
- 30 speakers | 6 sessions

Topics covered:

- ❖ Collaboration between networks & alliances
- ❖ The European Degree
- ❖ Alliances & Research
- ❖ New technologies in Higher Education
- ❖ Collaboration between universities & cities



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Challenges



PUBLICATIONS





8 1.1.14 INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES
Policies and Strategies

23

LUCIANO SASO, SORIN COSTREIE, ROMIȚĂ IUCU, ALEXANDRU CARȚIȘ

The innovative role of European Universities Alliances in the European Higher Education Area

The paper explores the evolution and impact of key initiatives within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), from the Erasmus programme and the Bologna Process to the European Universities Initiative (EUI). It examines how these initiatives have shaped transnational collaboration, focusing on their roles in harmonising HE systems and introducing innovations like micro-credentials and the European Degree. The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the adaptive solutions developed by the alliances are discussed, highlighting the shift to virtual mobility and blended learning models. The paper analyses how alliances contribute to the relevance and sustainability of HE in Europe, emphasizing their potential to enhance graduate mobility, improve employability, and foster innovation.

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THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES IN UNIVERSITIES AND OUR SOCIETY

Luciano SASO[1], Sorin COSTREIE[2], Dimitrios KARADIMAS[3],
Romiță IUCU[4], & Alexandru CARȚIȘ[5]

Thank you for your attention!

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Sharing
Learning
Adding value

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