

European Universities' (networks): (a lot of) Questions & (few) Answers

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www.unica-network.eu

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September 2017:

Marcon's Sorbonne speech followed by memo on European universities

& EC's proposal on European Education Area

14 November 2017:

EU leaders meet at the Social Summit in Gothenburg

Education Committee 10/01/2018
1st High Level Group,
Education Summit 24-25/01/2018
BFUG 5-6/02/2018
Education Council
15/02/2018
DG HE meeting 20/2/2018

May 2018 (expected):

Council recommendation on automatic recognition of diplomas and learning periods abroad

**HAPPENING NOW:
24-25 May Ministerial
Conference in Paris**

How did it all start? (1)

".....Member States, Council and the Commission encourage the emergence by 2024 of some twenty 'European Universities', consisting in **bottom-up networks of 4 to 6 universities across the EU** which will enable students to obtain a **degree by combining studies in several EU countries** and contribute to the international **competitiveness** of European universities."

**European Council conclusions on the Communication
on Strengthening European Identity through
Education and Culture**

14 December 2017

How did it all start? (2)



September 2017:

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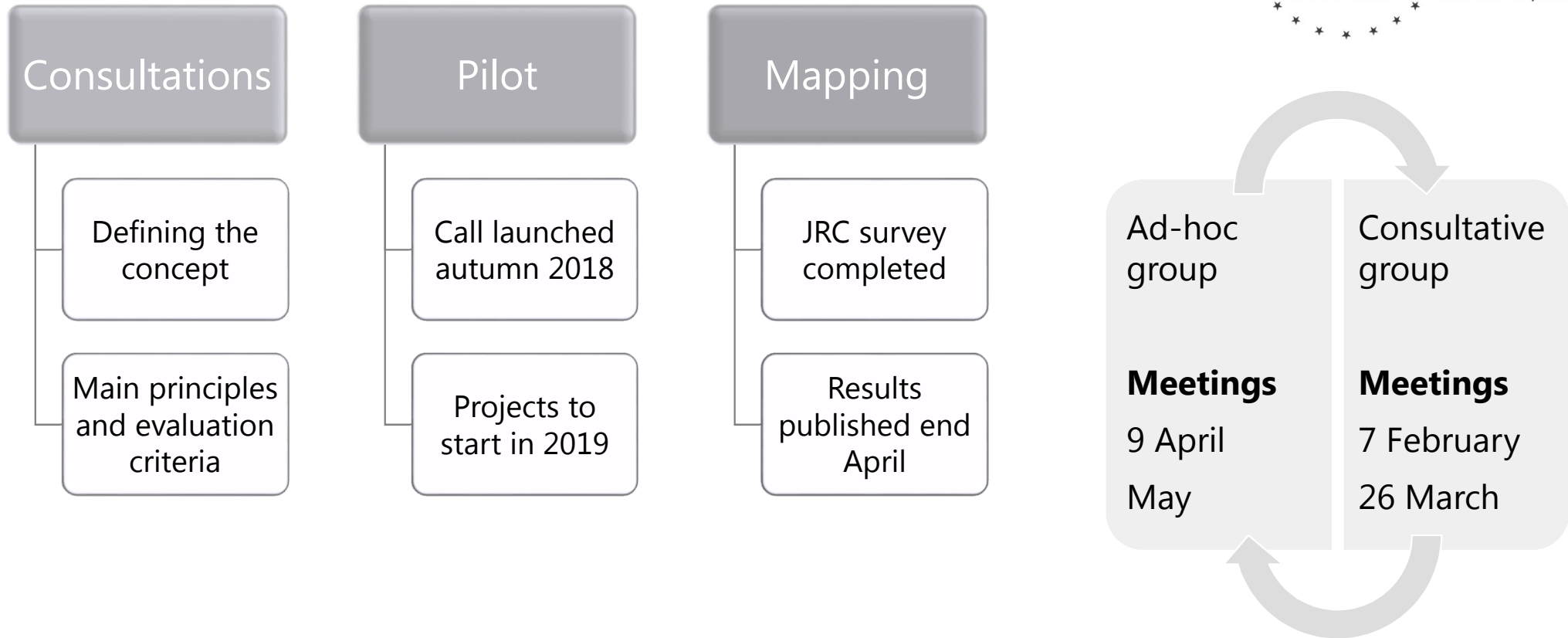
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How did it all start? (3)



The consultative process & 'co-creation'

- ***'Bringing transnational cooperation to the next level of ambition'***
- **Inclusiveness** (variety of HEIs & geographical balance)
- **Flexible and innovative** models of partnerships with **shared long-term strategic vision**
- **Strengthening the** education-research-innovation **triangle**
- Erasmus+ programme as the main driver in **synergy** with FP9 and national funding
- Ultimately creating **cross-border European universities**

Objectives

The rise of European university networks

University leaders from across the Continent explain why collaboration is more important than ever as a new mission group forms in Amsterdam



UNICA Network Retweeted
UniWarszawski @UniWarszawski · Mar 21
4 research universities in Europe: the University of Warsaw, Charles University, Sorbonne University and Heidelberg University signed a declaration on the establishment of a European University Alliance "4EU". #4EU #UW
en.uw.edu.pl/european-unive...

Warwick Europe
@WarwickEurope
Follow

"I am delighted to join in partnership with @univ_parisseine and @VUBrussel. We chose to act now not just to show our commitment to work together in future but to begin work on activities that delivers on such a commitment." Prof. Stuart Croft, @warwickuni Vice-Chancellor

11:55 PM - 27 Mar 2018

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Europe begins once again from its seats of learning: a European university alliance is born

20 Apr 2018

Six leading European universities have signed an agreement in Bologna that opens up a shared, multilingual and multidisciplinary academic space that may lead to a truly European University.

The future of European universities starts from Bologna. The European university alliance is born: six prestigious European universities – KU Leuven, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), University of Bologna (Italy), Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie (Poland), Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain), and Université



University, Maciek Duszczyc and 6 others

The matchmaking has began...

- “pilot” call to be published in **October 2018**, next one: October 2019
- **First “networks” to start in 2019**
- **Centralised call** (under Erasmus+ KA2, along with Strategic Alliances)
- **Own budget**
- Funding: 3 years (most prob.)+ possible renewal after positive evaluation
- **Means to an end, not an end in itself:** Funding for **new activities** (not an operational grant for existing networks/alliances!)

Towards the first pilot call



Eligible participants: European Education Area(min. 3 HEIs from 3 Member States –most probable), European Higher Education Area (min. 3 HEIs from Bologna countries)? What about UK? On top of these options: public/private organisations? Other countries worldwide?

Geographical balance: An eligibility criterion to meet? How to ensure that the 'European universities' are not exclusive/elitary clubs?

Higher Education Institutions only or HE organisations and **public/private partners from outside academia** as well?

University can be part of different networks depending on the discipline

Eligibility and evaluation

Activities may include: cooperation at management level, study programmes with embedded mobility & customisation, creating multidisciplinary education and research teams, developing innovative pedagogies and digital technologies, support for joint summer schools and short mobility schemes...

'Game-changing' state-of-the-art activities or a selection from a **catalogue of** (existing & standard) **practices?**

Commitment of universities vs. Level of competence!

Activities to be funded

Ensuring **national (co-)funding**: Will the new initiative depend on the political climate & priorities in different EU countries?

Synergy with FP9: How to ensure the link with research?

Evaluation: When should it be carried out?

Possible **renewal of the project**: How to maintain activities of a project that has not received the renewal funding?

Impact and sustainability

Name: European University networks? European Universities? University alliances?

Institutional networks as **'incubators'** for new networks?

Institutional networks as **potential non-HEI partner** under the new call?

'The European Universities' will reinforce Institutional networks' – but how?

Role of institutional networks

- The framework still under discussion
- Consultation process is ongoing!
- The initiative is shaped at the level of Member States → consulting at the national level very important!

Conclusions (1)

*'The Sorbonne [University] lives today because of the idea that its professors and students have of knowledge (...) **Europe, too, is an idea.***

*'Throughout Europe we explained that when there was a constraint, it was Europe's fault. When powerlessness was at the door, it was not us, but Brussels. And in doing so, **we forgot that Brussels is us***

E. Macron, Paris, Sorbonne U., 26 September 2017

Closing 'food for thought'

Thank you!