

Roadmap on ERUA Strategic Policies

Milestone MS3

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Disclaimer

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Table 1: Document information for the European Commission

1. Methodology and Glossary

This document presents our 2030 Roadmap on Strategic Policies, detailing high-level and long-term Aspirations for the European Reform University Alliance alongside the specific Strategic Policies to be achieved by 2030 and the associated instruments. The roadmap is designed to foster the development of a cohesive, innovative, and forward-looking European University Alliance.



Graphic 1: Levels in Roadmap on Strategic Policies

In the next phase, we will develop an action plan at the level of WP that outlines specific implementation steps, together with VR Councils and other related committees/task forces, whenever needed. This plan will be closely aligned with ERUA's long-term sustainability strategy, ensuring that all actions effectively support the alliance's overarching goals and are accompanied by designated resources.

For the purpose of this document, we are using the following definitions:

- **Long-term aspirations:** Broad, forward-looking goals to be achieved over an extended period. It represents a desired future state that reflects an organization's values, ambitions, and purpose.
- **Strategic Policies:** High-level principles established to direct the decision-making and actions in pursuit of the overarching goals.
- **Instruments:** It refers to tools, mechanisms or methods that facilitate the implementation of strategic plans, and help achieve the specific policies and goals.

2. Our Long-term Aspirations

This section outlines the long-term aspirations of our alliance, setting the strategic vision that will guide our actions and initiatives toward 2030 and beyond. It articulates our collective commitment to shaping the future of higher education, research, and collaboration across Europe. These aspirations reflect our shared ambition to create a more inclusive academic environment that drives societal progress, and empowers students, academics and staff. By pursuing these goals, we aim to position our alliance as a leader in transformative education and a beacon for reform within the European Higher Education Area, fostering excellence, diversity, and sustainable impact in everything we do.

OUR LONG-TERM ASPIRATIONS		
1. ERUA is the reform European university that derives value from the edges	2. ERUA is a reform-oriented educational alliance, empowering our students to become change-makers	3. ERUA is a transformative force, driving both internal and external reform
- We challenge mainstream paradigms, leveraging insights from the edges to enrich our academic programmes, research agenda and societal impact through unique perspectives. - We embrace inclusive and diverse perspectives, driven by our commitment to social engagement and our values of openness, inclusivity, humanism, and student-centered approach. - We strive to bridge the SSH and Arts with STEM to foster interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration among diverse stakeholders across Europe in addressing global societal challenges.	- We provide our students with interdisciplinary and innovative learning experience, while integrating research outcomes into the curriculum and encouraging participation in the knowledge-building process through the acquisition of both soft and hard skills. - We promote critical thinking and democratic values, and empower our students to become change makers. - We recognize and foster student engagement and civism, equipping them to drive positive change and respond to societal challenges.	- We drive internal systemic and sustainable reform in our universities across university missions (education, research, service to society), and services and support functions. - We amplify social impact in our local and regional communities by working with global partners to address societal needs, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). - We collaborate with key stakeholders to reform and shape national and EU higher education policies and promote mutual learning and knowledge exchange.
The alliance's focus on 5 thematic areas will strengthen the social anchoring and external impact of ERUA: • Migration, exile and refugees • Environmental transition • Democracy and human rights, inclusion and gender equality • Interculturality, multilingualism • Arts and edges		

3. Our Strategic Policies by 2030

In line with our long-term aspirations, we have defined our Strategic Policies to be developed by 2030 alongside the corresponding instruments.

We view our students as co-creators of our Alliance. Their active involvement across all WPs is ensured through WP7 Student Engagement and the Student Board by the use of the following transversal instruments:

- Ambassadors
- ERUA summits co-designed with students
- Communication platform for students
- ERUA Student Magazine
- Young Forum for Action on Climate Change
- Peer Exchange Groups
- Exchange Format on Social Justice and Intercultural Learning
- Student Board
- Student representation on the Steering Committee and Advisory Board
- Tutorship Program, collaboratively developed Student Engagement Strategy based on Student Board Compensation Statement
- Social justice and intercultural learning Exchange Format, collaborative bottom-up student initiatives
- Connecting ERUA students to other networks of students around the world

1. ERUA is the reform European university that derives value from the edges

OUR STRATEGIC POLICIES BY 2030

1. ERUA is the reform European university that derives value from the edges

Strategic Policies			WP
		Instruments	
1.	Creating a shared ERUA identity by bringing diverse cultures and individuals around a common set of values that are fundamental to ERUA and in line with the European core democratic values. This effort aims to foster a sense of belonging and purpose among individual university communities and distinct identity with external stakeholders.	• Branding • Legal entity • Community building activities	WP8 WP4
2.	Building a Virtual Campus within ERUA serves as a digital hub where students, academics and staff from all partner universities can interact, collaborate and access shared resources, including online courses, joint academic programs, exchange opportunities, as well as forums, and student and staff communities.	• Digital Services • Co-creation workshops Virtual Campus • Mobility Programmes • Slow Mobility concept	WP8 WP4
3.	Developing a community with diversity and inclusivity at its core, actively promoting cultural and linguistic diversity through the promotion of multilingualism and a commitment to intercultural dialogue. This approach aims to make education accessible and inclusive for all , irrespective of gender, origin, income, or social class. Additionally, fostering sustainable development by establishing standards for a green campus , ensuring environmental responsibility is integrated into the community's culture and practises.	• Implementation of Language Policy by expert group and action plan • Green & inclusive WG • Charter on diversity and inclusivity • Standards and KPIs on sustainability	WP4, WP5
4.	Establishing a governance structure that reflects the values of transparency, inclusivity, and shared leadership among partner universities. This structure ensures that all universities, involving students and staff alike, have a role in shaping the alliance's direction. WP7 plays a crucial role in fostering student engagement in the alliance and ensuring their full participation. Establishing a legal entity will serve as a key instrument for realizing ERUA's long-term vision and ensuring future sustainability.	• Legal entity • Review of governance structure by External Advisory Board • Training for students & staff on decision-making (incl. financials)	WP1 WP7
5.	Setting up a robust quality assurance and impact assessment mechanisms to ensure the consistent evaluation of academic programs and activities. This includes regular monitoring and feedback from both internal and external stakeholders, enabling continuous improvement. These processes are designed to ensure that our policies achieve the expected social impact while meeting the objectives set for European University Alliances.	• Quality Assurance Policy • Impact Assessment • External Advisory Board • External Evaluation • Mutual learning and exchange	WP1

2. ERUA is a reform-oriented educational alliance, empowering our students to become change-makers

OUR STRATEGIC POLICIES BY 2030

2. ERUA is a reform-oriented educational alliance, empowering our students to become change-makers

Strategic Policies		Instruments	WP
1.	Designing innovative and interdisciplinary joint programmes is a key strategy to enhance student learning experiences, and address complex global challenges. These programmes break traditional disciplinary boundaries, integrating diverse fields of study to create a more holistic educational approach that equips students with the socially relevant skills that can become change makers. Our alliance will actively engage at the European level on the implementation of the European Degree.	• Interdisciplinary Curriculum Design • Joint Degree Programmes • Teaching excellence Programme • Teacher training in interdisciplinarity • Interdisciplinary learning communities • European Degree	WP2
2.	As the demand for reskilling and upskilling grows, universities play a crucial role in fostering lifelong learning and skill development , as well as entrepreneurship skills . With a decline in the number of young people entering higher education due to demographic changes, there is an increasing necessity to focus on training adults to enhance their skills and adaptability in the workforce.	• Integration of transversal and entrepreneurship skills into the curriculum • Microcredentials • Continuing Education	WP2
3.	Fostering critical thinking, intercultural understanding and cooperation is essential for promoting a more dynamic, inclusive and cohesive Europe. This development is particularly important in the context of citizenship education , which promotes civic engagement, creativity, and a commitment to peace, human rights, and sustainable development. By prioritizing these competencies—particularly among younger generations who may feel less engaged active citizenship—we empower our students to become change-makers.	• Interdisciplinary courses and problem-based learning in the curriculum • Training and professional development • Discussion forums • Community engagement activities • E-learning resources • Engagement with policy-makers	WP2 WP6
4.	Integrating research outcomes into teaching and learning is instrumental in fostering excellence in learning and creating a more engaging, dynamic educational experience for students. By doing so, students engage with the most current knowledge, methodologies, and real-world challenges in their fields, encouraging critical thinking, creativity, and a deeper understanding of subject matter. At the same time, we will integrate AI into the classroom in a way that makes it an effective, inclusive and proficient tool for both teachers and students alike.	• Research-embedded curriculum • Interdisciplinary research and learning • Collaboration between researchers and students • AI Training, mutual exchange, discussion groups, research cluster	WP2 WP3

5. Boosting Student Initiative and Engagement across the ERUA Alliance: Fostering a culture of student engagement and co-creation is crucial to advancing democratic participation, social responsibility, and intercultural learning. By enhancing student communication and visibility within ERUA, creating platforms for active student participation, and establishing collaborative, bottom-up initiatives, we empower students to play a direct role in shaping their learning environments and addressing social justice issues. This focus on student-driven initiatives encourages students to explore diverse perspectives and work together toward common goals, thus strengthening their role as proactive change-makers within the Alliance and beyond.	• Student Ambassadorship Program • ERUA Tutorship Programm and Peer Exchange Groups • Student-led Projects • Compensation Statement and collaborative Student Engagement Strategy • Virtual Platform for Student Communication and Connections to further Networks	WP7
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3. ERUA is a transformative force, driving both internal and external reform

OUR STRATEGIC POLICIES BY 2030

3. ERUA is a transformative force, driving both internal and external reform

Strategic Policies			WP
Instruments			WP
1.	Developing a research strategy focused on interdisciplinarity and bridging the gap between SSH and STEM . This strategy should aim to integrate diverse perspectives, methodologies, and approaches from both SSH and STEM fields, fostering a research environment that encourages innovative solutions to complex societal challenges related to our thematic areas, such as climate change, migration, social inequality, and multilingualism.	- Research Clusters - Seed Funding Programme - Strategic collaborations - Structures, resources & access to funding opportunities (EU funds)	WP3
2.	Building policies to create the right environment and support structures for research, particularly with a focus on early-stage researchers and leveraging existing research capacities and strengths . In line with Responsible Research and Innovation practices, these policies should aim to cultivate an ecosystem that is supportive and inclusive, enabling researchers to develop their research and be more competitive in accessing EU funds.	- Capacity building for researchers & research managers (CARDEA EU project) - Mutual learning & knowledge exchange (e.g. HRS4R, CoARA)	WP3
3.	Enhancing collaboration with local and regional stakeholders, civil society, and private sector entities is essential for maximizing social impact, promoting social entrepreneurship, and facilitating knowledge transfer. This strategy aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims to develop socially responsible universities that actively contribute to the advancement of society.	- European Innovation Ecosystems - Collaborative PhD and postdoc programs, - Industry-academia partnerships - Social Entrepreneurship Programme	WP5 WP6
4.	Actively engaging with key stakeholders to drive meaningful reforms in national higher education policies and increase funding for students (e.g. housing) and influence policy decisions. This engagement involves collaboration with a diverse range of actors, including government bodies, academic institutions, industry leaders, civil society, and students.	- Participation in relevant committees - Consultative Dialogues with policy-makers - Stakeholder forums	WP1
5.	Contributing through strategic dialogues and joint initiatives, ERUA aims to shape EU higher education policies to align with the evolving needs of students, researchers, and society. ERUA places a strong emphasis on promoting an alternative approach to research assessment (CoARA) and advocating for the role of SSH in the European landscape.	- Advocacy Group - Collaboration with key stakeholders (e.g. joint statements, White and Policy papers, CoARA) - Mutual Learning & knowledge exchange (e.g. FOR-EU4ALL)	WP1