

## EUGLOH POSITION PAPER

### AN INVESTMENT PATHWAY FOR THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE POST-2027

EUGLOH strongly supports the motivation for the proposal of an Investment Pathway for the “European Universities Initiative” (the “WHY”) and thanks DG EAC for taking the European University Alliances’ and the Higher Education sector’s feedback on long-term success factors for European University Alliances into serious consideration. On the basis of these conclusions, the European University Alliance for Global Health (EUGLOH) makes the following recommendations on the implementation of an Investment Pathway which seeks to encourage a bolder approach towards creating a truly holistic and sustainable funding environment for the European University Alliances (the “WHAT” and “HOW”). Long-term funding of the Alliances must be guaranteed in order to continue their successful work so far. The European University Alliances touch on all four corners of the knowledge square. The adoption of a transversal approach (i.e. trans-directorate – DG EAC, RTD and even REGIO) by the European Commission would be advantageous for ensuring that Alliances can become sustainable and fully achieve the objectives that have been set for them. European University Alliances are truly at the cross-roads of the European project – both supported by all other sectors and supporting all other sectors – and an important tool for the EU’s visibility, competitiveness and attractiveness worldwide.

#### General policy recommendations and proposals for implementation

- **On the basis of a reinforced dialogue between DGs, establish a trans-directorate, streamlined and integrated, competitive funding instrument for European University Alliances (EUAs) which addresses all dimensions of the knowledge square**, i.e. Education, Research, Innovation and Service to Society and aligns EEA and ERA priorities. This **includes cross-cutting issues** such as diversity, digital and green transitions, open science, career development, etc.
- **Streamline objectives regarding the expected transformational impact of EUAs**, taking into account the time needed to establish deep institutional collaboration and transformation. **Placing a focus on capacity-building**, EUAs should be able to develop and implement their joint strategies using **suitable stepwise instruments** that will allow the Alliances to grow in a sustainable fashion. This should include affording the EUAs the necessary flexibility in their strategic planning to address unforeseen events and changing framework conditions (as evidenced in the recent past by e.g. the pandemic or the considerable opportunities and challenges presented by current developments in AI).
- **Secure guaranteed long-term funding post-2027 based on full costs**, i.e. sustainable funding levels that are in line with the ambition of the EUAs and will allow Alliances, on the basis of their joint strategies and chosen priorities as well as their high level of integration and shared resources, to finance the implementation of joint activities and structures across the four missions. This also encompasses the necessary governance and professional management structures in order to secure the joint operational capacity of the EUAs. As

EUAs move into the next phase of consolidation, sufficient funding will be needed to ensure sustainability and strategic planning including the implementation of action plans developed by the Alliances regarding Education, training and life-long learning, Research, Innovation and Service to Society as part of EUAs' ERASMUS+ as well as SwafS-funding. As EUAs develop, funding must be directed not only at the implementation of new measures but also at the continuation and further development of successful measures. **The provision of funding must not be to the detriment of the budgets allocated to other funding programmes relevant to Higher Education Institutions, especially with respect to research and innovation (i.e. Horizon Europe Pillar 1 and 2).**

- **Pursuit of a coordinated and complementary approach by the EU and Member States** to meet the funding requirements of EUAs and ensure the framework conditions for the full participation of individual partner institutions at EU and national levels.
- **Establish and maintain support and collaboration structures at EU and Member State policy/EUA level** with respect to overcoming legal, regulatory and other obstacles as well as the creation of transnational instruments for institutional collaboration in the Education dimension, e.g. regarding the establishment of joint programmes (European Degree Labels/European degrees), and in the area of Innovation and Service to Society, e.g. regarding best practices and guidance for developing and solidifying collaboration networks with different external stakeholders and leveraging additional funding streams in local and regional ecosystems
- **Ensure adequate quality assurance and monitoring mechanisms** that account for the specificities of individual EUAs, provide suitable indicators to trace institutional change, factor in time needed for institutional transformation, and allow for cross-institutional European-level learning and multiplier effects.

