Rennes 2 University and EMERGE consortium partners to officially launch new bid to the European Universities Initiative

The partner universities of EMERGE - European Margins Engaging for Regional and Global Empowerment - are formally recommitting to participate in the upcoming Erasmus+ European Universities Initiative (EUI) call for proposals. Currently coordinated by the University of Limerick, the consortium of 9 partners who hail from diverse institutions of higher education located on the European periphery, will seek to secure financing from the European Commission that would allow them to enhance the work they have been undertaking throughout the last few years. As a sign of renewed dedication to their common project, the management teams of each institution will be gathering in Limerick in December, to formally reaffirm their mission and vision and elaborate on their new bid.

Partners of the consortium first began working together in 2019, when Rennes 2 University led efforts to submit a bid to the EUI call of 2020. Since then, the consortium has been consistently cooperating on projects with the shared desire to tackle the particular challenges of engaging with Europe and extending the European Educational Area to better include and represent the marginal spaces where EMERGE institutions are located. While the partners each have varying cultures, languages and educational programs, the aim is to build a new long-term joint strategy with a bottom-up approach which will impact and support all of areas of higher education activities, from teaching and learning, to research and innovation, whilst encouraging new forms of student and staff mobility to the benefit of each community as well as local stakeholders.

As part of this continuing collaboration, the group has already been able to create and implement a number of specific projects, including two Erasmus + projects: TELME, an Erasmus Mundus Master's program for teaching in a multilingual environment, and TRIP, (Training and innovations in Internationalisation at Home Pedagogies). In addition to these, the partners are also building virtual exchange programs together, an EMERGE Student Forum, combined Staff Weeks and more. "We're delighted to have put in place this vibrant group of 9 universities whose members stretch from Norway to Cyprus, and from Greece through Ireland, and who are working together closely to provide new opportunities for our students and staff", said Lesley Lelourec, Vice President of Internationalisation at Rennes 2.

In addition to Rennes 2 University, EMERGE partners include:

- University of Limerick, (UL) Ireland,
- Neapolis University Pafos, (NUP), Cyprus,
- Université Bretagne Sud (UBS), France,
- Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF), Germany,
- Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN Universiy) / Høgskolen i Innlandet (HINN), Norway,
- Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici (UMB), Slovakia
- Universidade da Coruña, Spain
- Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH), Greece

More information on EMERGE

See the consortium's website here.

See a video on the consortium here.

More details on the European Universities Initiative

The EUI currently supports 44 alliances gathering 340 higher education institutions from all over Europe. This new call is aiming to bring the initiative closer to the objective set in the European strategy for universities, to support 60 alliances by mid-2024, gathering over 500 higher education institutions across Europe. It will continue the rollout of the European Universities Initiative with a record total budget of €384 million.

The European Universities' work encompasses all higher education institutions' missions of education, research, innovation and service to society. These alliances have diverse models of systemic, structural and sustainable transnational cooperation which reinforce the quality, performance, attractiveness and international competitiveness of higher education across Europe, for the benefit of their students and staff, while promoting our democratic values.

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