Three key messages

For the future of the European Universities' Initiative

The European Universities' Initiative is an excellent opportunity to strengthen competitiveness and to support the innovative capacity of European universities. The ECIU University has three key messages for the future development of the European Universities' Initiative:

To stay relevant, European Universities need strong support for the radical innovation of education
European Universities are the agents of change for the European Education Area, as well as frontrunners in bold educational innovations such as challenge-based learning, cross-border micro-credentials and the development of a European degree. We are not afraid of taking risks and piloting bold innovations that do not yet exist in the current landscape of higher education. These initiatives can only be a success with the strong support on both the national and the European level.

To be a fully-fledged European University, European Universities need support for their research mission
To realise full institutional commitment to the European University and deep involvement of research in our education, the development of joint research agenda's and interdisciplinary innovation projects is crucial. Moreover, European Universities are perfectly placed to increase the competitiveness of the European Research Area. We need European bottom-up calls that allow university networks to apply for funding in order to develop and implement such a joint European research strategy.

How to realise European base funding to establish sustainable European universities?
To establish a European University, long-term commitment by the EU is essential. The EU already has our long-term commitment, but the pilot funding only lasts for three years. Moreover, the Erasmus programme only lasts for seven years. We cannot use our students as a test case. We need clarity about what will happen after 2022 and also in the future. We need to move towards an integrated long term financial model for European Universities.

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12 pioneers

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Uniting over...

207,000
STUDENTS

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142
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449
RESEARCH
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About the ECIU University

Europe's first challenge-based European University

In 2030, European students can subscribe to the ECIU University, get lifelong access to our micro courses and build their personal learning passport. The ECIU University will change the way of offering education from being degree-based to being challenge-based. Our learners and researchers will contribute to solving climate crises and other urgent challenges that Europe will face in the future. The ECIU University will constitute a true European university where learners and researchers co-operate with society, cities and businesses to solve real-life challenges in a unique, flexible way.