

Press release

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EDUC, European Digital UniverCity, becomes one of the first European Universities

The EDUC project, joint initiative of the University of Potsdam (Germany), Université de Rennes 1, Université Paris-Nanterre (France), Masaryk University (Czech Republic), University of Cagliari (Italy), University of Pécs (Hungary), was selected by the European Commission on July 26th, to be one of the first European Universities

The « European Universities » call for projects was launched in October 2018 in order to foster collaboration between established European universities, on a wide range of activities in Higher education, from student, faculty and staff mobility, to training, research and innovation. These new transnational networks also aim at enhancing a common strategy and promote European values.

This achievement is the outcome of an intensive selection process, that has been carried out by 26 independent external experts appointed by the European commission. The 17 selected alliances involve 114 higher education institutions from 24 member states, while the Commission had received 54 applications in total.

All together, the first 17 « European Universities » will receive up to €85 million from the Commission's funds. EDUC, as each of the selected alliances, will receive up to €5 million in the next three years, in order to implement this pioneer project.

EDUC (European Digital UniverCity) aims to put back to the centre some key and historical values of Europe, among which knowledge exchange, cultural and linguistic diversity, creating a new community of teaching that includes different cultural areas in Europe : Western Europe with France (Université de Rennes 1 and Université de Nanterre) and Germany (University of Potsdam, project coordinator), Central and Eastern Europe with Czech Republic (Masaryk University), Hungary (University of Pécs), and Mediterranean Europe with Italy (University of Cagliari).

The direct outcome of the concept of European Digital UniverCity is to facilitate student mobility from one partner institution to another by erasing or mitigating potential obstacles such as administrative formalities, and to benefit from transdisciplinary courses offered by faculty members from partner institutions, which can be done via physical mobility but also via internationalisation at home, relying on guest professors and the use of digital tools that will facilitate online courses or virtual classrooms. Klaxoon, a digital start-up located in Rennes, has been associated to the EDUC project.

Such a campus without border will create a real diversification of mobility scenarios, from short and long-term mobility to courses using digital tools. Students, whatever their social or cultural background, will have the opportunity to tailor their own educational programme, and benefit from European learning exchanges and good practices. Linguistic diversity is also at the heart of the project: every student will have the possibility to follow online courses in one of the languages spoken on the campuses: Czech, German, Hungarian, French, Italian and English.

Overall, EDUC alliance will constitute a transnational campus involving 160 000 students and 20 000 faculty and staff members, and will lead to the development of joint curricula between the six partners.

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