

EUT⁺

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Deliverable 101

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Description: Annual report on joint research and teaching projects in support of EUT+ sustainability

Comments: The versions in the other languages of the alliance are available on request.

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Introduction

“Joint activities report” focuses on creating a common and coordinated strategy for European (and other) project applications, as to reinforce the initiative through different funding streams and growing the activities under the scope of EUT+. EUT+’s sustainability and the continuation of the initiative for further integration are the main objectives of this task. After the initial three-years phase, which will lead EUT+ closer to a confederal structure, the objective will be to move towards a more integrated model. In parallel to this initiative almost all partners already have established cross-linked project proposals that correspond to our vision and mission statement. Corresponding projects will be aiming to tackle issues of each Work Package to grow and amplify the impacts, as well as to speed up implementation. Programs that will be primarily observed for the corresponding projects include: Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Interreg regional instruments, European AID tenders, World Bank and European Investment Bank initiatives, regional and national instruments. Common initial target is set at 8 common projects per year, with each EUT+ partner institutions leading one of these annual proposals.

Team members of Task 8.1 have laid out the objectives and services that will be provided to the EUT+:

- + Strategic and specific information on current and future EU R&D&I initiatives (announcement of calls, news and events).
- + Counselling on EU funding opportunities through direct contact with interested researchers.
- + Training in demanded areas (seminars, workshops), RRI (Ethic, Gender Issues, Communication and Open Access among others) and courses oriented to improve the Impact Sections and the management of the projects (technical and financial). All of these actions are part of the Skills Training for Staff and Career development in EUT+, which special emphasis on developing the project collaborators and activity leaders of the future.

- + Supporting student and researcher transnational mobility and scholarships (including non-EU).
- + Assistance in finding partners.
- + Technical and administrative support for proposal preparation, agreement negotiation and signature, financial and project management and reporting.

This is the second Joint Activities Report document and it concludes the information about Joint Activities Report for the year 2022 under the Work Package 8, D8.2, D101, D8.1b Joint activities report.

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Overview of EUT+ Joint Project Applications 2019-2022

Overall SUCCESS rate: 61% (36 out of 17 projects approved and 5 project pending).

Acronym	Project Title	Status
EIT-HEI	Innovate Action On Supporting Entrepreneurship	Selected for funding
AesTheTiCo	KA220 Application For Aesthetics	Selected for funding
LUDEIA K	A220 Application For Interoperability Of IT Systems And Common Language	Selected for funding
STREAM	Capacity Building In Higher Education With Algeria, Egypt And Jordan	Selected for funding
EthiCo	Ethics And Ecology In Technological Education	Selected for funding
Ludeia	Universal Language For Academic Description And Information Exchange	Selected for funding
INNO EUT+	Project For Boosting Innovation And Entrepreneurship	Selected for funding
GREENWORAL	Training And Mentorship Based Adult Rural Women Empowerment In The Field Of Green Entrepreneurship	Selected for funding
B+NESDG	Nbhutan + Nepal Higher Education For Accomplishing The Sustainable Developmet Goals	Selected for funding
	German.French Doctoral College.Sustainability Sciences	Selected for funding
SUCCESS	Solutions For Unified Communication Competences For Engineering Students And Specialists	Selected for funding
EUT EXTRAS	Experimentation To Transform Research Activities And Steering	Selected for funding
TDP4HE	Transformative Digital Pedagogies For Higher Education.	Selected for funding

STYX EUT+	Status And Structure Experience;	Selected for funding
JEDI	Joint European Degree Label In Engineering - Toward A European Framework For Engineering Education;	Selected for funding
InEq-SL	Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education to stimulate lifelong Sustainable Learning opportunities for HEIs in India	Selected for funding
ICM	Mobility Of Higher Education Students And Staff Supported By External Policy Funds	Submitted
COST	Cost Network Application On Gender Equality	Not selected for funding
EQUATION	Project Proposal On Gender Equality	Not selected for funding
AIIPIMC	Erasmus+ Sports Section About E-Sports	Not selected for funding
TELECI+	Application For Enhancing E-Learning	Not selected for funding
CRILEX	Application For Intensive Learning Experience	Not selected for funding
PAMH	COVID19 Response Application	Not selected for funding
Nano-Opt	Nano-Optics And Nanophotonics For The Future; Activity: DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES	Not selected for funding
GREENBEAT		Not selected for funding
EUTVerse	Reinforcing A Pan-European Immersive Edtech Ecosystem For Innovation And Digital Breakthroughs	Not selected for funding
EUTWISE	Opening The Technical University Network European University Of Technology For Cooperation With Social Enterprises	Not selected for funding
EpiCo	Epicoepistemology And Ecology In Technological Education	Not selected for funding

BEST	Better Integration Of Students Using Collaborative Form Of Performing Arts	Not selected for funding
EpiSTEAM	Epistemology In Art, Science, Technology	Not selected for funding
EIHEI	Evolving Internationalization In Heis In Egypt	Not selected for funding
S-Low Journalism		Submitted
ERASMUS-LS	European University of Technology (EU+) : Accelerate phase	Submitted
SOUL		Submitted
Axl-EU+	Accelerate Eut+ (Horizon)	Submitted
	Hydropower Technology For Irrigation Canals And Tidal Reservoirs	Submitted

Approved Joint Projects in 2022

In year 2022, four EUt+ joint projects were approved:

- + Transformative Digital Pedagogies For Higher Education, TDP4HE;
- + Status And Structure Experience, STYX EUt+;
- + Joint European Degree Label In Engineering - Toward A European Framework For Engineering Education, JEDI;
- + Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education to stimulate lifelong Sustainable Learning opportunities for HEIs in India, InEq-SL;
- + Mobility Of Higher Education Students And Staff Supported By External Policy Funds, ICM.

More on approved projects:

Project acronym: TDP4HE

Name of project: Transformative Digital Pedagogies for Higher Education

Description: The main objective of the TDP4HE project is to empower academic teaching staff with transformative digital pedagogies competences. For this purpose, the project aims to create a scientific basis for the identification and assessment of pedagogical competences of educators; guide and advise educators on the selection, critical use, and design of transformative digital pedagogies; and develop a community for the exchange and spread of innovative teaching practices in HE across Europe.

EUT+ partners involved:

- + Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena;
- + Cyprus University of Technology;
- + Riga Technical University;
- + Technological University Dublin.

For more information about the project go to [Transformative Digital Pedagogies for Higher Education | Riga Technical University \(rtu.lv\)](#) .

Proposal acronym: STYX

Name of project: EUT+ Status and structure experience

The European University of Technology (EUT+) has explicitly stated its ambition to fully merge the eight member universities. This bid is addressing the global question of the implementation of the legal tool, services and processes to advance this trajectory toward this global merging. We show that a single overarching structure would be very tricky to implement successfully, as already experimented by various university systems in Europe and abroad. With respect to its institutional trajectory, in this project, EUT+ will focus its efforts on two levels: - The definition of common governance bodies and processes, with an increasing integrative trajectory; - The setting up of an EGTC providing, initially, common services for the partners for what is most valuable to us: our data (data, data access and data management). We are proceeding in a similar way to the European Union, which was built through the pooling of critical resources and balanced governance bodies with progressive integration. The

first level is to ensure that the various processes (decision, resource allocation, implementation) necessary to implement our project throughout our institutions become truly embedded within the day-to-day routine of the members. It is essential that EUT+ operations come to be not “one more thing to do”, but on the contrary are so fully and intimately integrated to our core mission that they make one with them. This cannot happen without a thorough work on processes. The second level is to experiment with legal structures to pool part of the services which we decided to share at the level of EUT+. As an answer to these two needs, our project has therefore two key objectives: (1) defining documentation and decision processes and flux within EUT+ bodies and with the partners, and proposing a trajectory to enable their evolution over time; (2) setting up an EGTC focused on services. All results and analyses will be shared with policy-makers as well as other universities.

EUT+ partners involved:

- + Technological University Dublin;
- + Rigas Tehniska Universitate;
- + Technical University Of Sofia.

Proposal acronym: JEDI

Name of project: Joint European Degree label in engineering - Toward a European framework for engineering education

With JEDI, 17 HEI's from 12 countries and 3 European Universities have joined to investigate and propose common criteria for a European Label that would be delivered with Joint programs in technology and engineering. We share a strong conviction that the issuance of this label would be a first step toward the creation of a unified European Engineering Space. It would be beneficial for the HEI in terms of attractivity, reputation of HEIs, for student employability and ability to tackle global challenges, for employers, to have a better view of the student's competences and to develop their business at EU scale and beyond. The general objective of JEDI is to develop a prototype of label based on the set of co-created features

annexed to the ERASMUS-EDU-2022- POL-EXP call. Students, stakeholders, agencies and HEI will be contributors. The label prototype will propose an academic framework (criteria of issuance) and institutional framework and will be applied to 3 different joint degrees to illustrate its applicability to real situations of programs that have been implemented by HEIs consortia. Using engineering measurements, JEDI aims to raise the “technological readiness level” of the academic part of the label from a level 2 (“proof of concept” as supported by EU and by this call) to a level 8 (over 9): label fully defined and qualified. Among others, key success conditions for our prototype will be to demonstrate the capacity to be generalized to other institutions, its capability to ease the development of joint degrees. The added value of this project is built on the shared ambition of this consortium of redefining the education of engineering and technology degrees in Europe with the will to contribute to the development of an integrated European Engineering Education Space.

EUT+ partners involved:

- + Technical University Of Sofia;
- + Riga Technical University;
- + Technological University Dublin.

Proposal acronym: InEq-SL

Name of project: Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education to stimulate lifelong Sustainable Learning opportunities for HEIs in India

InEq-SL aims to increase the accessibility of higher education in India for the students with fewer opportunities. The project provides a framework for equity and inclusion in HEIs in India. It would also cater to the challenges for teaching and teachers, and to recommend policy measures for establishing higher education systems that are more equitable and more inclusive. By relying on digital technology and e-learning for vulnerable students, the project will develop a remote and inclusive learning pathway. The project target objectives are: 1. Identify the best remote and inclusive learning pathways and opportunities for Higher

education, 2. Develop an inclusive Methodology and Curriculum Framework for accomplishing the education SDGs to provide sustainable learning. 3. Digital technology for inclusiveness educational learning. 4. Establishing Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) at each target HEI's. 5. Dissemination, Exploitation & Sustainability plan of the project. 6. Quality Plan. 7. Management and Communication. The expected result of the Preparation of Climate and Social Responsive Education System & Curriculum - Education for the SDGs: Pedagogical Methodology and Curriculum Framework. Project is to develop inclusive and equitable education system for HEI's students in India. In the process, the collaborators will have learnings to adopt equitable and inclusive education system for students from diverse backgrounds. The InEq-SL project outcomes will be broadcasted through various educational programmes to broaden the sustainability of the project.

EUT+ partners involved:

- + Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena;
- + Riga Technical University.

Although some of the submitted project have already been selected for funding or hasn't there are still some that are still pending which can lead to in increased success rate for 2022 statistics.

Proposal acronym: ICM

Name of project: Mobility Of Higher Education Students And Staff Supported By External Policy.

Pending Applications Year 2022

There are still five EUT+ joint projects that are pending:

- + EUT+ S-Low Journalism, S-Low Journalism;
- + ERASMUS-LS European University of Technology (EUT+): Accelerate phase;
- + SOUL;

- + Accelerate Eut+, Axl-EU+;
- + Hydropower Technology For Irrigation Canals And Tidal Reservoirs;

Proposal acronym: S-Low Journalism

Name of project: EUt+ S-Low Journalism

The main objective of S-Low Journalism is to achieve societal impact by co-constructing a new efficient model of science communication, that empowers citizens and contributes to social democracy. “Slow journalism” is a professional term that reflects the decline in newsroom funding of in-depth, investigative or research-driven journalism in favour of the short-term news cycle and clickbait content on digital platforms. This project allows journalists the time, space and resources to engage in deeper critical exploration of scientific outputs, and to meaningfully engage with researchers so as to allow the emergence of a common language around research and innovation. In line with the EUt+ initiative’s and EUT EXTRAS’s (Erasmus+ European Universities call and its H2020 complementary project about transforming research steering) proposal for societal impact and achieving “collective excellence”, SLow Journalism focuses on the research domain of one of its European Research Institutes, the Sustainability Lab as an interesting case study. The role of science communication is to act as a bridge that facilitates exchange and understanding between scientists and the public. Sustainability requires addressing environmental, economic, and social issues simultaneously (Pryshlakivsky & Searcy, 2013). Strong sustainability can be defined as long-term sustainability (Kuhlman & Farrington, 2010). The expected outcomes of S-Low Journalism is knowledge gained about the experimentation of science communication about latest research and innovations, structured around the EUt+ European Research Institutes, and in particular the Sustainability Lab. In the current context of crises (ecological, post-Covid, energy, geopolitical, economic and social), necessary transitions and skills mismatch preventing Europe’s competitiveness, science journalism has the potential to play an important role to contribute to citizens’ social participation, and thus to social democracy.

EUT+ partners involved:

- + Universite De Technologie De Troyes;
- + Riga Technical University;
- + Technological University Dublin;
- + Technical University Of Sofia;
- + Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena;
- + Universitatea Tehnica Cluj-Napoca.

Proposal acronym: ERASMUS-LS

Name of project: European University of Technology (EUT+) : Accelerate phase

The European University of Technology (EUT+) is unique amongst European Universities in having formally announced a long-term intention to merge the eight (soon nine) members universities and become a single entity with a single governance and a joined budget. To fulfil this ambition, we have placed a clear priority on integrating our actions, processes and strategy and reinforcing our governance. We have set-up a common brand, automatic ECTS recognition, 12 “clusters” that prefigure European curricula, and already one of the four European Research Institutes planned to this day. Thematic offices (green office, research office...) enable everyday operations, sharing of best practices and a deep Europeanisation of the member institutions. A progressively structured and supported governance develops the vision and organises its implementation: we build these truly European entities by convergence of existing national ones. Each member brings its strengths, and collective capacity building supports this gradual transformation. Monthly physical meetings, to which the Rectors systematically participate, and weekly virtual meetings ensure deep institutional convergence. With the fundamentals in place, this new phase aims to deepen, extend, and accelerate our institutional integration. It is structured around a streamlined implementation plan, with 11 Work Packages coordinated in 37 tasks. EUT+ curricula will translate into free and seamless student mobility in a multilingual space leading to joint European degrees, while

European research institutes will mean a common signature. A full-fledged European University of Technology will play a more relevant role in the global scene and in the promotion of the European Values, and each stakeholder, either internal or external, will live in or participate in a European environment first and foremost. We are not single universities with their own identities, but equal campuses of EUT+ working toward a common vision.

- + Universite De Technologie De Troyes;
- + Riga Technical University;
- + Technological University Dublin;
- + Technical University Of Sofia;
- + Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena;
- + Universitatea Tehnica Cluj-Napoca.

Proposal acronym: SOUL

- + Polytechnic University of Cartagena;
- + Technical University of Cluj-Napoca;
- + Technical University of Sofia

Proposal acronym: Axl-EUT+

Name of project: Accelerate Eut+

- + Cyprus University of Technology;
- + Riga Technical University;
- + Technological University Dublin;
- + Technical University of Sofia;
- + Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena;
- + Université de technologie de Troyes;
- + Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca.

Name of project: Hydropower Technology For Irrigation Canals And Tidal Reservoirs

- + Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences;

- + Polytechnic University of Cartagena;
- + Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca

Conclusion

Together with the first part of EUT+ initiative has returned 17 joint projects. This year of supporting projects for EUT+ initiative the success rate has been 56% which can be increased in the future. Statistics per institution in terms of proposal coordination :

- + Technical University of Cluj-Napoca - 5 projects;
- + Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena - 5 projects;
- + Technological University Dublin - 6 projects;
- + The Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences - 1 projects;
- + University of Technology of Troyes - 0 projects;
- + Cyprus University of Technology - 2 projects;
- + Technical University of Sofia- 6 projects;
- + Riga Technical University - 6 projects.

Although the success rate is positive and it could increase in the future the EUT+ partners see the limiting factors that will not allow EUT+ to grow and be fully sustainable.

Limitations and barriers

Year 2022 of the project shows that the initiative, has the same limiting factors that it did in the first part of the project. The initiative will not allow EUT+ to grow and be fully sustainable, namely there are two issues:

- + Limitation of the Erasmus+ programme in to regards of KA220 project applications, programme limits one consortium to apply to more than one National Agency with one project proposal. For rapidly growing alliance this is an alarming and limiting factor.

- + Decentralized activities that correspond to mobilities (KA131 and KA171), have bilateral architecture to them that doesn't allow EUT+ to fully harmonize and integrate mobility procedures.

Taking limitations and barriers into account EUT+ partners have created vision of the year 2023, with vision of member that should have support and assistance, and the main priorities.

Vision of the year 2023

For the last part of the initiative - 8.1. team members aims at developing and providing support and assistance in terms of additional projects in the following directions:

- + Assistance for match making of relevant experts (from faculties) for Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe project proposals. Each institution has nominated a person responsible for the implementation of this task.
- + Support for administration of existing projects and centralized reporting. Framework will be established on how joint EUT+ projects will be maintained and administered upon approval.
- + Emphasis and additional efforts will be directed towards supporting those work packages that has received less projects and needs more support.
- + Synergies will be encouraged among work packages to establish more opportunities for supporting projects to be developed.

Some of the priorities: joint KA171 application for the global outreach, supporting Capacity Building in Higher Education projects with the relevant regions (supporting Task 7.3). Convergence with WP4 in terms of supporting scientific projects.

Within those priorities EUT+ partners plan to prepare several joint project applications like:

- + Women in Tech EU project;
- + Antiracism project;
- + DeepTech 3 HEI project;
- + WIDERA project;

+ Episteam project.

With these and previously submitted Joint project EUT+ aims to ensure sustainability and the continuation of the initiative .