

PRESS RELEASE

EELISA has been recognised as ‘European University’

The European Commission published on July 9 the results of the second call for its flagship initiative within Erasmus+: European Universities consortia. The European Engineering Learning Innovation & Science Alliance (EELISA), which combines three technical universities, one comprehensive university with a management focus, three *grandes écoles* specialising in engineering, two full-spectrum universities and two comprehensive higher education institutions from seven European countries, representing more than 170,000 students, is among the 24 projects selected via a competitive process including over 500 universities.

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) as coordinator, Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem (Hungary), Universitatea Politehnica din București (Romania), İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi (Turkey), Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany) -, École des Ponts ParisTech (France), Chimie ParisTech PSL and Mines ParisTech PSL (both affiliated to Université Paris Sciences et Lettres, France), Scuola Sant’Anna (Italy) and Scuola Normale Superiore (Italy) joined their forces to create EELISA, together with the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE) as an associate partner. The consortium was launched on January 28-29, 2019 in a Rectors’ meeting in Madrid and extended on January 20, 2020 in Erlangen.

After a twenty-year relationship within the ATHENS network, the EELISA partners intend to show how they help to bring their students and staff to collaborate closer on a European Engineering Degree. They will also share their experience in education linked to industry and research, plus tackling societal challenges like Green, Smart and Resilient Cities and Industry 4.0. ENAE brings a unique experience in European cooperation in the sector.

As the European Commission appraisal highlights: “The proposal has a very significant level of ambition, as it aims to transform the European engineering education by offering a common European engineering educational model that would allow students to obtain a recognised European diploma developed at multiple sites. The proposed new model will go beyond a traditional double degree scheme. In order to strengthen and expand cooperation in education, the alliance will use different mechanisms, such as the creation of a joint campus, a joint catalogue of activities and the award of joint diplomas and credentials. The establishment of the EELISA communities will permit further incorporation of research and innovation in education.”

EELISA will encourage and support mobility for engineering students as well as academic and administrative staff. Initially focussing on the master level, the partners will then develop their cooperation at bachelor and PhD levels.

EELISA will empower its students’ citizenship participation and improve their employability, aligning the universities’ strategy with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and in doing so contribute to solve societal challenges. EELISA will be a consolidator for the progress of European Union values in general, and a major role model for higher education institutions in all sectors within the European Higher Education Area and beyond.

Diversity will be a key driver for EELISA. It will first support social inclusion by supporting the implementation of part-time study (apprenticeship) in engineering curricula all over Europe. Then, it will commit to gender balance as a prominent European goal, but also specifically in STEM careers. Engineering vocations have started to decrease in Europe before women had an equal opportunity to

access those careers when they had more social and wage compensation. That is a situation that this alliance is determined to change and to improve.

EELISA partners are eager to deepen their cooperation within the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area and acknowledge the trust of the European Commission for this important recognition and the 5 million € funding that is granted to selected candidates.



Ministerial reception to Rectors in EELISA launching meeting in Madrid



EELISA students representatives visioconference