Demand for highly skilled people is increasing; by 2025, half of all jobs will require high-level qualifications. Education across Europe is rapidly changing as well, with deep technological and structural changes affecting teaching and learning. Beyond their core tasks of teaching, research and innovation, universities are key actors in Europe, able to address big societal challenges, become true engines of development for cities and regions and promote civic engagement.

The transformation of our universities needs to be accelerated so young people are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow in a fast-changing society, and future generations are empowered to find solutions to big societal challenges that Europe and the world are facing. This transformation should lead to the Universities of the Future.

This requires a much deeper level of cooperation between universities. Today, a lot of potential remains untapped. With its European Universities initiative, the European Commission aims at fostering excellence, innovation and inclusion in higher education across Europe, accelerating the transformation of higher education institutions into the universities of the future with structural, systemic and sustainable impact.

European Universities are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation.

Key criterion
Minimum of 3 higher education institutions, from 3 EU Member States or other Erasmus programme countries.

Key cooperation principles
Alliances must create a European higher education inter-university ‘campus’, where:

- students, staff and researchers enjoy seamless mobility (physical or virtual) to study, train, teach, do research, work or share services at cooperating partner institutions
- transdisciplinary and transnational teams of students, academics and external stakeholders tackle big issues facing Europe (such as climate protection, democracy, health, big data, migration)
- students can design their own flexible curricula, leading to a European Degree
In November 2017, the 28 EU leaders debated the future of education at the Gothenburg Social Summit in Sweden. In the same month, the European Commission set out a vision for a European Education Area to be built by 2025 “in which learning, studying and doing research would not be hampered by borders”. The European Universities Initiative is a flagship initiative of the European Education Area. It will enable a new generation of Europeans to cooperate across languages, borders and disciplines, developing a strong European identity.

- **practical and/or work-based experience** is provided to foster an entrepreneurial mind-set and develop civic engagement
- the student body reflects the social, economic and cultural **diversity** of the population

### THE WAY FORWARD

- **November 2017**
  European Commission proposes European Education Area by 2025
- **December 2017**
  European Council conclusions on the future of education adopted, including goal of creating at least 20 European Universities by 2024
- **October 2018**
  European Commission launches 1st call to higher education institutions asking them to submit their proposals to start testing different models for European Universities
- **June 2019**
  Results of 1st call announced – pilot phase
- **November 2019**
  First European Universities start cooperating
- **November 2019**
  Launch of 2nd call
- **Beginning 2021**
  Full roll-out under the future Erasmus programme

### NOW JUST IMAGINE BEING A PART OF IT

In June 2019, the first 17 European Universities...
representing over 100 higher education institutions...
from a diverse spectrum of higher education institutions...
from all over Europe...
were funded through Erasmus+

*Find out more about each European University, new selection rounds & next steps...*