



Circle U.
European University Alliance

UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES IN EUROPE (AND BEYOND)

7 YEARS AFTER MACRON'S SPEECH, WHERE ARE WE?



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITÀ
DI PISA



universität
wien



UCLouvain



Université
Paris Cité



UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO



UNIVERSITY OF
BELGRADE



MESSAGE #1

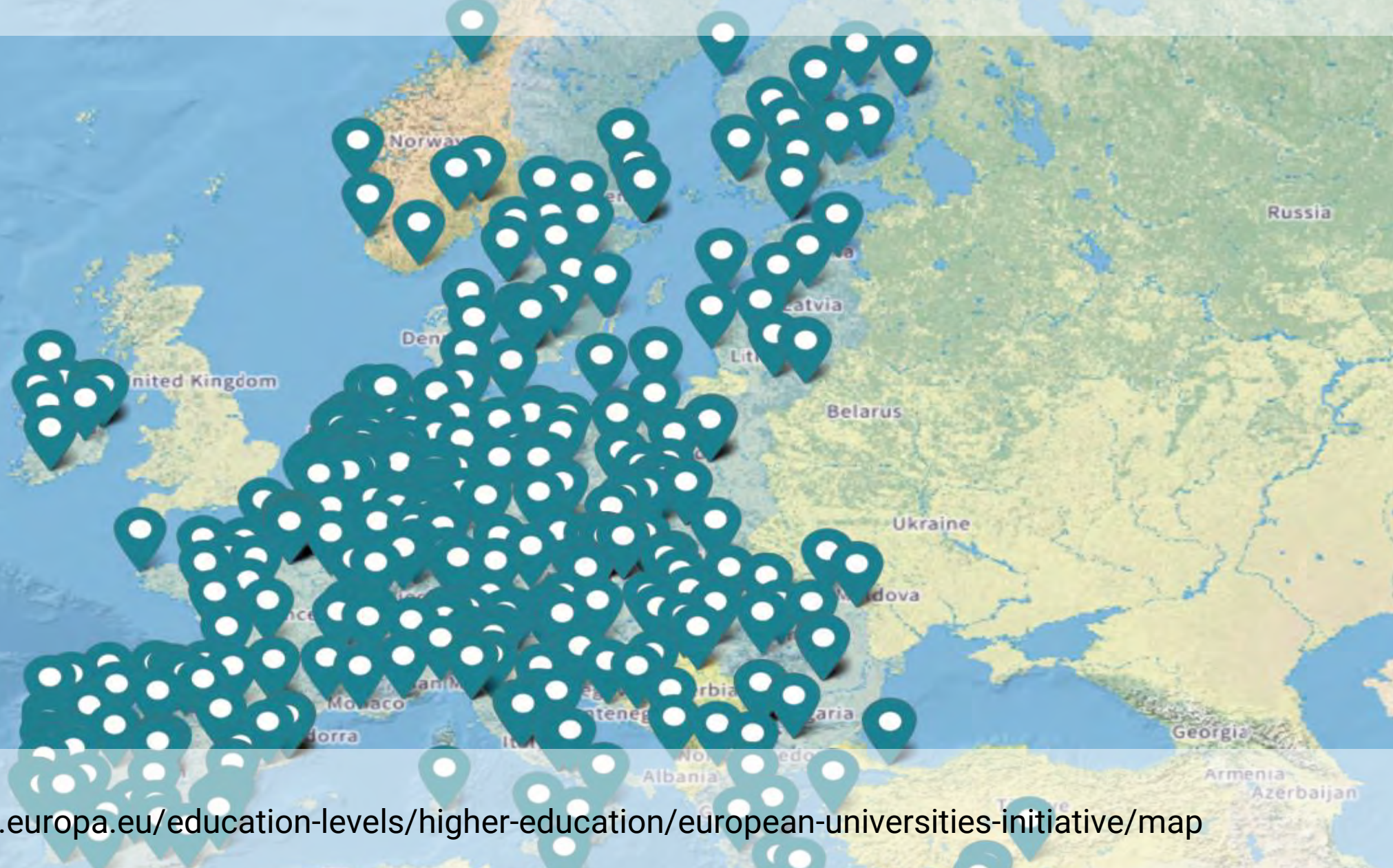
WE ARE EXCEEDING THE INITIAL INTENTION

FLASHBACK

*I propose the creation of European universities which would be a network of universities in several European countries (...) We must aim, by 2024, **to build at least twenty of them**. But we must, from the next academic year, structure the first ones, with real European semesters and real European diplomas.*

President Macron's speech, La Sorbonne (2017)

TOO MANY COOKS IN THE KITCHEN?



<https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative/map>

SOME FIGURES OF THE ALLIANCES TODAY

- 50 alliances today, **60 alliances tomorrow**
- 430 universities/HEIs today, **500 universities tomorrow**
- From **27 Member States** + Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania et Montenegro
- **+ EUR 400 mio** over 2021-2027



MESSAGE #2

**WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

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Universities list the hurdles blocking transnational collaboratio

Despite years of effort, universities find it hard to overcome the constraints of national regulations and launch joint transnational programmes, or recognise each other's degrees. A new attempt made to resolve these issues

27 Oct 2022

*Research Professional News

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European alliances make Britain great

The UK's highly internationalised university system – a major facto

University World News

THE GLOBAL WINDOW ON HIGHER EDUCATION


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University College Cork. Image: iStock

EUROPE

European Universities Initiative: Driving societal impact

Jean van Sinderen-Law 19 November 2022

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Much has been written about the European Universities Initiative (EUI), from the top-down ambitious goals for it, to the challenges at the coalface in making it work. But what is it like to introduce and lead the initiative within a university, a member of one of the 44 EUI

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European universities face joint degrees 'hell' before 'paradise'

EU governments told to reconcile contradictory national rules if cornerstone of popular programme is to be realised

March 17 2022 #News

EUROPE

University alliances come under the research microscope

Jan Petter Myklebust 30 November 2022

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European university alliances say fragmented education laws could undermine their future

A fourth call for funding that opened this week will further expand the EU's transnational university initiative. But universities say national education reforms and a long-term perspective are needed to make a real difference

06 Oct 2022

News

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS HIGH ON 2024 AGENDA

- Blueprint for the future **joint European degree**
- Towards a **European system for Quality Assurance and Recognition**
- Sustainable and **attractive academic careers**
- **“Investment pathway”** of the alliances (EU funding post-2027)
- **Monitoring framework** and the alliances’ impacts
- Reforming **research assessment**
- New **Erasmus+ and R&I Framework programmes**

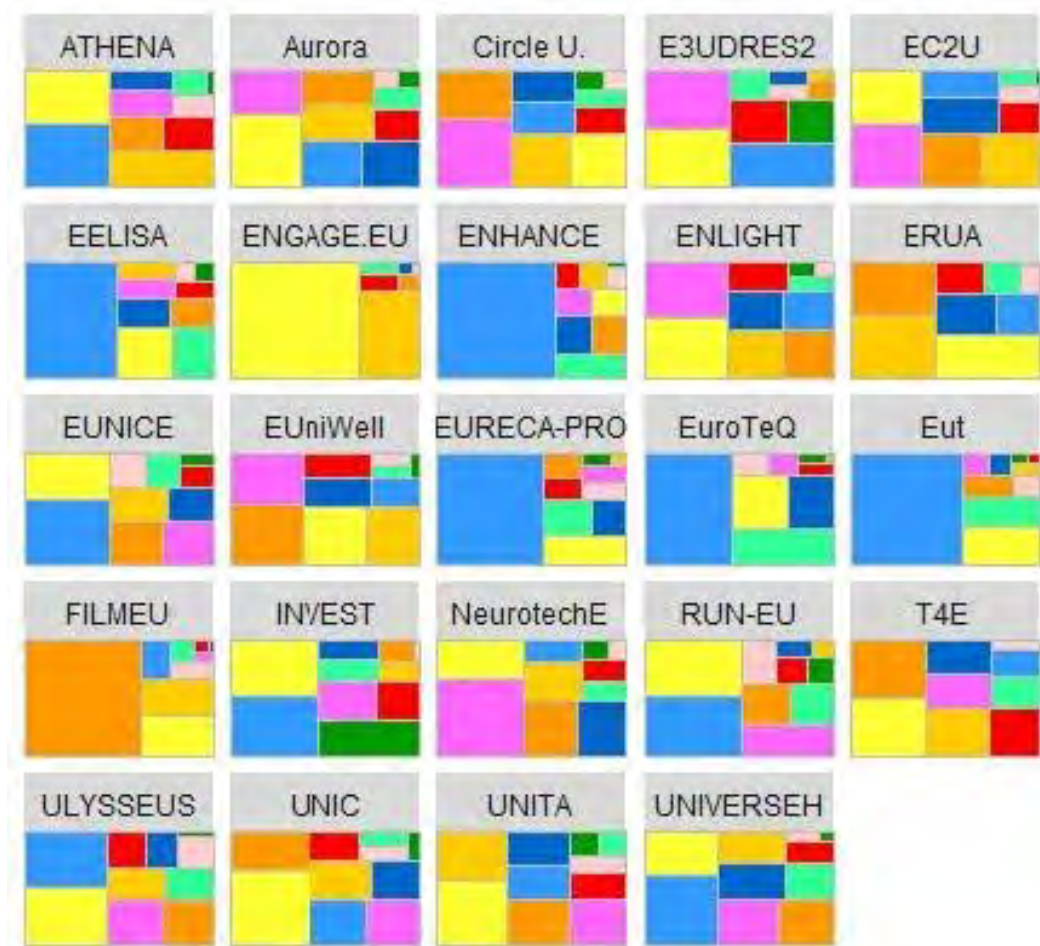


MESSAGE #3

ALL ALLIANCES ARE UNIQUE BUT...

NO, WE ARE NOT UNIQUE

- Are we **unique/ original**?
- No.
 - Most universities are **comprehensive and large universities**
 - Most alliances have identified **priority themes**
 - Most alliances are developing **similar educational offers**



Disciplinary focus: distribution of students by educational field (Call 2)
[European Universities Initiative: first lessons, main challenges and perspectives](#)

YES, WE ARE UNIQUE

- But yes.
 - We are integrating **three universities from non-EU countries**
 - We have “invested” in the **chair programme to foster bottom-up dynamic**
 - We have developed a **unique governance structure for all projects**
 - We have **a legal entity** to support long term and strategic development
 - We are developing **an ecosystem** that is not just linked to the project
 - We have appointed **specific positions in Circle U.** (dean, vice-dean, academic directors, academic chairs, etc.)
 - We have established **a seed-funding scheme**, outside the project funds
 - Since the launch of Circle U., **students** are being part of the decision-making process
 - We will continue to **focus on our three missions**, and not only on education



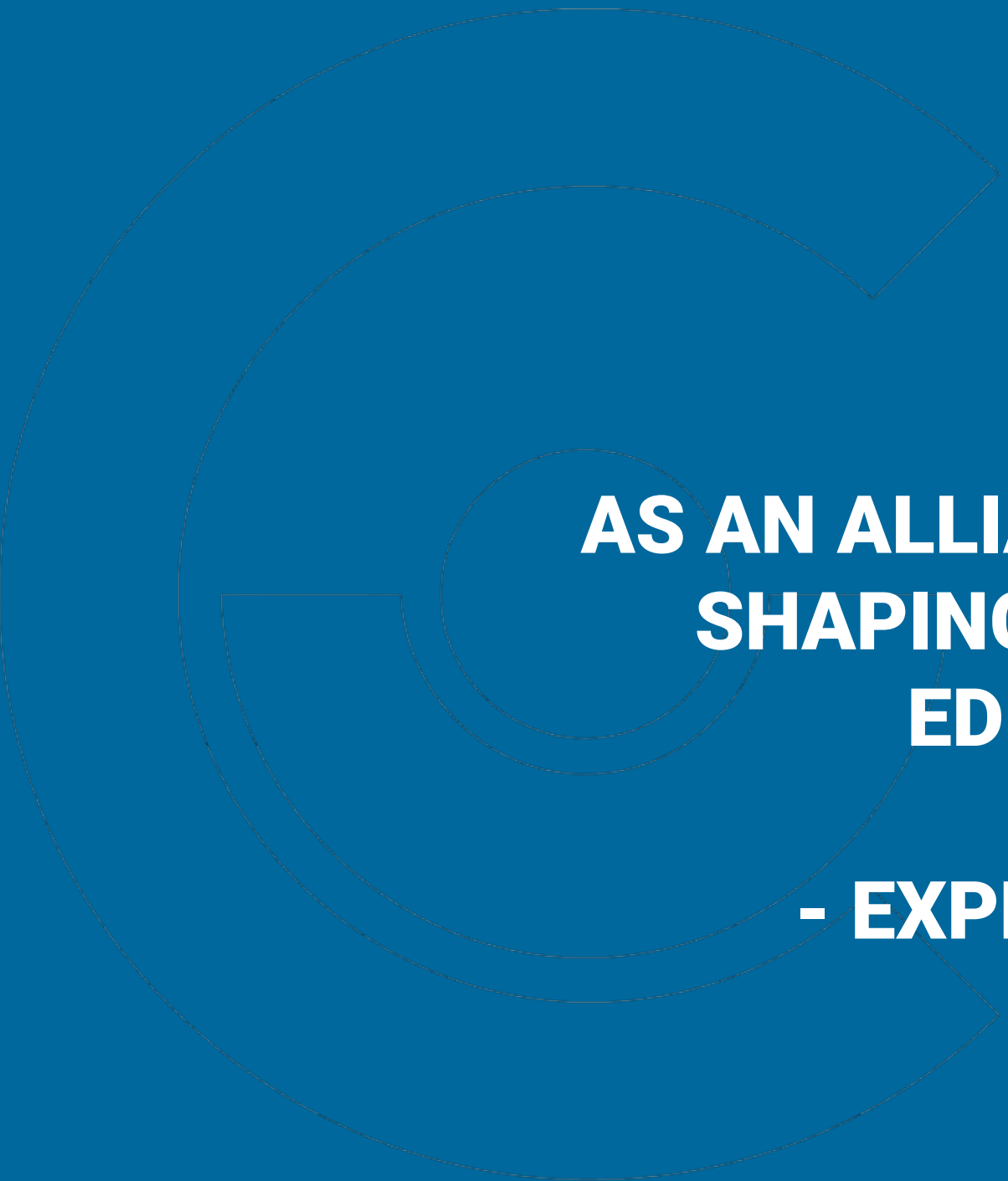
MESSAGE #4
WE ARE NOT COMPETING
BETWEEN ALLIANCES

COOPERATION IS CENTRAL BETWEEN ALLIANCES

- Since the launch of the first alliances, establishment of the “**Forum of European Universities**” – FOREU 1 / 2 / 3 / 4
- Circle U. is actively contributing to FOREU2 and its **various thematic subgroups**
 - To exchange practices, experiences, concerns
 - To voice alliances’ interests towards the European Commission
- Moving towards a **Community of practice – FOREU4All**
 - Application submitted in Feb 2024
 - Potentially, financial support of the European Commission (~1.5 Mio EUR)
 - Main objective is to scale up the previous cooperation mechanisms
 - Circle U. to take a leading role on the Work Package dedicated to policy dialogue

BUT THE ALLIANCES ARE A “MOVING” REALITY

- **Rapid growth** in the number of alliances
- Some alliances **will probably not “survive”** or evolve in a different setting
- Some universities **have moved** from one alliance to another, **or left** their alliance
- Many alliances **are engaging globally**, with great variety in the approach and formalisation



**AS AN ALLIANCE, WE ARE ACTUALLY
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
IN EUROPE AND BEYOND
- EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY**

