



# **Policy and funding context for higher education contribution to S3 and HEInnovate**

# The presentation will cover:

- Context: EU priorities and policies
- Overview on funding opportunities for HEI and guidance to support their strategic development
- Selected initiatives and examples

# Policy context

## Priorities of the new Commission

- **A European Green Deal:** HEI for “green” skills, entrepreneurship, need for their transition, but also being a partner for others supporting transition;
- **An Economy that works for people:** HEI supporting SMEs and providing a workforce with the entrepreneurial skills;
- **A Europe fit for the digital age:** Digital education, skills, labour market relevance.

**European Education Area and European Research Area communications**  
(30 September 2020):

### ***Reinforcing European higher education institutions***

*Higher education institutions in Europe are at the heart of both the European Education Area and the European Research Area and particularly well placed to connect them together. To ensure full synergies between these, the Commission is committed to support Member States and higher education institutions in creating a policy framework allowing for seamless and ambitious transnational cooperation between higher education institutions in Europe.*

# Reinforcing European HEI

## Objective:

- provide incentives for the more than 5.000 HEI across Europe to adapt to the post-Covid-19 conditions and train the future generations in co-creating knowledge across borders, disciplines and cultures for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable society.

## Focus:

- **Connectivity** among HEI, and with their surrounding ecosystems and society;
- **Inclusion** to ensure accessible HEI, open to a diverse student and researcher body, and offering more opportunities for lifelong learning;
- **Digital and green** readiness and resilience to support universities in their efforts to build, reinforce and strengthen digital and green capacity and tools.
- **Innovation in HEI**, linked to research, and in student-centred learning and teaching and more flexible and modular learning and career pathways.

## Milestone 2021:

- Co-creation of a Higher Education Transformation Agenda, based on a **broad consultation of stakeholders** and MS;
- Identify key priorities and the role of Member States and the Union to support these transformations (e.g. **policy, or legislative or investment actions**).

# Funding opportunities for HEI

- **Erasmus 2021-2027**

- Alliances for Innovation, replacing the former Knowledge Alliances (collaboration between HEI and businesses)
- Forward Looking Partnerships (identify, test, develop or assess innovative policy approaches that have the potential of becoming mainstreamed)
- European Universities (transnational alliances - universities of the future)

- **Horizon Europe**

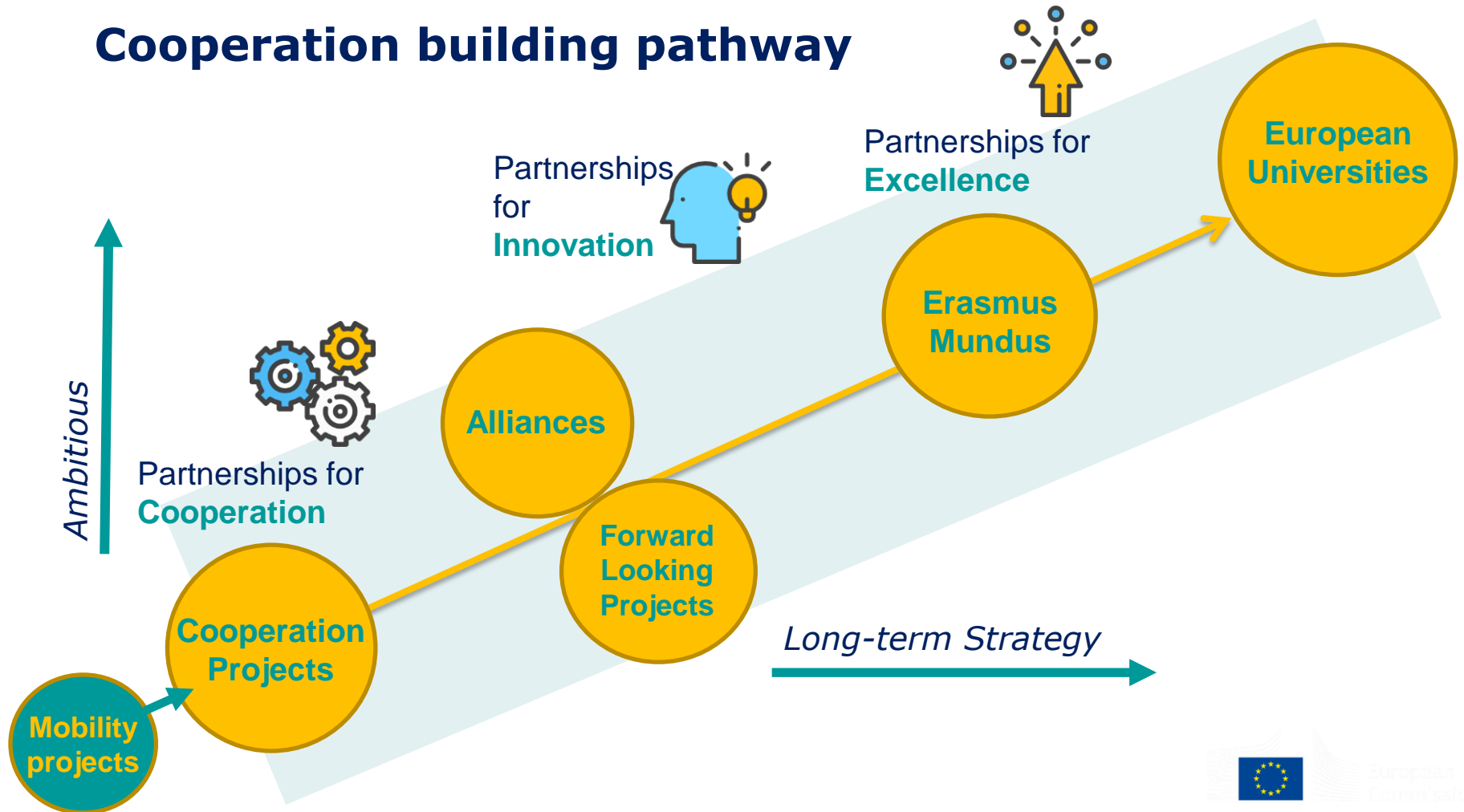
- Broad range of opportunities for R&I, mobility etc.
- EIT and its KICs, including pilot actions: innovation capacity of HEIs
- ERA part: R&I dimension of European Universities, widening part for HEI

- **ERDF 2021-27**

- Possibility to fund investment in human capital (supported by HESS)

# The Future Erasmus Programme

## Cooperation building pathway



# The European Universities

**41**  
**ALLIANCES**

**More than 280**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**Up to €5 million** from Erasmus+  
**Up to €2 million** from Horizon 2020  
per alliance

**27**  
**MEMBER STATES + Iceland, Norway,**  
**Serbia and Turkey + United Kingdom**

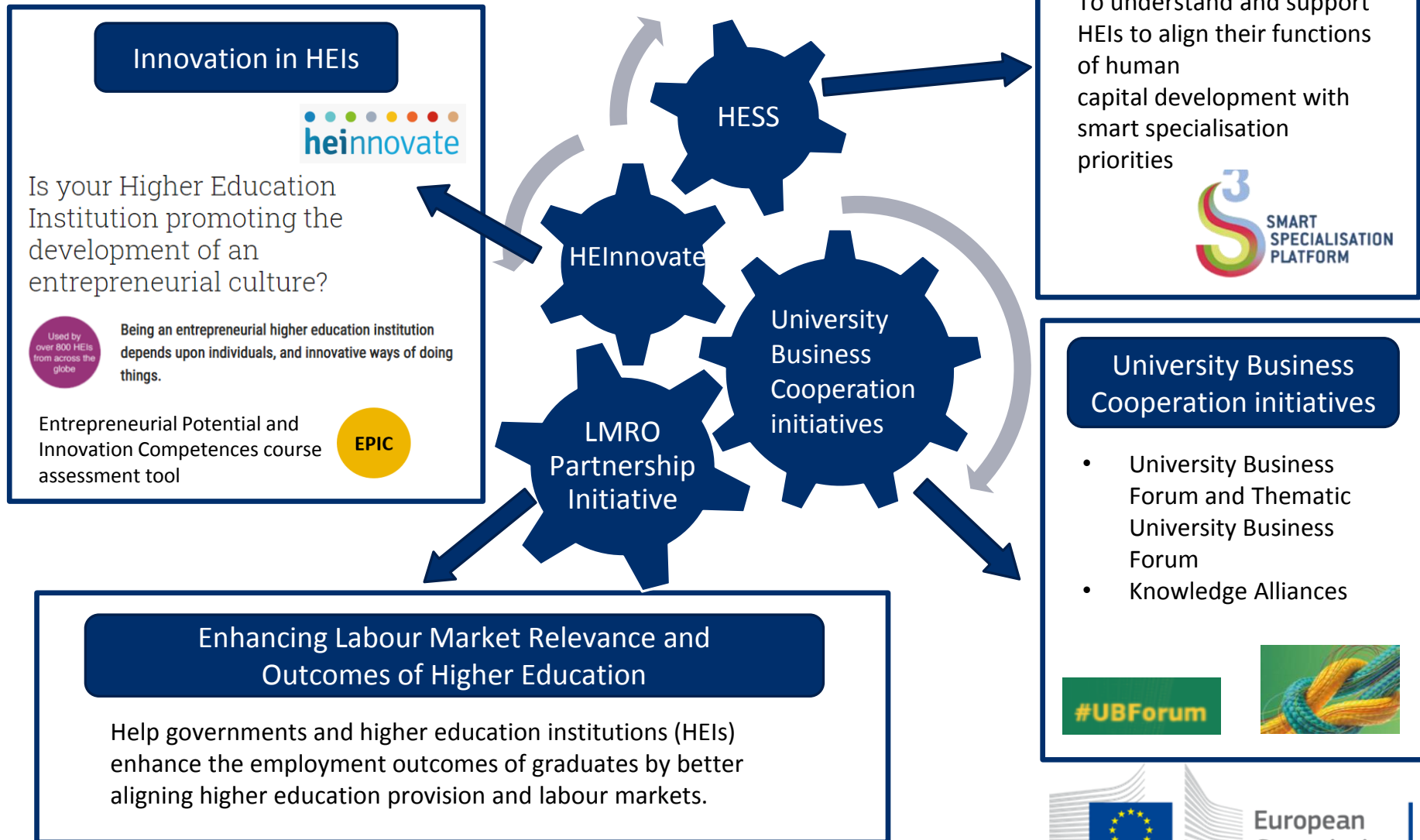


# European Universities Alliances and Regional Development

- Regional Development is one of the objectives of the European Universities.
- All **41 Alliances rooted in Smart Specialisation Strategies** or **Macro-regional strategies** and will rethink and valorise the role of higher education institutions in regional ecosystems.
- The alliances will reinforce and anchor universities in their regions: They are pioneering different models of **knowledge ecosystems** with a multitude of committed associated partners such as **local and regional authorities - municipalities, cities, town halls and regional offices - as well as the private sector, including social and economic enterprises.**



# Policy framework and guidance to support strategic development of HEIs



# LMRO Partnership Initiative

## Project objectives and activities



### Project objectives:

**System level:**  
support policy development

**Institutional level:**  
support development of  
effective practices

### Three activities:

A. Examination of labour market  
outcomes of graduates and  
policy-relevant causes

B. Peer-learning activities  
within and across countries

C. Self-reflection questionnaire  
for HEIs to enhance  
labour market relevance

Sep 19 -- Phase 1

Phase 2: until Feb 2022

Enhancing Labour Market Relevance and Outcomes of Higher Education

# University Business Cooperation initiatives

- **European University Business Forum. Every 2 years in Brussels.** The last 2 Fora (2019 and 2017) discussion were held also on the importance of **UB Cooperation for regional development.** The next UBForum will probably take place at the beginning of 2022. Thematic Fora are organised every year in collaboration with Member States.
- **Erasmus Plus Knowledge Alliance**



# Erasmus + Knowledge Alliances ➡

## Alliances for Innovation

- The Knowledge Alliances are multi-country and innovative result-driven projects between **higher education** and **business**
- open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectoral cooperation
- 160 projects selected until now.
- **Topics trends:** Entrepreneurship, ICT (robotics , AI...), digital transformation, new skills and competences, co-working & learning, new teaching methods, Circular/bio/green economy, "ecosystem", eco-innovation, Sustainable energy, environment, Health and medical sectors, agriculture, food labs, **regional development**



**eRDI**

Empowering Regional  
Development and Innovations

**ka-  
au-**

Knowledge  
Alliance  
for Advanced  
Urbanism

### Maximum EU contribution

2 years project ⇒ **700 000 €**

3 years project ⇒ **1 000 000 €**

Total budget available 2020: **30 MEUR**

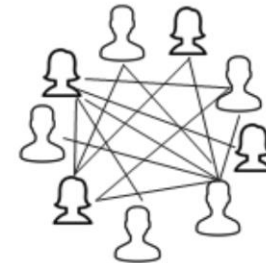


European  
Commission

# The HEInnovate framework



[www.heinnovate.eu](http://www.heinnovate.eu)



**Online self-reflection tool.**

- 1300 HEIs use the tool;
- more than 20.000 surveys completed

**Policy learning network**















**9 Country Reports completed,  
4 Country Reports ongoing  
(Greece, Sweden, Lithuania,  
Slovenia)**

# The HEInnovate dimensions

Select your preferred language

English

Expand the dimensions below to read more

-  Leadership and Governance 
-  Organisational Capacity: Funding, People and Incentives 
-  Entrepreneurial Teaching and Learning 
-  Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs 
-  Digital Transformation and Capability 
-  Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration 
-  The Internationalised Institution 
-  Measuring Impact 

DOWNLOAD CONCEPT NOTE



Select one of the dimensions below to start a self-assessment



NO  
RANKING

# HEInnovate workshop at Marche Region (IT) headquarter (2019)

**Participants:** HEInnovate facilitators, Marche Regional authority, all the 4 HEIs of the Region, relevant stakeholders (from business sector)

**Objective of the workshop:** using HEInnovate to foster a structured discussion to identify strengths and common areas for the development of the new Smart Specialisation Strategy.

The discussion focused in particular on **3 HEInnovate dimensions:**

- Entrepreneurial Teaching and learning

- Preparing and supporting entrepreneurs

- Internationalised institutions

**Main outcomes:** The aim of the workshop was to develop action plans around the three dimensions to lay the groundwork for the upcoming regional strategy

# Erasmus + Forward Looking Projects (linked to heinnovate)



- "RE-ACT Self-reflection Tools for Smart Universities Acting Regionally" coordinated by the **University of Porto**



- "UASiMAP - Mapping Regional Engagement Activities of European Universities of Applied Sciences" coordinate by **EURASHE**



- "Towards HEInnovate 2.0: From assessment to action" coordinated by the **University of Aveiro**



- "BeyondScale: Developing the Organisational Capacity of Higher Education Institutions using the HEInnovate platform to facilitate peer learning and a pan-European community of practice" coordinated by **WPZ Research GmbH**



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