



EUTOPIA European university alliance awarded €5m by Erasmus+

- EUTOPIA alliance of six European universities is successful in bid for €5m Erasmus+ grant to build a European University of the future.
- The grant will act as a springboard for EUTOPIA to achieve its mission of working as a network of European campuses addressing global and local challenges – through collaborative research, increased mobility of students and staff, and with shared innovations which serve the wider public in regional communities
- Since launch in February 2019, EUTOPIA partners have developed a strong foundation of academic and student collaboration opportunities including co-tutelle PhD scholarships, new joint Master's courses, summer schools and academic workshops across the partner institutions
- EUTOPIA unites over 165,000 students, 30,000 members of staff, and research centres in 760 areas of knowledge.

EUTOPIA, an established alliance of six European universities that exists to create a connected and inclusive community addressing global and local challenges, has been successful in its bid for a €5m grant from the Erasmus+ 'European Universities' programme.

This recognition confirms EUTOPIA as a chosen alliance of institutions working to build a European University of the future, creating a new model for higher education in Europe.

EUTOPIA is comprised of Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the University of Gothenburg, l'Université Paris Seine, the Pompeu Fabra University – Barcelona, the University of Warwick, and is led by the University of Ljubljana.

The award will boost EUTOPIA's mission of working as a network of European campuses, through collaborative research, increased mobility of students, academics and staff, and shared innovations that serve the wider public in regional communities.

Co-created in partnership with academics, students and non-academic partners, EUTOPIA will test innovative methods of collaboration, going beyond existing models to progressively increase the quality, international competitiveness and attractiveness of European higher education.

Since the alliance's official launch at the [Solvay Library in Brussels, in February 2019](#), staff and students from the EUTOPIA partners have built a strong foundation of collaborative activities, which include:

- The establishment of **co-tutelle PhD Scholarships**, which will enable up to eight PhD candidates to be co-supervised by academics at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, l'Université Paris Seine and University of Warwick – benefitting from teaching and academic supervision across two countries. This is been made possible thanks to a £500,000 joint investment from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, l'Université Paris Seine and University of Warwick, the founding members of EUTOPIA. The scholarships will support PhD projects in research areas including

Complexity Science, Reproductive Medicine and Arts, Humanities and Cultural Heritage. The first cohort will begin in October 2019.

- The creation of a **joint Master's degree** between Warwick's Department of Politics and International studies and Vrije Universiteit Brussel's Institute for European Studies in **'International Studies and Integration'**, which will launch in 2019. Prior to this, the Department of Political and Social Sciences at Pompeu Fabra – Barcelona and the Department of Politics and International Studies at University of Warwick have offered a double degree since 2014. Other collaborative courses are also under discussion.
- Students from the EUTOPIA partners will spend up to four weeks this summer at the **Barcelona International Summer School** (Pompeu Fabra University – Barcelona), where they will take courses in Spanish and English.
- Students from Vrije Universiteit Brussel and from Pompeu Fabra University – Barcelona will be participating in the Warwick-run International Conference of Undergraduate Research in September 2019.
- A number of academic mobility schemes, including the **Fernandes Fellowships programme** (University of Warwick), and the EUTOPIA International Fellowships programme (l'Université Paris Seine) provide the opportunity for EUTOPIA academics to undertake research visits at partner universities. The EUTOPIA partner institutions are also developing exchange programmes for students and professional administrative staff.
- **Numerous academic workshops** continue to take place across the EUTOPIA partner institutions, including one recently hosted by University of Ljubljana in the area of Computer and Data Science. Further collaborations continue in the areas of Complexity Science, Theoretical Physics, Political and Social Sciences, and Arts and Cultural Heritage

EUTOPIA unites over 165,000 students and 30,000 members of staff over six countries, with 90,000 international alumni associated with its member universities. Together, the EUTOPIA universities have research centres in 760 areas of knowledge.

Caroline Pauwels, Rector of Vrije Universiteit Brussel, said:

"I'm proud that the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with five other ambitious European universities in the EUTOPIA alliance, has been chosen by the European Commission as one of the pilot projects for developing a 'European university'.

"Our shared aim is to create a common European learning and knowledge community that will transform our universities into living labs for education, research and innovation.

"Through open science and open education, with EUTOPIA we are creating a shared 'multiversity' with a strong multilingual, multidisciplinary and multicultural research and education agenda."

Eva Wiberg, Vice Chancellor at the University of Gothenburg commented:

“This is a fantastic message. And it’s an honour to be selected as one of the first European networks to get the opportunity to make a strategic effort in Europe. This means that we’ll have great opportunities to increase our internationalisation and facilitate our idea that students, scholars and other employees should be able to move freely between the alliance’s institutions.”

Igor Papič, Rector of the University of Ljubljana, said:

“I am extremely pleased that our application has been favourably evaluated. This is a milestone in our endeavours and an important incentive to continue with our joint efforts to create the EUTOPIA alliance in the coming years. I would like to thank our partners for their excellent work and look forward to our collaboration in the future.”

François Germinet, Président Université de Cergy-Pontoise and Administrateur provisoire Université Paris Seine, commented :

"Université Paris Seine is very proud that our collective project EUTOPIA has obtained the opportunity to carry even further the impulse that we launched in gathering our academic communities.

“Working together this past year to build common grounds for a strong European universities' alliance has showed us how rewarding it is for our students, teachers and researchers to reach for broader programs that enhance the flow of ideas and scientific approaches across boundaries. It is an honor that our strengths and will to go further have been recognized.

“It is a thrill to have the means to make it a very concrete reality and an every day perspective for our communities and territories.”

Professor Jaume Casals, Rector of the Pompeu Fabra University – Barcelona, said:

“At last a great opportunity to eradicate internal and external, mental and material, local and national, bureaucratic and academic university barriers in Europe.

“UPF intends to make the most of it and try to fly freely, which is precisely what, by nature, a university should be doing.”

Professor Stuart Croft, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Warwick, commented:

“We in the University of Warwick and EUTOPIA community are delighted to have been successful in the Erasmus+ ‘European Universities’ programme.

“Our alliance of six European universities has already taken bold steps to create a new form of inclusive, innovative, international higher education - and this recognition from the European Union will help us to advance our mission.

“Warwick has been an international university since its foundation, and, together with our EUTOPIA partners, we continue to strengthen links across the continent, provide global opportunities for staff and students, and to transform our local region through collaborative research.”