

CALL FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING INITIATIVES

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Introduction

ERUA brings together 8 European universities: European University of Viadrina (Germany), New Bulgarian University (Bulgaria), Paris 8 University (France), SWPS University (Poland), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), University of Macerata (Italy), University of Mykolas Romeris (Lithuania) and University of the Aegean (Greece). Our consortium is co-funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ EUI call for projects.

Our mission is to address the actual world challenges by bringing together students and academics from different parts of Europe and from all socio-economic backgrounds to contribute to the transformation into a more just, open and inclusive society.

To operate such changes, ERUA promotes the development and the delivery of innovative academic initiatives such as travelling seminars, intensive modules and summer/winter schools, etc. This call for projects of teaching activities has the ambition to be one of our most innovative forms of learning.

For more information about ERUA, please visit: <https://erua-eui.eu/>

Recognition of ERUA activities for students

Upon completion of the ERUA initiative, a certificate of participation will be issued. This certificate includes a short description of the course, the form of participation and, if applicable, the result obtained and the number of ECTS. Additionally, it may also include the learning outcomes, the acquired skills and the EQF Level. The certificates are developed in accordance with the European Commission's recommendations on microcredentials.

Given that the universities within the Alliance adhere to their respective national frameworks, they follow different practices and conditions regarding the recognition of

ERUA activities at the national level. Therefore, we strongly recommend reaching out to your home university for further guidance.

1. Select a Topic

It is important to choose a topic that not only appeals to students from your university and the partner universities but also aligns with the values and objectives of ERUA. The topic should be partially related to one of the following thematic areas:

- Migration, exile and refugees
- Environmental transition
- Democracy & human rights, inclusion & gender equality
- Arts and edges
- Interculturality and multilingualism

Please, note that it is essential to provide a comprehensive description of the knowledge, skills, and competences that students will bring to your initiative, as well as those that you aim to develop through their participation. This thorough detailing aligns with the ERUA philosophy of fostering a rich educational experience and ensuring meaningful engagement.

2. Find a Project Partner

One of the first steps in developing an ERUA project is to identify one or more partners. First of all, you can explore the websites of the ERUA universities to see the courses and disciplines they offer. Here are the links to the university websites:

- [European University of Viadrina](#)
- [New Bulgarian University](#)
- [Paris 8 University](#)
- [SWPS University](#)

- [University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria \(ULPGC\)](#)
- [University of Macerata](#)
- [University of Mykolas Romeris](#)
- [University of the Aegean](#)

You may also reach out to the ERUA team at your home university, who can assist you in your search. Additionally, attending and participating in various ERUA activities can provide opportunities to connect with potential partners.

Please, note that the initiative should be posted on the ERUA website at least 6 weeks before the planned event. If the proposal is submitted less than 8 weeks before the start, the Work Package 2 coordinator may not accept it, or you may be asked to postpone the initiative to a later date. Therefore, please submit your project to the Work Package 2 Coordinator within this timeframe.

3. Select the Type of Initiative

Choose the type of activity you plan to develop:

❖ [Travelling seminar](#)

Travelling seminar is a training programme based on the mobility of one teacher and their students to another ERUA university for a joint project embedded in the standard or elective offer.

In addition, this format allows student involvement in co-designing innovative pedagogical approaches and experiencing civic engagement.

Objectives & priorities

The ERUA “Travelling Seminars” can be held throughout the year. Each university will select several projects annually, with each project comprising a group of students and teaching staff. Our goal is to provide as many students as possible with the opportunity to participate in this initiative each year.

The idea behind travelling seminars is to strengthen connections between the universities within the alliance and to promote projects that involve various forms of collaboration (such as co-teaching, campus visits, field studies, etc.) and to develop the project-based mobilities.

Eligibility criteria

This call is open to academics from our 8 universities who wish to design one project-based course in accordance with their ambitions, ideas and the flagship pedagogical and research areas of member universities.

The travelling seminars are short-term mobilities hosted by one of the partner universities. In other cases, they should include at least a co-teaching arrangement or any other configuration that brings together students and/or teaching staff from at least two member universities.

Travelling seminars can cover any topic relevant to ERUA's objectives, enhancing the internationalisation profile of yourself, your students, your home university, and the host university.

Framework

Eligible applicants	All teaching staff from ERUA's partner universities
Content	Open
Disciplines opened	All study fields
Duration	From 3 days to 2 weeks (+2 travel days) The course can include preparatory work and assignments.
Format	On-site or blended
Languages	Preferably English but all languages of the alliance are accepted
Period in the year	Travelling seminars can take place throughout the year
Education level	Open to Bachelor, Master and PhD students
Faculty at home university	Among the 8 universities of the Alliance
Type of mobility	One-way, Mutual, Blended

Selection criteria

Projects will be approved by both the sending and receiving universities based on their perceived innovation and interest.. The Work Package 2 leaders and the ERUA quality assurance manager should be informed about the initiative and may provide recommendations for enhancing the travelling seminars. Projects that include co-teaching sessions or university visits are especially encouraged.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to ERUA's objectives and mission
- Innovative aspects of the project
- Quality of the project structure and organisation
- Expected impact on participants
- Expected learning outcomes

Budget

ERUA funding covers the mobility costs of participating students, including travel and accommodation according to each university's internal rules. Some ERUA Alliance Universities can fund teaching staff's mobility through the ERUA budget, while other Universities fund the above mentioned mobility through Erasmus+ Office.

Please, contact your university's representative (listed below) for more information.

Procedure for Project Submission

Please contact your university's representative for details on the internal submission procedure and required documents:

- **European University of Viadrina:** Ms Anna Zimmermann
(azimmermann@europa-uni.de)
- **New Bulgarian University:** Ms Slavena Nikolova (snikolova@nbu.bg)

- **Paris 8 University:** Ms Chloe Elusue and Mr Yann Lafferrerie
(erua.eui@univ-paris8.fr)
- **SWPS University:** Ms Agnieszka Sobieraj (asobieraj@swps.edu.pl)
- **University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria:** Mr Eduardo Gregorio Quevedo
Gutiérrez (d.iefp@ulpgc.es)
- **University of Mykolas Romeris:** Mr Domantas Markevicius
(d.markevicius@mruni.eu) and Ms Audra Dargytė Burokienė (adb@mruni.eu)
- **University of Macerata:** Ms Edith Cognigni (edith.cognigni@unimc.it)
- **University of the Aegean:** Ms Katerina Toskou (erua-eui@aegean.gr)

Example of a travelling seminar

Here are some examples of travelling seminars organised by different ERUA partner universities. Each seminar is created to connect students and teachers from various institutions, promoting innovative pedagogical practices and cross-cultural exchanges in alignment with ERUA's values and objectives.

Travelling seminars of the UAegean - P8 from 2022-2023

Project summary

The proposed project aims to uncover, concretize and visualise students' visions for a university in a digital age, in order to enable an active dialogue between students and teachers, the past, present and future. The project consists of a series of 3 joint workshops, where students are invited to share, discuss and rethink the founding university missions (production and transferring knowledge and know-how) and values (critical thinking, emancipation, creativity, desire to combine science with the common good, and make social utility a performance indicator), in relation to the digital and globalization era. During the workshops the participants will reflect upon and discuss both specific and more general problematics facing the university today, in a way which is inclusive, international, alternative,

and experimental, by also considering digital technology as, already, part of "humanities" pedagogical and research tool kits in order to overhaul mainstream training methods.

The implementation of these objectives requires that we:

- Integrate Internationalization, Innovation and Interdisciplinarity into the teaching practice and training: SHS and HICS (hybrid Informational and Communicational Space) articulation.
- Organize an experimental space for students and teachers in which they can produce and evaluate innovative post-digital prototypes, as well as discuss and reflect upon the relationship between digital logics and representations and human societies, needs and people's everyday life.
- Invite students as co-creators of the course curriculum, which thus take the form of partially emergent.
- Strengthen the continuum: Research / Experimentation / Education / Training.

Aims of the project

- To critically discuss the possibilities and challenges of post-digitalization in relation to communication, social connectivity, relationships and student's everyday life.
- To reflect and confront critically the material, organizational, social and existential dimensions of post-digitalization
- To explore, observe and experience the shifting of information, communication and collaboration protocols between the social participants (present ones and future ones) of the University.
- Rethinking the University design as .Institution. in the Post-Digital Era
- Contributing to the Design of the Academic Institution in the Post-Digital Era.

First workshop: Start-up meeting (In Athens: October 7-10, 2022)

- Taking ownership of the project through co-design processes
- Set up multidisciplinary groups (max 4 students)
- Set up a collaborative workspace including communicative platforms (free open source software) where students also post all productions.

- Begin analyzing and visualize, through prototyping, the project context (the University Ecosystem, and its relations to student's everyday life, working, living in relation to studying)
- Draw up a first definition of the university and analyze and produce supporting visualization of diverse complex objectives as well as potential related dilemmas (extraction of keywords and retrieval of Htags) / word clouds / Clustering)
- Produce a (first) video on what the university is today (introspective approach)

Second workshop (In Paris: November 1-4, 2022): Joint analytical work

- Propose and present a prototype of the European University 2030 in the digital age.
- Compare and discuss the presentations of the project context (the University Ecosystem): what is at stake? What could the vision potentially achieve and put into jeopardy?
- Organize a brainstorming session to discuss the selection of desirable futures
- Make a second video on what the university is today (introspective approach). The projection of the videos and visualization lay the ground for a fourth series of data-analysis and visualizations (extraction of the keywords and recovery of the Htags) / word clouds / clustering)
- Draw up a second definition of the university and analyze and produce supporting visualization (extraction of keywords and retrieval of Htags) / word clouds / Clustering).

The 2022-2023 Travelling Seminar between the University of the Aegean and Paris 8 serves as a good example of the rich opportunities ERUA offers for cross-university collaboration. This initiative not only fostered academic exchange but also promoted deeper connections between students and staff from different cultural and educational backgrounds.

❖ Intensive, semester courses and summer/winter schools

ERUA courses are open to all ERUA students and can take various forms: intensive modules, summer/winter schools or semester courses. These courses enable students to enhance their study programs at their home university by enrolling in courses available at other ERUA universities. Additionally, ERUA courses allow students to explore new academic disciplines and provide an international experience whether through going abroad or staying at home.

ERUA teaching staff can host ERUA students in their courses through two options:

- Open a few places for ERUA students in existing courses
- Develop new courses specifically created for ERUA students

Teachers should specify the prerequisites (such as level and field of study) and the number of places available for ERUA students.

Intensive modules cover a significant amount of material in a shortened period of time (usually from 2 days to 1 week) delivering the same amount of content that a traditional course would cover over a full term. These immersive courses enable students to complete a subject quickly. Most ERUA intensive courses are conducted onsite.

Summer or winter schools are academic programs held during the respective break periods, which differ among ERUA universities. These programmes usually last from one to two weeks onsite, offering courses across various disciplines. They provide students with the opportunity to take additional courses and explore new subjects.

Semester courses are standard academic courses offerings that span an entire semester, with classes meeting regularly one or twice a week. They allow for a more gradual and comprehensive study of the subject providing time for in-depth study, projects, and assessments. Within the ERUA framework, semester courses are offered exclusively online.

Framework

Eligible applicants	All teaching staff from ERUA's partner universities.
Content	Open
Disciplines opened	All study fields
Duration	From 2 days to 2 weeks
Format	On-site, blended or online (mandatory for semester courses)
Languages	Preferably English but all languages of the alliance are accepted
Period in the year	Courses can take place throughout the year
Level and field of study	Teacher's choice
Faculty at home university	Among the 8 universities of the Alliance
Type of mobility	One-way mobility or blended

Selection criteria

Each university will select projects they find most innovative and compelling.

The Work Package 2 leaders and the ERUA assurance quality manager will also be informed and provide the final approval to any courses or project created specifically under ERUA's framework.

Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with ERUA's objectives and mission
- Innovation within the project
- Quality of the project's structure and organisation
- Expected impact on participants
- Expected learning outcomes

Budget

ERUA funding covers the mobility costs of participating students, including travel and accommodation according to each university's internal rules. Some ERUA Alliance Universities can fund teaching staff's mobility through the ERUA budget, while other Universities fund the above mentioned mobility through Erasmus+ Office.

Please, contact your university's representative (listed below) for more information.

Procedure for the submission of projects:

Please contact your university's representative for details on the internal submission procedure and required documents:

- **European University of Viadrina:** Ms Anna Zimmermann
(azimmermann@europa-uni.de)
- **New Bulgarian University:** Ms Slavena Nikolova (snikolova@nbu.bg)
- **Paris 8 University:** Ms Chloe Elusue and Mr Yann Lafferrerie
(erua.eui@univ-paris8.fr)
- **SWPS University:** Ms Agnieszka Sobieraj (asobieraj@swps.edu.pl)
- **University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria:** Mr Eduardo Gregorio Quevedo Gutiérrez (d.ieyfp@ulpgc.es)
- **University of Mykolas Romeris:** Mr Domantas Markevicius
(d.markevicius@mruni.eu) and Ms Audra Dargytė Burokienė (adb@mruni.eu)
- **University of Macerata:** Ms Edith Cognigni (edith.cognigni@unimc.it)
- **University of the Aegean:** Ms Katerina Toskou (erua-eui@aegean.gr)

Example of an ERUA semester course

Here are some examples of ERUA semester courses organised by different ERUA partner universities. These courses span various disciplines and are delivered through a blend of online and onsite formats, ensuring accessibility and engagement.

Business language in Spanish

Discipline: Trilingual international trade

Period: Fridays from January 20 to March 24 at 15:00, course duration: 3 hours

Format: Online

Number of ERUA Students: No Limit

Number of ETCS: 6

Language: Spanish

Student Level: Master

This semester course took place during the summer semester of 2022/2023 in a hybrid format. ERUA students attended the course online, while the Paris 8 teacher and local students were together in a classroom. The course aimed to enhance students' business Spanish skills, knowledge, and fluency in various professional situations.

To achieve these objectives, the course offered a range of synthetic subjects, texts, multiple-choice questions (MCQs), and exercises. These activities were designed to help students communicate effectively in Spanish in a professional context, both in writing and orally. Additionally, students learned about the work environment, resources, and activities of Spanish-speaking companies, explored the major economic sectors of Spain and Latin America, and gained practical insights into the professional use of the Spanish language.

Example of an ERUA intensive course

Here are some examples of ERUA intensive courses organised by different ERUA partner universities. These short-term, high-impact courses are created to allow students to dive deeply into specific topics, benefit from unique international perspectives, and enhance their skills.

Impasto and Abstract Painting for Everyone

Intensive Course in Painting - offered by NBU

Discipline: Fine art and painting

Period: June 13th to June 16th, 2024

Number of ERUA Students: 20

Application Deadline: 3rd of June 2024

Place: New Bulgarian University – Sofia, Bulgaria.

Funding: ERUA students can receive travel and accommodation funding from their home universities.

Between the 13th and the 16th of June, an intensive course in painting “Impasto and Abstract Painting for Everyone” will be held at New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria.

During this intensive course students will be introduced to the world of fine art and painting. Impasto painting and abstract painting are well-known styles that are easy to achieve with the proper technique for a particular task. We will discuss the role of brush strokes, palette knife strokes, and the material aspect of art in everyday life.

Along with the practical sessions the course also offers a brief view of fine art history in search of the fundamentals connecting abstract images with emotions, shapes, and forms. On the last day we will review the paintings done by the students and the lecturer during the intensive course.

The course is organized around 3×8-hour painting sessions and a fine art history review. On the last day 6 hours will be dedicated to examinations of students’ works with contemporary up-to-date comparisons between popular brands and artists and our works. The course will also discuss how to present our work on social media and make the best for our future advertisements.

We are looking for 20 Bachelor and Master degree students with some interests in fine arts, coming from ERUA Universities.

Example of an ERUA summer school

Here are some examples of ERUA Summer School organized by different ERUA partner universities. These summer schools provide unique opportunities for students to immerse themselves in intensive, interdisciplinary courses across various disciplines.

NBU - Summer school of Anthropology - 2024

Course title: Summer school of Anthropology: Exploring cultural heritage and policies through transformation in spatiality (Sliven, 25.08.-30.08.2024)

Discipline: Interdisciplinary (Anthropology, History, Sociology, Geography, Art, Fashion, Graphic design)

Format (on-site, online, hybrid): on-site

Form of examination: short fieldwork observation report

Language: English, Bulgarian, French

Course coordinator:

- Ass. Prof. Irena Bokova,
- Assistant prof. Lubomira Vulcheva-Nundloll, PhD

Course dates: August 25 – August 30, 2024

Number of ECTS: 9

Student level (Bachelor/Master/PhD): Bachelor/Master/PhD

Prerequisites (i.e. previous knowledge, studies field, fee): social sciences, humanities and art students

Number of ERUA students: 10

Application deadline: July 3, 2024

Description/ content:

The Summer School of Anthropology, now in its 21st year, offers interdisciplinary field research training. This year, it's hosted jointly by the Anthropology department, Design, and Fine Arts, with support from the Sliven Regional Historical Museum.

The program welcomes students from social sciences and arts backgrounds, providing initial training in research project development and fieldwork. Its goal is to uncover interdisciplinary connections and shared challenges.

Students engage in commented museum and gallery visits, lectures, and discussions, fostering critical thinking and individual problematization. They delve into cultural heritage themes, with a focus this year on transformation in spatiality across different historical periods: Middle Ages, Bulgarian National Revival and modern times. The origin of the city is associated with the ancient fortress "Tuida" - an archaeological monument that testifies to the life and culture of the local population during the Middle Ages. The process of Bulgarian industrialization began with the establishment of textile factory production in Sliven in 1834. This moment is significant for both the city and the state, as it represents the step towards modernity and economic development - marking the post-Ottoman period. The city became an industrial centre and retains this function and importance to this day.

The school highlights Sliven's textile industry and its role in shaping the city's identity. They are present in individual narratives and through the practices of tradition preservation, as well as in the official narrative and tourism. The only museum of the textile industry in Bulgaria is in Sliven. Its exposition traces the development of textile crafts from 9,000 years ago to today. Students will attend demonstrations of twentieth century industrial textile machinery. Alongside textiles, participants explore other industries, examining their historical significance and contemporary relevance. Glass production will be of increased interest to the school participants looking for the connection between past, present and future. What is the place of this key industry that prospered in the past but lost its importance during the post-communist transition and in the context of globalisation? The decline of the glass factory led to a dispersion of human capital, which today can be observed in small enterprises for glass production and in local trade.

Observation centres on how Sliven's urban landscape represents and reinterprets its past, fostering reflection on the city's evolving historical narratives and memory construction. How has the city transformed in consequence of the national emancipation (1878), the political transitions (1944 and 1990), the economic crises (1990s-2000s), and in the era of globalisation? What factors turn certain places into sites of oblivion or "memory spaces"?

What insights do local stories and urban/museum spaces offer? And what is the relation between individual and societal narratives?

A preparatory seminar will precede the summer school, addressing key research issues.

SWPS - European Summer School on the Rule of Law in Sopot, Poland

SWPS University invites you to the **European Summer School on the Rule of Law**, which will take place from **August 29 to September 4, 2024 in Sopot, Poland**. The theme for this year's event is "What is the EU? Analysis of the relevance of Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union: An exchange of experiences". This program is part of teaching initiatives of the European Reform University Alliance (ERUA) and receives funding from the European Union, the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), and the Economic Freedom Foundation.

The summer school is designed to bring together students and young scholars from the European Union as well as its Eastern and Southern neighbours. The aim is to foster discussions and deepen understanding of the EU's foundational principles through diverse perspectives. The week-long event will cover fundamental EU values including Pluralism, Equality, Justice, Solidarity, Tolerance, and Non-discrimination. Each day will focus on one of these principles, explored through a series of lectures, panel discussions, and interactive workshops. Esteemed scholars such as Professor Adam Bodnar, Professor Klaus Bachmann, and Professor Assaf Meydani have been invited to contribute to the academic sessions.

In addition to the academic sessions, the program includes cultural activities aimed at enriching the participants' experience. These will include film screenings relevant to the themes, guided museum tours, and visits to historical sites, especially significant in the context of the anniversaries being commemorated during the program dates — namely, the legacy of the Solidarity movement and the outbreak of World War II. These commemorations are timely, reflecting on history as discussions of conflict re-emerge in Europe and beyond.

Application Details:

- **Who Can Apply?** Up to 2 students from each ERUA university are eligible to apply.
- **Program Dates:** August 29 to September 4, 2024
- **Location:** SWPS University, Sopot Campus
- **How to Apply:** Interested candidates should fill out the **application form** by the end of the day on **July 14**. Selections will be announced by July 26.
- **Cost:** participation is free of charge to students of ERUA universities
- **Support:** ERUA students may receive funding for travel and accommodation expenses from their home universities.

Initiatives aim to inspire creative approaches to learning across the ERUA alliance. We encourage people to explore new methods, integrate interdisciplinary perspectives, and engage students through interactive and impactful educational experiences. We look forward to supporting your initiative and fostering collaboration across our universities.

Therefore, if you are interested in submitting a project, please complete the attached template and return it to your university representative.

ERUA Course Template

Course title	
Discipline	
Format (<i>on-site, online, hybrid</i>)	
Course dates and structure (<i>frequency, meeting duration etc.</i>)	
Form of examination/evaluation	
Language	
Course coordinator	
Course coordinator's email	
Faculty at home university	
Number of ECTS	
Student level (<i>Bachelor, Master...</i>)	
Prerequisites (<i>i.e. studies field, previous knowledge, etc.</i>)	
Number of places for ERUA students	
Application deadline (<i>for external students</i>)	
Description (<i>Describe the different modules, their content and the expected speakers/teaching staff. Highlight the pedagogical methods used.</i>)	
Learning outcomes (<i>Describe the knowledge, skills, and competences that students will bring to your initiative, as well as those that you aim to develop through their participation.</i>)	
Application	

Note: The Work Package 2 leaders and the ERUA assurance quality manager will also be informed and provide the final approval to any courses or project created specifically under ERUA's framework.

Note 2: Please, note that the initiative should be posted on the ERUA website at least 6 weeks before the planned event. If the proposal is submitted less than 8 weeks before the start, the Work Package 2 coordinator may not accept it, or you may be asked to postpone the initiative to a later date. Therefore, please submit your project to the Work Package 2 Coordinator within this timeframe.