Proposal Evaluation Form

	EUROPEAN COMMISSION Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS)	**Evaluation Summary Report - ERASMUS**

Call:	ERASMUS-EDU-2023-EUR-UNIV
Type of action:	ERASMUS-LS
Proposal number:	101124310
Proposal acronym:	EULiST
Duration (months):	48
Proposal title:	European Universities Linking Society and Technology
Activity:	ERASMUS-EDU-2023-EUR-UNIV-2

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible costs	%	Grant Requested	%
1	GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITAET HANNOVER	DE	0	-	1,631,949	11.36%
2	TECHNISCHE INFORMATIONSBIBLIOTHEK (TIB)	DE	0	-	263,416	1.83%
3	LAPPEENRANNAN-LAHDEN TEKNILLINEN YLIOPISTO LUT	FI	0	-	1,418,807	9.87%
4	STIFTELSEN HOGSKOLAN I JONKOPING	SE	0	-	468,928	3.26%
5	HALSOHOGSKOLAN I JONKOPING AB	SE	0	-	293,774	2.04%
6	Jonkoping International Business School	SE	0	-	293,774	2.04%
7	TEKNISKA HOGSKOLAN I JONKOPING AB	SE	0	-	293,774	2.04%
8	HOGSKOLAN FOR LARANDE OCH KOMMUNIKATION I JONKOPING - HLK SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION	SE	0	-	293,774	2.04%
9	VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V BRNE	CZ	0	-	964,532	6.71%
10	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET WIEN	AT	0	-	1,686,226	11.73%
11	SLOVENSKA TECHNICKA UNIVERZITA V BRATISLAVE	SK	0	-	876,972	6.10%
12	UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS	ES	0	-	1,408,347	9.80%
13	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DELL'AQUILA	IT	0	-	1,414,824	9.85%
14	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	EL	0	-	1,647,511	11.46%
15	INSTITUT MINES-TELECOM	FR	0	-	1,414,324	9.84%
16	LANDESHAUPTSTADT HANNOVER	DE	0	-	0	0.00%
17	LAHDEN KAUPUNKI	FI	0	-	0	0.00%
18	Etelä-Karjalan liitto	FI	0	-	0	0.00%
19	Region of Jönköping (RJL)	SE	0	-	0	0.00%
20	HLAVNE MESTO SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY BRATISLAVA	SK	0	-	0	0.00%
21	Bratislava Old Town Borough Public Administration	SK	0	-	0	0.00%
22	DIMOS ATHINAION	EL	0	-	0	0.00%
23	PERIFEREIA ATTIKIS	EL	0	-	0	0.00%
24	PERIFEREIA IPEIROY	EL	0	-	0	0.00%
25	DIMOS LAVREOTIKIS	EL	0	-	0	0.00%

26	STATUTARNI MESTO BRNO	CZ	0	-	0	0.00%
27	MINISTERIO DE UNIVERSIDADES	ES	0	-	0	0.00%
28	JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB	CZ	0	-	0	0.00%
29	STADT WIEN	AT	0	-	0	0.00%
30	VICEPRESIDENCIA CONSEJERIA DE EDUCACION Y UNIVERSIDADES COMUNIDAD DE MADRID	ES	0	-	0	0.00%
31	REGION HANNOVER	DE	0	-	0	0.00%
32	COMUNE DELL'AQUILA	IT	0	-	0	0.00%
	Total:		0		14,370,932	

Abstract:

The ten EULiST Members will contribute to solving global challenges such as climate change and social cohesion by sharing their diverse experiences and competencies, thus creating connections and methods to integrate society and technology that one institution, one sector, or one country could not do alone. EULiST's diversity brings with it a range of experiences and problem-solving approaches that we will compare, share and, where appropriate, integrate into our respective areas of work.

Students in STEM subjects or the humanities and social sciences, including non-traditional and life-long learners, will graduate from EULiST courses and programmes with knowledge and skills that enable them to address societal and global challenges by combining scientific and technical knowledge with knowledge from the social sciences and humanities. A challenge-based approach to learning, including projects carried out in collaboration with our respective regional partners, will equip our students with the knowledge they need to make a difference in a rapidly changing world.

EULiST Research & Innovation will address the challenges of climate change and social cohesion. Science communication and collaboration with the broader public at local and global levels, e.g. via Innovation Hubs as well as open and living labs, will ensure that EULiST activities remain relevant and build and maintain trust in science. EULiST`s Digital Campus supports and centers these activities in a digital Knowledge Hub, a new form of library, based on the pooled potential of ten libraries, including the world's largest technical library. The EULiST Knowledge Hub will store, generate, process and make knowledge available to various academic and social target groups via innovative approaches. Our strategy is based on a bottom-up approach with committed and enthusiastic staff, students and stakeholders ready to embrace new ideas, learn from mistakes and contribute new knowledge: "Our present, your future".

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 87.00 (Threshold: 70)

Criterion 1 - RELEVANCE

Score: **24.00** (Threshold: 13 / 25.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see the Call document/Portal Topic page)

This is an ambitious, innovative, and very well-elaborated proposal. The ambition of the EULiST to build an academic ecosystem at the intersection of society and technology in accordance with European core values is convincingly presented. The alliance's general objectives are clearly formulated and convincingly aligned with the most important recent policy documents in the sphere of human development and the European policy in the sphere of higher education.

The proposal successfully addresses relevant themes of the vision of the European Universities initiative. The specific objectives are clearly formulated and structured against a solid needs analysis. There are high ambitions in the proposal since it intends to interlink social sciences, humanities, and STEM disciplines and to bring all of them closer to society and its major contemporary problems. The strive for increasing social relevance, inclusiveness, and transdisciplinarity of education, research, and innovation penetrates all alliance's objectives. It is very positive that the proposal includes concrete quantified indicators and targets for its main activities.

The joint long-term mission statement and the vision of the alliance are clearly formulated and well-aligned with the goal of the proposal. The proposal offers a clear and convincing discussion of the proposed alliance's ambition, which successfully meets the main objectives of the call. A convincing statement is presented to promote synergies between education and research with the aim of better addressing the needs of society and the present societal challenges. The alliance does not clearly address the important issue of social justice in connection with climate change and how technology and science can help address this challenge.

The proposed models of cooperation are structural, largely innovative, and have very good potential to be also largely sustainable. The proposal attests to an already strong integration of a coherent and high-level consortium, grounded on previous joint activities and contractual relations between its members. The alliance offers a relevant mix of higher education institutions (in terms of specialisations, size, status, and regional/local setting and location). The proposal provides a clear, reflexive, and convincing discussion about what such diversity can bring to the alliance's capacity to achieve a strong and coherent European-wide ecosystem.

The proposal clearly demonstrates that the realisation of the EULiST university would bring real European added value for students and academic staff through the establishment of an inter-university physical and digital campus, the creation of the EULiST knowledge hub as a hub of knowledge, data, and artificial-intelligence-based tools, the promotion of close links to society and its main stakeholders, and the active participation in European initiatives. It also convincingly highlights the promotion of common European values with a special focus on equality, inclusion, diversity, democracy, and peaceful international cooperation.

The alliance envisages playing the role of a high-profile civic actor and demonstrates a clear understanding of the role of higher education institutions in driving innovation and contributing to social transformation in their regions. EULiST's contribution to regional Smart Specialisation Strategies is very sound and well-argued. The proposal envisages close cooperation with different stakeholders through very relevant initiatives, such as the creation of start-up incubators, elaboration of transferable models of transfer, communication and engagement, and development of a climate action-focused module.

The proposal presents a promising approach to benefit other higher education institutions in Europe through its focus on inclusion and excellence, for example through creating a new digital infrastructure, which would facilitate open data sharing.

Criterion 2.1 - QUALITY — PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Score: **20.00** (Threshold: 13 / 25.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see the Call document/Portal Topic page)

The proposal appropriately demonstrates the consistency between its joint long-term strategy and the proposed joint structures and activities to achieve it. The alliance's methodology relies heavily on the building of the digital campus and the knowledge hub as an infrastructural platform for both its governance and its research and education activities. It is clearly demonstrated that the EULiST university and the envisaged joint activities are consistent with the idea of the European Universities initiative and will contribute efficiently to its further development.

A solid understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by higher education institutions is demonstrated, and the proposed joint structures and activities are well-designed to address them. The proposed outcomes and activities represent innovative learning and mobility concepts focused on decreasing the barriers, which exist at individual universities.

The proposal places a very strong focus on promoting research. A strength of the proposal is also its focus on the involvement of students and early-stage researchers in the research activities. However, the alliance does not comprehensively explain how the research and innovation would fit into the education at partner institutions.

Mobility is a key aspect of the alliance and is described with an emphasis on accessibility, attractiveness, and the promotion of multilingualism with concrete measures to support all participants to benefit from these mobility opportunities. Valuable ambitious estimations are made quantifying the targets for different activities. The EULiST's aim to diversify and simplify green and inclusive mobility of students and staff is fully appropriate and is supported by adequate measures.

The focus of the alliance on promoting diversity and inclusion is very relevant given the academic profile of the partners. However, specific measures of how this will be achieved and why the diversity plan is to be developed only at a later stage of the implementation are not sufficiently explained.

The level of engagement with regional/local and non-academic stakeholders is very satisfying. The use of interaction with the industry and small and medium enterprises is a very positive feature since they will act as social partners and contribute to promoting entrepreneurial insights and mentality among students.

The work plan is clear and well-structured, and it offers a good framework for the alliance to implement its activities. Milestones and outputs are also properly explained and defined. The work packages are well presented, and deliverables, indicators, and evaluation tools are indicated for each of them. It is a strength that all envisaged tasks are defined with clear targets.

Appropriately, the internal quality assurance structure will be based on the development of specific procedures for monitoring and evaluation. The setting up of quantified indicators for the foreseen activities is very positive. It is also positive that the proposal foresees external evaluation twice during its implementation. However, the envisaged qualitative feedback procedures are not sufficiently described. The proposal identifies well the major risks that may occur during the implementation process and provides adequate mitigation measures.

The allocation of resources for work packages is reasonable. However, the budgetary allocation across different partners is very different, especially with regard to institutions that focus on social sciences, but also for some other partners such as the coordinating institution, the Technical University of Vienna, and the University of Aquila. This allocation is not sufficiently justified. Additionally, the systematic approach of the alliance to financial management effectiveness is not well presented.

Criterion 2.2 - QUALITY — PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS

Score: **21.00** (Threshold: 13 / 25.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see the Call document/Portal Topic page)

The alliance was established several years ago and had already successfully functioned, which creates pre-conditions for smooth cooperation during the implementation process. Cooperation agreements are well-designed and planned to maximise the added value of integrated cooperation.

The proposal clearly demonstrates that the alliance has excellent knowledge and skills to successfully implement the activities. The profiles of the partner and associated institutions and the key staff are comprehensively described.

The proposal very convincingly shows that the partners possess the complementary expertise needed for its successful implementation. The designed activities reflect the complementarity and close links between the partner institutions while taking advantage of their different profiles. At the same time, it is positive that the alliance also focuses on preserving the national cultural identities and their multi-cultural dimension. However, the proposal does not sufficiently discuss how the transdisciplinary dimension of collaboration will be implemented in a successful way.

The experience in joint collaboration makes the attribution of roles and responsibilities easier. The envisaged cooperation is well reasoned and based on the expertise and knowledge of the different activities. All partners are involved in all of the activities with a demonstrated level of commitment provided by a common vision. However, the active role of associated partners in the alliance activities is not explained in sufficient detail.

The proposal demonstrates a well-designed and thorough approach to establishing clear cooperation agreements with the aim of reducing existing administrative barriers and promoting all types of mobility, The prior signature of the Cooperation agreement specifying the cooperation framework enhances the credibility of the cooperation and represents a positive feature. The alliance envisages setting up appropriate governing bodies. It is very positive that a special student board will be created that will send representatives in all executive bodies to ensure students' voices are heard. However, specific methods and ways how students are to be important contributors to the cocreation of the alliance are not clearly explained. The proposal and the Cooperation agreement clearly demonstrate the commitment of the alliance members to actively contribute to the common vision and strategy, and their responsibilities are well-defined.

The rules for efficient and effective communication between partners are clearly specified and they are well thought out and comprehensive. The issue of conflict resolution is adequately addressed and will be based on the elaboration of a conflict resolution policy and procedure. The key risks are identified and the probabilities that they materialise are broadly identified. However, some of the proposed mitigation actions are not sufficient to mitigate the risks.

The alliance ensures a wide geographical coverage as it includes full partners from four different European geographical areas. The geographical balance is strongly justified by the incremental development of the partnerships between the alliance's members over the years, and their successful experience of institutional cooperation. The proposed alliance has the potential to be a game-changer for its participants. The inclusion of a wide spectrum of associated partners further expands the potential impact of the alliance.

The proposal provides a clear description of how the geographical composition of the alliance can strengthen the institutional capacity of partners from different European regions.

Criterion 3 - IMPACT

Score: **22.00** (Threshold: 13 / 25.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see the Call document/Portal Topic page)

The proposal presents a comprehensive description of its impact expectations. It clearly differentiates between short-term, mid-term, and long-term impacts, which are comprehensively described. At the external level, the proposal convincingly intends to play an important role as a model for both the European Education and Research Areas. This would also have a positive effect on addressing the main contemporary social challenges. To achieve such an impact, the alliance coherently considers elements that would concentrate its activity in this respect: reaching out to policymakers and different stakeholders, as well as empowering citizens, and strengthening dialogue with society.

The alliance sets the goal of ensuring lasting collaboration that will provide the basis for the establishment of a new European university with a recognised legal status. The foreseen elaboration of a EULiST external revenue strategy and action plan and the creation of a network of future potential associated partners are appropriate measures for ensuring sustainability. The proposal has clearly identified some opportunities for funding after its lifetime. It is positive that the private sector is also seen as a contributor to the alliance's financial sustainability. The contribution from internal resources of the partner universities is also outlined, but insufficient details are provided about the commitment and extent of resources that the partners will commit to the continuation of the cooperation.

The proposal very well demonstrates that the alliance will keep close contacts with and will influence national and European policymakers in the proposal's field. The outcomes of the activities of the alliance have the potential to benefit other higher education institutions of the European Union and beyond by driving excellence in research and education and by promoting close cooperation between the higher education sector and society.

Appropriately, the alliance envisages the elaboration of a communication plan with concrete communication objectives and the setting up of communication and public relation offices at each consortium member. The plan includes a strong dimension regarding civil society and non-academic general audiences. However, some of the concrete measures of how to achieve the desired dissemination aims and levels are not described in sufficient detail.

Solid reference is made in the proposal to open science. The proposal envisages the development of a knowledge hub as an open science channel that will function in close collaboration with the EULiST agora for education and the EULiST research and innovation academy. However, insufficient information is provided on how open access and available resources will be promoted to higher education institutions not involved in the alliance.

Scope of the proposal

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)
Not provided

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