

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.

Innovation in teaching means moving beyond traditional lectures toward dynamic pedagogical approaches such as project-based learning, collaboration, problem-solving, and gamification. All these approaches are detailed and exemplified in our *Academic Innovation Manual* ([ERUA WP2 Deliverable D2.2](#)), which outlines our collective work on innovative pedagogies across the alliance.

To bring these ambitions to life, ERUA supports the development of various types of innovative teaching initiatives, like *travelling seminars, intensive modules, summer and winter schools, and semester courses*. This call offers teachers and students the opportunity to co-create and experiment with new forms of higher education, encouraging international exchange and short-term mobility.

This call for innovative teaching activities aspires to be one of ERUA's most forward-looking learning formats. It is open to initiatives taking place during the second semester of the 2025–2026 academic year.

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, 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. We are a student-centered alliance that promotes learning as an active and transformative process. Our teaching initiatives aim to empower students to engage with complex global challenges through innovative, practice-based pedagogies.

The alliance has identified several *priority areas* of focus :

- 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](#)
- [Mykolas Romeris University](#)
- [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.

The [ERUA research portal](#) is also a great way to connect with other researchers. It allows you to find collaborators within partner universities and register your profile so that other researchers can find you. Please note that not all eight ERUA universities have professors actively present in the portal yet, as the process of completing institutional profiles is still ongoing. If you need further assistance, feel free to contact the ERUA staff—see the annexe at the end of this document for all relevant contact details.

3. Select the Type of Initiative

We are developing different types of teaching initiatives: travelling seminars, semester courses, and summer/winter schools and intensive courses. Below, you will find the specific features of each initiative, which should be taken into account when preparing your project. An annexed document will also assist you by providing examples of initiatives that took place in previous periods, helping you better understand the types of activities supported and developed within the ERUA framework.

Choose the type of activity you plan to develop:

Travelling seminars

A 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.

After each travelling seminar, a survey is submitted to students and teaching staff, and a final initiative report, written by the teaching staff, is required to demonstrate the pedagogical impact of the seminar, gather feedback, and keep a record of the experience. The report is written after the teaching staff has received and reviewed the students' feedback analysis, in order to ensure that it reflects both the pedagogical design and the actual student experience.

As an alliance, we need to collect as much feedback as possible to track ongoing initiatives and continuously improve the program.

Framework

Eligible applicants	All teaching staff from ERUA's partner universities
Content	Open
Disciplines opened	All study fields
Duration	From 3 days to 1 week (+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
Application deadline	Not less than 6 weeks before the proposed dates of implementation
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. In the framework of a traditional travelling seminar, a professor first submits a project to their home university and seeks support from a counterpart at the host university. The Work Package 2 leaders should be informed about the initiative and may provide recommendations for enhancing the travelling seminars. If the project is approved by the professor's home university, the host university must be contacted as soon as possible by the administrative staff of the organizing university, in coordination with the academic team of the host institution. During these phases, coordination and communication are crucial.

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

Travelling seminars will be assessed internally by the universities implementing them, taking into account the shared eligible criteria defined by ERUA Alliance.

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 teaching staff's mobility through Erasmus+ Office (as Erasmus+ KA131 STA/STT visits).

Procedure for Project Submission

Please contact your university's representative for details on the internal submission procedure and required documents. You will find all contact information at the end of this document.

Intensive courses, 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 are asked to indicate any prerequisites (such as the level and field of study) as well as the number of places available for ERUA students. Please use the ERUA course template provided at the end of this document to describe your proposal.

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 programs typically last from one to two weeks onsite, offering courses across various disciplines. They provide students with the opportunity to take additional courses and delve deeper into a main subject by studying it from different perspectives, fostering interdisciplinarity. In this context, it is expected that partner universities contribute substantially to the programme, for example through the provision of guest lectures by their academic staff.

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 primarily online, but they can also be blended, combining online lessons with an on-site component—for example, five days of in-person classes. These courses are particularly valuable for students seeking an international learning experience without the need for in person mobility.

Moreover, expanding our offer of online courses reflects ERUA's commitment to inclusion, ensuring that students who cannot travel for various reasons still have access to high-quality, cross-border learning opportunities.

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
Application deadline	Deadline set by the university (please contact your local ERUA Coordinator)
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, following the [Evaluation Criteria Document](#).

After their validation by the internal committee, the inter-university ERUA Approval Committee for Teaching Initiatives – composed of eight academic members (one from each university, appointed by the Vice-Rectors for Education) and one student ambassador – will grant the final approval for intensive modules, summer and winter schools, and other projects open to the entire ERUA community. This process ensures the quality of the proposed initiatives, their alignment with ERUA's core values and objectives, and fosters a shared vision across the alliance.

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

Course proposals are evaluated by the Teaching Initiatives Approval committee based on their alignment with those criteria and are assigned a score from 1 to 5. Each WP2 representative at the partner universities will provide feedback from the committee to help you implement and improve your teaching initiative if needed.

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 teaching staff's mobility through Erasmus+ Office (as Erasmus+ KA131 STA/STT visits).

Procedure for Project Submission

Please contact your university's representative for details on the internal submission procedure and required documents. You will find all contact information at the end of this document.

4. 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>	
How students should apply (CV, cover letter, etc.)	

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.

5. Contacts

- **European University of Viadrina:** Ms Monika Stekowski (stekowski@europa-uni.de)
- **New Bulgarian University:** Ms Slavena Nikolova (snikolova@nbu.bg) & Mr. Hristo Chukurliiev (hchukurliiev@nbu.bg)
- **Paris 8 University:** Ms Irene Serra (irene.serra02@univ-paris8.fr)
- **SWPS University:** Ms Agnieszka Sobieraj (erua@swps.edu.pl)
- **University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria:** Paula Rodriguez Chirino (eruapm@ulpgc.es) & Mr Eduardo Gregorio Quevedo Gutiérrez (d.ipdocente@ulpgc.es)
- **University of Mykolas Romeris:** Ms Audra Dargytė Burokienė (adb@mrui.eu)
- **University of Macerata:** Ms Edith Cognigni (edith.cognigni@unimc.it) & Mr Tobia Ciarrocchi (tobia.ciarrocchi@unimc.it)
- **University of the Aegean:** Ms Angeliki Kitsiou (a.kitsiou@aegean.gr) & Ms Christina Zoupi (erua-eui@aegean.gr)