

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002343/26
to the Commission
Mihai Tudose (S&D)
(8 June 2026)**

Subject: Support for European university alliance projects through the future European Competitiveness Fund

Alliances of European universities are increasingly creating academic projects with an impact on cohesion and competitiveness within the EU.

These university alliances will continue to receive European support through the Erasmus+ programme under the future multiannual financial framework 2028-2034. This is a heartening decision by the Council.

However, beyond the realm of academic cooperation and mobility, there is a major socioeconomic component: the impact on research, innovation and competitiveness. This is why, at a time when ways of boosting European businesses in this regard are being sought, there is a need for solid, predictable, long-term support for inter-university projects that have an impact on the economy.

Does the Commission plan to include funding for European university alliance projects in the future European Competitiveness Fund and the Horizon Europe research programme?

Submitted: 8.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(6 August 2026)**

European Universities alliances are primarily supported under the Erasmus+ programme ⁽¹⁾, which provides funding for long-term structural cooperation between higher education institutions.

Horizon Europe ⁽²⁾, as a competitive, excellence-based programme, does not provide direct institutional funding to European Universities alliances, but entities participating in European Universities alliances may apply for funding, where their activities are relevant to objectives and topics set out in the programme. The next Horizon Europe 2028-2034 ⁽³⁾ will aim to continue supporting research and innovation through competitive calls.

As specified in recital (21) of the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) Regulation proposal ⁽⁴⁾, the Fund should support skills intelligence, upskilling and reskilling, and foster public-private cooperation.

Wherever in line with the Fund's objectives and priorities, European Universities alliances could apply for support under the ECF, also in cooperation with their associated partners such as local businesses, with the objective of strengthening their contribution to innovation and development of skills and talent in support of Europe's competitiveness.

European Universities alliances are encouraged to make use of the ECF, Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and other EU instruments and programmes which will aim to provide complementary funding opportunities, thereby also incentivising national and regional contributions to the alliances.

⁽¹⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>.

⁽²⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽³⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/horizon-europe-2028-2034-twice-bigger-simpler-faster-and-more-impactful-2025-07-16_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0555&qid=1753802586340>.