

## “European University Networks (EUN) – national initiative” (2020 to 2022)

### Goal and purpose

Unlike almost any other institutions, higher education institutions in Europe can be bridge builders between societies, drive their renewal and bring together young people from different countries. They contribute significantly to the sustainable development of a European identity, the unity and consolidation of European values in member states and the reinforcement of consensus on Europe's role and function in the world. Higher education institutions are located at the heart of the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation.

The aim now is to create something new from the large number of excellent higher education institutions across the European continent: European university networks. These networks are intended to bundle their strengths and diversity of European research and teaching in new structures, thus contributing to enhanced performance and competitiveness in the higher education system and creating a new dimension of cooperation in the European Higher Education Area.

To this end, the EU has developed the pilot programme “European Universities”, the first call being launched with the 2018 Erasmus+ programme call for 2019. In addition to the EU pilot programme, German higher education institutions receive funding under a national programme. This programme aims to support German higher education institutions entering this dynamic process and to prepare for further EU calls for applications, including the main EU call planned from 2021 onwards within the new Erasmus+ programme.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) receives funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to support the programme “European University Networks (EUN) – national initiative”, thus helping to strengthen the European dimension of German higher education institutions in multilateral European networks.

To supplement and prepare the German higher education institutions in the European networks, two programme lines are being launched:

#### **Programme line 1 (“Topping up”)**

This programme line is aimed at German higher education institutions that have been successful with their application under the EU pilot programme “European Universities” and receive funding from EU funds. German higher education institutions participating in the EU programme are to receive additional funding from the BMBF funds for measures not funded by the EU.

#### **Programme line 2 (“Approved but not funded”)**

This programme line offers funding for German higher education institutions that have a European university network considered worthy of funding under the EU programme but cannot be granted funding due to the EU selection ranking and the limited funds available.

#### **Programme objectives**

The “European University Networks (EUN) – national initiative” funding programme

- Helps German higher education institutions to (further) expand their existing sustainable European university networks in the areas of teaching, research, administration, and their third mission (outreach)
- Helps to strengthen the European dimension of German higher education institutions in multilateral European networks
- Enables participating higher education institutions to offer high-quality study and qualification courses with digital components
- Promotes enhanced acknowledgement and recognition at German higher education institutions for those undertaking visits abroad

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps students and academic scholars to acquire cross-cultural skills by increasing international mobility</li> <li>• Encourages profile development at participating higher education institutions through multilingualism</li> <li>• Supports German higher education institutions in their development of information and advisory services</li> <li>• Strengthens research and innovation at the participating German higher education institutions</li> <li>• Enhances the reputation of participating German higher education institutions in the European Higher Education Area and beyond</li> <li>• Promotes the third mission of higher education institutions by strengthening contact with society and the economy</li> </ul> <p>The aim of digital student data portability as laid down in the Groningen Declaration must be observed. For the international exchange of data, a standardised data format should be used (e.g. ELMO) which guarantees connectivity to European technological data exchange solutions (e.g. EMREX, EWP) and takes a student-centred approach.</p>
Eligible measures	<p>All measures in the two programme lines that serve to achieve the programme objectives are eligible for funding. This includes, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy and work meetings</li> <li>• Workshops and seminars</li> <li>• Summer and winter schools</li> <li>• Conferences</li> <li>• Language courses</li> <li>• Public relations</li> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Development of joint IT products and services</li> <li>• Project monitoring (only programme line 2)</li> <li>• Teaching/lectureships</li> <li>• Study and research visits by students, young academics and other academic staff for a duration of up to three months.</li> </ul> <p>In programme line 1, the only measures that can be funded are those that are not already funded via the EU project.</p>
Grant expenditure eligible	<p>All expenditure necessary and appropriate for implementing the project measures is eligible for funding (staff resources, material resources, funded individuals).</p> <p>Detailed information about expenses eligible for funding can be found in <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>
Type of financing	<p>Funding in the two programme lines will be provided as full financing.</p>
Funding period	<p>The funding period for both programme lines begins on 01/01/2020 at the earliest and ends on 31/12/2022 at the latest.</p>
Grant level	<p>Programme line 1: The grant is limited to a maximum of 750.000 euros per German higher education institution (max. 250.000 euros per budget year).</p> <p>Programme line 2: The grant is limited to a maximum of 450,000 euros per German higher education institution (max. 150,000 euros per budget year).</p>

Eligible applicants	<p>Programme line 1: German higher education institutions that have been successful with their European university network under the EU call for applications and receive funding from EU funds.</p> <p>Programme line 2: German higher education institutions that have a European university network considered worthy of funding under the EU call for applications but were not granted funding due to the selection situation (e.g. competition, finances, regional distribution).</p> <p>If there is more than one German higher education institution in a network, these higher education institutions must agree on one applicant (programme line 1 or programme line 2). A forwarding agreement may be used to make funds available to the other German higher education institutions in the network.</p>
Submission of applications	<p>An application for project funding must be completed in full and submitted by the stipulated deadline exclusively via the DAAD portal (<a href="https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal">https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal</a>).</p>
Application requirements	<p>The full project application comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project application (in DAAD portal)</li> <li>• Financing plan (in DAAD portal)</li> <li>• Project description (see <b>Appendix 2</b> for template; appendix type: Project description)</li> <li>• Summary of measures (see <b>Appendix 3</b> for template; appendix type: Project description)</li> <li>• EU application in the above-mentioned EU programme</li> <li>• Evaluation sheet of the EU evaluation panel</li> <li>• Endorsement of the project application by the university administration (template in DAAD portal; appendix type: Project description)</li> </ul> <p>Additionally for programme line 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval under the above-mentioned EU programme</li> </ul> <p>Additionally for programme line 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation agreement of the participating partner higher education institutions despite a lack of EU funding (template in accordance with <b>Appendix 4</b>)</li> </ul> <p>The above-mentioned application documents (mandatory documents) must be named in accordance with the specifications and submitted by the deadline.</p>
Application deadline	<p>The application deadline is 31 October 2019.</p>
Contact	<p>Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service Section P13 – Research and Internationalisation, University Networks Kennedyallee 50 53175 Bonn Germany</p> <p>Contacts: Birgit Siebe-Herbig (Head of Section) Email: <a href="mailto:siebe@daad.de">siebe@daad.de</a> Telephone: +49 (0)228 882 168</p>



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#### Appendices

1. Information on expenses eligible for funding
2. Template for project description
3. Template for summary of measures
4. Template for cooperation agreement
5. Endorsement from the university administration

Funded by:



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research