**Hellenic Republic**



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**Press Release**

**The European Commission has approved the further development of EU-CONEXUS.**

*A major achievement of progress towards the implementation of the Instituition of European Universities.*

The **Agricultural University of Athens** along with ***EU-CONEXUS – The European University concerning Smart Urban Coastal Zone Sustainability,*** upon the completion of **three years** of joint course, aims and accomplishments, **rise to the challenge of the second call of the European Commission** for **the continuity** of the institution of the European Universities. The European University has chosen EU-CONEXUS amongst other (16) sixteen European Alliances, in order to continue the development of the European University for another four years. Four new Alliances have been selected for falling within this initiative.

**EU-CONEXUS** wherein,the Rector of the Agricultural University of Athens, Mr. Spyridon Kintzios, Professoracts as theScientific Supervisor and Manager, consisting of the following Universities, namely the Agricultural University of Athens (Greece) – AUA, La Rochelle Université (France) – LRUniv, University of Zadar, (Croatia) – UNIZD, La Universidad Católica de Valencia (Spain) – UCV, Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest (Romania) – UTCB, Klaipeda University, (Lithouania) – KU, has been expanding and extending its European family as **EU-CONEXUS Plus,** by adding three more Universities - Partners: Frederick University (Cyprus) – FredU, Rostock University (German) – UROS, South East Technological University (Ireland) – SETU, establishing an Alliance of nine (9) European Universities which share the same vision.

**EU-CONEXUS Plus** aims at the institutional transformation suitable for all the Universities - Partners, with the intention of creating favourable conditions for the development of an interdisciplinary -taking into account the challenges-inasmuch an internationally competitive education, research and innovation areas based on a transnational campus.

In view of the attainments achieved throughout the three years passed, like Minor Courses at an Undergraduate Level, Joint Master Program “Marine Biotechnology”, which is to start functioning in September 2022, the students’ contests, workshops, mobility of the administrative and academic staff (job shadowing/ researcher mobility) besides digitalization, **EU-CONEXUS Plus** keeps on developing further strategic targets, set in the light of the common mission of the Alliance.

Under the framework of the European Education Area (EEA), European Research Area (ERA) and European Higher Education Area (EHEA), **EU-CONEXUS Plus** will continue functioning as a model, in addition to participating actively into the formulation and implementation of European Policies for a European Degree, as far as the joint Study Programs and Life Long Learning Programs (LLL) are concerned, with reference to Erasmus Without Papers, Digital Education Action Plan, adopting at the same time, policies for the establishment of a legal framework.

The general European strategies will be taken into consideration by all the **EU-CONEXUS Plus** activities**,** like European Green Deal for the promotion of sustainability, Human Resources Strategy for Researchers associated with the recognition of international activities, such as teaching collaboration, integration policies and the gender equality policy, as well.

Priority of **EU-CONEXUS Plus** involves acquiring a wide impact upon the whole Academic Community, strengthening in a significant way, the completeness of the institutional development of the European University, empowering the provision of a full university service, handling evenly the areas of education, research and innovation.

A bright path has been predicted for the next four years, through the actions that are to be held by **EU-CONEXUS Plus**, offering priority to students and the development of their skills, who are actually the future change factors regarding Smart Urban Coastal Zone Sustainability across Europe.

The actions that shall take place comprise the development of common international Undergraduate/Master/Doctoral Degree Study Programs, the further development of four Joint Research Institutes (JRIs) already established, with the goal of developing common research programs, inasmuch fostering access policy to the Joint Research Infrastructures. Also, the Action “Research back to Education”, planning on connecting research results and innovation with education, as well as the Action EU-CONEXUS Teaching Academy, with the purpose of promoting high quality education, tailored to the needs and demands of society, economy and industry, are included, too. Moreover, scientific conferences and festivals will be held, a network of research and mobility will be developed, the career center development and that of the green Campus will be completed, in addition to achieving Transfer of Knowledge and Technologies.

For more info about the results of 2022, all the interested parties can visit the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4702>