



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE
Youth, Education and Erasmus+
Higher education

Brussels
EAC.B.1

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Study on the feasibility of a legal status for alliances of universities, such as European Universities

In line with the [European strategy for universities](#), the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) has commissioned PPMI and the Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (CSES) to carry out a study on the feasibility of a legal status for alliances of higher education institutions, such as European Universities.

The study's purpose is to analyse the various needs expressed by the European Universities alliances and other alliances of higher education institutions across Europe in their aim to further enhance and deepen their cooperation, and the feasibility of a legal status at European level. For that end, the objectives of this study are:

- to analyse whether the current available legal tools - both at national and EU level - can or cannot provide a solution to the obstacles encountered with regard to the deeper cooperation that the alliances are pursuing;
- to propose possible avenues at EU level, as possible solutions to the needs expressed by the higher education sector.

The study will cover various institutionalised cooperation models within the European higher education sector. This includes not only alliances selected under the European Universities initiative, but also other transnational cooperation models.

This study will feed into possible future policy-making at European level, respecting institutional autonomy and the competences of Member States in the field of higher education and research.

I would be grateful if you could give the consultants your full support in undertaking consultations through their interview programme, online surveys and broader consultations.

Yours faithfully,

Vanessa DEBIAIS-SAINTON
Head of Unit