



# EQAR Members' Dialogue

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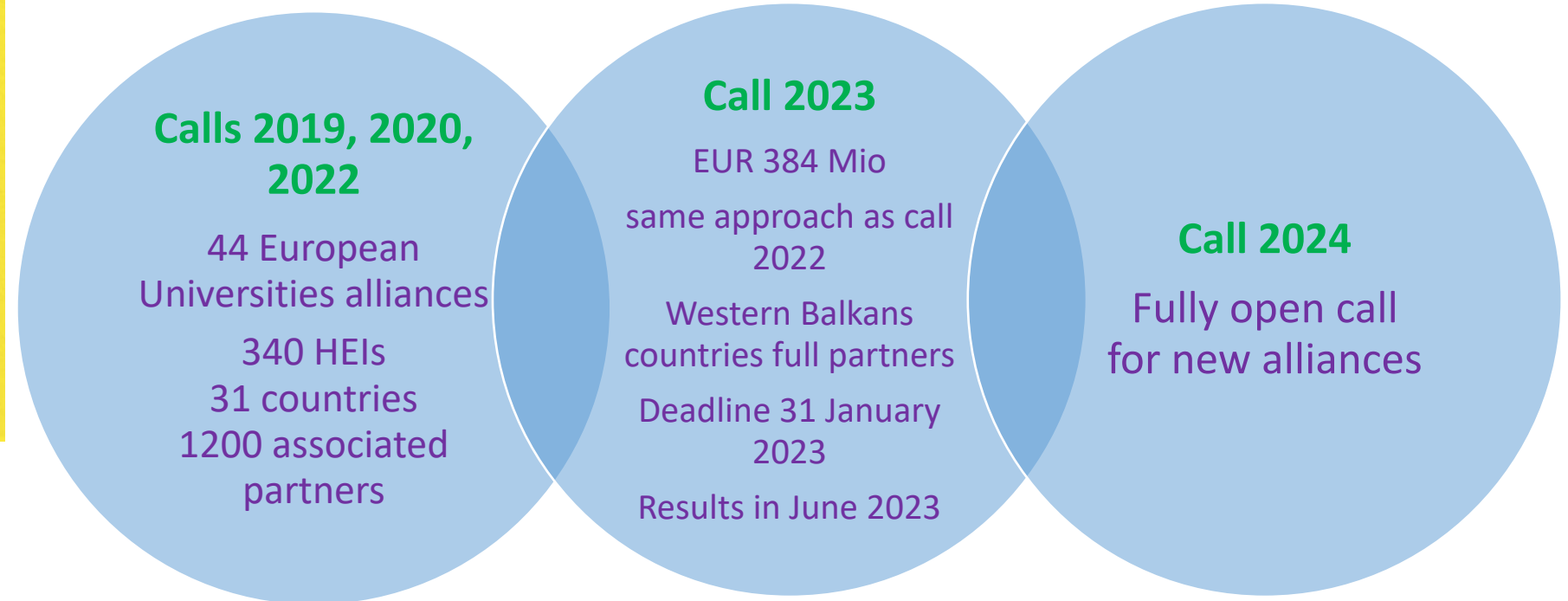
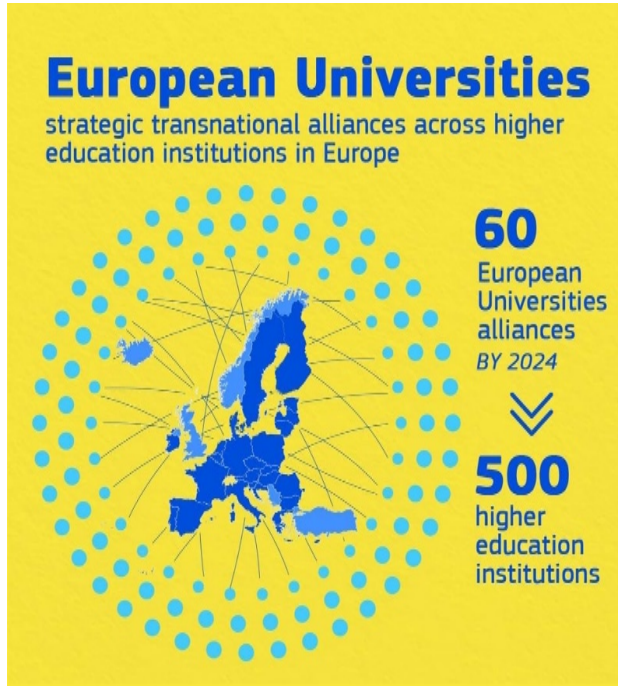
*8-9 December 2022  
Prague, Czech Republic*

# European Universities



EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITIES

# European Universities: state of play



# Monitoring framework: Thematic areas\*

**Joint Education Provision and  
Mobility**



**Society and Economy**



**Alliance Governance  
and Cooperation**



\* Note that the R&I dimension is covered  
by a study managed by DG RTD



EU2022.CZ





# Joint European Degree Label





# Towards a common European framework for joint degrees?

## European Council Conclusions from 14 December 2017

*“(...) enable students to **obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries** and contribute to the international competitiveness of European universities”*

## Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe, 5 April 2022

*“(...) **further steps should be taken to recognise the value of innovative transnational learning experiences** and to increase the visibility, attractiveness and reputation, both in Europe and beyond, of such joint programmes provided by alliances of HEIs.*

***Common criteria should be explored that could lead to a potential European label for joint programmes.***

*Later on, **the possible design and delivery, on a voluntary basis, at national, regional or institutional level, of joint degrees at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, could be envisaged**, in accordance with the existing instruments of the Bologna Process. This process should occur in close cooperation with national authorities, alliances of HEIs and stakeholders.”*

# Towards a common European framework for joint degrees ?

## Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, 5 April 2022

### Recommendation to the Commission:

“Examine the options and necessary steps - in close cooperation with Member States, higher education institutions, student organisations and stakeholders - **towards a possible joint degree based on a common set of co-created European criteria**. This degree, to be delivered **on a voluntary basis at national, regional or institutional level**, could attest learning outcomes achieved as part of transnational cooperation ‘combining studies in several EU countries’, offered for example within ‘European Universities’. It should be easy to issue, store, share, verify and authenticate, and recognised across the EU. **It will build on and boost the implementation of the Bologna instruments in the Member States.**

a) **Pilot in 2022** the development and implementation under Erasmus+ of **European criteria for the award of a joint European degree label**. Such a label would be issued as a **complementary certificate to the qualifications** obtained by students graduating from joint programmes delivered in the context of transnational cooperation between several higher education institutions.

b) **Based on the results of this preparatory work**, report to the Council for further decision at each step towards **a possible joint degree based on co-created European criteria**, in accordance with the instruments of the Bologna Process.”

# Strong call from higher education sector to act

Evolving context - intensification of transnational cooperation



**UNIVERSITIES FACE OBSTACLES FOR ENGAGING MORE EFFECTIVELY IN TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**92%** of universities identified the **elimination of legal and administrative obstacles** as a **key issue**



- ❑ **Legal and administrative obstacles** to setup joint programmes and activities, including the award of joint degree, are **multiplied by the number of partners in an alliance** of HEIs in view of diverse national legislation
- ❑ **Uneven implementation of Bologna tools at national level** – quality assurance, ECTS
- ❑ **Difficulties to share joint resources** - financial, human, digital and physical resources, and services

# Working towards fully voluntary solutions



Each HEI decides if it wants to get involved



Nothing is imposed



Institutional autonomy and academic freedom are fully respected



Respect for subsidiarity principle



Not limited to the European university alliances



# A step-by-step approach: where are we now?

## 1/ Co-develop possible criteria for a label and publish a call for a pilot (2022)

Criteria annexed to the call are the working basis on which the pilot will build evidence and explore possible future optimisations

## 2/ Test these criteria in selected pilots (2023)

Test the relevance of these criteria against existing joint programmes



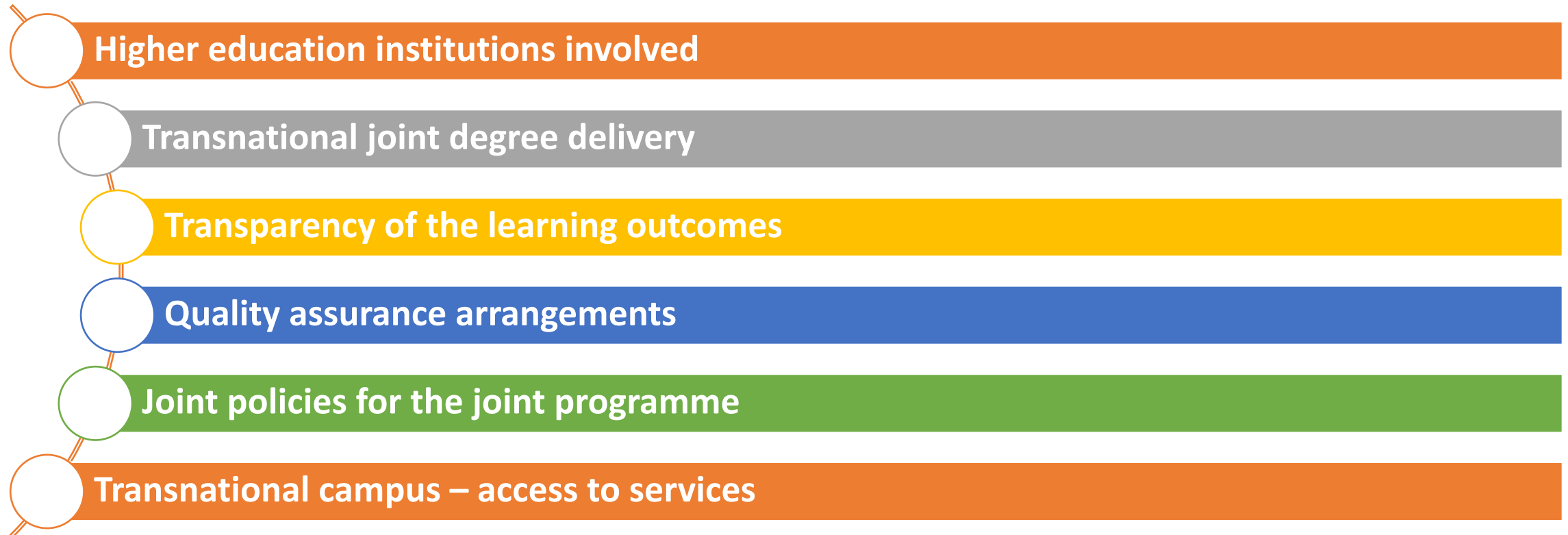
No open call to apply for the label during the piloting phase. Each selected pilot project will also have objective to make proposals

## 3/ Analyse the results of the pilots (2024)

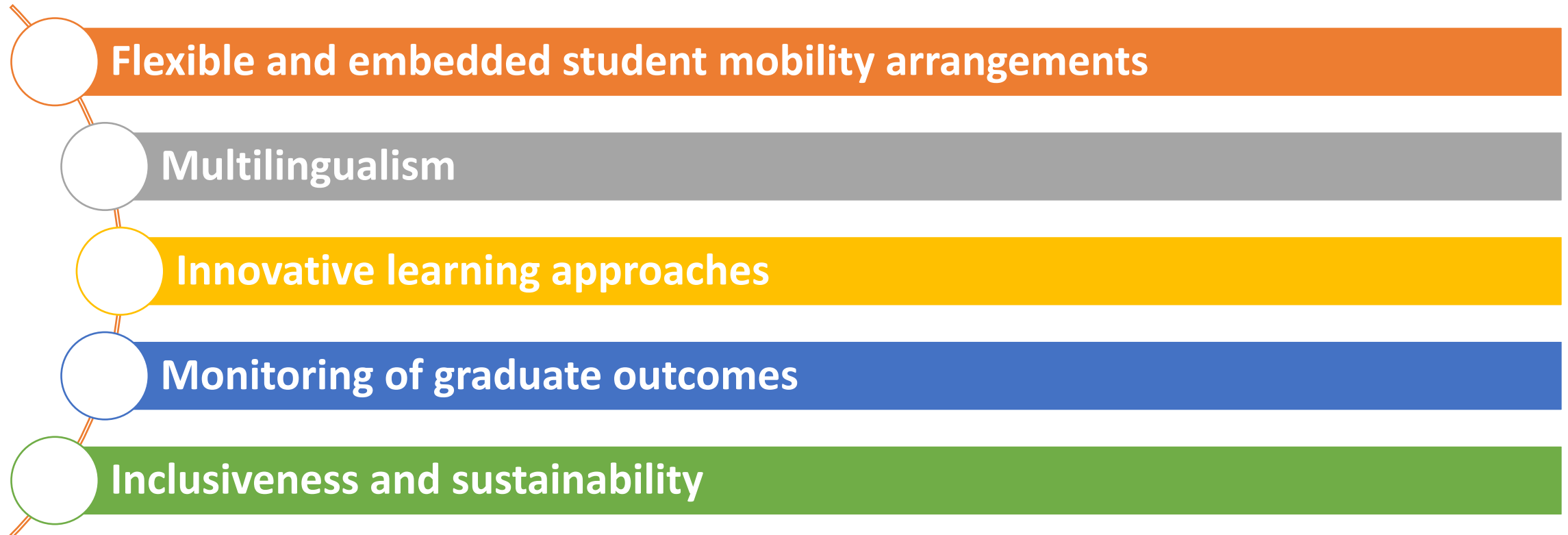
Results of the pilot will inform future possible developments towards a possible joint degree based on co-created European criteria



# Co-created set of criteria



# Co-created set of criteria



# Quality Assurance and Recognition System





# European Strategy for Universities

Review Recommendation on further European cooperation in Quality Assurance in higher education in **2023** to develop a **European Quality Assurance and Recognition System**



# Why

## Quality assurance is

- the **foundation for mutual trust** between higher education institutions
- crucial to the achievement of many actions in **European Strategy for Universities** and **European Education Area**

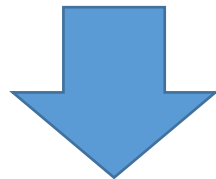
## Objectives

- facilitate deeper **transnational cooperation** between higher education institutions
- Strengthen links between **quality assurance** and **automatic recognition**
- move further towards **institution-level quality assurance**

# Plans and Timing

**Study on:**

1. Implementation of the **Council Recommendation on automatic recognition**



Report to Council on automatic **recognition** in early **2023**

2. Feasibility of a **European recognition and quality assurance system**



**Targeted consultations** of stakeholders and Member States over coming months

**Adoption of proposal** in late 2023/early 2024



# Thank you!

**Get in touch:**

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