

Highlights from EURASHE November 2022 – May 2023

Dear members of the BFUG,

We are providing you with this written update as an extension of the oral update given by our President, Armando Pires, during the LXXXIII BFUG meeting in Stockholm.

Introductory intro words from the EURASHE President

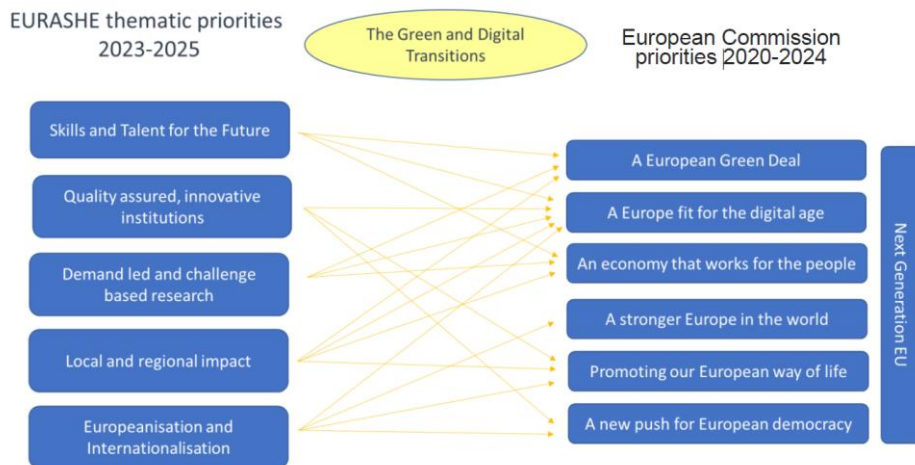
In the 2022 State of the Union address, the President of the European Commission announced that 2023 would be the European Year of Skills. Closely linked to the world of work, Professional Higher Education can help meet Europe's skills gaps and develop the broader competencies required for green and digital transitions. However, reinforced cooperation with the world of work will be crucial to succeed, as well as with other education and training institutions, governments, and civil society, which should aim to develop regional skills ecosystems. Industrial transition demands the reskilling and upskilling of workers of all ages, and therefore adult learning will become more relevant for higher education. Furthermore, Europe needs more trained researchers in all regions to apply knowledge in SMEs. Amid this rapid economic and technological change background, the EURASHE network These priorities were also a basis for setting the Annual Conference Programme. The recent global events and unstable economic, security and ecological situation should also be seen as an opportunity for inspiration and co-creation of human capabilities for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The strength of education in Europe lies within the diversity of its educational institutions. Universities of Applied Science, Vocational Education & Training institutions, and Polytechnics, also part of the programmes offered by the comprehensive universities, will play a pivotal role in the education of European society practically but also holistically to match the challenges of the future.

Thematic priorities for EURASHE in the upcoming years – EURASHE's Strategy

The EURASHE General Assembly approved the new EURASHE strategy 2023-2025 on 10 November 2022. The main objective of this strategy is that EURASHE becomes **a reference point for a wide range of policymakers and higher education institutions** who seek to harness the power of Professional Higher Education (PHE) to address the **green and digital transitions**.

Thematic Priorities for EURASHE:

- Skills and Talent for the Future
- Quality assured, innovative institutions
- Demand-led and challenge-based research
- Local and regional impact
- Europeanisation and internationalisation



Annual Conference and EURASHE elections

EURASHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

The 32nd EURASHE Annual Conference will occur in Bucharest on 8-9 June 2023. Under the title 'Skills for Europe, mobilising Higher Education for the Green and Digital Transitions', we aimed to create a shared path on skills with our members, partner and stakeholder and discuss how Professional Higher Education can help meet the skills gaps Europe is facing and develop the broader competences required for the green and digital transitions; in relation with the European Year of Skills.

[Skills for Europe | EURASHE 32nd Annual Conference](#)

BOARD ELECTIONS 2023-2025

EURASHE Board member elections will happen on 7 June 2023 in Bucharest, Romania. After the election of the Board members, the new Board will convene and seek the candidacy among its members for the positions of the President and two Vice-Presidents. The General Assembly will then elect, from the candidates nominated by the Board, the President and Vice-Presidents of EURASHE for their 2-year mandate.

Year of skills

EURASHE Skills Community of Practice (Skills CoP) integrates the trio of CoP which consists of informal peer learning for exchanging good practices and contributing to capacity-building. The CoP launched in February 2023 gathers staff in HEIs and professionals from various stakeholders, from interested to expert level, and intends to be a learning and exchanging space for new synergies and contribute to shaping the next developments within the skills' scope in Europe from the PHE perspective. The launch of the CoP took place in Bilbao, Spain, on 1st February and gathered institutions, associations and policymakers working on future skills development within the Education & Training sector, providing a space for learning and new ideas for optimising skills ecosystems at national and regional levels.

Being 2023 the European Year of Skills, the relevance of this CoP is vital for reflecting on and supporting upskilling and reskilling in Europe. Education institutions, associations and policymakers are joining and working towards investment in skills fit for the current and future demands of the societal green and digital transitions, pursuing the principle of ensuring the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning (EPSR).

The Skills CoP is co-lead by Mondragon University, Basque Country, Spain and the Future Skills Think Tank NextEducation from Baden-Wurttemberg Cooperative State University, Germany. EURASHE is responsible for managing the CoP and owns the Intellectual Property of the Publications.

EURASHE Projects

[UASiMAP](#)

EURASHE is the coordinator of this Erasmus+ Forward Looking Project, analysing the regional impact of Universities of Applied Higher Education. It has developed an assessment framework, including self-reflection and indicators around four dimensions: Research and Innovation, Human Capital and Skills, Community Engagement and Governance. The project will soon finish, with a final event on 7th June in Bucharest (online participation is possible), though EURASHE will continue working on this subject which is central to the mission of UAS.

[QA-FIT](#)

EURASHE, other European Stakeholders and National Partners keep partnering up within the QA-FIT project considering the Quality Assurance in Europe and the future of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). With Other European organisations, we have asked the Ministries, QA Agencies, Higher Education Institutions and Student Unions about their perception, thoughts, and comments on how they perceive the current framework and functioning of the system. The project consortium is currently analysing the responses. Over the following months, we will be ready to share the results with you and discuss them during various meetings, conferences, and webinars.

[ARinVET](#)

ARinVET aims to enhance the innovation and competitiveness of the European economy by driving European competitiveness with applied research in VET for SMEs. Our focus is on the critical role of vocational education and training (VET) in research and development (R&D). We will identify VET centres involved in applied research (AR), conduct case studies, and develop tools to help SMEs engage in applied research.

[BWSE 2030](#)

EURASHE, along with other European education stakeholders, teamed up with the European Students' Union in the frame of the Bologna with Stakeholders Eyes for an Innovative, Inclusive and Interconnected EHEA by 2030 (BWSE2030) Project. Building on the work of the first round of the project Bologna With Stakeholders' Eyes for a Stronger Future of the Bologna Process (BWSE FORward), the follow-up project BWSE FOR2030 aims to continue supporting the implementation of reforms in the European Higher Education Area.

[InclusiPHE](#)

To respond to the needs and challenges of wider society students need to obtain key competencies for active citizenship that can be developed through student engagement in university. InclusiPHE will focus specifically on PHEIs which typically attract a more diverse range of students with a higher proportion of non-traditional students (e.g.: adult students, lifelong learners, parent students, students from a migrant background, students with a disability, etc) compared to more classical HEIs. Likewise, the PHE curricula have specific characteristics that influence student engagement, which is often overlooked in European and national higher education policy discussions

ATHENA

The ATHENA project officially started with a successful meeting held in Brno, Czech Republic. The meeting brought together project partners from across multiple institutions to collaborate on developing recommendations on integrating and design for all into the HE curricula.

Meridies Consortium

The Consortium MERIDIES (a Latin expression referring to South) brings together a set of Portuguese Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) strongly committed to the development of the territory in which they operate, i.e., the Alentejo region, integrating the Polytechnic of Portalegre (Coordinator), the Polytechnic of Santarém, the Polytechnic of Setúbal, the Polytechnic of Beja and the University of Évora. Based on the characteristics of this territory, the project translates a strong commitment of the HEIs involved with the development of the territory, contributing not only to meet the educational and training needs, but also to retain and attract qualified human resources, in strategic and crucial areas for development, aligned with the objectives inherent to the agendas under the RRF framework.

Strategy Hack

Building on knowledge and experience around digital learning gained during the COVID crisis, the StrategyHack project intends to strengthen the capacities of mid-level institutional leaders in higher education to promote more sustainable models of digital education, focusing on accelerating the digital transformation within higher education whilst promoting and nourishing high quality personalised digital environments. The StrategyHack consortium will work together to take a European Approach to supporting mid-level institutional leaders in the attainment of sustainable digital education models by providing them with a set of tools composed of the following digital artifacts:

- Capacity Building Course on Digital Education Strategies
- Peer-learning methodology for Digitisation Strategy Improvement
- Model Management System for digital education

3-IN-AT-PLUS

The fourth project of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research is to support the implementation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in Austria and internationally. The core focus of the project is to establish the European network of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) with the aim of driving the RPL policies, and peer learning between countries as well as the individuals involved in the RPL activities. EURASHE, through its experience in the sector of Applied Sciences and Professional Education is contributing to the project by conveying the point of view of the institutions it represents, as well as linking the project with the previous and current discourse on the RPL in Europe.

Main Future Events

- [EURASHE 32nd Annual Conference](#)
- [UASIMAP Project Final Conference](#)
- [PLA on Student-Centred learning](#)
- Summer Cocktails – 4 July – context tbc

If you want to know more about EURASHE activities please subscribe to [EURASHE Insights](#) or follow our news on the [website](#) or social media channels such as [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).