Introduction

Every year the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) publishes Compendia of all projects selected for funding under the annual Call for proposals of the Erasmus+ Programme. The present publication is dedicated to the projects awarded in 2015 under the centralised actions of the Key Actions 2: Knowledge Alliances.

The Compendia are part of the EACEA’s contribution to a better dissemination of information about ongoing projects and networking among project coordinators. In the Compendia you will find a short description of each project, the contact details of the beneficiary and coordinating organisations and a list of partners initially involved in the project.

Please note the present Compendium reflects the state of projects at the end of the selection stage, which means that data such as duration, composition of the partnership or contact details may change during the lifetime of the project. Please also note that project descriptions included in this Compendium are provided by the applicants at the application stage. For further information please use the indicated contact details.

In order to complete the picture, below you will find a brief overview of the aims and objectives of the KA2: Knowledge Alliances sub-programme and some figures from the selection results.

Knowledge Alliances aim at strengthening Europe’s innovation capacity and at fostering innovation in higher education, business and the broader socio-economic environment. They intend to achieve one or more of the following aims:
- develop new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning;
- stimulate entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills of higher education teaching staff and enterprise staff;
- facilitate the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge.

Knowledge Alliances are transnational, structured and result-driven projects, notably between higher education and business. Knowledge Alliances are open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectorial cooperation. The partners share common goals and work together towards mutually beneficial results and outcomes.

Knowledge Alliances are meant to have a short and long term impact on the wide range of stakeholders involved, at individual and systematic level. As a general rule, Knowledge Alliances target the cooperation between organisations established in Programme Countries. However, organisations from Partner Countries can be involved in a Knowledge Alliance as partners (not as applicants) if their participation brings an essential added value to the project.

Of the 200 proposals submitted, 8 were initially selected. Additional funding allowed selecting 2 projects from the reserve list as well.
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mCloud Alliance brings together 18 higher education institutions (HEIs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to develop Cloud-based European infrastructure and organisation for education in microelectronics providing a range of open educational resources (OERs), remote access and sharing of educational and professional software, remote and practice-based learning facilities.

Neither university can afford the necessary infrastructure, clean rooms, technology and experts in all fields of this multidisciplinary science. Sharing of laboratory experiences, CAD tools, project ideas, and a common infrastructure represents a sort of “educational cloud” on top of the cloud software/hardware infrastructure. 8 European HEIs and 8 SMEs will jointly develop e-learning materials for at least 16 courses on: CAD and technologies, test, and application of integrated circuits and systems, and we will deliver them as OERs to strengthen the virtual mobility. Each university will provide remote access to its facilities, laboratory experiments/software systems for the partners in a cloud teaching system, giving them access to new resources.

The impact on the students will be in the highest quality of the specialised courses developed by the best departments in the field, the opportunity to train practical skills and competences with remote access to laboratories with advanced equipment and facilities, for the teachers – rich infrastructure and new shared teaching materials, for universities - the European dimensions in HE: curricular development, virtual mobility of students and academic staff, integrated programmes of study, training and research. The impact of the university-business alliance will be in the education responsive to the labour market needs, graduated students prepared for the job, enterprises satisfied by the knowledge and skills of young specialists.
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- Ines Plateforme Formation & Evaluation (FR)
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- Technische Universitaet Berlin (DE)
- Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia (ES)
- Universitatea Politehnica din Bucuresti (RO)

MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 999,045 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
**REFERENCE:** 562286-EPP-1-2015-1-AT-EPPKA2-KA

**TITLE:** Knowledge Alliance to enable a European-wide exploitation of the potential of MOOCs for the world of business (BizMOOC)

**DESCRIPTION:** ‘Massive Open Online Courses’ (MOOCs) caused a major impact on HEIs worldwide. Business models, target groups, quality standards, certification, sustainability, teaching, delivery & learning methods are all affected. Europe is yet to respond to these emerging trends. Initiatives in the EU exist, but remain isolated, both geographically and per sector. They lack impact on the HEI area as a whole, and do not include the business community to a sufficient extent. A joint European-wide Knowledge Alliance carries huge potential to address these gaps and major challenges.

The BizMOOC project aims to strengthen innovation capacity in all parts of Europe through the creation of common standards and frameworks that promote MOOCs for workplace teaching & training, the acquisition of labour market-relevant skills and entrepreneurial activity. It joins experts from 14 HEIs, businesses and networks/NGOs from 11 countries to achieve this goal by the following key activities & results:

- Collect and analyse the needs, gaps, good practices and reasons for non-participation of European HEIs, businesses/entrepreneurs and society (especially labour force, jobseekers and non-traditional learners),

- Elaborate 3 guidelines, 11 discussion papers, concrete recommendations (for HEIs, businesses, society and policy-makers), good practice collections and provide them in an open access, interactive ‘MOOC BOOK’,

- Pilot test the guidelines through 3 types of MOOCs (with 4,000 learners/75 HEIs & businesses) which teach LLL key competences relevant for the labour market,

- Create a MOOC network (min. 4,000 actors).

Through BizMOOC, we establish a platform with which to successfully plan and implement MOOCs for business use. We enable the target groups to boost their activities and exploit the full potential of MOOCs. This will foster the modernization of education, key competence acquisition, cross-sector knowledge exchange and strengthening of HEI-business cooperation in Europe.

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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 758,264 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
**REFERENCE:** 562358-EPP-1-2015-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA

**TITLE:** European Research and Enterprise Alliance on Marketing and Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (ECOSTAR)

**DESCRIPTION:** Most of innovative businesses base their success on creating value through better use of intangible assets. Ecosystem Services constitute the most valuable intangible assets on earth and forests are the most precious Natural Capital in Europe. Therefore, ECOSTAR alliance aims to develop entrepreneurship and innovation skills and opportunities among Forest and Environmental Policy and Economics (FEPE) university departments in Europe, specifically targeting Italy, Spain, England and Romania. The project focuses on promoting and fostering the links among high education institutions and businesses operating in the field of Marketing and Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (MEEB).

Most of well-known FEPE university departments have developed several methodologies and tools connected with MEEB and in general with nature-based economy. However, universities curricula lack of knowledge transfer initiatives that allow the real commercialization of new processes, methods and services for the development of market-based mechanism for ecosystem services conservation. Therefore, the project aims to make the knowledge triangle a reality in the field of MEEB, providing sustainable business opportunities and real benefits for the environment. ECOSTAR will achieve its goals through the following main actions:
- Delivering a series of specialized entrepreneurship and innovation trainings targeted to MEEB through multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning
- Facilitate the co-creation of knowledge, through staff and learners mobility, an EU Business Plan Award, lobby and fundraising
- Create an EU wide research and enterprise alliance to make a knowledge triangle a reality in the field of MEEB Results will have a strong EU-global dimension and transferability potential, capitalizing on existing wide university-business networks and through the partnership with Ecosystem Marketplace, a leading organization tracking ecosystems markets and tools in US and worldwide.

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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 982,679 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
The project builds on an existing community linked to ISPIM Society focused on innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E) – a theme of central interest in EU as a source of employment and growth. The consortium consists of industrial partners (Nokia Networks, Lufthansa, Torbay Hospital, AachenMuenchner, BMW, Lego) and academics who share a concern with the question: How do we improve on current I&E teaching, coaching and training? While many organizations offer courses that focus on I&E we know these often fail to stimulate a step change in student abilities. Learners know they should act, but training does not enable this and whilst they gain considerable ‘explicit’ knowledge, they fail with ‘TACIT’ element that helps them to apply it. We suggest this is partly due to the mode of delivery and there is a need for new and innovative approaches that embrace learning as a generative iteration of knowledge and knowing through doing, making and relating:

• recognise different modes of learning; for many practitioners classroom style approaches do not work effectively
• promote experiential learning offering different ways of closing the learning cycle between theory and practice
• create skills-based learning placing emphasis on what individuals in organizations can actually do rather than focusing only on structures and processes to enable innovation
• assure practice-based learning: allowing capability development through experimentation and prototyping
• build on core I&E principles around which individuals configure solutions to work in their own corporate context

The objective of this project is to combine the efforts of business and university educators to create new learner-centred teaching methods, open up new learning opportunities and develop the practical application of entrepreneurial skills. This will be framed as an innovative teaching module to be embedded in the existing curricula of higher education institutions and in the corporate training programs.
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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 999,561 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
Each area of professional competency faces its own challenges in providing relevant training before workplace practice. In public service and industry, too much is expected of students learning from their apprenticeship phase, compromising reliability or safety. Trainees lack opportunities to practise applying “inert” knowledge to a real task context, while in a risk-free environment.

In response, traditional subject-based teaching is slowly being replaced by training through scenarios, such as Problem-Based Learning (PBL), which is more closely aligned with the needs of practice. But the missing factor is the ability for the learner to directly engage with the scenario; to take decisions and experience the consequences of those decisions; to learn safely through error.

Interactive virtual scenarios (VS) or simulations (Scenario-Based Learning; SBL) are recognised by many teaching and learning communities as effective tools for developing reasoning, and for safe training in workplace competency. However, the approach is challenging for educators to understand, and does not fit easily into conventional platforms either pedagogically or technically.

This project takes SBL ‘out-of-the-box’, combining skill sets of both academic and enterprise partners to make SBL more accessible for a wide range of professions.

Developments will include the ability to embed SBL activities directly into learning platforms and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), adding renewed pedagogic value and ease-of-use to learners through improved integration, progress monitoring, and the delivery of feedback. By embedding SBL, MOOCS will enable development of real world skills, competency and experience rather than knowledge. The provision of training materials in multiple languages, including a ‘How to create Virtual Scenarios’ MOOC, will make VS more accessible for educators. The project will sustain and disseminate these activities through an extended partnership, the ‘WAVES’ network.

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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 996,906 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
REFERENCE: 562542-EPP-1-2015-1-ES-EPPKA2-KA

TITLE: Knowledge Alliance for Advanced Urbanism (KAAU)

DESCRIPTION: European cities are becoming living laboratories where industries carry on pilot projects to experiment new devices, all kind of sensors and online information and communication systems. The involvement of universities and research centres in this process is still limited. The increasing availability of data that comes from city sensors, creates new opportunities not just for monitoring and management, it will also radically change the way we may describe, understand and design cities, challenging many fundamental assumptions of the city design and planning professions. For this reason, our Consortium wants to build a Knowledge Alliance for Advanced Urbanism (KAAU) to promote the innovative education and training that emerging technologies require.

We understand “Advanced Urbanism” as the sensitive integration of ICT in cities, taking in consideration cultural heritage, environmental and social dimension issues. “Advanced Urbanism” is about designing and planning processes – instead of just concrete artefacts, linking citizens, business and government into sustainable urban business cultures. “Advanced Urbanism” requires changing traditional design and planning practices towards more open, collaborative and interdisciplinary practices.

KAAU will develop an educational and training platform in partnership with HEI and well-established industrial partners and companies. The objective of this platform is to offer participants the possibility to engage in a semi-professional environment, and develop projects with the support and expertise of individuals and institutions that are commercially involved in their field of expertise. In that manner, it provides a potential jumping platform into future professional opportunities, while offering companies a fresh R+D environment where to propose new design challenges and applications.

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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 958,914 €

contract duration: 36 months
**REFERENCE:** 562579-EPP-1-2015-1-DK-EPPKA2-KA

**TITLE:** Knowledge Alliance for Urban Challenges (KAUK)

**DESCRIPTION:** This Knowledge Alliance aims at creating an international educational programme, the Urban Challenge Programme (KAUC), as we have identified a need to create a foundational unit for students, teachers, municipalities and businesses across disciplinary backgrounds and national borders to cooperate on addressing urgent challenges and sustainability issues in different European urban settings.

The full partners of the KAUC consist of higher education institutions and enterprises from six different European cities. The purpose of the Urban Challenges is to strengthen university faculty and students’ ability to work with real life urban challenges posed by public and/or private stakeholders.

We will develop and drive the following Urban Challenges as outputs of our KAUC:
- Edinburgh-Copenhagen Urban Challenge (ECUC)
- Riga-Copenhagen Urban Challenge (RICUC)
- The Rome-Copenhagen Urban Challenge (ROCUC)
- The Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge (HACUC)
- Helsinki-Copenhagen Urban Challenge (HECUC)

We believe that the KAUC will:
- Strengthen innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration in HEI's
- Create stronger ties between businesses, HEI's, and students
- Help combat youth unemployment by preparing graduate students for employment within sustainable urban development

We engage with the Climate KIC as an associate partner. Climate KIC contributes with an online e-learning platform that will capture and openly share and disseminate all information, including course syllabus, literature lists, teaching cases, students’ presentations etc.

After each annually UC a Handbook on Best Practices will be delivered and by the end of the project period a White Book will be published.

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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 991,509 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
The European partner countries struggle with economic and social challenges. Remote and rural regions suffer from decreasing economy, unemployment and migration. ERDI seeks solutions to these problems boosting the expertise, entrepreneurship and co-creation of knowledge in bioeconomy. ERDI project aims for better graduate employability and improved competitiveness of the regional economy to gain better income in the future. Bioeconomy in ERDI refers to a sustainable but profitable use of renewable natural resources in the field of energy and agriculture. Bioeconomy is one of the growing businesses in Europe. It is a tool for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation. However, bioeconomy still suffers from a lack of skilled labour and also business models are still too few. ERDI works through a multidisciplinary and international network of educational institutions, enterprises and administrators. ERDI develops the students’ and other beneficiaries’ expertise in bioeconomy and supports multicultural and transversal skills. ERDI also internationalises the education; fosters innovations and builds bridges between the stakeholders on different levels and regions.

Furthermore, ERDI improves the openness and availability of higher education through innovative digital educational materials. ERDI aims and objectives are met through four main work packages: Curriculum development; innovative digital learning tools; knowledge alliance models and business networks. The work plan formulates an entity where the up-to-date issues raising from the HEI and WLP partners’ strategic, long term development and needs can be explored and solved.

Together the co-creation of knowledge and expertise has impacts to the graduate employability, bio-economy businesses and regional development.

ERDI results are: ERDI competences and course; digital tools and learning materials; knowledge alliance models and tools; spread of business models and ideas; dissemination materials.

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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 563,703 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
INNOVATIVE OPEN DATA EDUCATION AND TRAINING BASED ON PBL AND LEARNING ANALYTICS (ODEDU)

DESCRIPTION:

Open Data initiatives worldwide are boosting with an aim to increase transparency and contribute to economic growth. With a global annual economic potential value estimated to $3 trillion, this boost seems justified. Current progress however is not satisfactory. We believe a main reason is the lack of relevant skills and competencies. Indeed, current education and training activities are scarce and do not exploit practice-oriented learning methods such as Problem Based Learning (PBL). As a result, public servants are missing skills related to publishing open data. Similarly, companies and entrepreneurs are missing skills related to re-using open data. Students are not provided with sufficient and properly-structured academic courses.

The project aims to establish a Knowledge Alliance between academia, business and the public sector that will boost Open Data education and training. The project results include:

- A novel learning model based on PBL and learning analytics, termed Data Driven PBL (DD_PBL)
- An open-source platform to support DD_PBL, underpinning flexible learning pathways and course re-design
- Co-created, freely available for any use, multimodal and multilingual (5 languages) content on the Open Data publication and reuse
- Innovative activities, e.g. university courses, trainings, workshops, hackathlons etc. in academia, businesses and the public sector to boost innovation, knowledge exchange and transversal skills.

The project is anticipated to have significant impact as:

- Academics and trainers in 5 countries will use a new pedagogical method
- University curricula will be updated to include Open Data
- Multimodal and multilingual training material on Open Data will be available to freely re-use
- Hundreds of students, entrepreneurs, company and Public Authorities employees will receive education and training on Open Data
- A culture of collaboration between academia, industry and local authorities will be developed to foster innovation based on Open Data.

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MAXIMUM EU GRANT: 796,527 €

CONTRACT DURATION: 36 months
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REFERENCE:</th>
<th>562657-EPP-1-2015-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE:</td>
<td>Creating a University-Enterprise Alliance for a Spatially Enabled Society (giCASES)</td>
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| DESCRIPTION:    | According to current discussion within the community of stakeholders, there is in the Geographic Information (GI) sector a gap between the knowledge currently being offered by the European universities and the knowledge and skills requested by the enterprises and public authorities. This is partly due to a fast technological development but also due to recent societal changes, for instance the EU INSPIRE directive and the e-government action plans within the member states.

The giCASES project will develop new methods for co-creation of knowledge, where industrial partners and universities will jointly develop new case based learning material based. The project specifically address the Geographic Information sector.

The case studies will be developed using a collaborative platform, where enterprises, universities and sometimes also students will collaborate. The new learning material and collaborative teaching will also be tested in university settings.

The project results will be provided under open licenses. In order to optimize the spread and usage of the project results, dissemination actions will specifically address external universities adhering to the open learning paradigm. In addition, the project results will also improve the knowledge management within the participating organisations. Questions related to processes for creation of knowledge and knowledge repositories will be placed at a strategic level, also within the enterprises.

Cooperation in educational activities in the GI sector between universities is currently quite limited. In addition, SMEs are mainly acting on a domestic, or close to domestic, market. Innovations at one university or enterprise are not easily spread to the wider European community. One result of the giCASES project is the creation of a pan-European University-Enterprise alliance. This alliance will promote a wider spread of innovations.

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