

EUonAIR: European University on AI in Curricula, Smart UniverCity and (Return)Mobility Extended Summary

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1. Introduction

The European University on AI in Curricula, Smart UniverCity and (Return)Mobility (EUonAIR) is an ambitious alliance of 10 business and technical universities dedicated to creating a new responsible and collaborative AI model in education. This alliance aims to reshape learning, research, and working methods, aligning them with the current and future requirements of our educational systems and wider ecosystems.

EUonAIR recognizes the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in addressing complex issues like mobility and migration. The alliance is committed to leveraging AI responsibly and innovatively to develop inclusive, sustainable, and innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

This proposal outlines a comprehensive vision and foundation for the next four years and beyond, positioning EUonAIR as a lighthouse European University Initiative (EUI) Alliance. The alliance aims to contribute significantly to the overarching goals of the European Universities Initiative call and the enhancement of both European society and its European Education and Research Area.

Why is the European University initiative important and why does the EU fund it? Where does EUonAIR stand in?

The European Universities initiative, funded by the EU, is essential in creating a more interconnected and competitive European higher education area. This initiative seeks to foster deep transnational cooperation among universities, making it easier for students, faculty, and researchers to move and collaborate across countries. By financing alliances like EUonAIR, the EU aims to enhance academic educational innovation, facilitate inclusive and responsible educational practices, and prepare institutions for digital and technological advancements, including AI integration. Supporting this initiative financially allows the EU to promote educational inclusivity and address the demand for skills aligned with a rapidly changing labour market. It also helps align education systems across member states, supporting Europe's goals for a more digitally resilient, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive society which without inter-university collaboration would not be possible, feasible and sustainable.

2. Mission and Vision

Mission: EUonAIR aims to transform the educational system to successfully use and leverage the power of AI in education, research, and mobility for lasting and positive social change. The alliance is determined to elevate international collaboration and exchange at partner institutions, advancing the education, research, and mobility offer for students, faculty, staff, and communities.

Key aspects of the mission include:

- Promoting common European values and strengthening European identity
- Contributing to positioning the European Education Area as a global thought leader
- Identifying opportunities to leverage AI for positive societal impact
- Enhancing Europe's competitiveness in the journey towards an AI-driven education system

Vision: EUonAIR's 2040 vision is to evolve into an independent and sustainable university characterized by collaboration across individual institutions, involving faculty, staff, students, and communities. The alliance is committed to contributing to educational transformation and harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence for a future where it seamlessly enhances the four core domains of the European Education Area: education, research, innovation, and service to society.

3. Partners and Consortium

The EUonAIR European University Alliance consortium consists of 10 main partners:

1. Kozminski University (KU) – Coordinator [KU](#)
2. Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin (HTWB) [HTWB](#)
3. Zagreb School of Economics and Management (ZSEM) [ZSEM](#)
4. Polish Japanese Academy of Information Technology (PJATK) [PJATK](#)
5. CEU Abat Oliba University (UAOCEU) [UAOCEU](#)
6. Heilbronn University of Applied Science (HHN) [HHN](#)
7. University of Piraeus Research Centre (UPRC) [UPRC](#)
8. ESSCA School of Management (ESSCA) [ESSCA](#)
9. Luxembourg School of Business (LSB) [LSB](#)
10. ISM University of Management and Economics (ISM) [ISM](#)
11. Associate partner with funding: IDSIA/ SUPSI Lugano (Switzerland) ([IDSIA/SUPSI](#))

Additionally, the alliance includes 20+ associated partners, including higher education institutions, municipalities, chambers of commerce, and associations active in AI, IT, education, and research.

The consortium's geographical composition spans across Europe:

- Central and Eastern Europe: Poland, Ukraine
- Western and Northern Europe: Germany, France, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Latvia
- Southern Europe: Croatia, Spain, Italy, Slovenia

This widespread reach contributes to the alliance's goals of improving education broadly across Europe, benefiting students and society throughout the continent.

4. Core Pillars

EUonAIR is built on six key pillars that form the foundation of its joint activities:

Pillar 1: EUonAIR Education for Students, Staff and Community This pillar focuses on empowering all learners through responsible and collaborative education on AI and the use of AI. It aims to foster a shift towards cooperation, inclusivity, and flexibility in higher education, creating an open, inclusive, and equitable higher education system.

Pillar 2: EUonAIR Inclusive Governance and Collaboration Centered on co-management and co-leadership, this pillar emphasizes democratic, inclusive, and responsive governance structures within and between universities. It includes responsible AI use in administration and aims to foster partnerships for sharing best practices related to AI implications in education, research, and innovation.

Pillar 3: EUonAIR Open Research and Innovation This pillar aims to establish a global Collaborative AI Research Network, emphasizing open science and open data practices. It involves the creation of a Research Collaboration Platform, Innovation Incubator, and workshops to encourage interdisciplinary cooperation and innovation among researchers within and beyond the alliance.

Pillar 4: EUonAIR AI-Assisted Holistic Mobility Focusing on a holistic perspective on mobility, this pillar addresses the entire mobility cycle, including return mobility. It aims to integrate mobility practicalities and activities, counselling for meaningful mobility, and to capture and report on the impact of return mobility, fostering inclusive and accessible education environments.

Pillar 5: MyAI Campus This pillar involves the development of an immersive, collaborative, and responsible virtual campus, MyAI Campus, serving as a comprehensive platform for knowledge sharing, collaborative activities, and identification of synergies within the EUonAIR alliance.

Pillar 6: Smart and Green UniverCities This pillar bridges theoretical knowledge with practical applications of responsible and ethical AI in smart and green cities. It engages citizens in co-creating solutions and establishes a Smart & Green UniverCity Lab for collaboration with municipalities, companies, and NGOs.

5. Key Features

EUonAIR incorporates several innovative features that set it apart:

Collaborative AI Education and Research: The alliance will develop and implement curricula that integrate AI across disciplines, fostering a collaborative approach to AI education and research. This includes the creation of joint degree programs, micro-credentials, and interdisciplinary research projects.

Holistic Mobility Approach: EUonAIR introduces a novel approach to mobility that considers the entire cycle, including pre-departure, stay, and return phases. The alliance will establish a Holistic Mobility Support Centre and an innovative Return Mobility Assessment Unit to evaluate the impact of mobility experiences on participants' skills, ideas, and values.

MyAI Campus: This immersive virtual platform will serve as a central hub for all EUonAIR activities, providing a space for collaboration, learning, and innovation. It will include features such as virtual classrooms, research laboratories, and networking spaces.

Smart & Green UniverCity Labs: These labs will facilitate collaboration between universities, municipalities, and other stakeholders to develop and implement smart and sustainable solutions for urban challenges.

Centre of Excellence for Responsible AI and Education: This center will spearhead research and innovation in responsible AI applications in education, ensuring that ethical considerations are at the forefront of AI development and implementation.

War Migrants Education Mobility Program: This specialized program will provide educational opportunities and support for individuals affected by conflict, contributing to their integration and empowerment.

6. Objectives and Goals

The main objectives of EUonAIR are:

- To promote common European values and strengthen European identity by embedding innovation and technology into the education process without leaving anyone behind.
- To establish a pioneering, collaborative framework dedicated to advancing the frontiers of education, research, and innovation through technological progress.
- To generate long-term strategies for interoperability within and between universities by co-creating a collaborative structure.
- To enhance the quality, accessibility, and inclusivity of higher education through the responsible use of AI technologies.
- To foster interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in AI research and applications.
- To develop and implement innovative approaches to mobility, including virtual and blended formats.
- To contribute to the development of smart and sustainable cities through collaboration with local stakeholders.
- To advance AI literacy and ethical AI practices among students, staff, and the wider community.

7. Methodology and Approach

EUonAIR adopts a mixed approach of collaborative, ethical, responsible, complex, inclusive, and engaging methodologies to facilitate effective cooperation and achieve its objectives.

The alliance's methodology is characterized by:

Collaborative Approach: EUonAIR emphasizes co-creation and collaboration at all levels, involving students, staff, researchers, and external stakeholders in the development and implementation of initiatives.

Responsible AI Framework: The alliance will develop and adhere to a comprehensive framework for responsible AI use in education, research, and administration, ensuring ethical considerations are at the forefront of all activities.

Interdisciplinary Integration: EUonAIR will foster interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together expertise from various fields to address complex challenges and drive innovation.

Inclusive Design: All initiatives and programs will be designed with inclusivity in mind, ensuring accessibility for diverse groups of learners and stakeholders.

Agile and Adaptive Methodology: The alliance will employ an agile approach, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptation to emerging trends and challenges in the rapidly evolving field of AI.

8. Work Packages

EUonAIR's activities are organized into eight work packages:

WP1: Management and Coordination This work package will oversee the overall management and coordination of the alliance, ensuring effective communication and collaboration among partners.

WP2: Education for Students, Staff and Community Focused on developing and implementing AI-enhanced curricula, this work package will create innovative educational offerings for various stakeholder groups.

WP3: Inclusive Governance and Collaboration This work package will establish and maintain the alliance's governance structures, ensuring inclusive and effective decision-making processes.

WP4: Responsible AI in Open Research and Innovation Centered on fostering collaborative research and innovation in responsible AI, this work package will establish research networks and platforms.

WP5: AI-Assisted Holistic Mobility This work package will develop and implement the alliance's innovative approach to mobility, including the Return Mobility Assessment Unit.

WP6: MyAI Campus Focused on the development and maintenance of the virtual campus platform, this work package will ensure the technical infrastructure for collaboration and learning.

WP7: Smart and Green UniverCities This work package will facilitate collaboration with local stakeholders to develop smart and sustainable urban solutions.

WP8: Impact and Dissemination Focused on communication, dissemination, and impact assessment, this work package will ensure the visibility and impact of the alliance's activities.

9. Governance and Management

EUonAIR will establish a comprehensive governance structure to ensure effective decision-making and coordination:

Management Board: Consisting of representatives from each partner institution, this board will be responsible for strategic decision-making and overall direction of the alliance.

General Assembly: This body will include representatives from various stakeholder groups, providing input and recommendations to the Management Board.

Student Board: Ensuring student representation in decision-making processes, this board will actively contribute to shaping the alliance's activities.

Advisory Board: Comprising external experts, this board will provide guidance on ethical considerations and strategic direction.

Steering Committee: Responsible for operational management and coordination, this committee will oversee the implementation of work packages and day-to-day activities.

Quality Assurance Unit: This unit will monitor and evaluate the quality of the alliance's activities and outputs, ensuring continuous improvement.

10. Impact and Ambition

EUonAIR aims to have a significant impact on higher education, research, innovation, governance, and societal development by harnessing the power of responsible and human-centered technological advances in AI. The alliance's impact is expected to extend far beyond the individual institutions, fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange that contributes to an ethical European and global digital transition.

Key areas of impact include:

1. Transformation of higher education through responsible AI integration
2. Enhancement of mobility and collaboration opportunities for students and staff
3. Advancement of research and innovation in AI and related fields
4. Contribution to smart and sustainable urban development
5. Promotion of AI literacy and ethical AI practices in wider society
6. Strengthening of European identity and values through collaborative education

The alliance's ambition is to act as a catalyst for change in European higher education, setting new standards for AI integration, mobility, and collaboration.

11. Dissemination and Communication

EUonAIR will develop and implement a comprehensive dissemination and communication strategy to maximize the impact and visibility of its activities.

Key elements of this strategy include:

1. Development of a dedicated project website and social media presence
2. Organization of conferences, workshops, and public events
3. Publication of research findings and best practices in open-access formats
4. Engagement with media and policy-makers to raise awareness of the alliance's activities
5. Creation of promotional materials and multimedia content
6. Establishment of a network of ambassadors to promote the alliance's mission

The alliance will also leverage the MyAI Campus platform for dissemination and outreach activities, providing a central hub for information sharing and engagement.

12. Sustainability and Long-Term Strategy

To ensure the long-term sustainability of EUonAIR beyond the initial funding period, the alliance will:

1. Develop a sustainable business model for continued operation and growth
2. Seek additional funding sources, including national and EU funding programs, private sector partnerships, and alumni contributions
3. Integrate the alliance's activities into the core operations of partner institutions
4. Establish lasting partnerships with industry, governmental bodies, and other stakeholders

5. Continuously adapt and evolve the alliance's offerings to meet emerging needs and challenges
6. Invest in capacity building and professional development for staff and faculty

The alliance's long-term strategy aims to position EUonAIR as a leading force in AI-enhanced higher education and research, with a lasting impact on the European Education Area.

13. Budget and Financial Management

The total requested funding for EUonAIR is €14.4 million from the Erasmus+ European Universities Initiative. This budget will be allocated across the partner institutions and work packages to support the implementation of the alliance's activities.

Key aspects of financial management include:

1. Establishment of a central financial management unit within the coordinating institution
2. Regular financial reporting and monitoring procedures
3. Transparent allocation of resources based on agreed-upon criteria
4. Implementation of cost-effective measures to maximize the impact of funding
5. Exploration of additional funding sources to support specific initiatives

The alliance will prioritize efficient use of resources while ensuring high-quality outputs and sustainable operations.

14. Risk Management

EUonAIR has identified potential risks and developed mitigation strategies to ensure the successful implementation of its activities.

Key risk areas include:

1. Governance and decision-making challenges
2. Interoperability and technical integration issues
3. Stakeholder engagement and participation
4. Ethical concerns related to AI use
5. Regulatory compliance and data protection
6. Financial sustainability

The alliance will implement a comprehensive risk management plan, including regular risk assessments, mitigation measures, and contingency planning.

15. Ethical Considerations

EUonAIR places a strong emphasis on ethical considerations in all its activities, particularly in relation to AI development and use.

Key ethical principles include:

1. Respect for human dignity and fundamental rights
2. Non-discrimination and fairness in AI systems
3. Transparency and explainability of AI algorithms
4. Privacy protection and data security
5. Accountability in AI development and deployment

The alliance will establish an Ethics Advisory Board to provide guidance on ethical issues and ensure compliance with relevant regulations and standards.

16. Alignment with EU Priorities

EUonAIR is closely aligned with key EU priorities and initiatives, including:

1. The European Education Area
2. The European Research Area
3. The Digital Education Action Plan
4. The European Green Deal
5. The EU's AI strategy and ethical guidelines

The alliance's activities contribute to the achievement of these priorities by fostering innovation, collaboration, and responsible AI development in higher education and research.

17. Innovation and European Added Value

EUonAIR brings significant innovation and added value to the European higher education landscape through:

1. The development of a comprehensive, AI-enhanced virtual campus (MyAI Campus)
2. A novel approach to holistic mobility, including return mobility assessment
3. Integration of responsible AI across curricula and research activities
4. Establishment of Smart & Green UniverCity Labs for urban innovation
5. Creation of a War Migrants Education Mobility Program

These innovative features contribute to the advancement of the European Education Area and position Europe as a global leader in AI-enhanced education and research.

18. Quality Assurance and Monitoring

To ensure the high quality and effectiveness of its activities, EUonAIR will implement a comprehensive quality assurance and monitoring system, including:

1. Regular internal and external evaluations

2. Establishment of key performance indicators (KPIs) for each work package
3. Continuous feedback mechanisms for stakeholders
4. Peer review processes for educational and research outputs
5. Regular reporting and review meetings

The Quality Assurance Unit will oversee these processes and provide recommendations for continuous improvement.

19. Conclusion

EUonAIR represents an ambitious and innovative approach to transforming European higher education through the responsible integration of AI technologies. By bringing together a diverse group of partners and stakeholders, the alliance aims to create a lasting impact on education, research, and innovation across Europe.