



Towards the European Degree

Exploring Pathways through
Joint Labels, Best Practices,
and Policy Innovation

Thursday 27th November 2025, 9:00 am CET

Location: Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies (BrIAS)

Building AB, Upper Floor (Room Paul de Knoop), 210A Boulevard Général Jacques, 1050 Brussels

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Overview

The introduction of the **Joint European Degree Label** marks a major development in the European Union's higher education policy landscape. As part of the European Strategy for Universities, this initiative aims to support the design and recognition of joint degree programmes that embody the values of quality, collaboration, and transnational learning. A dedicated **EU Policy Lab**, bringing together national representatives and academic experts, is currently working to define the label's criteria and implementation tools, with a rollout planned for the period **2026–2028**.

This event, co-organized by UNITA and CIVIS, will provide a forum for dialogue and exchange between University Alliances, policymakers, and higher education networks. It will explore how the emerging European Degree and associated instruments — such as **Labels** and **Microcredentials** — can be strategically leveraged to create added value for students, institutions, and European society.

The programme will feature a **plenary session on the European Degree**, followed by a series of thematic panels and case studies. These will showcase **best practices** and **innovative models** already being developed within alliances while also offering space for reflection on the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of implementing European-wide academic standards.

By promoting knowledge sharing and collective foresight, the event aims to support universities in their transition toward more integrated and impactful European education pathways.

Programme

09:00 – 09:30 | Welcome and Registration

09:30 – 10:15 | Opening Remarks

- European Commission representative (tbc)
- **François Heinderyckx**, Université libre de Bruxelles, CIVIS Alliance
- **Marie Wittamer**, CIVIS Alliance
- **Alessandra Fiorio Pla**, University of Turin, UNITA Alliance
- **Olga Wessel**, FOREU4ALL

10:15 – 11:15 | Plenary Session

The European Degree: Vision, Criteria, and Policy Perspectives

State of the art on the Joint European Degree Label and the European Quality Assurance and Recognition system in HE.

- **Kinga Szuly**, Higher Education Policy, European Commission
- **Mark Frederiks**, NVAO - The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders

11:15 – 11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:45 | Roundtable Discussion

Institutional Readiness for the European Degree Label

Insights from Alliances piloting joint programmes and reflections from QA agencies and policy makers.

- **Romita Iucu**, University of Bucharest, CIVIS Alliance
- **Dorothy Kelly**, University of Granada, ARQUS Alliance
- **Patrícia Pereira**, A3ES - Portuguese Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education

13:00 – 14:00 | Light Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 | Case studies

- 14:00 - 14:30 - The UNITA Label: A Tool for Shared Identity, Recognition, and Innovation
Sorana Cimpan, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, UNITA Alliance
- 14:30 - 15:00 - Microcredentials and Modular Pathways in a European Context
Julian Irlenkaeuser, Technische Universität Berlin, ENHANCE Alliance

15:00 – 15:15 | Coffee break

15:15 – 16:15 | Case studies

- 15:15 – 15:45 - Student perspectives on transnational learning outcomes
Eddie Arriaga Flores (ECIU) and **Giulia Rebecca Conte** (CIVICA), FOREU4ALL Student-led community on Sustainable and Democratic Student Participation.
- 15:45 – 16:15 –Setting the scene for a European Degree programme: the case of CIVIS TRACEE Master Programme
Alexandru Carțiș, CIVIS Alliance

16:15 – 17:00 | Wrap-Up & Next Steps

- Summary of key messages - **Nicoleta Laura Popa**, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, EC2U and **Alessandra Fiorio Pla**, University of Turin, UNITA Alliance
- Outlook in 2026–2028 implementation and cooperation opportunities, **Kinga Szuly**, Higher Education Policy, European Commission.