

EELISA Governing Board meeting
May 13 & 14, 2025, Paris
Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées and Université Paris Sciences & Lettres

EELISA Alliance Statement on “Education for Impact - EELISA joint degrees empowering the Next Generation of European STEAM Leaders”

In the face of complex geopolitical tensions, threats to the international trade regime, economic uncertainty, demographic transitions, climate change and the profound impacts of war – education, research and innovation are more essential than ever for Europe's resilience, sovereignty and progress.

Within this landscape, European higher education institutions (HEIs) and university alliances such as EELISA must take a leading role as advocates of democratic values, academic and research freedom, and as promoters of excellence and inclusiveness in education, research and innovation. They are also key actors in fostering a new generation of graduates equipped to drive cutting-edge STEAM research and innovation, contributing to develop transformative solutions and to shape a more sustainable, inclusive, safe and equitable future while sharing common European values.

This is the ambition behind the **European Degree** initiative, proposed by the European Commission. It represents a ground-breaking endeavour aimed at establishing jointly awarded diplomas issued by groups of universities, which would be automatically recognised across Europe. These new degrees aim to bring together the academic and research strengths of partner institutions while reinforcing ties with companies, positioning them as spearheads of European industrial sovereignty—particularly in strategic and critical sectors.

EELISA'S APPROACH TOWARDS JOINT DEGREES

Foundations of a shared vision

Since its inception EELISA members have collaborated and worked intensively to develop the European Engineer Profile - an innovative model designed to standardise and enhance the competencies expected of engineering graduates across Europe. This profile serves as one of the foundations for EELISA's broader mission: extending its principles across all STEAM disciplines to address the challenges of sustainable development. The model aligns with the 2nd UNESCO Engineering Report for Sustainable Development, which emphasizes the essential role of engineers in achieving each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and underscores the importance of fostering an attractive, inclusive, and gender-balanced engineering profession capable of meeting the global demand for sustainable solutions.

Based on the idea of working simultaneously across various aspects that contribute to the successful implementation of Joint Degrees, EELISA's latest development is the **EELISA Joint Education Roadmap**. This strategic plan is structured around four key actions: (i) embedding EELISA activities into existing programs and degrees, (ii) the rollout of the EELISA recognition framework,

ALLIANCE MEMBERS



encompassing the EELISA Credentials – recognizing SDGs impact learning outcomes, EELISA Supplement - recognizing mobility, and EELISA micro-credentials – recognizing Flexible skilled based learning paths, (iii) the establishment of innovative pedagogy hubs, and (iv) the development of joint programs and degrees at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels.

This ambitious vision stems from the mission to create a **European higher education inter-university campus**, offering students cross-institutional training opportunities. Since its origin, the EELISA alliance has also introduced a **Charter of Mutual Recognition**, ensuring seamless cooperation between partners, promoting the internationalization of curricula, enhancing students' intercultural competencies, and reducing administrative burdens.

The partners have proven experience in the design and implementation of inter-institutional academic agreements, joint- and double degrees supported by strong academic cooperation. This constitutes an exceptional foundation in considering the next level that represent the EELISA Joint Degrees.

Building on the strong EELISA cooperative approach, the Alliance deepened this journey two years ago with the JEDI policy experimentation project (Joint European Degree Label in Engineering), positioning itself at the forefront of the evolving European higher education landscape in the move towards Joint Degrees in Engineering.

Accelerating impact: towards transformative EELISA Joint Degrees

Following the first steps, EELISA is now delving into the design of innovative joint degree curricula in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), seamlessly integrating social sciences and humanities. The added value of the EELISA Joint Degrees also lies in transnational learning experiences within multicultural environments, training based on the latest research, deep connection with the leading companies and employees and supervision by internationally renowned academics. This combination not only enhances the educational experience but also serves as a powerful magnet to attract the best international talents and top researchers.

The Joint Degrees offered by EELISA are multisite programs underpinned by a shared quality assurance framework that adheres to EQAR standards and aligns with the European Commission's Blueprint for a European Degree. EELISA benefits from the active support of ENAEE—its associated partner—as well as national accreditation agencies, all of which play a key role in the development and recognition process. This official endorsement guarantees academic coherence, compatibility with national and European education frameworks, and alignment with the professional competencies expected of engineering graduates. These Joint Degrees embody EELISA's founding mission: to transform and leverage engineering education across Europe.

To concretely demonstrate this ambition, the inaugural EELISA Joint Master's degree, *Digitwins*, is the alliance' first achievement in this area. This work is followed by the ongoing efforts to establish European Bachelor's programs and several Master's degrees in critical sectors, along with Joint Doctoral Programs focused on advanced research topics. This diverse portfolio approach underscores EELISA's commitment to sustainability and its contribution to addressing global challenges, all with the aim of fostering a better society.

A global outlook: expanding impact beyond Europe

At a time when EELISA is considering expanding to include HEIs outside Europe, Joint Degrees will become key instruments of cooperation. They can connect with the degree programs of non-EU universities, thereby strengthening the global influence of the alliance and, more largely, the European Universities Initiative. This transnational recognition also paves the way for the creation of expanded alumni networks that will disseminate core European values, acting as a magnet for the labour market's demand for cutting-edge researchers and innovators.

EELISA'S COMMITMENTS

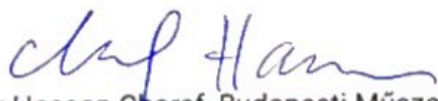
As members of the EELISA Governing Board, we reaffirm our shared commitment to shaping a truly European space for educational, research and innovation – one that is inclusive, interdisciplinary, anchored in excellence, and guided by democratic values.

Through EELISA's approach to Joint Degrees we express our support for the European Degree initiative and all that it represents as a strategic instrument for reinforcing European sovereignty, influence, and cohesion.

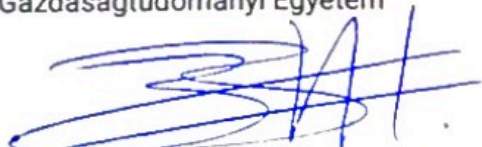
We pledge to support and implement Joint Degree initiatives in all their forms – across disciplines, institutions and borders - within our universities and in close collaboration with students, academic communities, alumni networks, industry partners and society at large.

Paris, May 14, 2025

The members and attendees of the EELISA Governing Board



Rector Hassan Charaf, Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem



Director Anthony Briant, École nationale des ponts et chaussées



Vice-President for Outreach Kathrin Möslein
on behalf of President Joachim Hornegger,
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Rector Mihnea Costoiu, Universitatea Națională de Știință și Tehnologie Politehnica București



Rector Oscar García Suárez, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid



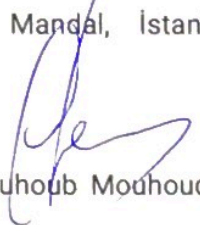
Rector Regula Jöhl, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften



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