

Unite! Allianssi: Näkemyksiä ja kokemuksia joustavien opintopolkujen kehittämisestä

(Unite! Alliance: Views and experiences on the development of Flexible Study Pathways)*

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Based on the Survey and Report by: Isabel Goncalves (ULisboa), Miguel Valero (UPC Barcelona, Spain), Pedro Brogueira; (ULisboa, Portugal), Jochen Hack (TUDA, Germany), Carlos Castro (Polito), Anne Delaballe, (INPG, France) Sven Bossuit (Aalto, Finland) and Katrina Nordström (Aalto, Finland)

Unite! & Who we are :



A''
Aalto University



KTH
KTH ROYAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT



Grenoble INP | **UGA**



POLITECNICO DI TORINO



UPC UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA BARCELONATECH



U LISBOA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA



unite!

Unite! & What we do :

www. unite-university.eu

@Unite_tech_univ

unite!

University Network for Innovation,
Technology and Engineering

Unite! Framework for a trans-European campus;
development of Governance models for universities of the future

Mobility4All

Physical or virtual mobility of students (50%) & staff, plus internationalization at home

Interdisciplinary study projects, summer schools, joint programmes, staff weeks

Virtual Campus

Online curricula / digital mobility platform

Joint / virtual courses / curricula, online language tandems, creative spaces and virtual classrooms

Teaching and Learning Academy

Joint development of teaching, courses and curricula

Challenge-based learning; pedagogical training; continuous learning for teachers

European (UNITE!) Doctoral School

Piloting joint degrees/programs in areas such as Energy, AI and Industry 4.0

Motivational summer school for PhD candidates in „Energy“; Fostering future joint research in UNITE!

Regional Involvement and Innovation

Supporting network of regions and ecosystems to strengthen knowledge transfer and innovation

Joint activities in entrepreneurship, internships, lifelong learning, exchange on open innovation, sustainability and ethics

Support Services

Seamless network of centers for mobility, students engagement, language and career development



Proposal for a joint definition of flexible study pathways within UNITE! Based on information collected from partners and on the European standards & guidelines in HE

CHOICE

student responsibility and free options what, how, when [including minors, pedagogical diversity]
“offering learners choices in how, what, when, and where they learn”

CURRICULAR MOBILITY

mobility within cycles, credit transfer, joint programs, Erasmus

ENGAGEMENT

“recognition, validation and accreditation of the knowledge, skills and competencies acquired through non-formal and informal education”, including upskills and reskills, intercultural experiences, professional experiences

Proposal for a joint definition of flexible study pathways within UNITE! Workflow

Survey, translation and validation by
UNITE! Team
July 2020 – October 2020

Survey was sent to Partner
Representative 127 answers from 5
target groups (students, program
managers, planning officers,
professors, teachers)
October-2020 – January 2021

Data Analysis from the survey +
Development of UNITE! Guidelines
regarding FSPways (also check
standards & guidelines)
January 2021 – May 2021

Proposal for a joint definition of flexible study pathways within UNITE!

Results 1/3 Views (short summary of key points)

1. Why is flexibility needed ?

- *“Without a flexible study pathway, it is impossible to offer immense variance in individual topics of interest”*
- *“The less flexibility in study pathways, the more students will be forced to take courses they find uninteresting, which can also be a waste of time for teaching staff”*
- *“Flexible study pathways greatly simplify going abroad because they create more space for home universities to recognize credits acquired elsewhere”*

2. What does it enable ?

- *“ Gives students opportunity to develop an individual profile or to better adapt their studies to external conditions (family, job, corona!) “*
- *“Gives the university the opportunity to quickly offer new topics, to try out new teaching/learning formats “*
- *“Get the best educational offer (in specific topics) in a group of different universities”*
- *Gives students the opportunity to experiment with new types of academic activities acquiring different knowledges from different universities, without being bonded only to their Home University study plan”*

Proposal for a joint definition of flexible study pathways within UNITE!

Results 2/3 Challenges

Semesters and terms;
academic calendars do
not match (61% of
replies)

Legal matters; partner-
specific and national
degree requirements
inflexibility (54%)

Time and cost to plan, organize
and implement flexible study
pathways (48%)

Proposal for a joint definition of flexible study pathways within UNITE!

Results 3/3 Implementation ideas

High number of Elective Courses (within and outside the domain) compared to Compulsory Courses

Alternative courses within the same topic (namely in different languages)

Different pedagogical methods

Recognition of credits from different universities

Different modules offered by the same university or between different partner universities

Embedded student international mobility

Collaborative/multidisciplinary project/thesis/Students participation in research units in advanced courses

Seminar courses & Minors

Thank you !
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Aalto University, Espoo/Helsinki
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Technical University of Darmstadt

Grenoble INP-UGA
Politecnico di Torino
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya · BarcelonaTech
Universidade de Lisboa

