Policy update on European higher education

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Achieving the European Education Area by 2025

1. Quality in education and training

- Boost basic and transversal skills
- More mobility and cooperation opportunities
- Support lifelong acquisition of language competences
- Develop a European perspective in education

2. Inclusion and gender equality

- Pathways to School Success
- 50 centres of excellence for VET
- European Approach to micro-credentials
- Gender-sensitive teaching

3. Green and digital transitions

- Education for Climate Coalition
- Greening of education infrastructure
- Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability
- Digital Education Action Plan

4. Teachers and trainers

- 25 Erasmus Teacher Academies
- European guidance for national career frameworks
- European Innovative Teaching Award

5. Higher education

- European Universities full roll-out
- Development of a European Degree
- Legal statute for alliances of universities
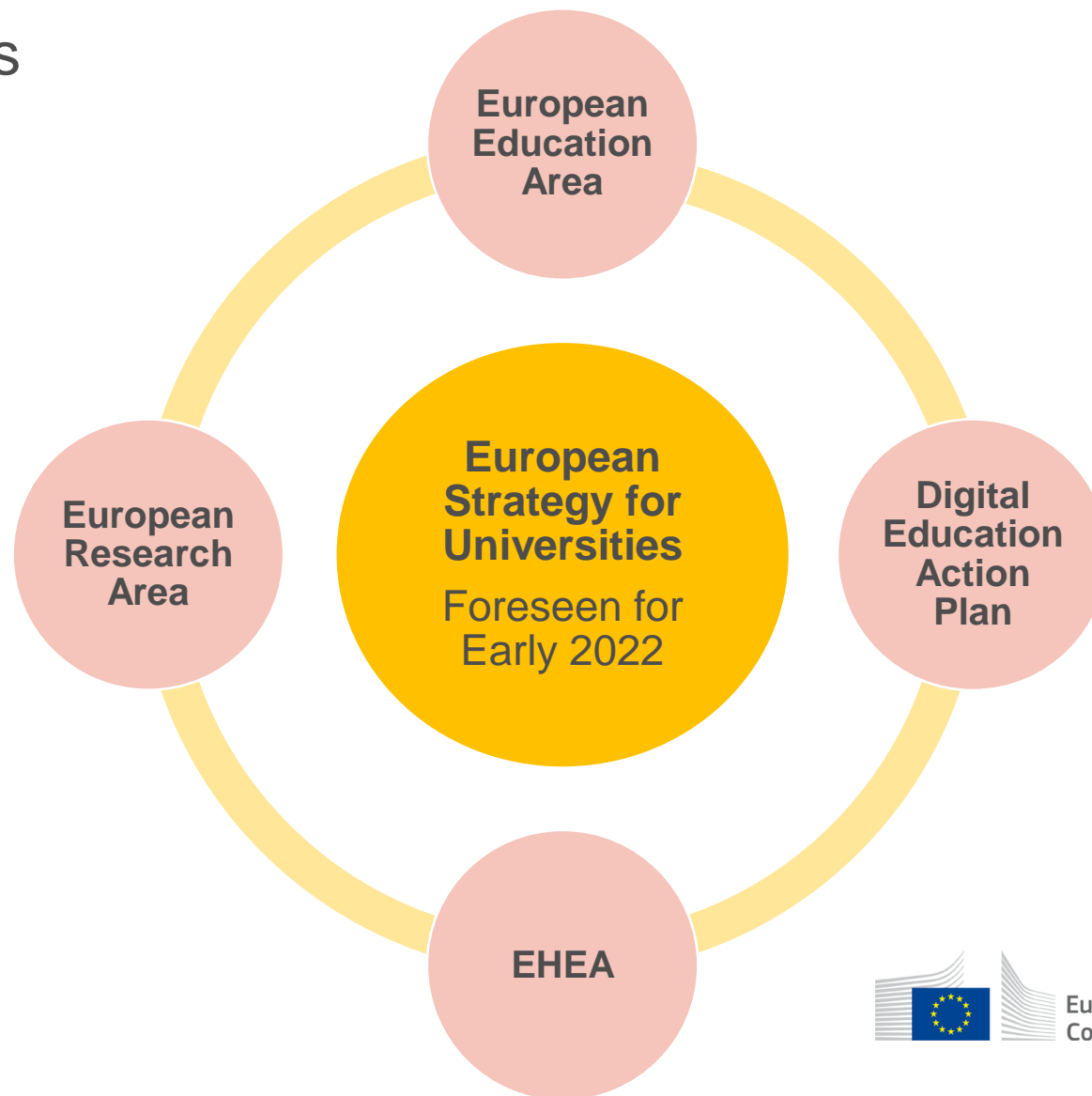- Erasmus+ Mobile App

6. Geopolitical dimension

- Team Europe approach
- Strengthen cooperation with strategic global partners
- Expand international dimension of Erasmus+

European Commission

Empowering European Higher Education

A collective vision on all missions

European Education Area

European Research Area

European Strategy for Universities

Foreseen for Early 2022

Digital Education Action Plan

EHEA

European Commission

New strategies and initiatives

► European approach to micro-credentials (10 Dec 2021)

► Council recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation (18 January)

  ► Developing of European degree and European statute

► Council recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability (14 January 2022)

► European Universities call (Nov 2021)

A European Approach to Micro-Credentials for lifelong learning and employability

European Commission
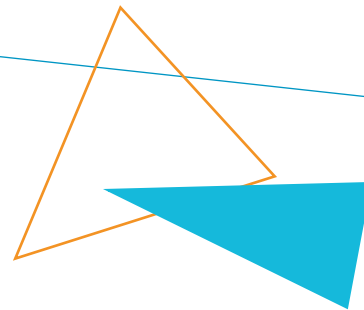
Objectives

- Enable people to acquire the knowledge, skills and competences they need to **thrive in a changing labour market and society**, so they can benefit fully from both a socially fair recovery from COVID-19 and just transitions to the green and digital economy

- **Support the preparedness of providers** of micro-credentials to enhance the transparency and flexibility of the learning offer in order to empower people to forge personalised learning and career pathways

- **Foster inclusiveness and equal opportunities**, contributing to the achievement of resilience, social fairness and prosperity for all, in a context of demographic change and throughout all phases of economic cycles

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Scope

- The proposal establishes a **common European approach to the ongoing and emerging provision of micro-credentials**

- The proposal covers micro-credentials, as well as their policies that can support their effective **design** and **use**.

- The proposal does not seek to replace or disrupt existing systems or qualifications

- The proposals sets out a definition and guidance for the design, issuance and description of micro-credentials to facilitate their quality, transparency and uptake

Outline of the proposal

'Building Blocks'	Recommendations	Focus

Common definition of micro-credential

Standard Elements

Principles for the design and issuance of micro-credentials

Development of an ecosystems for micro-credentials

Deliver on the potential of micro-credentials

Commission support

Education, training and skills policies

Active Labour Market Policies

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Consultation process
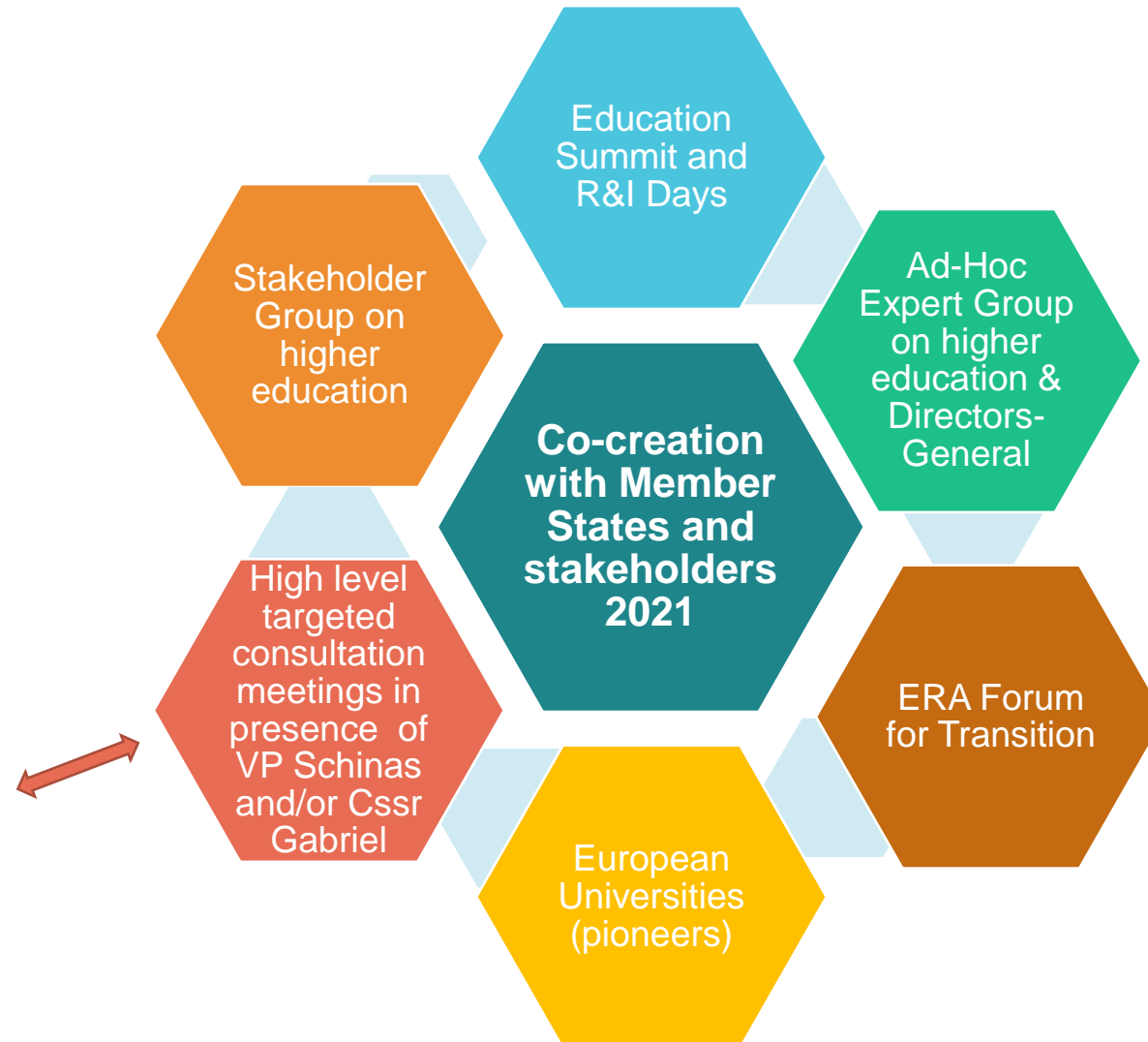
EP, CoR, EESC,
Rectors of European
Universities,
University and Student
networks,
Knowledge alliances

Education Summit and R&I Days

Ad-Hoc Expert Group on higher education & Directors-General

Stakeholder Group on higher education

Co-creation with Member States and stakeholders 2021

High level targeted consultation meetings in presence of VP Schinas and/or Cssr Gabriel

ERA Forum for Transition

European Universities (pioneers)

European Commission

Towards a 'European Strategy for Universities'

A shared vision

Priority areas for transformation and needs of the sector

Concrete actions at EU level to enable and support the sector

Synergies with national reforms

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8 building blocks

European democratic values

Skills and competences for the green transition

Europe's global role and leadership

Diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality

Skills and competences for the digital transition

Quality and relevance

Deeper transnational cooperation amongst European HEIs

Funding for HE and data for monitoring implementation of strategy

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Council Recommendation for building bridges for deeper transnational cooperation

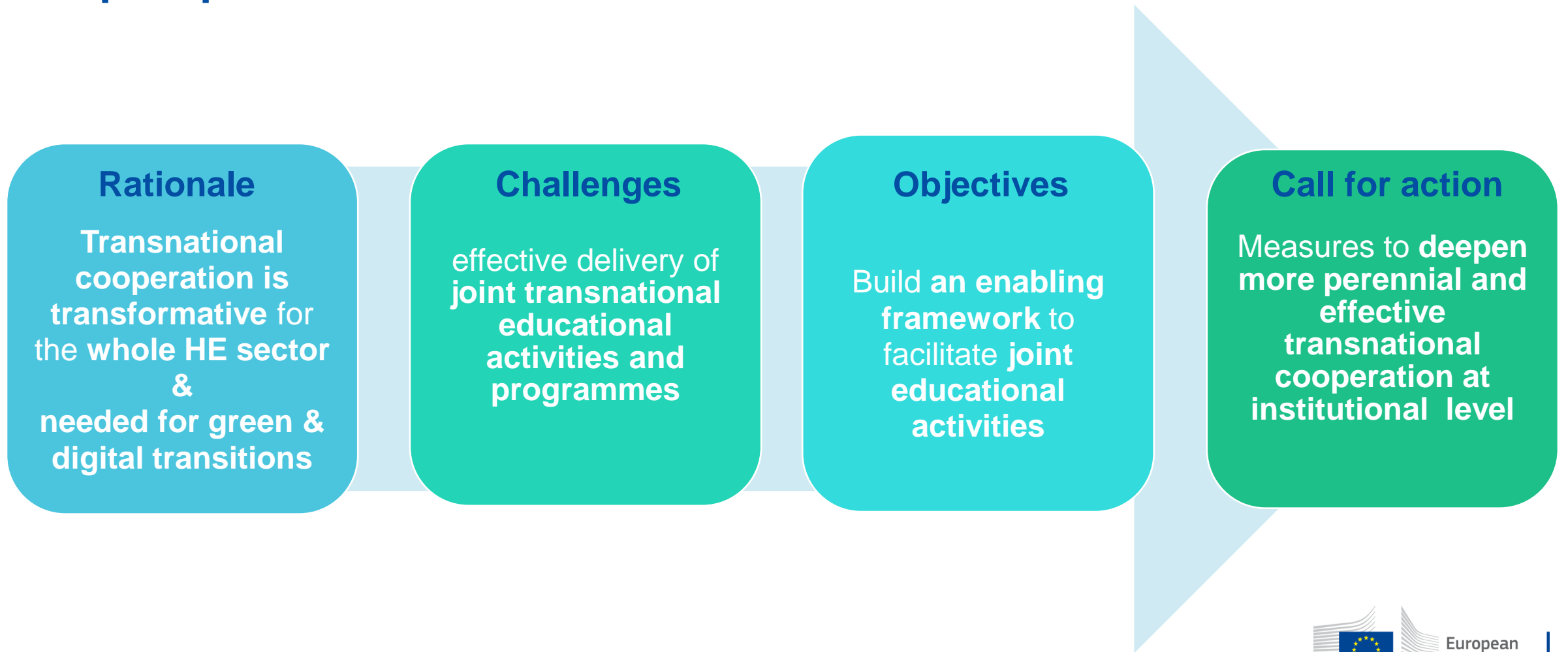January 2022

European Commission

Structure of the Council Recommendation proposal

Rationale

Transnational cooperation is transformative for the **whole HE sector** &
needed for green & digital transitions

Challenges

effective delivery of **joint transnational educational activities and programmes**

Objectives

Build **an enabling framework** to facilitate **joint educational activities**

Call for action

Measures to **deepen more perennial and effective transnational cooperation at institutional level**

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Council Recommendation on Education for Environmental Sustainability, January 2022

All sectors of education and training → Adaptation to green transition → Learners, educators and institutions

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Input for Recommendation

STUDY

Teaching and learning on education for environmental sustainability

MAPPING

Erasmus+ projects on green education

OPC

1300 replies 95 position papers

WORKSHOPS

Youth groups, teachers, social partners, Member States

FRAMEWORK

Sustainability competences defined

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Erasmus 2021-2027 overarching priorities

- More inclusive
- More environmentally friendly
- More digital
- More civic engagement

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Erasmus+ specific priorities in higher education

Interconnected
- Cooperation
- Recognition
- Academic Values

Innovative
- Modular courses
- Microcredentials
- STEM-STEAM

Inclusive
- Increase access
- Gender Balance
- Civic Engagement

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Erasmus+ specific priorities in higher education

Excellence
- Rewards
- Innovative Pedagogies
- Entrepreneurships

Sustainability
- Education for Environmental Sustainability
- Green skills

Digitalisation
- Digital Transformation Plans
- Data Tools
- Graduate Tracking

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More information

[Erasmus+ Programme guide](#)

[Erasmus+ Call for proposals](#)

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