



The Competitive University for a Sustainable Society

INnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European University Alliance

INVEST

Erasmus+ KA2 European university project No. 101004073

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Partners



Project idea and the preparatory phase

- **Reasons for submission?**

- **Unique opportunity for the european universities**
- **Improvement of the HEIs quality** (strengthening the link between teaching, research, innovation and knowledge transfer, encouraging mobility and enhancing the high quality and excellence in education and research)

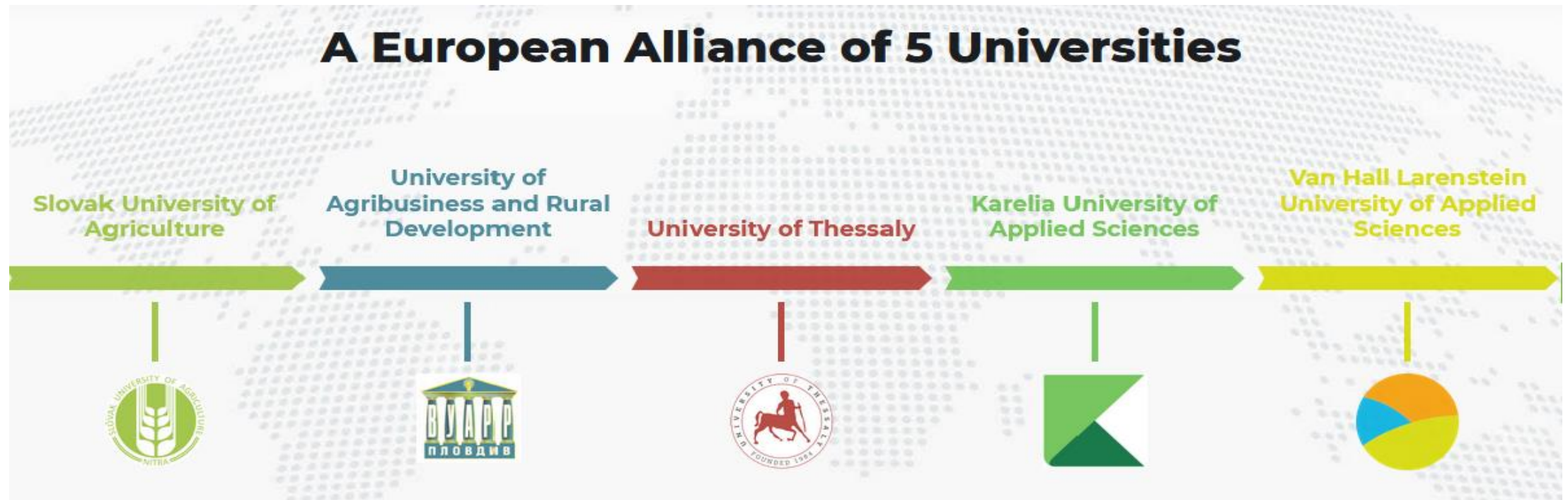
- **Idea?**

- **What kind of topics?**

- **General topics**
- **The EU university project idea** – common idea of 2 partners (SUA, SK and UARD Plovdiv, BG) based on the long-term cooperation within the E+ projects focused on regional development

• Establishment of partnership

- **Condition: Geographically balanced partnership**
- **INVEST: 5 universities and 23 associated partners** invited to cooperate – foundations, NGOs, international networks, enterprises, associations, chambers, regional and local authorities



- **Preparation of project proposal**
 - Meeting for creation of project proposal
 - Contributions to the project proposal – mutual cooperation of partners - each partner elaborated and leads 1 work package

- **Submission**
 - INVEST was submitted for 2 calls:
 1. Call – not succesful
 2. Call – approved project

Project vision and goals

Vision

- to create a modern European University satisfying needs and requirements of the new generation of Europeans as the leaders of introducing sustainable life in regions across the continent.

Long-term vision:

- In 2025, INVEST will have an image and be recognized as **an inclusive university**; after 2025, INVEST will become a model of good practice for achieving the European Education Area policy through quality and innovative teaching and research, international academic mobility and intercultural cooperation.
- The accent in INVEST will be put on gaining the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for sustainable regional development, while taking entrepreneurial business and leadership, independent and critical thinking, civic consciousness and responsibility to sustainable development into account.

Common goal and strategic pillars:

- to establish a European University alliance called: INnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European UniversiTy Alliance (INVEST)
 - competitive **education** and valuable results
 - joint excellent **research and innovation**
 - high level of **mobility** outside Europe
 - **networking** as a platform for future education and research, covering **three main areas of focus** - *water, energy, food and the environment, quality of life and entrepreneurship*
- **Innovative features** such as:
 - **Living labs** – quadruple helix collaboration
 - digital framework **EUDC8EU** – personalized learning pathways
 - **INVEST virtual campus** – 5 universities resources at 1 place

Project implementation & plans for future

- **Project implementation** – project activities are concentrated in 5 work packages; specialized work teams were created to implement the specific tasks (accreditation process, curriculum development, Living Labs, winter/summer schools, knowledge management, learning community, etc.)
- **16 joint degree programmes** will be created (10 bachelor, 4 master and 2 doctoral)
- **Governance structure** was established (Management Board, Academic Board, Research & Innovation Board, Quality Assurance Board, Technical-administrative Board)
- **The Boards and teams** meet on the regular basis (e.g., management meetings of local coordinators are organised once a month)



Common pedagogy
Common applied research methodologies
Common content of courses and modules
Common governing structure

Project implementation & plans for future

- **Project implementation** – project activities are concentrated in 5 work packages; specialized work teams were created to implement the specific tasks:
 1. **Management and coordination** (SUA, Slovakia)
 2. **Cooperation model, quality assurance and evaluation system** (UARD, Bulgaria)
 3. **Study programs, courses, educational strategies and support tools** (VHL, Netherlands)
 4. **Co-creation of student competencies, staff and sustainable INVEST tools** (Karelia UAS, Finland)
 5. **Sustainability and Dissemination** (UTH, Greece)

Governance structure

- **Established boards:**
 - Management Board
 - Academic Board
 - Research & Innovation Board
 - Quality Assurance Board
 - Technical-administrative Board
- **The Boards and teams** meet on the regular basis (e.g., management meetings of local coordinators are organised once a month)

Plans for future

- **Future activities** – establishment of the **legal entity of INVEST**
- **Setting the criteria for enlargement** (new partner universities to join INVEST)
- **the new project proposal** will be prepared within the next call for proposals (November-December 2022)
- **further project activities** – support of INVEST research and innovation – Horizon 2020 project **INVEST4EXCELLENCE**
- intention to be involved in other project schemes (European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), Horizon Europe)

Thank you for your attention!

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