

ERASMUS + European Universities

Deliverable D3.2 4EU+ Joint study programmes tool-box

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HISTORY

Version	Author(s)	Date	Status
1	WP3 group	January 2025	Deliverable structure and implementation plan prepared
2	WP3 group + WG Communication	April 2025	Technical solution and online architecture of the Joint Programmes Toolbox developed
3	Joint study programmes task force	April–September 2025	Content development: translation of Milestone 2.4 outputs into toolbox resources and country-specific guidance
4	WP3 group	October 2025	Launch of 4EU+ Joint Programmes online consultations
5	WP3 group	October 2025 – May 2026	Development of the Joint Programmes Hub, integration of toolbox content, and preparation of supporting resources
6	WP3 group	June 2026	Organisation of the Joint Programmes Toolbox dissemination event
7	WP3 group	July 2026	Final deliverable completed
8	iCORE Project Manager	August 2026	Final review

SUMMARY

Within Task 3.2 of Work Package 3, the 4EU+ Alliance developed and launched the 4EU+ Joint Programmes Toolbox, a centralised digital resource designed to support the creation and management of joint study programmes across the Alliance. Building on the outcomes of Milestone 3 (MS3) developed by WP2, the toolbox consolidates guidance on key legal, financial, organisational, and accreditation-related aspects of joint programme development and makes this information easily accessible through a user-friendly online platform. The toolbox is embedded within a broader Joint Programmes Hub, which also provides elementary guidance for newcomers, information on existing joint programmes, access to support structures, and updates on relevant opportunities and policy developments.

To complement these resources, the WP3 group launched a series of online consultations for academic teams interested in developing joint programmes, providing tailored support from experts across the Alliance. In addition, an online dissemination event held on 19 June 2026 introduced the Joint Programmes Hub and Toolbox to academic and administrative staff members from partner universities. Together, these activities increased awareness of available support mechanisms, strengthened institutional capacity, and contributed to the long-term development of joint programmes within 4EU+.

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Abbreviations of individual 4EU+ member universities:

Charles University (CU)

Heidelberg University (UHD)

Sorbonne University (SU)

University of Copenhagen (UCPH)

University of Geneva (UniGe)

University of Milan (UniMi)

University of Warsaw (UW)

Paris-Panthéon-Assas University (PPA)

INTRODUCTION

The development of joint study programmes is one of the strategic priorities of the 4EU+ Alliance and contributes to the Alliance's ambition of creating a more integrated European educational ecosystem. In Task 3.2 of Work Package 3 of iCORE project, the Alliance committed to facilitate development of new joint study programmes within the Alliance. This facilitation was intended to be focused on several intertwined areas:

- producing a set of local-specific good practice examples and guidelines
- preparing technical solution to host this information online
- organizing tutorials and joint consultations to offer the combined expertise directly to both administrative and academic body of the Alliance.

This deliverable presents the resulting 4EU+ Joint Programmes Toolbox and the broader Joint Programmes Hub developed around it. It describes the rationale behind the initiative, the approach taken to develop the resources, their main functionalities, and the accompanying activities implemented to promote their use and support their long-term sustainability.

OBJECTIVES

The present deliverable "4EU+ Joint study programmes toolbox" aims to enhance the strategic development of joint study programmes within the Alliance through the following specific objectives:

1. **To facilitate the creation of new joint programmes** across the Alliance by providing coordinated, structured, and user-oriented support to both academic and administrative audiences.
2. **To consolidate and operationalise existing knowledge and experience**, in particular building on Milestone 3, by compiling and presenting comprehensive guidance on key aspects of joint programme development, including legal, financial, organisational, and accreditation-related dimensions.
3. **To develop and implement a centralised digital toolbox** that ensures systematic access to relevant information, good practices, and country- and institution-specific procedures, with functionalities enabling efficient navigation, filtering, and downloading of content.
4. **To establish an integrated online hub on joint programmes**, embedding the toolbox within a broader ecosystem of resources, including:
 - introductory, step-by-step guidance for early-stage academic teams,
 - access to relevant Alliance structures and support services,
 - curated information on existing joint programmes,
 - dissemination of news, opportunities, and policy developments.
5. **To enhance user engagement and capacity-building** by organising targeted support activities, including tutorials, joint consultations, and interactive exchanges between academic teams and administrative experts.

6. **To improve the visibility, accessibility, and usability of Alliance's resources**, particularly for stakeholder groups with limited prior experience in the development of transnational joint programmes.
7. **To ensure the sustainability and continuous updating of the developed resources**, by enabling decentralised content ownership at partner HEIs and facilitating timely revisions in response to evolving regulatory and institutional frameworks.
8. **To contribute to the long-term expansion and institutionalisation of joint programmes within the Alliance**, thereby extending the impact of the iCORE project beyond its implementation period.

METHODOLOGY

The development of the 4EU+ Joint Programmes Toolbox followed a collaborative approach involving representatives of all partner universities participating in iCORE project. The methodology combined the consolidation of existing knowledge, co-creation of institution-specific content, development of a shared digital environment, and validation through engagement with the target user community.

The work built upon the outputs of Milestone 3, which served as the primary knowledge base for identifying the legal, organisational, financial, and accreditation-related topics to be addressed. These materials were subsequently reviewed and transformed into structured online guidance, complemented by institution-specific information provided and validated by the participating higher education institutions.

In parallel, a user-oriented online environment was designed to ensure easy navigation, filtering, and downloading of the content.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the toolbox, responsibility for maintaining and updating individual sections remains with the respective partner universities, while coordination is provided by the permanent Joint Study Programmes Taskforce. This model enables the toolbox to evolve in response to changes in institutional procedures and regulatory frameworks beyond the duration of the iCORE project.

FOLLOW-UP ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS

In MS3 [“Guiding Academics Through the Creation of Joint Programmes Across 4EU+ Alliance”](#), the participating HEIs elaborated on various aspects of joint programmes preparation, namely contractual agreement necessities, fees and funding arrangements, diploma and diploma supplement obligations, and accreditation procedures. These clusters of topics were identified based on the experience gathered during the development of the Alliances' new joint programmes as the most significant areas causing bottlenecks when not dealt with in corresponding level of detail. Apart from these very topic-oriented segments, the Milestone also included recommendations pertaining to timelines, architecture of processes, recommendations on work-planning and elaborated on the undergoing Joint European Degree (Label) initiative.

However, because the resulting material was quite extensive (90+ pages with annexes), a shorted version was also produced for easier accessibility and for wider distribution within the Alliance.

WHAT IS THE TOOLBOX

With such a sizeable pool of data, the Alliance focused considerable effort to design an online solution that would make it accessible to anyone from within the Alliance in a comprehensive way. The resulting online environment (<https://4euplus.eu/4EU-1140.html>) enables quick filtration through roll-out sections, filterable per topic as well as per HEI. The whole data set can be also downloaded for offline engagement, and download is also possible for the selection of any of the displayed topic directly from the interface.

The target audience is both the academic body as well as the administrative apparatus of the member HEIs, as the information contained therein can serve likewise already running and emerging teams of academics, but also to their supporting administrative support as a much-needed guideline. Moreover, ownership of the content is held by the individual partner HEIs and should any of the topics change content-wise, this structure enables quick access to a possible update of that particular section. As the sections provide comprehensive guidance from applicable legislation and internal regulations to country-specific procedures and good practices, the toolbox is expected to require periodic updates to reflect changes in the relevant regulatory frameworks. These updates are envisaged to be carried out by the Joint Study Programmes Taskforce, a permanent group of experts from the 4EU+ member universities. The Taskforce will continue its work beyond the duration of the iCORE project, ensuring that the toolbox remains accurate, relevant, and up to date.

Joint programmes toolbox

This toolbox is designed to offer easy access to key information about institutional procedures for setting up and managing joint programmes at 4EU+ universities. Accessible in both online and offline versions, the information is divided into four main categories: accreditation, agreement, diploma, and finances. Depending on their needs or interests, academic as well as support staff can use the toolbox to easily filter locally specific relevant information about the issues that every new or existing joint programme has to address. The toolbox is regularly updated, and any of the sections (cross-selection of a problematic and a HEI) can be deliberately downloaded. In case of any questions relating to the content of the toolbox, please contact the respective members of the [joint programmes task force](#).

How to use the toolbox

Browse online
View procedures by topic and institution.
Downloadable PDF is available in each section.

Prefer offline use?
Download the full toolbox as a ZIP file containing all documents.
[Download here](#)

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Accreditation procedure

Necessary formal steps for the programme to be legally established

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Necessary components of the consortium agreement

Applicable rules, regulations, and practices for the preparation of the mandatory document

+

Diplomas and diploma supplements

Legal and regulatory setting connected to preparation and award of the documents

+

Fees

Description of matters concerning fees and tuition

REDESIGN OF ONLINE ENVIRONMENT

To follow up on the information displayed in the toolbox and to report any possible resulting inquiries (such as necessary updates), a list of local contact points, together composing 4EU+ Joint Programmes Taskforce, was published along with the toolbox. However, since transnational joint programmes naturally encompass several areas of higher education and activities of the Alliance, it was deemed necessary to also display information and links to groups such as Quality Management Group and Grant Support Service. Since this information transcends the scope of the very zoomed-in toolbox itself, the Alliance redesigned its online environment and prepared a dedicated web hub oriented on overall joint programmes agenda: <https://4euplus.eu/4EU-1148.html>. Accessible directly from the Alliances' homepage (<https://4euplus.eu>) under the “4EU+ Campus” heading, the dedicated “Joint programmes” section lists all the information mentioned above as well as hosts the toolbox.

4EU+ joint programmes

This page brings together key information about joint programmes within the 4EU+ Alliance:

- [Study offer](#) - discover which joint master's programmes are currently available for prospective students
- [Guidelines for 4EU+ academics & staff](#) - practical support for developing new joint programmes
- [European Degree initiative](#) - learn how 4EU+ contributes to shaping European policy on joint degrees

To maximally benefit from this new online environment, the Alliance also prepared a dedicated section with step-by-step information on how to get started with a joint programme (<https://4euplus.eu/4EU-1149.html>) focusing on the most rudimentary aspects of preparation such as advisable timelines, definitions, benefits and most significant considerations. This section was informed by the shorter version of the MS3 and based on the feedback received by the Alliance's academics that are completely new to transnational joint programmes. As it was reported multiple times, these colleagues are not yet interested in the very concrete solutions the toolbox offers but are at the earliest stage considering how demanding and time-consuming the preparation of joint programmes is. They are interested in the most basic terminological differences, general key ingredients for success, and added value for their careers and the development of their departments. This section therefore serves as very much requested piece of the overall mosaic of the 4EU+ joint programmes environment, making the new section a complex hub that in the end offers many more sections than just the toolbox itself, in which the toolbox nonetheless fulfil its role to the maximum of its capacity compared to when it would be just a stand-alone feature.

Creating a joint programme within 4EU+

Are you ready to turn your academic collaboration into a joint programme?

Supporting the development of joint programmes is one of the strategic priorities of the 4EU+ Alliance. Here, you'll find practical resources to guide you through the process: an overview of key steps and common considerations, along with a toolbox outlining institutional procedures at all 4EU+ universities.

[Getting started with a joint programme](#)
[Joint programmes toolbox](#)

Contacts and support

Alliance-level support teams

Several groups within 4EU+ offer targeted support for developing joint programmes

[Expand all](#) [Collapse all](#)

Local contact points

Relevant contacts at 4EU+ universities

In addition to practical guidance, 4EU+ offers internal calls - such as [SEED4EU+](#), [Visiting Professorships](#) or institutional mini-grants - that can support academic collaboration and the development of joint programmes.

Looking ahead: Towards a European Degree

4EU+ closely monitors and actively contributes to the ongoing development and implementation of the European degree (label) through engagement with various stakeholders on the regional/national as well as European level. From being a member of the [ED-AFFICHE](#) pilot project, to an active collaboration with the [Polish presidency of the Council of the EU](#), [4EU+ ETERNITY](#) project, [FOREU4ALL](#) platform and other various engagements, the Alliance fulfills its aim to be an active actor in the process of the underlying co-creation.

PROMOTION OF EXISTING PROGRAMMES

To further solidify the new online environment, each of the existing 4EU+ joint programmes is featured in yet another section. In spite of the different aspects of each of the concrete programmes and whether they have their own website hosted externally, whether it is hosted by one of the members HEIs, or whether it is hosted centrally by the 4EU+ web, this new section offers seamless access for students that seek to enrol or just want to discover more about the programmes. Notwithstanding, it also serves as a common promotion space for all the joint programmes established within the alliance.



Study across Europe: 4EU+ joint programmes offer

Are you looking for a study experience that goes beyond borders?

The 4EU+ Alliance offers joint master's programmes that allow you to study across leading European universities. Combining academic excellence, international mobility, and cross-cultural learning, these programmes will equip you with the skills and perspectives to succeed in a globalised world.

Currently, three joint programmes are available, with more on the way.



**M3EP: Erasmus Mundus
Joint Master's in
European Environmental
Economics and Policy**



**MERGED: Erasmus
Mundus Joint Master's in
Global Environment and
Development**



**Migration Studies and
New Societies**

NEWS

To conclude the new online hub, news and actualities section was also added to highlight important events connected to advertised programmes – from scholarship opportunities and opening of new programmes, to policy developments, position papers, and newest policy developments.

News



4EU+ joint programmes –
online consultations

October 2025



M3EP joint programme
through the eyes of a new
student

August 2025



Overwhelming interest in
4EU+ double-degree
programmes

June 2025



4EU+ welcomes the
Council Resolution on a
joint European degree
label

May 2025



Erasmus Mundus
Working Seminar: From
Joint Design to
Implementation

University of Warsaw, 11-13 June
2025



Tackle global challenges:
Applications open for two
4EU+ Erasmus Mundus
Master's Programme

November 2024



Launching soon: New
4EU+ joint master's
programme

September 2024

CONSULTATIONS

One such example of advertised activities was the opening of **4EU+ joint programmes online consultations** (<https://4euplus.eu/4EU-415.html?newsID=26875>), another activity planned

within Task 3.2 of Work Package 3. Opened for the first time of October 2025 and opened to all the member HEIs of the Alliance, any academic team from within 4EU+ could book a one-and-a-half-hour session to discuss topics such as (but not limited to) curricula design and mobility schemes, degree design and award, or funding and sustainability. These consultations offered more personalized setting, bringing to one virtual table on one hand various academic teams (from already running programmes to completely new ones) and on the other administrative and policy-oriented experts with various backgrounds (from quality assurance and accreditation to local coordination and implementation, and external funding schemes). Launched in October 2025, these sessions were held on a weekly basis and offered a flexible platform for project teams to seek advice and address specific challenges related to programme development. As a pilot, 4 online consultations were conducted with joint programme teams from CU, SU, UHD, UniMi, and UW, with each session involving one programme team of around five participants and focusing on practical support for the development and implementation of joint programmes. The positive feedback from participants confirmed the relevance of the consultations, and this support format will therefore be continued beyond the duration of the iCORE project.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Next to the gradually increasing interest in these consultations, one reoccurring theme during the month-long run was the interest of participating academics in follow up consultations of similar kind, exceeding the local-level support they regularly receive at their home institutions. Apart from this being a very positive attitude towards the effectivity of these consultations, the 4EU+ team also identified as one of key takeaways that the new online hub is not yet well known among the alliances' body, and as a result an online session to explain the new online environment was held on 19 June 2026. The purpose of this session was to introduce the portal as well as its various sections to broader academic public and collaterally also promote development of new transnational joint programmes within the Alliance, transcending the horizon of the iCORE project – both in number of joint programmes and the duration of the project.

ONLINE DISSEMINATION EVENT

On 19 June 2026, the WP3 group organised an [online event](#) dedicated to the instatement and promotion of the 4EU+ Joint Programmes Toolbox, developed within the framework of the iCORE project. The session brought together 31 academic and administrative staff members from six 4EU+ member universities (CU, SU, UW, UHD, UniMi, UCPH) and WP3 team comprising joint programme experts, project managers and communication officers. The principal goal was to highlight the support structures available for the development and management of joint programmes and further cultivate the exchanges on this topic between relevant groups of academic stakeholders, managers, and various support units.

The event was opened with an introduction highlighting the strategic importance of joint programmes for the 4EU+ vision of a more integrated European Higher Education Area and their contribution to ongoing discussions on the future European Degree. Participants were reminded

that the Alliance has established a range of support mechanisms in recent years, including the Joint Programmes Task Force, quality management support, funding opportunities, guidance materials and resources, consultations, and the newly developed Joint Programmes Toolbox.

The first presentation introduced the **4EU+ Joint Programmes Hub**, providing an overview of the resources available on the 4EU+ website for academics and programme coordinators interested in developing and managing joint educational offers.

The main part of the session focused on the **Joint Programmes Toolbox**, a practical online resource designed to support the preparation and management of transnational joint programmes. Participants were guided through the platform's functionalities, including access to institutional information related to accreditation procedures, consortium agreements, diplomas and diploma supplements, fees, and other administrative aspects across the eight member universities. The toolbox enables users to filter information by topic and institution, facilitating the planning and implementation of joint programmes. Secondary goal of this session was to highlight differences in how individual partner universities approach different topics - which was presented as often stemming from different legal, procedural, institutional and historical circumstances.

The final presentation looked ahead to **future developments in support of joint programmes** within upcoming 4EU+ phase, emphasising the Alliance's continued commitment to strengthening educational cooperation and expanding opportunities for joint programme development. The session concluded with a lively **discussion and Q&A**, during which participants exchanged experiences and raised questions regarding the practical use of the toolbox and future support mechanisms.

Overall, the event provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the tools and services available within 4EU+ to facilitate the creation, management, and sustainability of high-quality joint programmes, while also contributing to the Alliance's broader objective of advancing European educational integration.

CONCLUSIONS

Within Task 3.2 of Work Package 3, the 4EU+ Alliance developed and launched the 4EU+ Joint Programmes Toolbox, a comprehensive digital resource designed to facilitate the creation, implementation, and enhancement of transnational joint programmes within the Alliance. Building upon the outcomes of MS3, which mapped key legal, organisational, financial, and accreditation-related aspects of joint programme development, the toolbox transforms extensive guidance materials into an accessible, user-friendly, and sustainable online environment.

To complement the toolbox, the Alliance established a dedicated Joint Programmes Hub on the 4EU+ website, bringing together all relevant resources related to joint programmes. The hub includes the toolbox itself, introductory guidance for teams at the beginning of programme development, contact information for various support structures and expert groups, information on existing joint programmes, and a dedicated section for news, opportunities, and policy developments. This integrated approach improves the visibility, accessibility, and usability of support services available within the Alliance.

In parallel, the Alliance implemented a portfolio of support activities, including online consultations for academic teams interested in developing joint programmes. These consultations provided tailored guidance from experts in quality assurance, accreditation, programme design, funding, and institutional implementation. Feedback from participants demonstrated strong demand for continued cross-alliance support and highlighted the importance of accessible guidance materials and opportunities for peer exchange.

To further promote the developed resources, an online dissemination event was organised on 19 June 2026.

Overall, the deliverable successfully achieved its objectives by providing a sustainable and centralised support infrastructure for joint programme development, strengthening institutional capacity across the Alliance, and creating conditions for the long-term expansion and institutionalisation of joint study programmes beyond the duration of the iCORE project.