

Introduction



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President of ESN International



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From which country are you from?

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Who do you represent?

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For how long have you been involved with the topic of the European University Alliances?

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How has your experience with European University Alliances been?

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How do you involve students in the Alliance?

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What has been the main challenge of involving students in the Alliances?

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Who are we?

**ESN is the key student volunteer
organisation in Europe**

Our network in numbers



15,000+
volunteers

1000+
HEIs

45+
countries

350,000+
Students

United in diversity!



What the students have to say about
the European University Alliances?

**Let's have a closer look into
the XV ESNsurvey results
and the results of our most
recent internal survey with
our ESN sections**



Methodologies of the surveys

XV ESNsurvey

- ~23.000 of answers;
- Survey conducted in 2023;
- Target audiences: international students, non-mobile students and full-degree students.

ESN Role on the European Universities Initiative

- Internal survey conducted to our ESN sections;
- Answers from 46/64 alliances.

Untapped potential of the European University Alliances: Knowledge of non-mobile students of EU initiatives (ESNs survey)

European University Alliances
= 17.57%

Former participants can act as Ambassadors of the initiative. As peer to peer support has been revealed one of the key components for a successful pre-departure support.

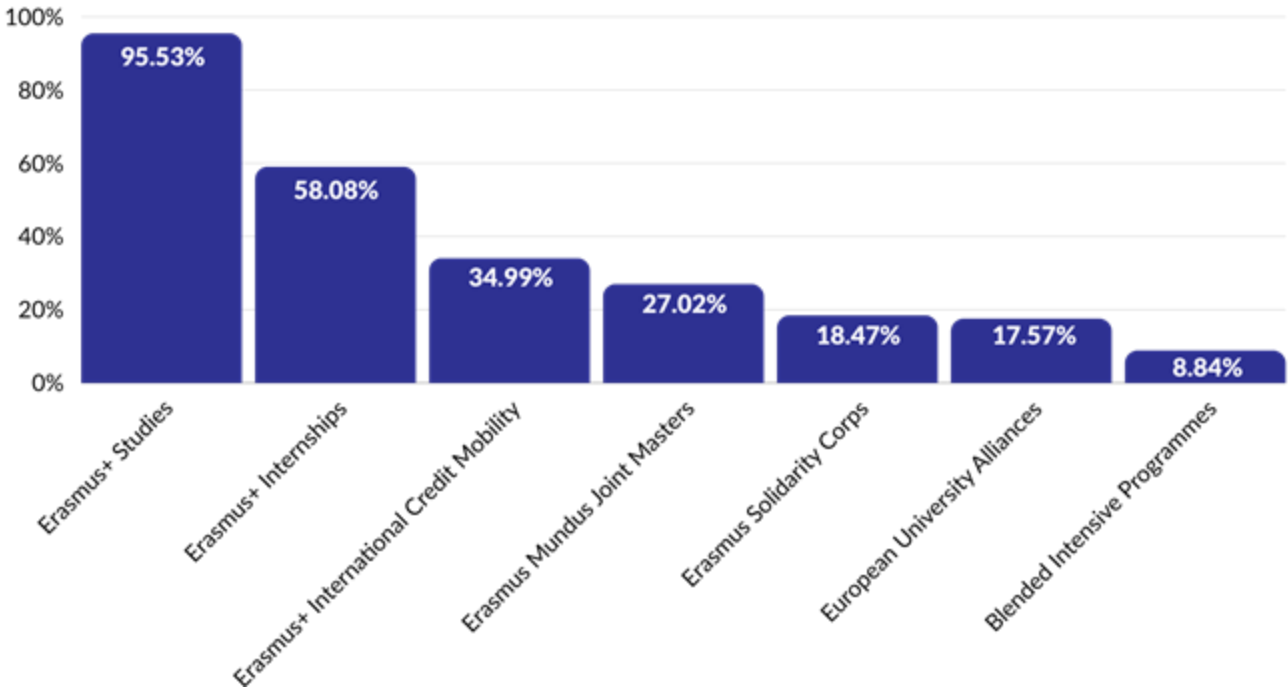


Figure 1: Relative frequency of the knowledge about the EU initiatives (N = 2,772)

Activities in the Local Community or the Host Institution (ESNsurvey)

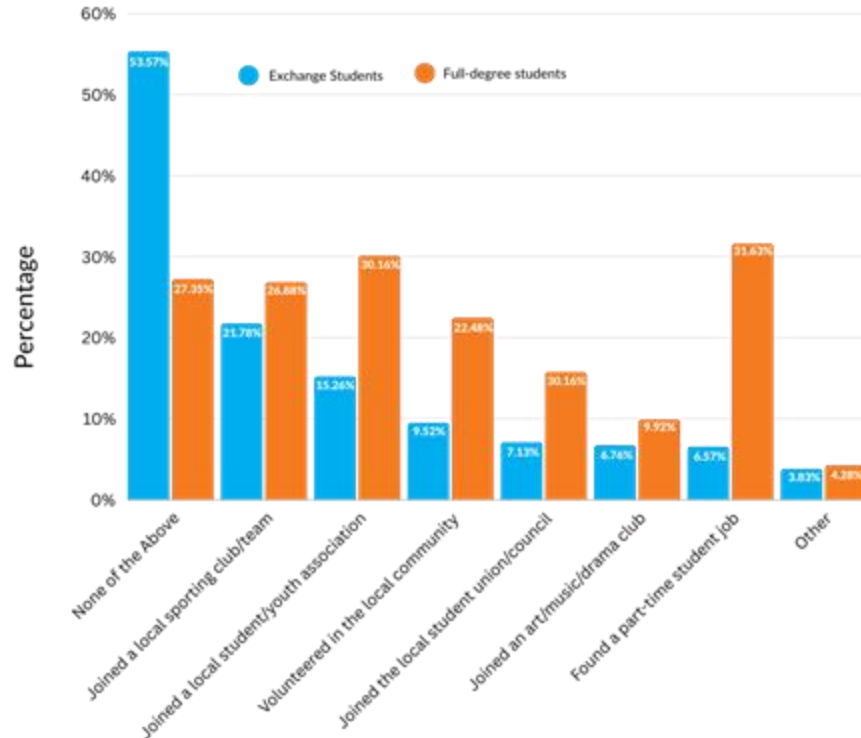
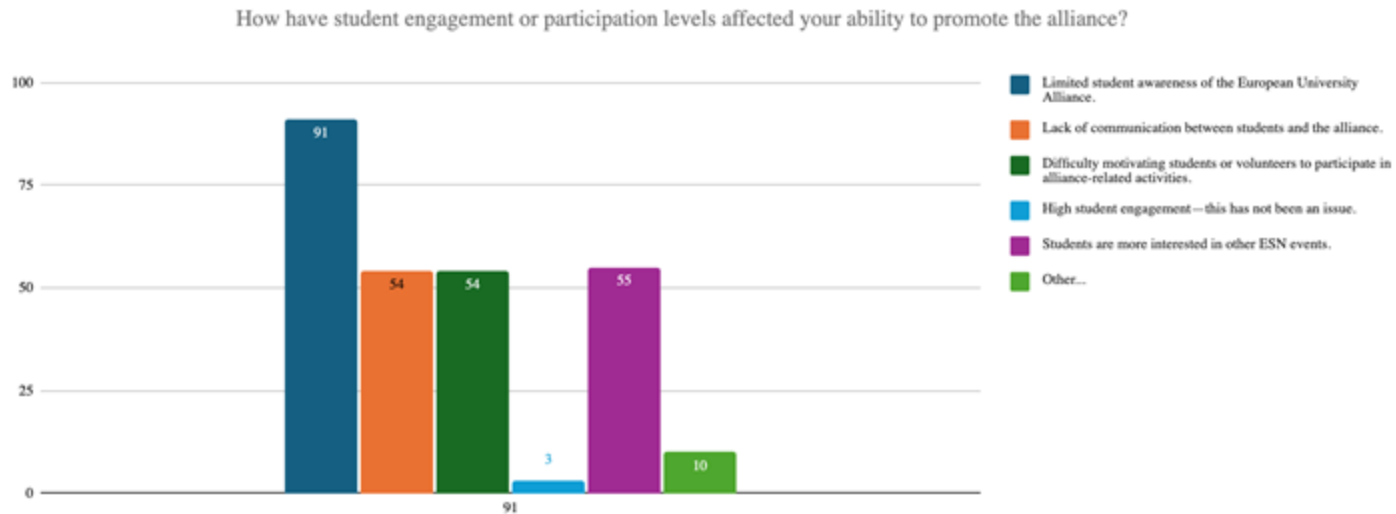


Figure 2: Actions taken by exchange students (N = 14,568) and full-degree students (N = 1,704) in the local community or host institution (general sample, N = 14,568)

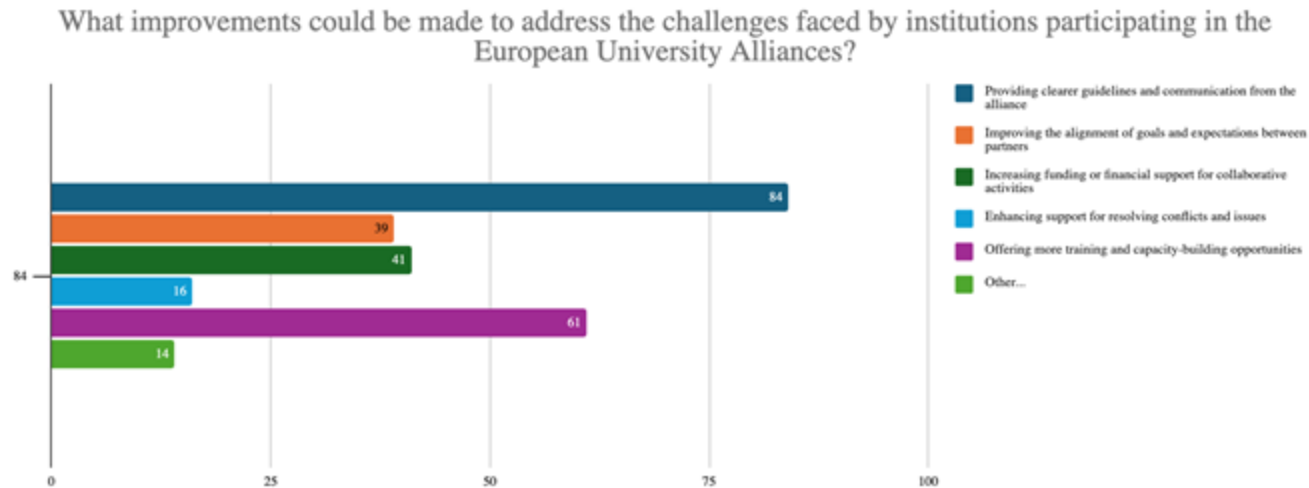
- Since 2020, there is a **noticeable decrease** in the overall engagement in activities within the local community of the host institution;
- The **persistent lack of engagement** by international students in the local community is concerning.
- There also an untapped potential on the role in European University Alliances can play in the local community, connecting the local community, local students and international students.

Student engagement and promotion of the alliances



- Students report limited awareness the initiative (**91%**), followed by the lack of communication between the students and the alliance (**54%**) and the difficulty in motivating students or volunteers to participate in alliance-related activities (**54%**).
- This data relates with what was presented in the XV ESNsurvey.

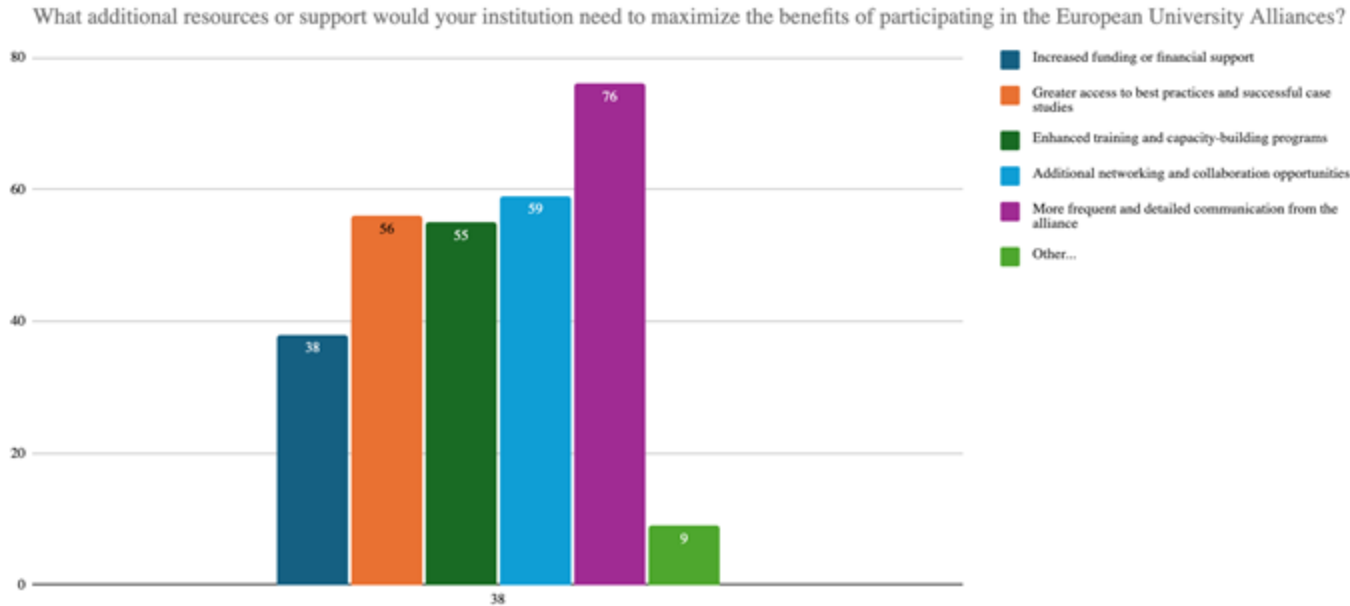
Improvements that could be made to address the challenges



Scoring higher:

- **84%**- Providing clearer guidelines and communication from the alliance;
- **61%**- Offering more training and capacity building-opportunities ;
- **41%**- Increasing funding or financial support for collaborative opportunities

Additionally resources needed to maximise the benefits of participating in the initiative



- Students highlight the need for the alliances to have more frequent and detailed communication (**76%**), to provide additionally networking and collaborative opportunities (**59%**), and greater access to best practices and successful case studies (**56%**).

Key Takeaways



- **Enhance Outreach at the Higher Education Level:** Develop a more effective outreach plan to promote the initiative within higher education institutions.
- **Engage Former Participants:** Create a comprehensive plan to involve former participants, emphasising the importance of peer-to-peer support. Leverage their experience to guide and motivate new participants.
- **Promote Campus Activities Organised by the Alliance:** Improve the visibility of alliance-organised campus activities to strengthen connections between local and national students and the community. There is significant untapped potential for fostering these relationships.
- **Simplify Communication with Students:** Refine the initiative's communication strategy to be more accessible, recognising that for many students, this is their first involvement in a high-level process. Focus on clarity and simplicity in messaging.
- **Acknowledge Volunteer Contributions:** Recognise the volunteer work of participating students as a key motivator. Highlight the value of their contributions through recognition of ECTS and the impact of their involvement in this initiative.

Key Takeaways



- **Provide Clear Guidelines and Documentation:** Offer clear, well-structured guidelines and documentation to help students understand the initiative. Consider collaborating with student organisations or former participants to create user-friendly resources.
- **Increase Engagement Opportunities:** Create more opportunities for student body engagement, including virtual events. The implementation of Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) could be an effective, funded way to foster these connections and provide additional engagement platforms.
- **Include the student body in the decision making process:** Prioritising student voice ensures that decisions reflect the needs and perspectives of those directly impacted by the initiative, fostering a more inclusive and responsive approach and more motivation from their side.

How to motivate student engagement?

Representation

- Highly evolved students in the decision making process, also with voting power;
- Elected student representatives, according to the Bologna principles.

Capacity Building

- With the view to have the most knowledgeable student representatives it's necessary to capacity them with key knowledge;
- This a timely process and sometimes not successful;

Recognition

- To finalise and to ensure that the students continue to be part of the alliances as student representatives we must recognise their work (ECTS, more flexibility...)

How to motivate student engagement?

EC2U Alliance



COOPERATION PROTOCOL ESN European Campus of City Universities

PROTOCOL ESN European Campus of City Universities

October, 2023



The case of Czech Republic



ESN sections at Czech HEIs in EU

ESN CTU in Prague = EuroTeQ

ESN CU Prague = 4EU+

ESN MENDELU Brno = HEROES

ESN MUNI Brno = EDUC

ESN Ostravská = NEOLAIA

ESN UP Olomouc = Aurora

ESN USB Budweis = KreativEU

ESN UWB Pilsen = EUPeace

ESN VSB-TU = UREKA SHIFT

ESN VUT Brno = EULIST

ESN Zlin = PIONEER

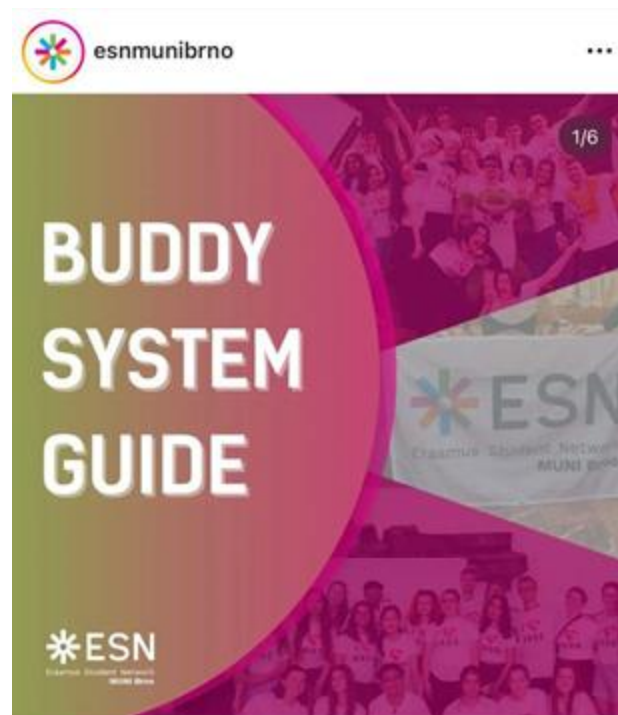
Buddy Programme SLU = STARS EU



Find out your
local section here!



Striving for an improved integration! What can be the benefits for the students coming from the EUI?



Improved integration of students

What is the perspective of ESN Czech Republic sections?

- Sections are not involved as they should
- Students don't know about EUI
- Student's voice is not amplified in the decisions of the alliances
- There is a need for a better transparency in the decision making of the alliances





Time for questions!

Do you have any questions?

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What are the benefits of involving students in the European University Alliances?

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What is your main takeaway from this session?

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Thank you!

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