

# European Universities 2030: Building Knowledge Ecosystems for Europe's Strategic Capacity in an Age of Polycrisis

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## On economic investment agenda for the universities under the EU Global Gateway strategy

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European universities are operating in an increasingly complex geopolitical and geostrategic environment marked by intensified global competition, technological transformation, climate challenges, and shifting international partnerships. In this context, higher education institutions play a critical role not only as centres of education and research, but also as strategic actors contributing to Europe's resilience, competitiveness, and global engagement.

Universities are uniquely positioned to foster knowledge diplomacy, develop talent, support innovation ecosystems, and strengthen international cooperation based on shared values. Through research partnerships, academic mobility, capacity-building initiatives, and skills development, they help address global challenges while advancing European interests and priorities.

The European Union's Global Gateway strategy provides an important framework for this engagement. By promoting sustainable and trusted partnerships in areas such as education, digitalisation, energy, health, and infrastructure, Global Gateway creates new opportunities for universities to deepen collaboration with partners around the world. The presentation will reflect on the role of education and research cooperation under the Global Gateway and opportunities for universities and university alliances to engage globally.

### Presenting author

**Primary author:** BUNESCU, Luisa (Higher Education Policy Analyst, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA))

**Presenter:** BUNESCU, Luisa (Higher Education Policy Analyst, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA))

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