



# Erasmus+

Cooperation for innovation  
and the exchange of good  
practices (KA2)

Compendium 2014

## Knowledge Alliances

## Introduction

Every year the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) publishes Compendia of all projects selected for funding under the annual Call for proposals of the Erasmus+ Programme. The present publication is dedicated to the projects awarded in 2014 under the centralised actions of the Key Actions 2: Knowledge Alliances.

The Compendia are part of the EACEA's contribution to a better dissemination of information about ongoing projects and networking among project coordinators. In the Compendia you will find a short description of each project, the contact details of the beneficiary and coordinating organisations and a list of partners initially involved in the project.

Please note the present Compendium reflects the state of projects at the end of the selection stage, which means that data such as duration, composition of the partnership or contact details may change during the lifetime of the project. Please also note that project descriptions included in this Compendium are provided by the applicants at the application stage. For further information please use the indicated contact details.

In order to complete the picture, below you will find a brief overview of the aims and objectives of the KA2: Knowledge Alliances sub-programme and some figures from the selection results.

Knowledge Alliances aim at strengthening Europe's innovation capacity and at fostering innovation in higher education, business and the broader socio-economic environment. They intend to achieve one or more of the following aims:

- develop new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning;
- stimulate entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills of higher education teaching staff and enterprise staff;
- facilitate the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge.

Knowledge Alliances are transnational, structured and result-driven projects, notably between higher education and business. Knowledge Alliances are open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectoral cooperation. The partners share common goals and work together towards mutually beneficial results and outcomes.

Knowledge Alliances are meant to have a short and long term impact on the wide range of stakeholders involved, at individual and systematic level. As a general rule, Knowledge Alliances target the cooperation between organisations established in Programme Countries. However, organisations from Partner Countries can be involved in a Knowledge Alliance as partners (not as applicants) if their participation brings an essential added value to the project.

Of the 230 proposals submitted, 6 were initially selected. Additional funding allowed to select 4 projects from the reserve list as well.

October 2014

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**REFERENCE:** 554167-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA**TITLE:** Textile and Clothing Knowledge Alliance: Future textile and clothing managers for export, marketing, innovation, sustainability and entrepreneurship oriented companies (TELCOM)

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**DESCRIPTION:** This Knowledge Alliance aims at modernising EU's higher education systems in the field of textiles and clothing (T&C) through a better anticipation of skill needs, based on development of sustainable partnerships between education and employment. This Alliance will result in a facilitated sector adaptation during crisis processes through a better anticipation and positive management of change, via the training of a new generation of strategic managers able to foster stronger synergies between innovation, skills and jobs.

Starting from companies' needs, a pan-European MOOC (Massive Online Learning Course) will be developed in 8 different EU languages, educating the future T&C Managers for export, marketing, innovation, sustainability and entrepreneurship oriented companies.

#### Activities

- Development of sectorial methods for anticipation of skills needs
- Implementation of specific initiatives that stimulate employers to co-invest in the activities of HEIs, research and business centres to address new skills requirements
- Development of a new flexible, innovative learning approach and delivery method for the T&C HEI sector, taking into account barriers existing among SMEs and based on experiential learning / real-life situations
- Set up of the EU curricula of the new professional figure of the TECLOM, endowed with more advanced social, entrepreneurial and management skills
- Development of flexible devices for validation and recognition of entrepreneurship skills, using ECVET principles
- Providing the sector with a MOOC for the new TECLOM – a freely accessible and openly licensed online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web – with a strong use of simulation and real-life situations
- Pilot the MOOC on 160 among T&C university students and managers (8 Learning Labs)
- Set up of a European Development Network for TECLOM pooling the assets of universities, research centres, SMEs and large companies together.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 620,431€

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 24 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554187-EPP-1-2014-1-IE-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>SME and Higher Education Institutes in Innovation Partnerships (SHIP)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** SME and Higher Education Institutes in Innovation Partnerships (SHIP) will strengthen the knowledge triangle, building sustainable collaborative relationships between universities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and innovation support organizations.

It responds to the problem of increasing fragmentation in the field of innovation promotion, especially the dislocation between those who generate knowledge that could spur innovation (HEIs), and those who can translate that knowledge into marketable strategies and use it to produce economic growth (SMEs). Since the SME sector accounts for 99% of all businesses, provides two thirds of private sector jobs and contributes more than half of the total value-added created by businesses in the EU, the implementation of greater innovation in SMEs in an effective and cost-efficient way is vital to fulfilling not only Europe's economic objectives, but also those of a more equal and productive society with higher social and economic integration.

To achieve its goals, the project entails:

- Development of 4 Territorial Innovation Alliances involving 70+ stakeholders in 5 countries (Ireland + UK, Germany, Spain, Romania)
- Development, piloting, publishing and promotion of open access, digital learning resource for European SMEs, training them in the specific skills needed for engaging in innovation transfer with HEIs and Horizon 2020 projects
- Development, piloting, publishing and promotion of a multimedia Comparative Study and Case Study Guide for Innovation Transfer presenting effective and cost effective solutions for transmitting HEI research to SME context

The project will consolidate cooperation as a key feature of the knowledge economy, reshaping traditional roles by multiplying outlets for HEIs to generate direct economic impact from their work, and breaking down barriers so that SMEs of all shapes and sizes can actively implement academic-based innovation to boost their own competitiveness, and that of the wider economy.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 563,362 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 24 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554244-EPP-1-2014-1-AT-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Competencies for A sustainable Socio Economic development (CASE)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** This Knowledge Alliance (KA) aims at competencies needed for a sustainable socio-economic development and for sustainability driven enterprises.

We want to change the EU landscape of HEIs towards a stronger accentuation on new inter- and transdisciplinary ways of teaching and learning, sustainable entrepreneurial education and increasing university-business cooperation in the context of a "green economy".

This shall be achieved through the framework and basic elements of a new Joint Master Program on "Sustainability Driven Entrepreneurship, Policies and Innovation" for European universities. The framework is based on four educational modules focussing on: 1) Sustainable socio-economic development 2) Sustainability driven enterprises 3) Eco innovations and environmental management and 4) Environmental policies and networks. Each module could also be used as "standalone" to offer universities substantial support and guidance.

The structure of every module is aiming at acquiring of skills and competences via using inter- and transdisciplinary methods and tools in teaching and learning, focusing university business cooperation and project work and implementation aiming at entrepreneurial education and founding new sustainability driven enterprises.

5 regional pilots which form an inter-university course with more than 25 service learning projects (and 25 service learning partners / enterprises) will test and optimise the modules while providing various best practice examples of university-business cooperation.

At the end of the proposed project, an open access knowledge platform will provide the four modules and shall account and enable European universities to implement of the Joint Master and for their own curricula building processes. This knowledge platform will be linked with and supported by global multipliers such as the United Nations University (UNU) / Global Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) network or the COPERNICUS Alliance in order to sustain the activities and partnership of the proposed KA.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 909,418 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 36 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554312-EPP-1-2014-1-AT-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>European Food Studies &amp; Training Alliance (EuFood-STA)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** Rapid changes in the economy and the market framework are a big challenge for the competition of the European Food Industry. The transfer of scientific knowledge and innovation from the research side to the food industry is limited. Real life cases and demand from Industry is not well enough taken up into academic curricula. Staff from university and industry side would both benefit from jointly created CPD programs. Difficulties in the collaboration of universities with companies are often associated with the lack of settings or frameworks to enable an easy collaboration.

The proposed “European Food Studies & Training Alliance” EuFood-STA will establish and provide such a required frame for collaborations between the company and the academic sector by developing the independent “EuFood-STA Centre” (virtual platform plus physical hubs) to implement, sustain and extend the developments of this alliance.

The project will build up on existing and new results and demand analysis in progress thus ensuring a most cost efficient and up to date basis for the project. 2 multiplier organisations that work as mediators between Research and Companies will expose the project to a great number of Industry & SMEs. The project will focus on the development and boosting of innovative food science & technology studies to improve professional skills of graduates, teachers and industry staff. CPD programmes including tools and approaches (such as placement of university teachers in Industry and participation of industry staff in academic modules) will be set up and improved. The consortium will collect, combine and improve trainings tools and approaches and make this available in a digital library on an open access basis.

The developed studies & training, sustained via the EuFood-STA Centre, will improve the education system of graduates, teachers and industry staff and provide the frame for continuous development and collaboration between the academic and industry sector.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 988,081 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 36 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554336-EPP-1-2014-1-CY-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>A European University-Business Alliance aiming to foster young SCIENTists' ENTrepreneurial spirit (SCIENT)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** "One becomes an entrepreneur not by birth but by education as well as by experience".

Reason of project: SCIENT will develop an innovative entrepreneurship programme for PhD STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) students/graduates, giving them an insight out of the ivory tower of pure research, developing their transversal skills and providing a new professional path. The EU needs researchers who not only discover new things, but transfer knowledge to others, for maximum social and economic benefit.

Scope & benefits: SCIENT will enhance scientific entrepreneurship by concentrating on young researchers, the brightest minds with untapped business potential. Based on EUROSTAT data (2010), there are more than 500,000 PhD students in EU universities, with more than 180,000 (more than 36%) STEM students.

Activities: By identifying the strengths, weaknesses, existing gaps and utilising on best practices of existing entrepreneurship programmes, a unique and top quality programme will emerge. This will be pilot tested in 7 countries (CY, PT, ES, IT, LT, UK, MT) and offered to interested stakeholders once finalised. Currently there is no such programme in Europe.

Outputs/results:

- A innovative entrepreneurship (pre-accelerator) training package for STEM PhD students/graduates, available both as a complete training course or as an e-learning programme.
- A consolidated report with a description of the state of the art and the needs' analysis conducted across Europe, aiming to identify best practices, strengths and weaknesses and success stories on entrepreneurship and accelerator programmes as well as the needs of STEM PhD students/graduates.
- Potential for commercialisation of ideas and development of start-ups, following the completion of the pilot testing seminar and the Entrepreneurship Academy/Business Competition event, where 35 PhD students/graduates will have the opportunity to present their business ideas to a panel of investors.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 991,778 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 36 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554337-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>European Network of Design for Resilient Entrepreneurship (ENDuRE)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** Entrepreneurship is a powerful driver of economic growth, job creation and innovation.

Europe needs more entrepreneurs. However, entrepreneurs still lack the basic cultural and educational conditions to compete on a worldwide market, and more investment in entrepreneurship education is needed. To reach these goals, formal education is not enough. Ideas are put into action when learning is supported by direct experience of the economic environment.

The ENDuRE Knowledge Alliance is an innovative approach for the education of new entrepreneurs and support aimed at increasing resilience and competitiveness of European startups.

Academies and companies will work together to face the challenge of reducing probability of failure in startups, helping existing enterprises grow quickly and overcome the "Valley of Death".

The project will design and develop a holistic framework to transform ideas into technically and economically sustainable businesses. ENDuRE mixes learning by doing, cross-border collaboration and the strategic support of new startups by successful companies in a win-win environment. Its key features include innovative solutions in technical opportunity scouting and market/technology assessment; prototyping, conceptual design, and reinforcement of products/services and business models; IP mapping, and competitive intelligence analysis; advanced prototyping of products/services; field support through knowledge exchange and startups' full immersion within hosting companies.

After a test within a European network of academies and business players, a set of educational and practical tools will be created to guarantee the future reproducibility of the approach. The educational and training materials will be available for target stakeholders to be transferred in different programs, as well as to be used at different stages of the start-up growth.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 695,277 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 24 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554453-EPP-1-2014-1-FR-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>European Foodbusiness Transfer Laboratory for stimulating entrepreneurial skills, for fostering innovation and for business creation in the Food Sector (FOODLAB)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** Food business is the first sector in terms of employment in Europe, 90% of food companies being SMEs (majority of them being micro enterprises). Though innovation is the main leverage to improve competitiveness, there is neither high enough innovation and entrepreneurship spirit nor innovation transfer from High Education Institutes (HEI) to business. The partners of this consortium, involved for years in initiatives aiming at fostering innovation and interactions between students and industry on the basis of project-based learning approach, identified limits of the current training approaches. The project performance will be notably assessed against the generation of new products or processes and the creation of value and long term collaboration. For this purpose, it will create a European FoodBusiness Transfer Laboratory that will centralize new educational content and tools to stimulate entrepreneurial skills and will allow constructive interactions between HEIs and foodbusiness stakeholders. Supported by a shared web-platform allowing multidisciplinary knowledge exchanges between the partners, this project will also produce best practices for entrepreneurship development, new learning and teaching approaches in closer contact with industry, etc.

Taken together, FOODLAB project's results will homogenize educational approaches; improve interactions between academia and industry; develop entrepreneurship spirit; foster innovation and competences transfer; promote integration of young graduated in SMEs. Ultimately this project will be the basis of competitiveness improvement in food SMEs and bigger companies. It will also help to maintain and increase employment in food sector and possibly in other sectors, as the present project is designed to allow transfer of methodology and best practices in training to other sectors.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 999,888 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 36 months

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<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554471-EPP-1-2014-1-LT-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Promoting and Validating Key Competences in Mobility and Traineeships in Europe (PROMOTE)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** The project aims at promoting and validating social, personal and organisational key competences such as entrepreneurship, civic competences and learning to learn with the help of an innovative, self-directed learning approach at the interface of higher education and business.

Social and personal key competences are hardly to be acquired in lectures, frontal teaching and self-learning.

The ideal learning contexts to develop these competences are informal/non-formal learning contexts such as learning in mobility and in traineeships. However, up to now only singular attempts have been made to assess these competences, to give evidence of their development in the learning activity, to connect them to existing certification systems and to offer a European wide validation approach.

PROMOTE will develop and pilot an approach to tackle this issue based on a long term partnership of academia, business and educational partners from all over Europe.

The traineeships will involve students from 7 universities and will be carried out in businesses or enterprises in different EU member-states (students will have the opportunity to travel to other EU countries to undergo their placement). The innovative momentum of these internships is that they work along a project management structure; each trainee has to plan, develop and assess his or her project, which is leading towards at least one of the key competences described above.

In the framework of the project well-proven evaluation approaches (6 LEVEL5 projects, EDUCCKATE) will be applied to assess and evidence informal learning in different mobility learning environments and traineeships.

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**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 699,913 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 24 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554493-EPP-1-2014-1-FI-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Framework for Innovation Competencies Development and Assessment (FINCODA)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** EU's Innovation Union Initiative underlines the importance of innovations in all sectors of the economy. For creating new innovations we need individuals that are capable to participate in diverse everyday innovation processes.

One main problem is that universities don't have proper tools to measure the development of the students' innovation competencies during their studies. Therefore, we don't actually know which teaching and learning methods are effective. Also companies are lacking tools and knowledge to assess these competencies in various settings: in recruitment processes and internal development activities. Unawareness of innovation competencies causes great economic losses for employers annually.

The FINCODA project, with a significant number of universities and innovation-intensive companies from 5 countries, aims at providing solutions for a solid path for forthcoming innovators from university to companies. We shall test new forms of enhancing innovation competencies in university-company cooperation. Real-life learning environments bring added value for all stakeholders and lower the students' threshold to enter the working life.

As a main tangible output of the project we are creating and validating a Software Application tool for innovation competencies assessment. It will be available as an OER. We shall also illustrate that - especially when speaking about innovation competencies – well-organized and structured behaviour assessment can be at the same time cost-effective, reliable, valid and value adding, compared to traditional written tests.

European-wide challenges demand multinational solutions. Investments to innovation competencies development gain positive impacts to the competitiveness of European companies. Joint European processes in assessment of learning outcomes are also one key aspect in the creation of a well-functioning European Higher Education Area.

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Stichting Hogeschool Utrecht (NL)

The European Computer Driving Licence Foundation Limited (IE)

The Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)

Universitat Politecnica de Valencia (ES)

**MAXIMUM EU GRANT:** 991,859 €

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 36 months

<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<b>554327-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA</b>
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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Le@d3.0 Academy: WEB3.0 and OER for e-TRAINERS and NEW e-LEADERS (Le@d3.0)</b>
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**DESCRIPTION:** Le@d 3.0 Academy intends to create a long term knowledge alliance between Academy and Industry (A&I) to widespread the use of Web3.0/OER by adult educational actors (teachers/trainers/coaches/tutors coming from Universities, Business Schools, HR & Corporate Academies) in the development of the soft e-Leadership skills (Se-Ls) of their final end-users (students/managers/entrepreneurs).

Le@d3.0 Academy focuses on "trainers" as changing agents to develop those Se-Ls that are required by the labour market in the Digital Age.

More specifically the project aims at:

- a) identifying new Leaders' soft competencies needs (decision making, people management, strategic vision design, creativity, intra/entrepreneurship, innovation) for actual and future leaders and identify how they can be raised making use of innovative learning methods
- b) identifying trainers' missing competencies to effectively develop Web3.0/OER based learning programs and innovative learning approaches to develop soft e-leadership skills
- c) shaping, deploying and testing an open virtual environment & an educational tool kit for trainers enabling learning processes aimed at developing Se-Ls in today's and tomorrow's leaders
- d) setting up a learning community (Community of Practice–CoP) of trainers to effectively employ Web3.0 in soft e-skills education.

Le@d 3.0 Academy wants to be the learning virtual platform for those adult educational actors from A&I that work on the development of the Horizontal skills set of the "e-leader" and that want to identify how it is affected by Web3.0/OER.

9 Full partners and 2 Associate from 7 countries (IT-DE-FR-UK-B-PL-PT) can assure a wide dissemination of the project outputs and results among primary target group (trainers from Academy and Industry) and secondary ones (students/managers/entrepreneurs).

The project is based on an "open flexible approach" to learning processes to be used in formal, non-formal and informal education on soft e-Leadership skills.

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**CONTRACT DURATION:** 36 months

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