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## INFORMATION NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	The higher education package. Views from the European University Association <i>- Presentation by the European University Association (Education Committee meeting on 22 July 2024)</i>

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Delegations will find attached the presentation<sup>1</sup> given by the European University Association<sup>2</sup> at the above-mentioned meeting.

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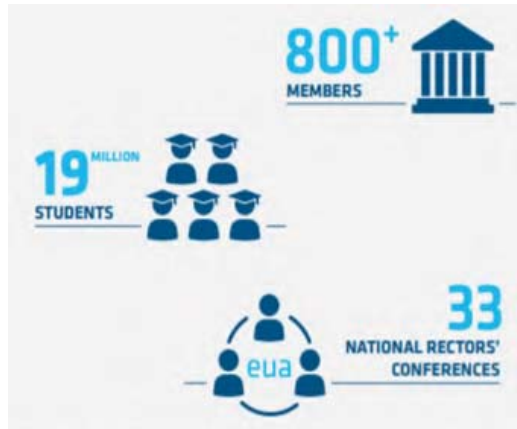
<sup>1</sup> This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

<sup>2</sup> EU Transparency Register number: 81122172998-09.

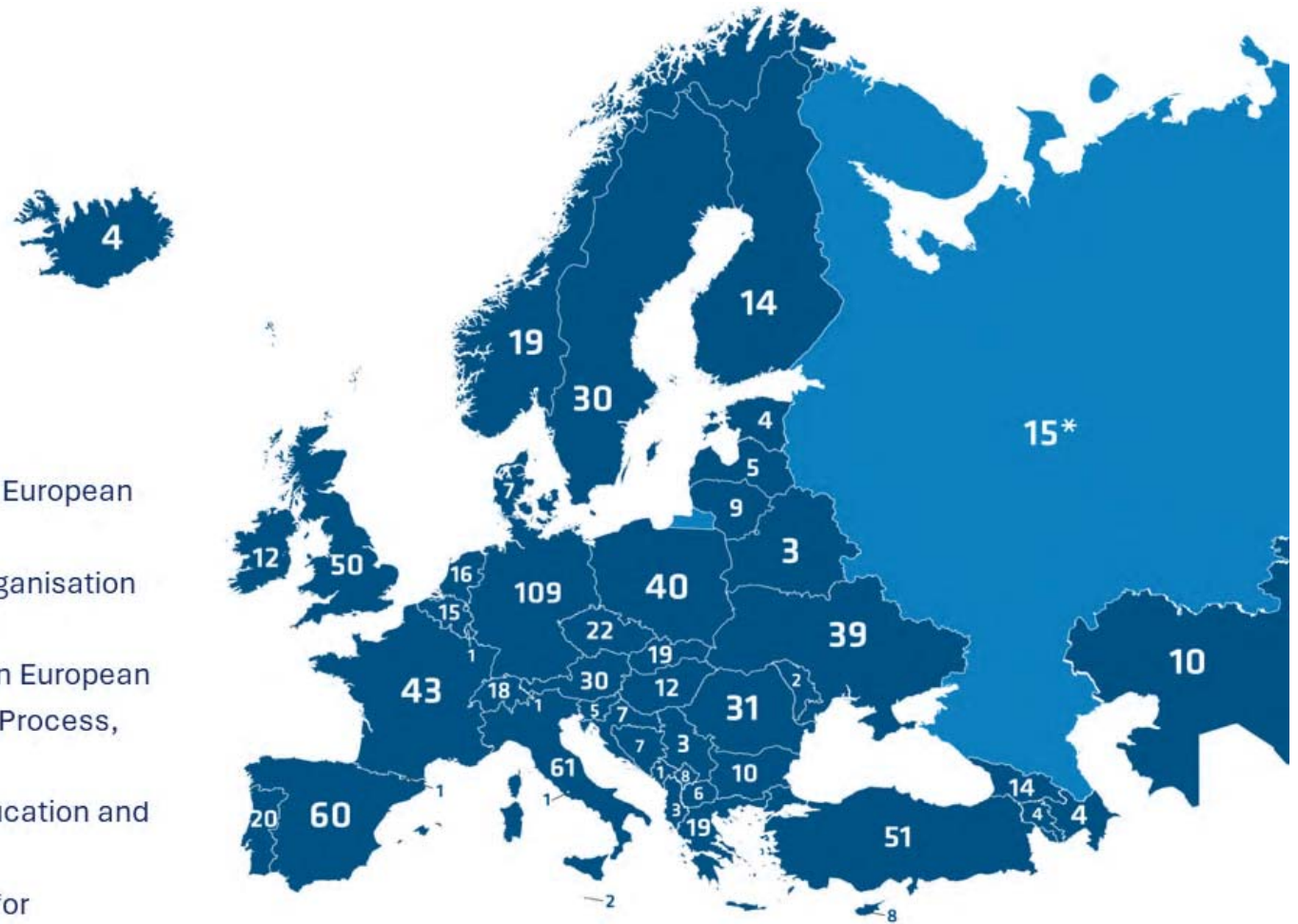
# The higher education package: Views from the European University Association

22 July 2024

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UNIT, EUA



- Established in 2001
- Members in the 48 countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- Non-governmental membership organisation
- Independent voice of universities"
- Advocacy for the university sector in European policy-making processes (Bologna Process, EU)
- Facilitates a dialogue on higher education and research
- Forum for exchange, peer learning for members



*\* Following a statement by the Russian Union of Rectors (RUR) supporting the invasion of Ukraine, EUA suspended Russian member universities whose leaders signed the statement.*

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policy making  
through horizon  
scanning,  
consulting the  
sector, data  
analysis**

**Policy positions  
based on these**

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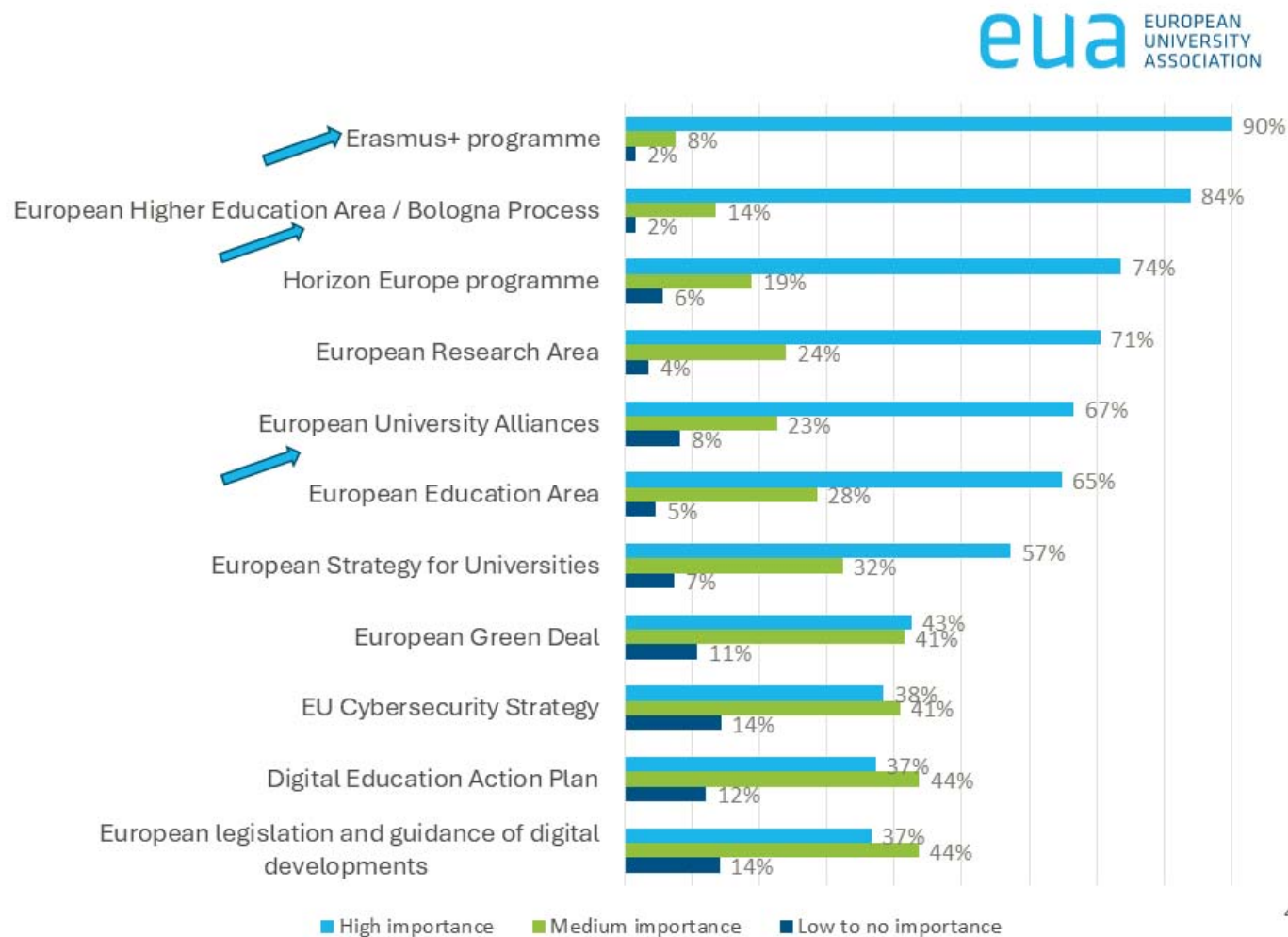
## Relevance of European strategies, initiatives and funding programmes for institutions

Trends 2024

Survey to HEIs in May – July 2023

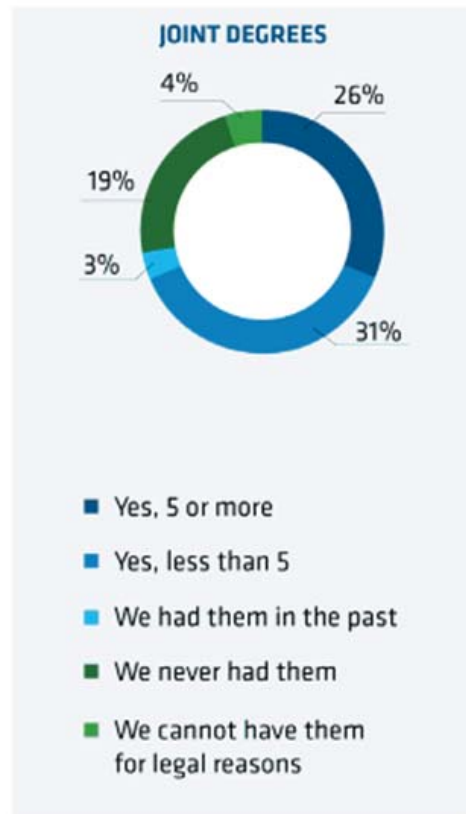
Fig. 4 (N = 484)

*“What level of importance do the following European strategies, initiatives and funding programmes have for your institution?”*



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Source: Trends 2024, Fig. 35 (N = 397)

## State of play:

### Joint delivery appears to be strategic, but limited in scale

- A distinctive feature of internationalisation *à l'europpéenne*
- Feasible in most institutions, but might be cumbersome
- No straightforward track due to system- and institutional-level rules and structures
- Challenges known and documented since a long while:
  - Quality assurance or accreditation
  - Conferring qualification
  - Definitions of curriculum, credits, related workload
  - Recognition
  - Financing
  - Etc.
- Up to now, a relatively small part of the degree education offer in Europe:
  - ✓ Only about half of the institutions that offer such delivery have five or more joint programmes or joint degrees.
  - ✓ Student numbers in these programmes and degrees tend to be quite low.

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## The HE package

Generally, the recent developments in higher education (EUI, ES4U, HE package) marked a shift in policy attention:

- ✓ Focus on higher education institutions
- ✓ Transnational cooperation between institutions (beyond individual mobility) – how HEIs reach goals together
- ✓ Highlighted and provided focus on still-existing challenges to seamless cooperation

### EUA's view:

EUA welcomes the call :

- ✓ for full implementation of already agreed tools for QA/recognition at European level
- ✓ for streamlined and fit-for-purpose processes for joint education offers, in a transnational cooperation context
- ✓ for a renewed commitment to parity of esteem between tasks related to the university missions (L&T, research, service to society) + engagement in international activities

Requires further and strategic reflection on higher education systems, in a holistic way, and how to work across systems.

Shows how institutional autonomy is key in addressing transnational cooperation

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## Caveats and ways further

### The goal?

Europe and its universities need a smooth and effective system for transnational cooperation

- A European degree (label) will not solve structural issues encountered by joint programmes/degrees. Further and better implemented system-level reforms will be needed (adoption of the European Approach to QA of joint programmes; more coherent use of ECTS, etc.)
  - ✓ Reviewing regulatory development needs and assessing potential solutions to address identified barriers, to avoid overregulation?
- The diversity (and complementarity) of transnational cooperation activities (within/outside those supported by the EC) should be recognised to achieve the goal of international experience for all graduates.
  - ✓ Opportunities to facilitate cooperation for all universities – benefits for the entire HE sector
  - ✓ The academic purpose of the cooperation is core
- How to advance with the implementation of all agreed reforms in the entire EHEA.
- Adequate and efficient support (notably through funding programmes and funding autonomy to allocate resources to various types and formats of cooperation)

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# Thank you for your attention!

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