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## STUDENTS MANIFESTO

The challenges of the 21st century can no longer be tackled in the confines of national boundaries, multinational collaboration is key and it is for this reason that European Universities are a unique opportunity for students all across Europe to learn in an environment that reflects an increasingly globalised world.

European Universities require corresponding European Student Councils that ensure adequate and well-informed representation for students within the alliance. It is only when there is a formalised structure in place that student representatives can take ownership of their participation within the alliance's structures.

It is fundamental that each university commits to thorough student participation within the alliance and within its structures locally. Student representatives are to have democratic legitimacy by either being directly elected or appointed by an elected body. This does not mean however, that student participation in representation within the alliance will be restricted to National and Local Student Unions and Erasmus Student Network, but both federations should aim to act as coordinators rather than sole participants.

As the student representatives within SEA-EU we have committed ourselves to develop the institutions necessary for student representation and participation within the alliance. Through a proposed collaboration of as many student groups as possible within a SEA-EU student forum, we aim to mature student participation within the alliance, ensuring that students' interests are safeguarded.

It is our belief that a European University Alliance should not be solely an exercise in collaboration but rather in institutional integration. A key area where integration is possible is through the pooling of resources in quality assurance throughout the alliance, especially since joint-degrees are being designed.

With the prospect of upcoming joint-degrees, as the student representatives within the SEA-EU alliance, we emphasise that students should be able to get their degrees under common regulations and conditions, with a common application and admission procedure that does not distinguish between universities.

One of the main tasks of the student representatives is to actively gather and present the opinions and ideas of the students attending any of the six SEA-EU universities by creating an environment for discussion and exchange of ideas through peer-to-peer engagement. This would therefore lead to better student representation across the alliance.

It is understandable that such an ambitious project requires time and resources and as student representatives, we therefore call on the European Commission and national governments to commit further support for European University Alliances for years to come.

