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European University of the Seas  
SEA-EU

# SEA-EU SURVEY 2.0: STUDENTS

## Executive Report





# Students

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## Language level of the students

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"English" is the most widely chosen language among students from the universities belonging to the SEA-EU Alliance. An English level B1 is certified by 26.1% of students, B2 level by 29.3% and a 19.9% of the student body qualify with a C level for this language. Other languages are placed at a great distance behind, like "French", certified by around 30% of students, most of them with A1 and A2 levels, the "Spanish", accredited by 25.3% and "German", which is or has been learnt by 20% of students also at elemental language levels. "Polish", "Croatian" and "Maltese" are not renowned languages between students, with the exception of those who have them as their native language.

## Level of knowledge

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The initiative of the European universities to create a committee and promote a macro-European campus is highly regarded by 7 out of 10 students (68.2%), who consider it a very good initiative.

Regarding those who do not know about this proposal, only one out of ten students confirm they have not heard about this Alliance (10.1%).

On the other hand, almost half of the students (49.6%) have seen or recognized the University of the Seas corporate image during last year.

## Goals

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Regarding the scale of agreement of the students with the SEA-EU Alliance goals, assessment is very positive, all of them placed above 4 points out of 5. They emphasize the possibility of "facilitate the transnational mobility of students" (4.70%), "promote language learning" (4.61%) or "create a network to exchange knowledge, culture and values" (4.51%). The category "ease the participation of businesses, administrations and NGO", despite getting an equal positive assessment, is the last priority among students with 4.31 points.



## Interest on the areas of work

"Student mobility between the universities which conform the SEA-EU Alliance" is the most interesting aspect between university students, with 4.54 points out of 5. Other focal points, like "knowledge transfer to society" (4.43%) or "student education via intensive courses, summer school, joint doctorate courses, online free courses and languages" (4.37) can also be found among their preferences. On the contrary, undergraduates are not as interested in the "participation of government bodies and design of new politics through the Alliance student council" (3.94%), "virtual teaching and mobility" (3.94%) and "observatories in specific areas like migration and sustainable blue development" (3.91%).

## Activities involvement

Many of the student respondents, 7 out of 10, would be determined to participate in some of the different activities offered by University of the Seas, specifically the 70.6%.

Among the activities offered, students opt for "foreign languages" (4.36), "international culture activities" (4.18), and both categories "intensive courses in specific areas" and "innovation activities" rank with 4.15 points.

Regarding preferences in lessons development, 42.2% of students choose on campus attendance, while 12.5% prefer online methods. 39.2% of students chose a hybrid solution.

## SEA-EU Principles

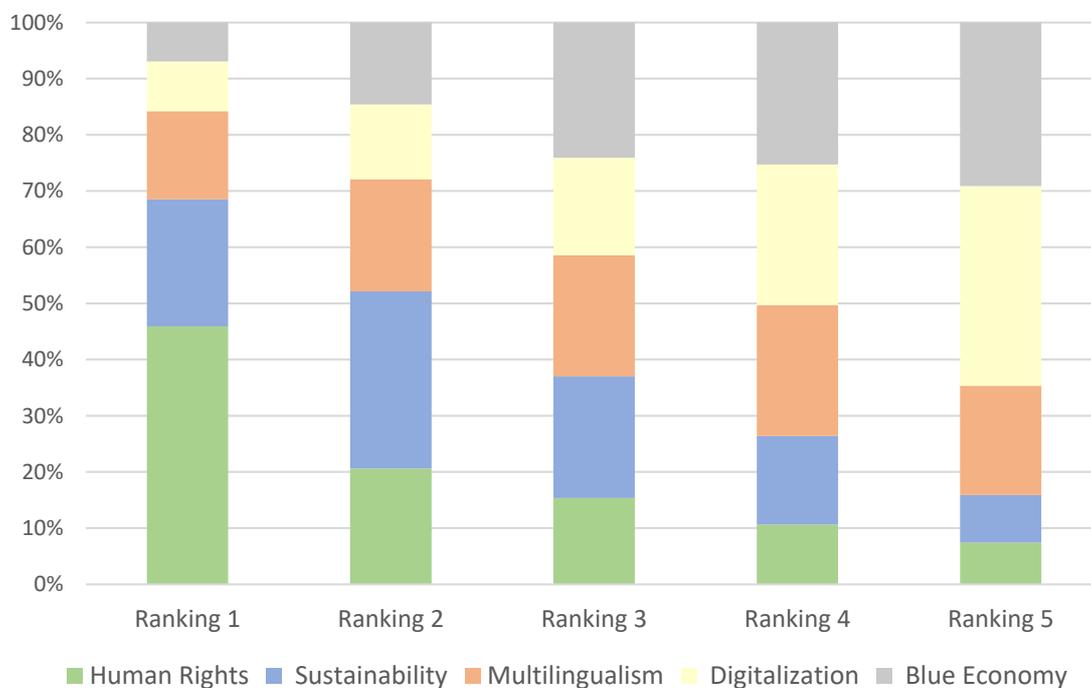
60.8% of contestants consider that the SEA-EU Alliance owns a general vision that address every knowledge area, while 16.8% thinks its vision is focused on the marine-maritime sphere.

It's important to note that more than half of university students consider important that the principles they have been consulted about are built into projects performed by SEA-EU. Specifically, 69.6% of students consider of great importance that "gender equality" is present in all goals and plans, just as "inclusion" (66.1%), "sustainable development" (65.3%), "language diversity" (58%), "multiethnic nature" (51.4%) and "promotion of European culture" (41.6%). On the contrary, the percentage of students who consider that said principles are not important is placed between 0.6% of "sustainable development" and 2.7% of students who don't believe in the importance of "gender equality".

## Challenges

When consulted about the main aspects to promote in the development of this universities Alliance, three key aspects stand out among the student body: "make student transportation and accommodation easier" (66.3%), "motivate the knowledge of both language and culture that are part of the foreign exchange" (44.4%) and "make access to education programs easier" (42.5%). Administrative or bureaucratic aspects like the "possibility to study a joint degree" (30.8%), the "Europass: the European student ID, an identity document digitally signed" (25.8%), "speed up administrative procedures" (20.7%), "larger promotion of the SEA-EU project" (17.4%), "expand number of members" (12.5%) and the "student council at the level of Alliance" (4.7%) reveal less interest among the students of these universities.

### Research areas which should be invested with greater importance



Students consider "human rights" to be the research area which SEA-EU should be paying more attention, followed by "sustainability" and "multilingualism", and attaching less importance to "digitalization" and "blue economy", just as we can see in the graphic above.

More than half of the survey respondents (52.7%) think that their involvement in a European super-campus "would improve their language level". Equally, they believe that said super-campus would contribute to "cultural enrichment"



(36.6%), "increase their education" (31.8%) and "offer more job opportunities" (31.4%).

Lastly, regarding the main challenge that University of Seas should face in the near future, 14.2% of students think that it should promote a larger spreading and knowledge about the Alliance. The 10.6% of students think that the main challenge is overcome the pandemic. A 10.1 of the respondents think that future challenges will be found in the "sustainability and blue development" areas.

## Specifications

Undergraduate and Master's degree students from the universities that make up the SEA-EU Alliance participated in this survey. 70.3% of alumni are pursuing a Degree while 21.8% are pursuing a Master.

**University allocation** is as follows:

- University of Split, Croatia: 24%
- University of Western Brittany, France: 18.8%
- University of Kiel, Germany: 10.3%
- University of Malta, Malta: 1.5%
- University of Gdańsk, Polonia: 1.1%
- University of Cádiz, Spain: 44.2%

Participant's average age is 22.58 years. Regarding gender, distribution is as follows: 64.2% are women, 35% men and 0.8% identify as non-binary.

**Type of research:** online organized survey self-managed via LimeSurvey, with the possibility of conduct the survey in different mother tongues (6 languages)

**Field work:** conducted between November 25th and December 26th, 2021.

**Survey approval:** pre-test across members of the work groups from the different Universities which compose SEA-EU.

**Involvement promotion:** through the different work groups from each University.

**Involvement percentage:** from the total 122 989 enrolled students in the different European Universities from SEA-EU, 4221 surveys were conducted, representing 3.43% from total. Survey ratio per each one of the six universities is as follows: University of Split, Croatia (5.26%), University of Western Brittany, France (3.51%), University of Kiel, Germany (1.61%), University of Malta, Malta (0.59%), University of Gdańsk, Poland (0.21%) and University of Cádiz, Spain (9.10%).

**Sampling error:** +/- 1.48%

**Field work, data tabulation and analysis:** Technical team of the University of Cádiz.