

EDUC-WIDE

Expanding Research Horizons in the EDUC Alliance

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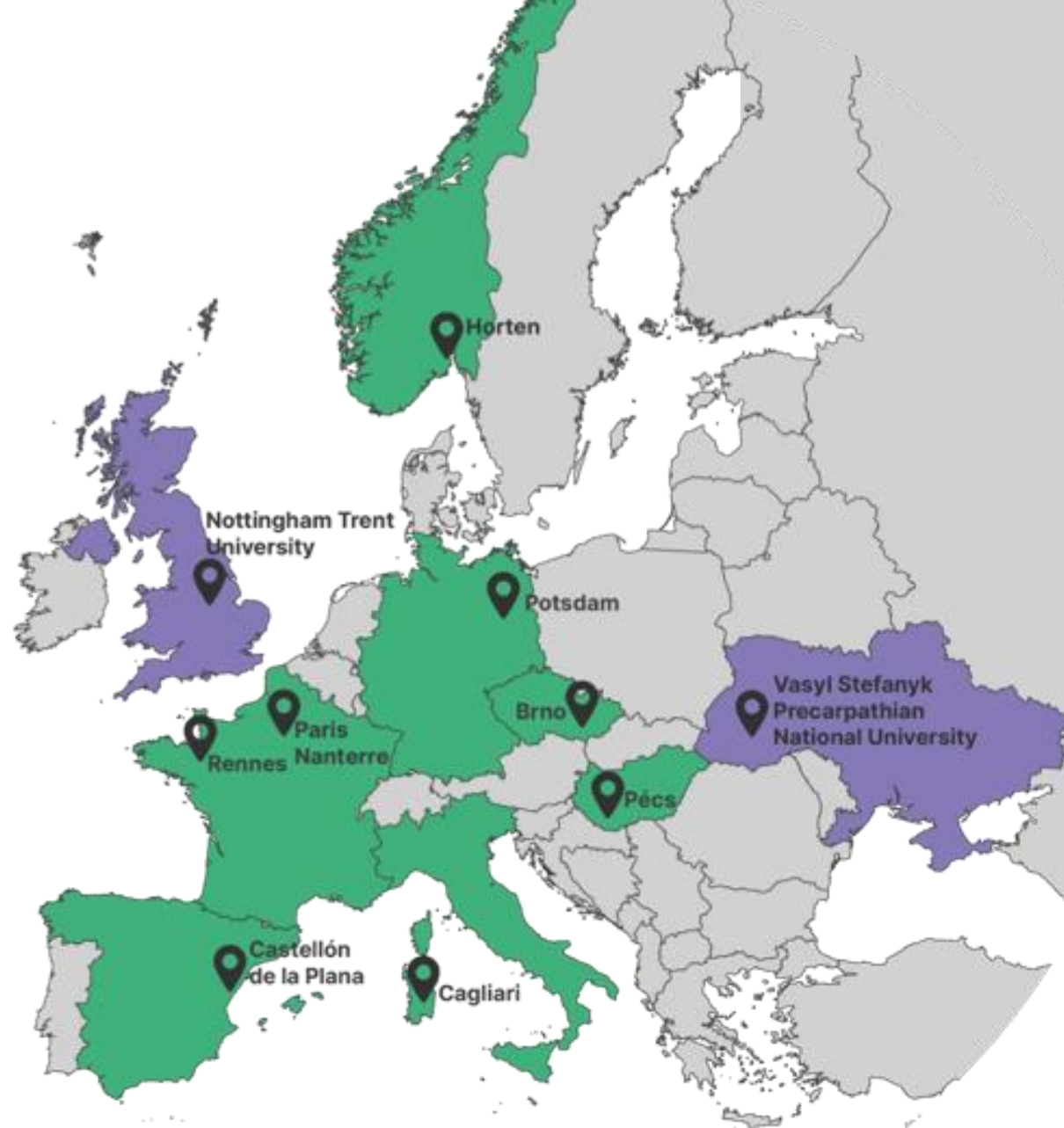
4th September 2025

In the Next 15 Minutes...

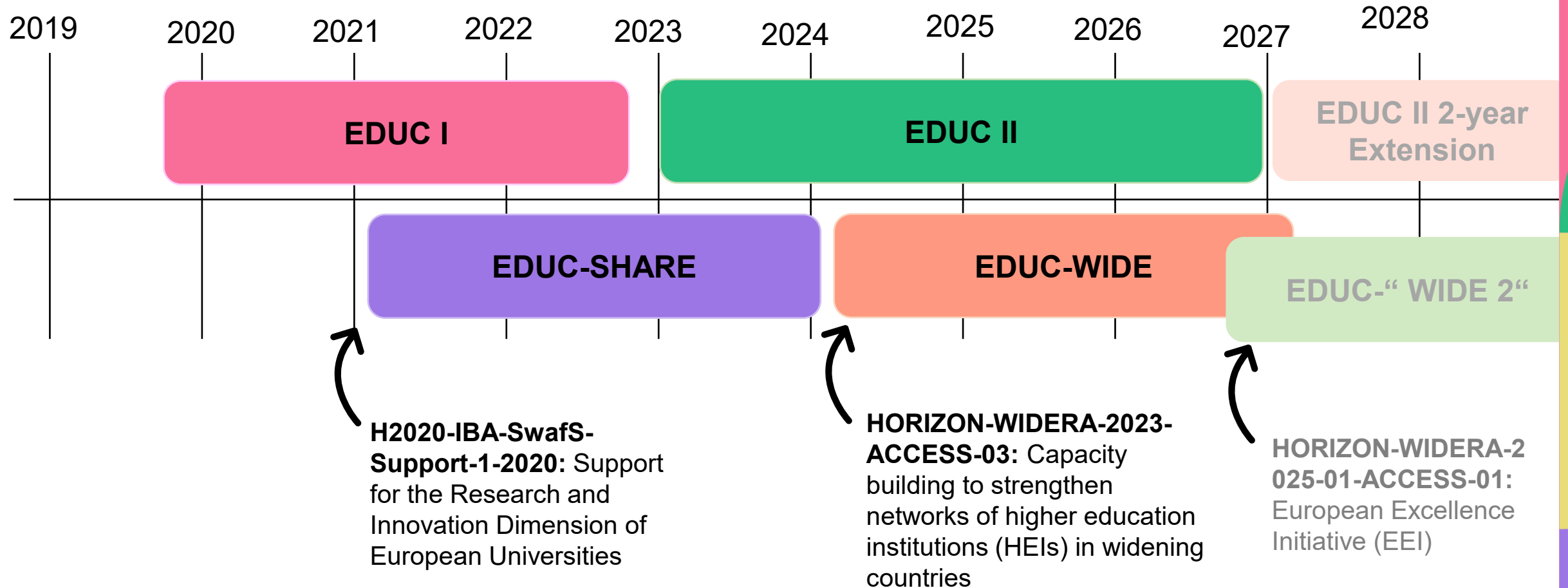
- EDUC Alliance and EDUC-WIDE context
- EDUC-WIDE Project, Preparation Phase
- EDUC-WIDE Hurdles and Highlights

EDUC Alliance

- Established in 2019
- 8 Beneficiaries
 - 1) University of Potsdam
 - 2) University of Cagliari
 - 3) Masaryk university
 - 4) University of Rennes
 - 5) University Paris Nanterre
 - 6) University of Pécs
 - 7) Jaume I University
 - 8) University of South-Eastern Norway
- 2 Associated partners
 - 1) Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University
 - 2) Nottingham Trent University



EDUC Evolution



EDUC II

Erasmus+

4 years (1 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2026)

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Lump sum

8 beneficiaries

2 associated partners:

- Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University
- The Nottingham Trent University

University of Potsdam

Students, staff



vs.

EDUC-WIDE

Horizon Europe, Widening

3 years (1 Mar 2024 – 28 Feb 2027)

Lump sum



Co-funded by
the European Union

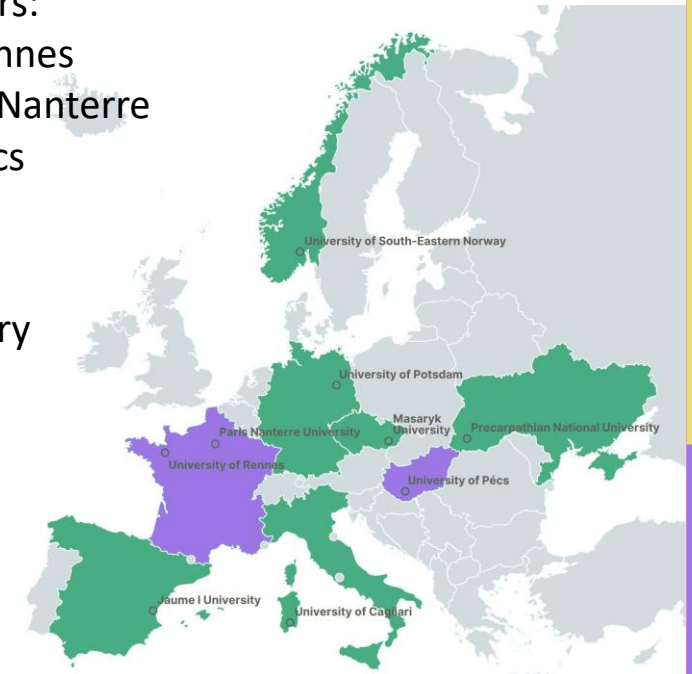
6 Beneficiaries

3 associated partners:

- University of Rennes
- University Paris Nanterre
- University of Pecs

Masaryk University

Researchers, industry



EDUC-WIDE Focus



EDUC-WIDE Calls

CAREER DIVERSITY

EDUC Fellowships

- Researchers at any stage of their career
- Mobilities for 4 to 12 weeks
- Interdisciplinary, intersectoral, International
- 170 000 EUR (50 000 max. to Advanced partners)

Access to Research Infrastructures

- Use of research infrastructures **of Widening partners**
- **2 calls**
- 163 000 EUR

RESEARCH & INNOVATION COLLABORATION

Research Infrastructures Knowledge Exchange Scheme

- Strengthen EDUC Research Infrastructures mutual cooperation
- Staff exchange and join events of research infrastructures
- 40 000 EUR (20 000 max. to Advanced partners)

Seed Projects

- Initiate collaboration on R&I topics of joint interest.
- Small-scale collaboration research projects
- Development of Seed Project ideas into full-blown projects
- 500 000 EUR (150 000 max. to Advanced partners)

EDUC-WIDE Preparation Phase

- Emphasis on participation of all the alliance partners!
- Strong linkage to the ERA Action Plan.
- Topics already cooperated in EDUC (Open Science, Career Diversity, Research Collaboration), but also a brand new one (Research Assessment).
- **Budget split:** 70% allocated to Widening countries, 30% to Advanced partners
 - Physical meetings held/organized at institutions in Widening countries
 - Research Infrastructure access calls hosted exclusively by Widening partners
 - Work Package leadership assigned mostly to Widening partners
- **Research share 20%** - maximum amount.

EDUC-WIDE Challenges

- **New topic:** Research assessment (CoARA principles)
 - The topic had not been a strategic focus for some partners prior to the project.
 - National/legal frameworks differ enormously
- **Meetings**
 - Hosted by Widening partners: Brno, Pécs, Ivano-Frankivsk
 - limited interest from (Advanced) partners in travelling
 - Meetings scheduled at Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University (Ukraine)
- **WPs Overlaps** – double financing
 - Open Science
 - Career Diversity

EDUC-WIDE Challenges - Calls

- **Budget split:** 70% allocated to Widening countries, 30% to Advanced partners.
Additional University of Pécs exclusion from Beneficiaries.
- **Access to Research Infrastructures**
 - Only Widening Countries (Czechia, Hungary, Ukraine)
 - Limited budget for Advanced partners for travel to the Infrastructures/measurements
- **Seed projects:**
 - Total budget: 500.000 €, project budget range: 40.000 - 70.000 €, KPI: 10
 - A minimum of one widening institution was mandatory in every project.
 - **REALITY**
 - Each project targeted the maximum
 - Proposed budgets exceeded the call's available funding 3x
 - Disproportion in proposal budgets: Widening vs. Advanced
 - A need to lower the KPI, but still a need for budget cut – higher for Advanced partners

EDUC-WIDE Impressions

- **Research activities** are strongly appreciated
 - Involvement of other target groups (e.g. technicians from Core Facilities)
 - Young researchers had the opportunity to prepare a small project proposal
 - Awareness of the EDUC Alliance is growing (Seed Projects)
 - New partnerships among researchers from different institutions (Seed Projects)
 - Posts and the webpage with the Seed Project Call were widely visited
- **Research Assessment**
 - All EDUC-WIDE universities have signed CoARA
 - **Deliverable** – Research Assessment Report on Czechia, Hungary, Ukraine – greater impact

EDUC-WIDE Impressions

- “ **WIDENING!** So we’re supposed to be less developed?”
- Sharing **best practices and inspiration:**
 - System of unit organization (e.g. Open Science experts at libraries)
 - System of training provided and how to tackle certain topics (e.g. Leadership vs. Gender equality)
 - Offices and Committees at institutions:
 - Equal Opportunities Office (UP),
 - Equal Opportunities and Inclusivity Committee (USN),
 - Inclusion and Learning Services (UNICA)
 - Study, Career, Family support (UP)
- → gradual **mindset change**

**Thank you for
your time and
focus.**