



Magdalena Rousová
University of West Bohemia in
Pilsen

Davorka Topić Stipić
University of Mostar







30-minute interactive workshop



EUPeace Alliance case study on cross-border cooperation



Interactive discussion with group activities and peer learning



Meet the Speakers



**Dagmar Vokounová
Franzeová**

Director of Project Center,
University of West Bohemia
in Pilsen



Magdalena Rousová

Head of International
Office, University of West
Bohemia in Pilsen



Inja Stojkić

Head of International
Relations Office, University
of Mostar



Davorka Topić Stipić

Head of Centre for Lifelong
Learning, University of
Mostar

Workshop Objectives

01

Identify Barriers & Opportunities

Explore key challenges in cooperation beyond EU borders and discover potential solutions

02

Ensure Equitable Partnerships

Reflect on how alliances can build sustainable, reciprocal relationships with non-EU partners

03

Share Practical Insights

Contribute policy recommendations for inclusive collaboration within the European Education Area



Workshop Journey



Welcome & Introduction

5 minutes

Setting the scene with EUPeace
Alliance case study

1

Case Insights

5 minutes

Two perspectives: EU and non-EU experiences

3

Interactive Group Work

15 minutes

Mapping challenges and opportunities together

2

Reflection & Wrap-up

5 minutes

Collective insights and actionable
recommendations

4

EUPeace Alliance

We are Marburg University (Germany), Justus Liebig University Giessen (Germany), University of Limoges (France), University of Calabria (Italy), Comillas Pontifical University (Spain), University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Czechia), University of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Çukurova University (Türkiye), University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as our associated partners in Europe and beyond.

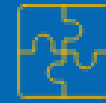


Numbers



198.000+

Students



190+

Faculties & Institutes



1.870+

Study programmes



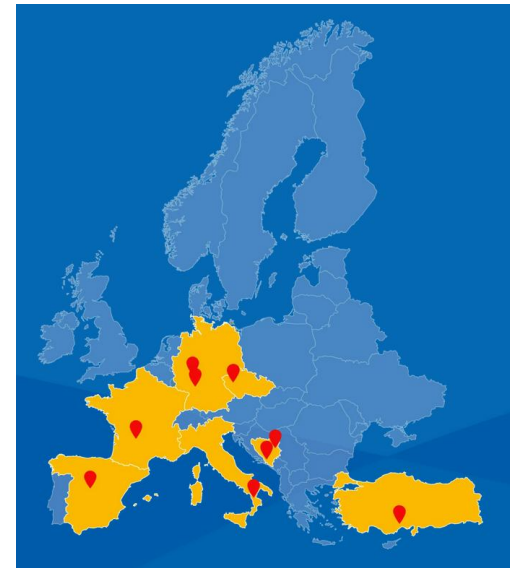
15.300+

Researchers



850+

Research groups



Interactive Group Activity

Now we invite you to apply your expertise and experience.
Challenges/Obstacles and Benefits/Opportunities



Form 4 Groups

Each table receives a flipchart, divided into challenges and opportunities – with pros and cons.



Discuss & Document

Identify 2–3 main challenges and benefits, plus possible enablers or solutions.



Share Insights

Each group presents one key takeaway to create a collective map of ideas.



Two Perspectives on Partnership



EU Perspective

- Administrative and regulatory barriers
- Financial constraints and funding gaps
- Aligning expectations across borders
- Real examples from UWB experience

Non-EU Perspective

- Limited funding access opportunities
- Recognition and trust-building challenges
- Added value for non-EU institutions
- Participation constraints and benefits



Key Discussion Themes



Administrative Asymmetries

Legal and bureaucratic differences between EU and non-EU partners

Funding Access

Participation in Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, and other programmes

Reciprocity & Benefit

Ensuring mutual value and avoiding token participation

Trust & Sustainability

Building long-term relationships and strategic inclusion

Opportunities: The Case for Inclusion



Geographic and Cultural Diversity

Including non-EU partners enriches alliances with diverse perspectives, experiences, and approaches to higher education, enhancing learning outcomes for all participants.



Research and Innovation Potential

Non-EU universities often have unique expertise in regional challenges, emerging technologies, or under-researched areas, creating opportunities for distinctive collaborative research.



Strategic Positioning

Partnerships beyond EU borders extend the alliance's reach and influence, creating bridges to important regions and enhancing Europe's role in global higher education.



Mutual Capacity Building

Collaboration drives institutional development on both sides, as partners share good practice, develop new competencies, and learn from different operational contexts.



Enhanced Student Experience

Students benefit from expanded mobility options, exposure to different educational systems, and preparation for careers in an increasingly interconnected world.



Alignment with EU Values

Inclusive partnerships demonstrate commitment to openness, solidarity, and the European Education Area's aspiration to serve as a model for international cooperation.

Expected Takeaways

Clearer Understanding

Grasp the complexities of cross-border cooperation beyond the EU.

Practical Ideas

Strengthen inclusivity and sustainability in your alliances.

Shared Vision

Contribute to a more open and balanced European Education Area.

"What does an inclusive European Alliance look like?"



**Thank you – and we hope our
perspective inspired you to look beyond
the borders, just as it inspires us.**

