

# European Union Universities of Small States (EU<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup>)



**eu<sup>2</sup>s<sup>2</sup>**

european union  
universities  
of small states



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## PROPOSAL

### Objective

- **Overcoming disadvantages** inherent to the small size of participating states, within the framework of the joint EU target to develop a European knowledge society by the year 2020.
- **Enabling small EU states to participate competitively** and more constructively in the future, for the benefit of the EU as a whole.
- **Enhancing the EU policy** towards cohesion.

### Aims

- **Promoting collaboration between universities** from small EU states, so as to exchange experiences, define common aims and objectives, exchange ideas and principles of good practices and coordinate efforts towards the development of joint projects and activities to be funded by the EC.
- **Promoting the decentralization of research** and the unimpeded interaction between the geographic, financial and infrastructural extremes of the EU.
- **Creating a permanent forum of exchange** between the centre and the margins of the EU, in accordance to the EU efforts to achieve permanent harmonisation through differentiation.
- **Addressing problems in research funding and development** of small EU states and overcoming scientific disparities, gaining social, political and cultural benefits.
- **The creation of a special EU fund** for special calls addressing the needs of universities from small EU states to build capacity, thus creating a stairway to excellence in research and teaching for each country according to its specialisation. Additionally, the allocation of this fund will contribute to the idea of cohesion within the EU.
- **The inclusion and significant participation** of universities from small EU states in all project consortia of HORIZON 2020.
- **The allocation of special EU support** towards the creation of research and high-tech infrastructure and human capital in HORIZON 2020 and the development of centres of excellence in small EU states.
- **The provision of actions**, through international cooperation, to assist small EU states and their universities to network with other small states.
- **The establishment of financial incentives**, such as higher percentage of funding, for the development or re-location of high-tech companies and especially research centres to small EU states.

- **The provision of a higher percentage of funding** to high-tech companies and research centres operating in small EU states.
- **Secure financial support** for the identification of new schemes and support their development and maintenance for providing: incentives for human capital to encourage the support of knowledge-based incubators, development of science parks and other infrastructure of universities in small EU states, supporting re-location of human expertise to small countries.
- Provision of incentives for the establishment, transfer and operation of **European research** units in small EU states.
- Additional **funding for research** in the area of the Humanities.
- Support for small EU states as **pilot countries/regions** in collaboration with all EU states, for the implementation of new research practices and other developments. This will help minimise the negative effect of the existing trend of a “brain drain,” while it will aim the development of a “brain-gain effect”.
- **Allocation of funds** designed to cater for or address the special research and development needs of each small EU state, in line with the already adopted EU policies for accelerating regional development.
- **Support of interdisciplinary conferences** in small EU states, in order to discuss issues of EU and global concern.

## Outcomes

- **Strong small EU states research base**, which will support at the same time the policy on European cohesion.
- **Strong knowledge based** incubators, science and technology parks that will positively impact knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship (Key components of achieving the EU 2020 goals across EU).
- **Development of Centres of Excellence.**
- **Development of financial incentives** for establishing high-tech & innovative companies in small states will:
  - a) eliminate the gross gap in funding availability for early-stage ventures compared to that in larger EU states, thus addressing the currently virtual non-existence of such funding in small EU states
  - b) act as the basis for establishing & developing early-stage venture capital investment groups.
- **Networking** between its members and between other EU member states.
- **Increased knowledge-intensive employment** and increased mobility of researchers.

*October 2011*

## List of Member Countries

### CYPRUS

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Year of EU entry:	2004
Political system:	Republic
Capital city:	Nicosia
Total area:	9 250 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	0.8 million
Currency:	euro
Official EU language:	Greek, English

### ESTONIA

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Year of EU entry:	2004
Political system:	Republic
Capital city:	Tallinn
Total area:	45 000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	1.3 million
Currency:	euro
Official EU language:	Estonian

### LATVIA

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Year of EU entry:	2004
Political system:	Republic
Capital city:	Riga
Total area:	65 000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	2.3 million
Currency:	lats
Official EU language:	Latvian

### LITHUANIA

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Year of EU entry:	2004
Political system:	Republic
Capital city:	Vilnius
Total area:	65 000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	3.3 million
Currency:	litas
Official EU language:	Lithuanian

## LUXEMBOURG

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Year of EU entry:	Founding member
Political system:	Constitutional monarchy
Capital city:	Luxembourg
Total area:	2 586 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	0.5 million
Currency:	euro
Official EU language:	French, German

## MALTA

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Year of EU entry:	2004
Political system:	Republic
Capital city:	Valletta
Total area:	316 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	0.4 million
Currency:	euro
Official EU language:	Maltese, English

## SLOVENIA

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Year of EU entry:	2004
Political system:	Republic
Capital city:	Ljubljana
Total area:	20 273 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	2 million
Currency:	euro
Official EU language:	Slovenian

## List of Member Universities

### Cyprus

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University of Cyprus  
Cyprus University of Technology  
Cyprus Open University

### Estonia

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University of Tartu  
Tallinn University of Technology  
Tallinn University  
Estonian University of Life Sciences

### Latvia

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University of Latvia  
Riga Technical University  
Daugavpils University  
University of Liepaja  
Latvian University of Agriculture

### Lithuania

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Vilnius University  
Klaipeda University  
Šiauliai University

### Luxembourg

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University of Luxembourg

### Malta

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University of Malta

### Slovenia

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University of Ljubljana  
University of Maribor  
University of Primorska

