

CHALLENGING
CONVENTIONAL
THINKING



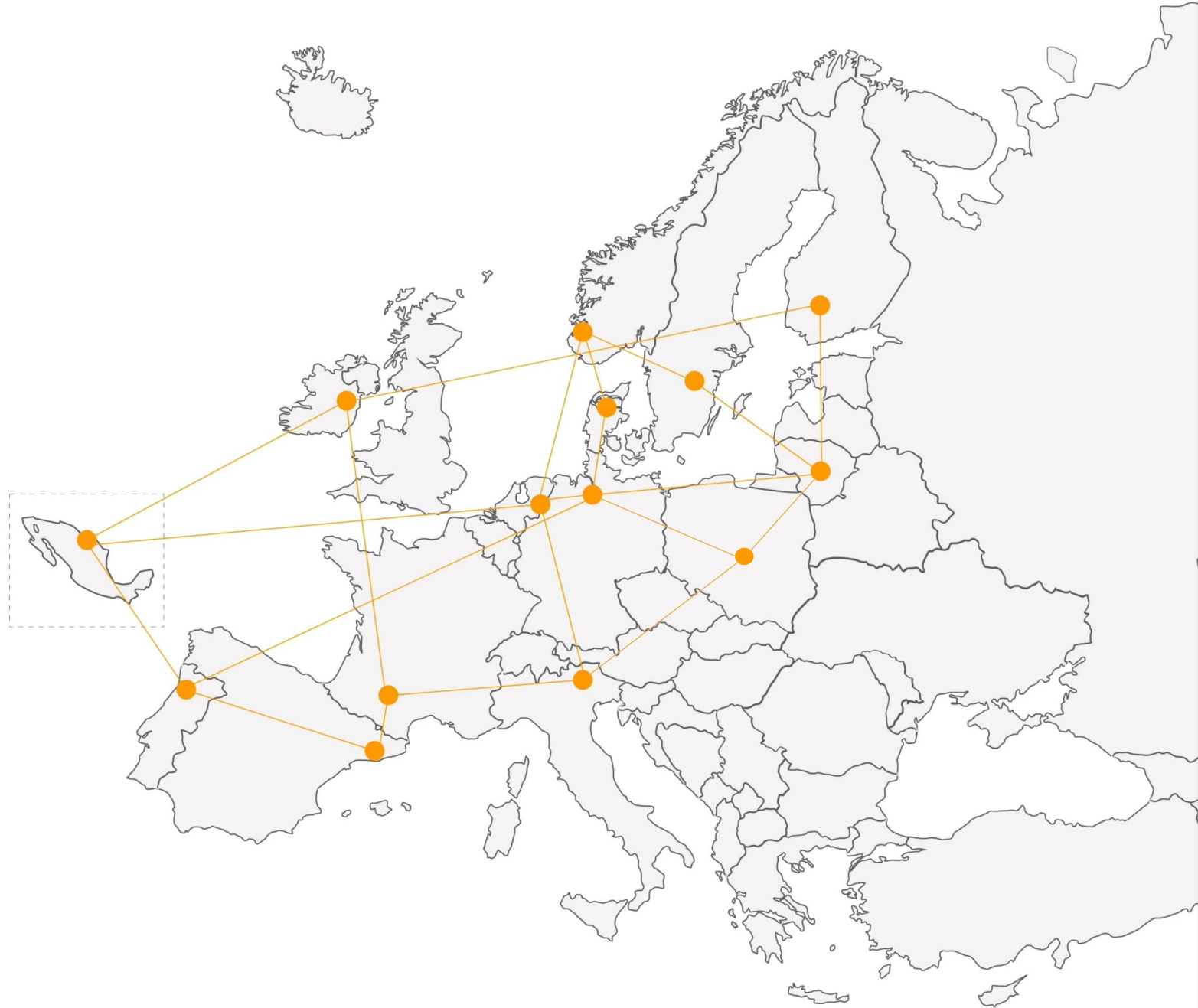
*Learning from other alliances:
The ECIU University*

Trym Holbek, ECIU institutional coordinator UiS, Norway



13 European universities
1 Mexican associate university partner
ECIU Foundation

300 000 students
48 000 staff
500 research groups
150 faculties
3 regional innovation hubs and growing





ECIU UNIVERSITY 2030

**CONNECTS U
FOR LIFE**

ECIU
university

ECOSYSTEM (AGORA)



INDUSTRY
& SME'S



LEARNERS



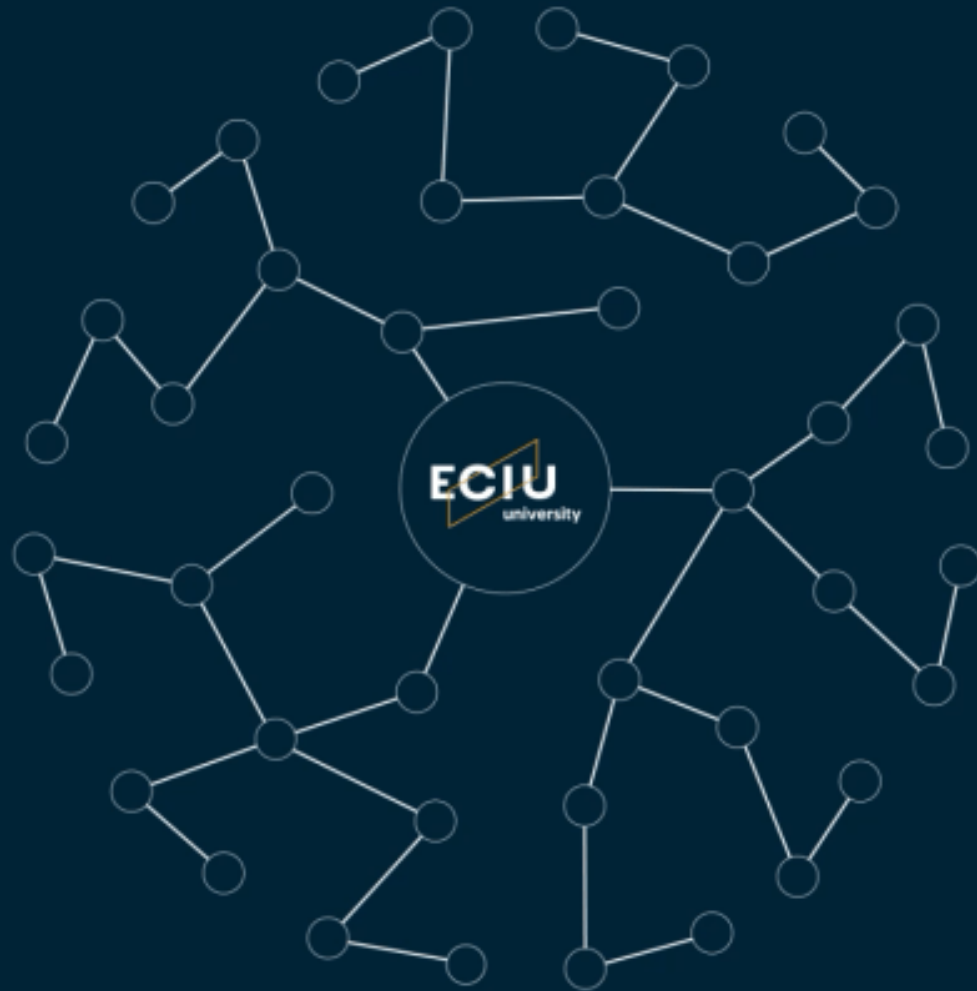
NGO'S



REGIONS &
MUNICIPALITIES

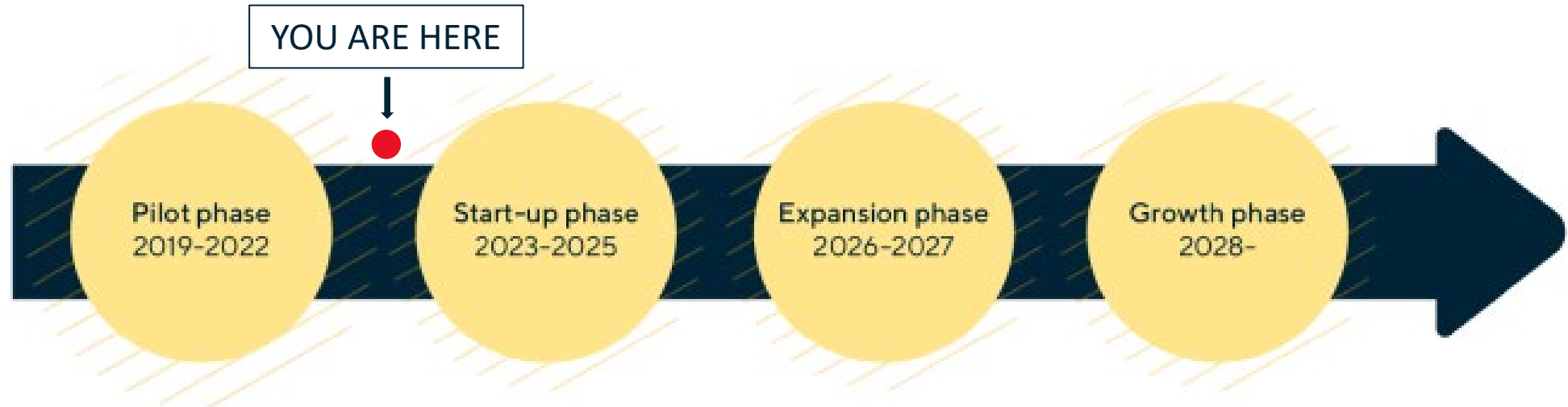


UNIVERSITIES

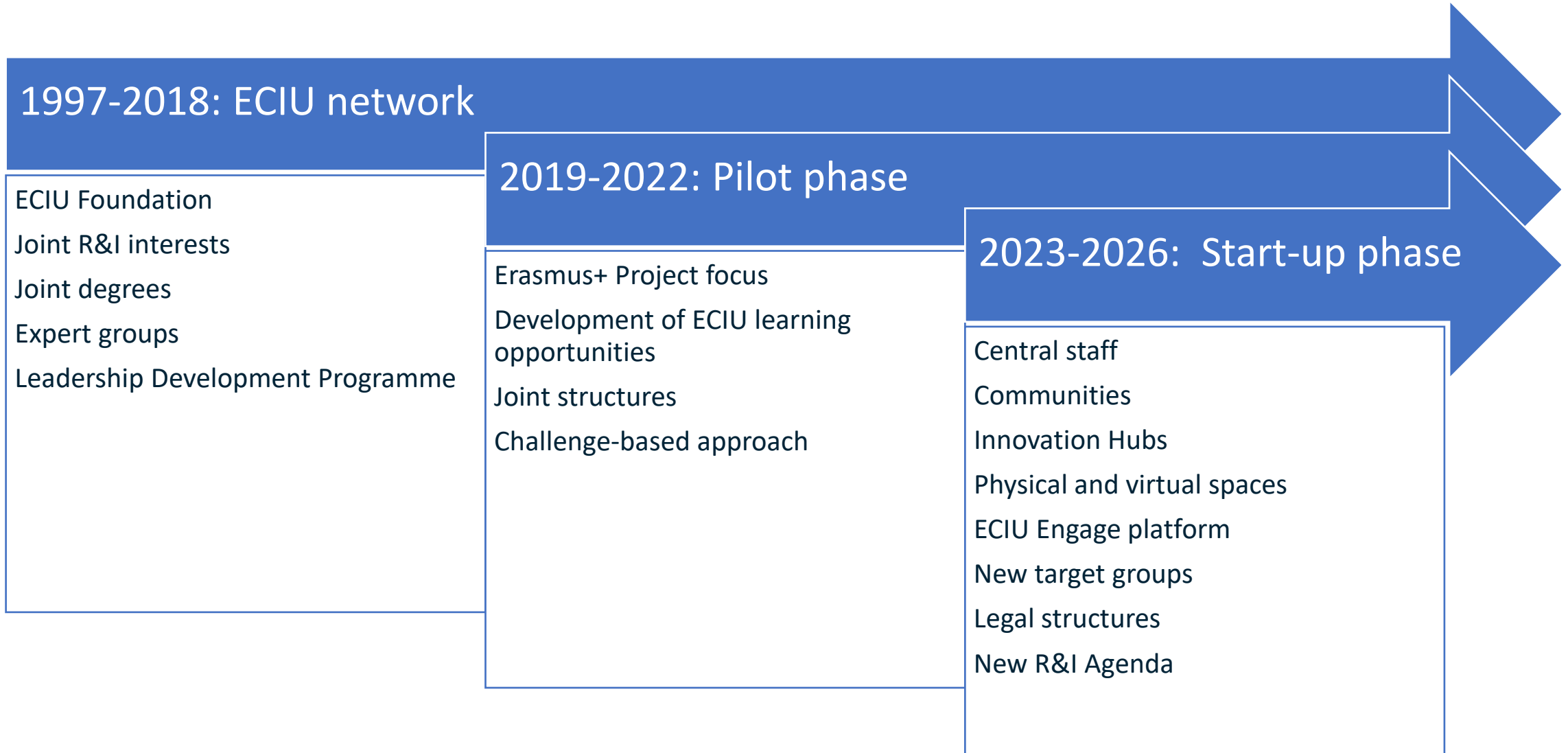


DEVELOPMENT PHASES TOWARDS 2030

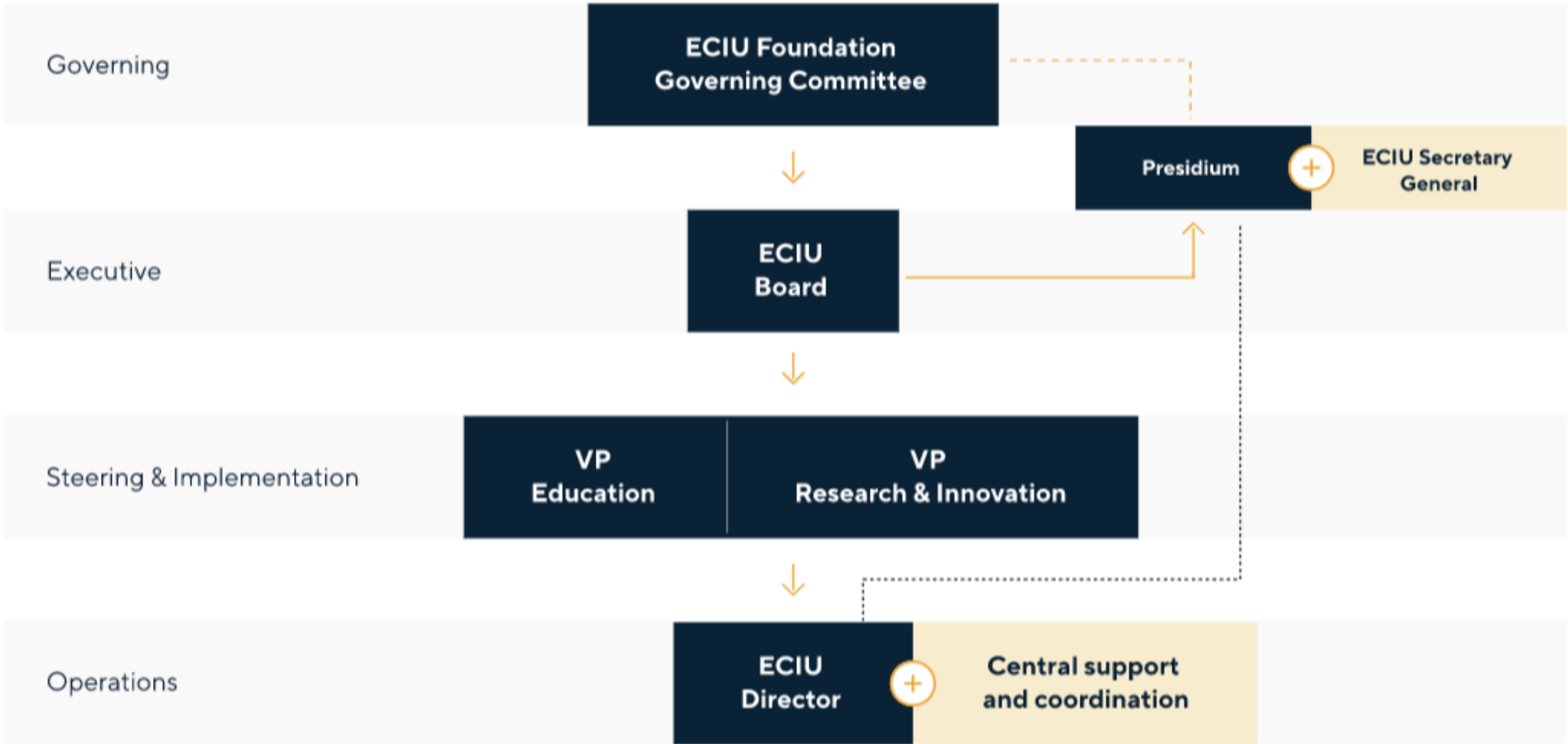
All developments will be phased accordingly.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

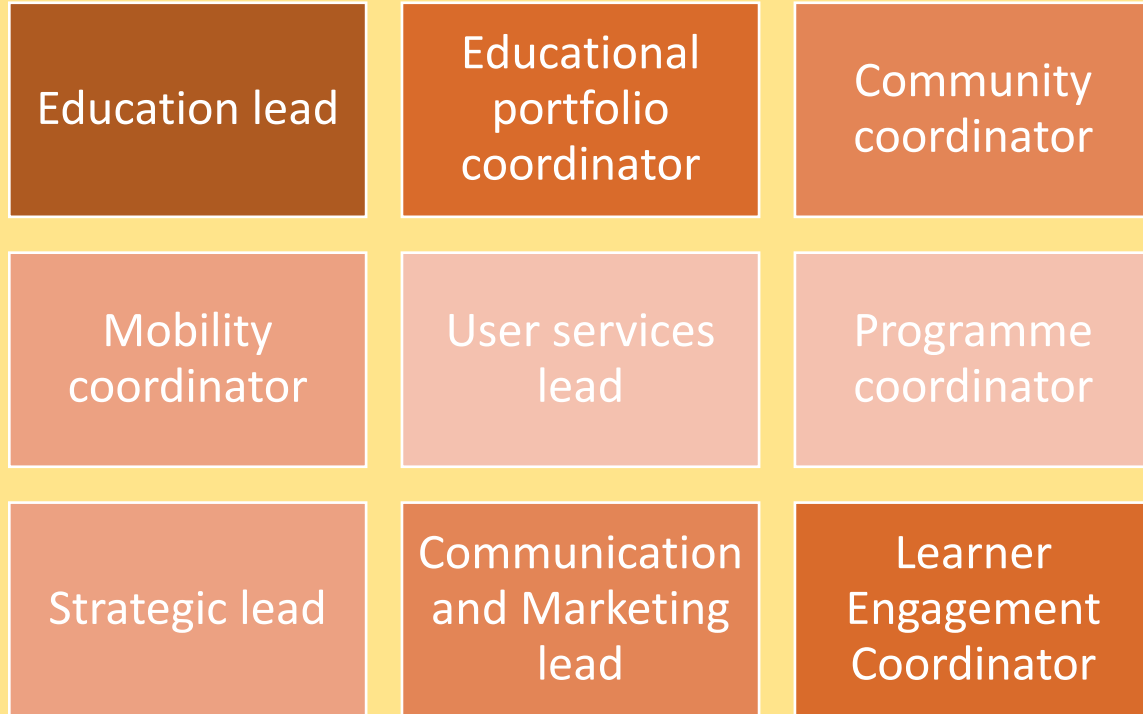


Level of Organization



- Decision-making body
- Supporting body
- Line of command
- Executive link
- Information exchange

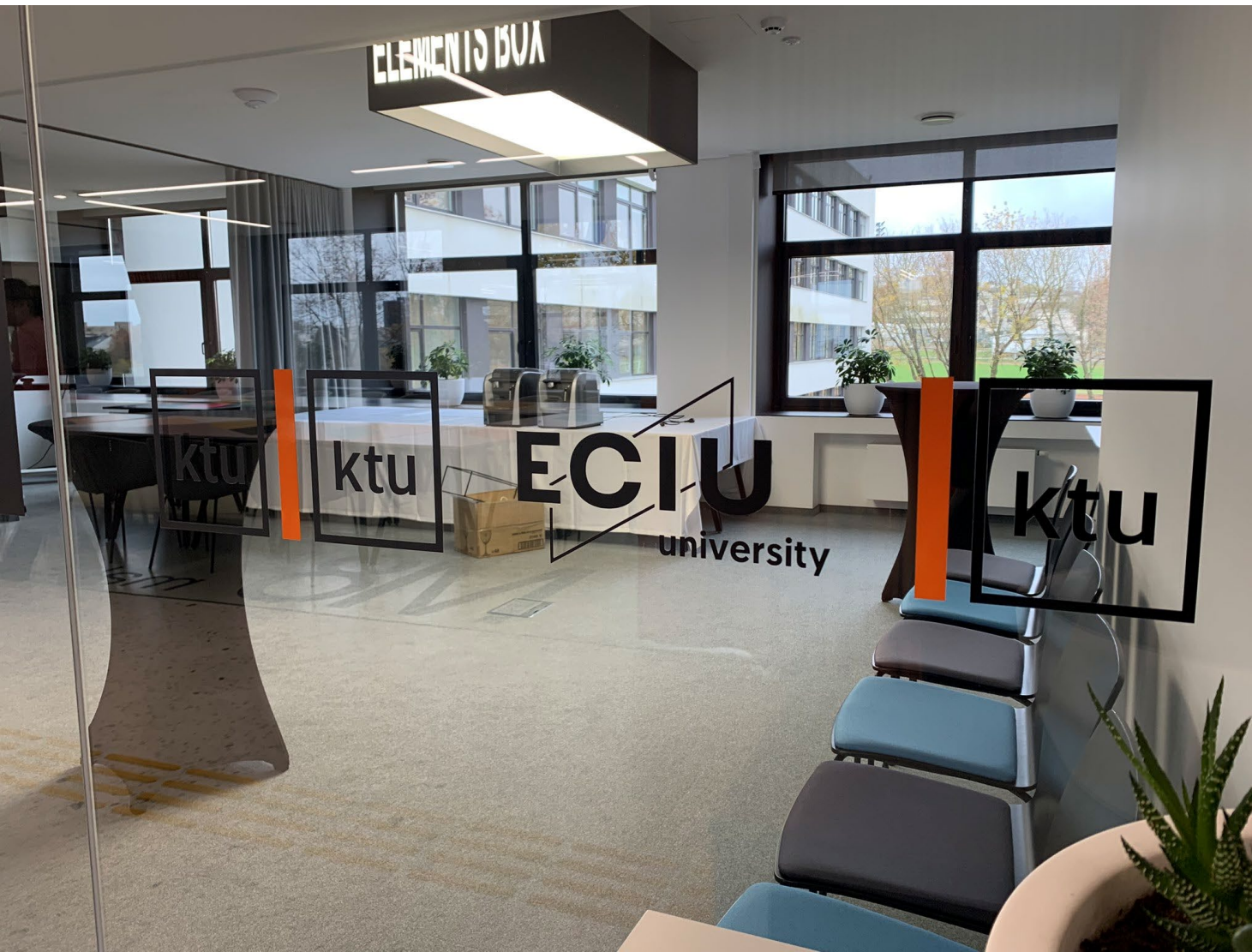
ECIU Central Staff



Main tasks

- Lead development at programme level
- Coordinate between WPs and governance levels (Board, VP groups)
- Connect WPs to Action plans at programme level
- Support communities of practice
- Co-chair VP meetings

ECIU SPACES







CHALLENGE BASED LEARNING (CBL)

A pedagogical approach that actively engages students in a situation that is real, relevant and related to their environment.

It takes place through the identification, analysis and design of a solution.

The learning experience is typically:

- Multidisciplinary
- Involves different stakeholder perspectives
- Aims to find a collaboratively developed solutions

Learners

Take Ownership

- **define their own challenges**
- **take over responsibility for team composition**
- **acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to solve this challenge**

Teacher as a Guide and Facilitator

- promoting team culture
- being challenging
- help students to manage the tasks
- enable students to move towards innovative thinking



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Using CBL to co-create solutions for more sustainable transport



Transnational teams of students



An exchange visit to Hamburg



A wider set of competences

Future Energy and Autonomy Hack





October 11, 2022

Towards a climate-neutral campus: First Strategic Challenge completed

LEARNERS

At the beginning of the summer, eight master's students presented their results for the first ECIU University Strategic Challenge. The presentations marked the successful completion of the six-month challenge.



November 14, 2022

Students meet to work on the Big Data and Climate Change challenge

LEARNERS

On 14 November, students from different European universities came together to work on-site on one of the ECIU University challenges organised by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.



May 27, 2022

ECIU University challenges at UniTrento: Sustainable telecommunications and remote work in the mountains

LEARNERS

EVENT

More than 40 students from ECIU member universities have spent a few days in Val di Sole to solve two challenges proposed by companies and organisations from the Trento region.



Browse ▾

SIGN IN

SIGN UP

Change the way you learn and create real impact

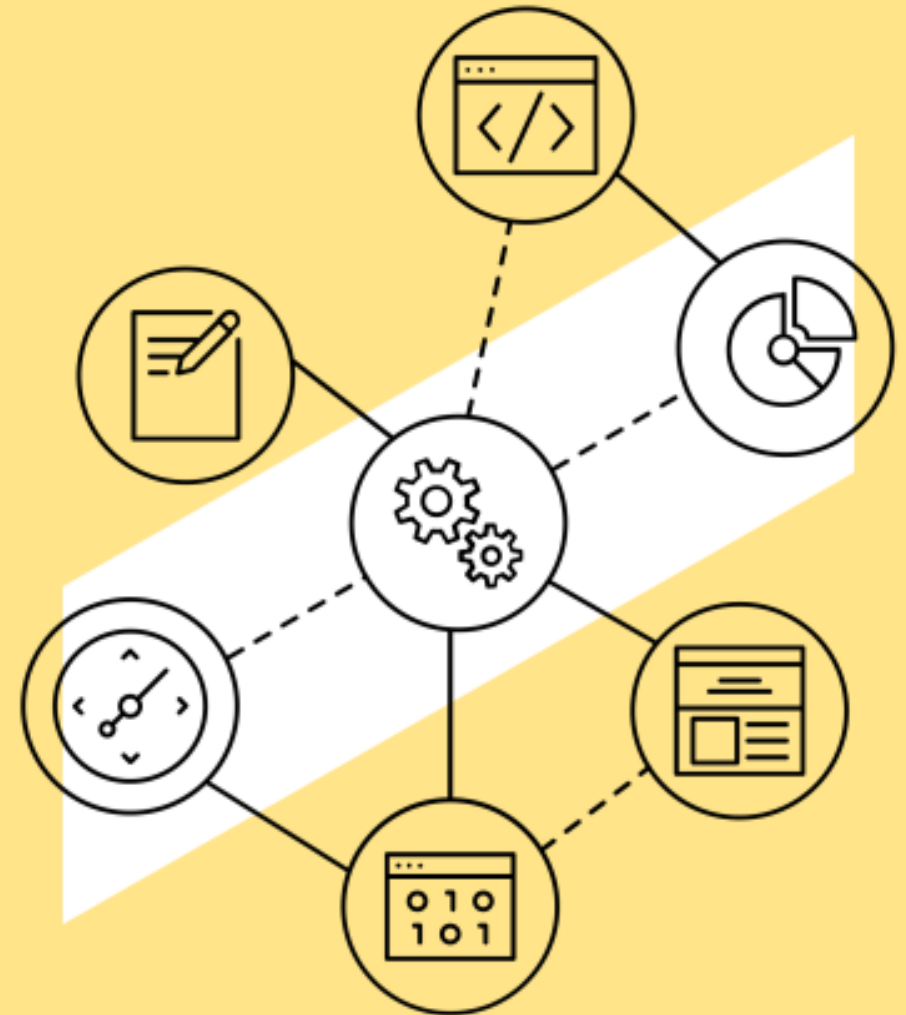
13 European universities are working together to reinvent the way you learn. New and current students can sign up now.

JOIN NOW

MICRO-CREDENTIALS

ECIU University has carried out substantial work on micro-credentials to respond to the need for more flexible education provision

In September 2023:
Launch of our Europass EDC based digital microcredentials for all learners



ECIU position papers on micro-credentials



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TOWARDS A EUROPEAN MICRO-CREDENTIALS INITIATIVE

Innovative universities embrace their role as lifelong educators by offering inclusive and flexible education and by engaging with wider society. The micro-credentialing movement supports the increased flexibility of education, easing accessibility for life-long learners and enhancing possibilities to work with society. Micro-credentials are of crucial importance to exciting future-focused initiatives, like the European Universities Initiative and the ECIU University. However, a common understanding of micro-credentials is lacking and this is hampering the movement reaching its full potential.

The European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) strongly supports efforts to better define micro-credentials and more explicitly align them with existing national and European qualification frameworks. Micro-credentials have an innovative nature and great potential; this note puts forward key principles to support the development of a European Micro-Credentials Initiative.

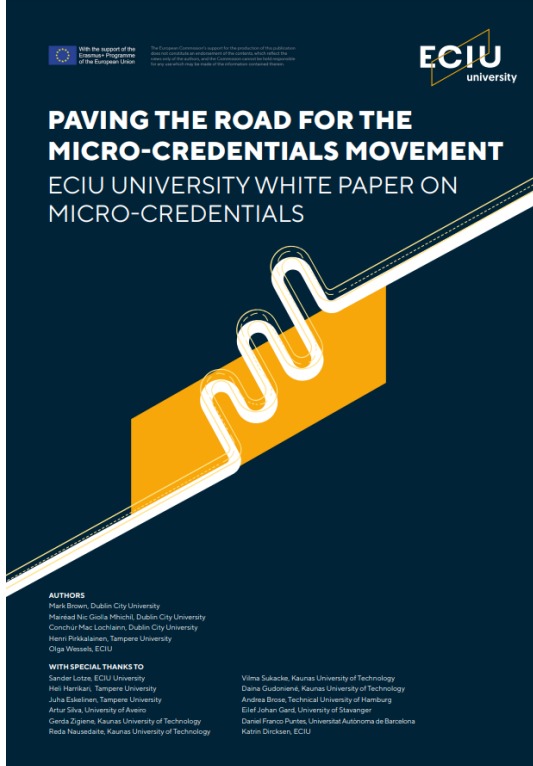
The traditional architecture of the European education and training system needs to be modernised to harness the potential of micro-credentials. Moreover, micro-credentials must be implemented in the service of big ideas; they are not the idea itself. The ECIU University anchors new recognition models in more systemic and transformative efforts to develop 21st Century life-long learners capable of addressing major societal challenges. Next to this testbed, we need a European Micro-Credentials Initiative to support and widen learning at an unprecedented scale, serving society, economy and educational innovation.

ECIU proposes the following guiding principles to better define and develop a common European terminology for the credible and sustainable investment in new recognition models.

KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Micro-credentials require a **common definition** supporting both credit and non-credit recognition pathways. The ECIU University uses the term micro-credential to refer to "certification of learning that can accumulate into a larger credential or degree, be part of a portfolio that demonstrates individuals' proof of learning, or have a value in itself".
2. European **quality assurance** guidelines for micro-credentials are needed to define standards and support institutional best practices. Micro-credentials need to adhere to an agreed ECTS credit value when intended to be credit-bearing. They should be aligned with and fully embedded within the European Qualification Framework. Authentication and recognition challenges need to be addressed.
3. **Society engagement** is needed to identify, understand and help shape perceptions of the value, credibility, recognition and currency of micro-credentials. Developing micro-credentials is an open process where universities and society work together. Questions regarding ownership and financing need to be addressed. Universities are academic independent and in control of the quality assurance.
4. Suitable open **technical platforms and systems** are needed for sustainability and to help manage new credit and recognition models. Micro-credentials need to be brought together in a Learner's Wallet (as developed by the ECIU University).
5. **Commitment** from policy makers, institutions and initiative leaders are needed to support major system-level educational innovations.

2020



With the support of the European Programme of the European Union

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PAVING THE ROAD FOR THE MICRO-CREDENTIALS MOVEMENT

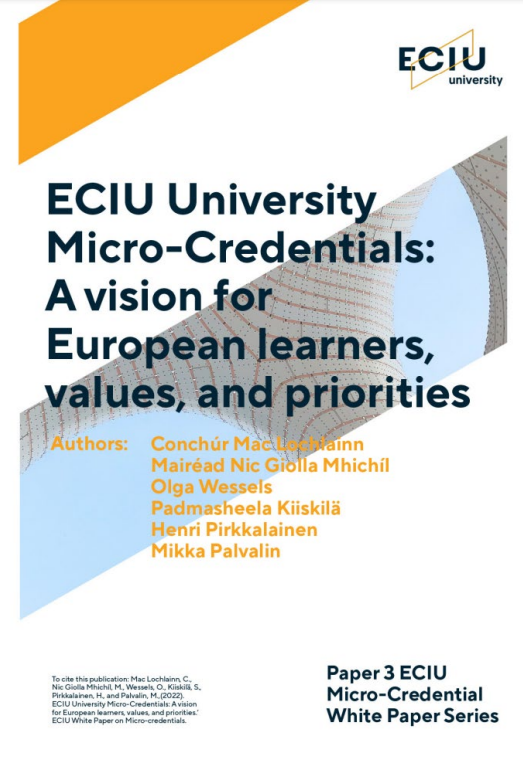
ECIU UNIVERSITY WHITE PAPER ON MICRO-CREDENTIALS

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2021



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university

ECIU University Micro-Credentials: A vision for European learners, values, and priorities

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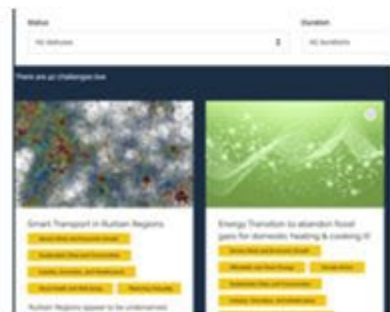
Paper 3 ECIU Micro-Credential White Paper Series

2022

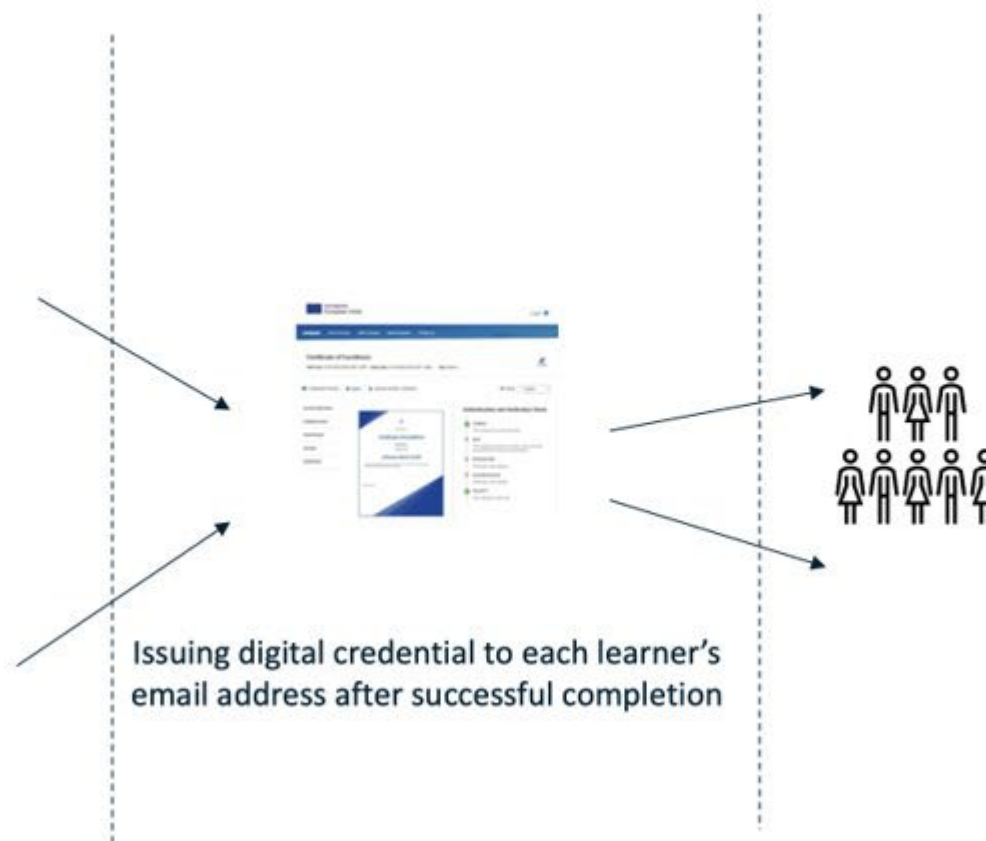
FROM MODULES TO MICRO-CREDENTIALS



ECIU micro-modules



ECIU challenges



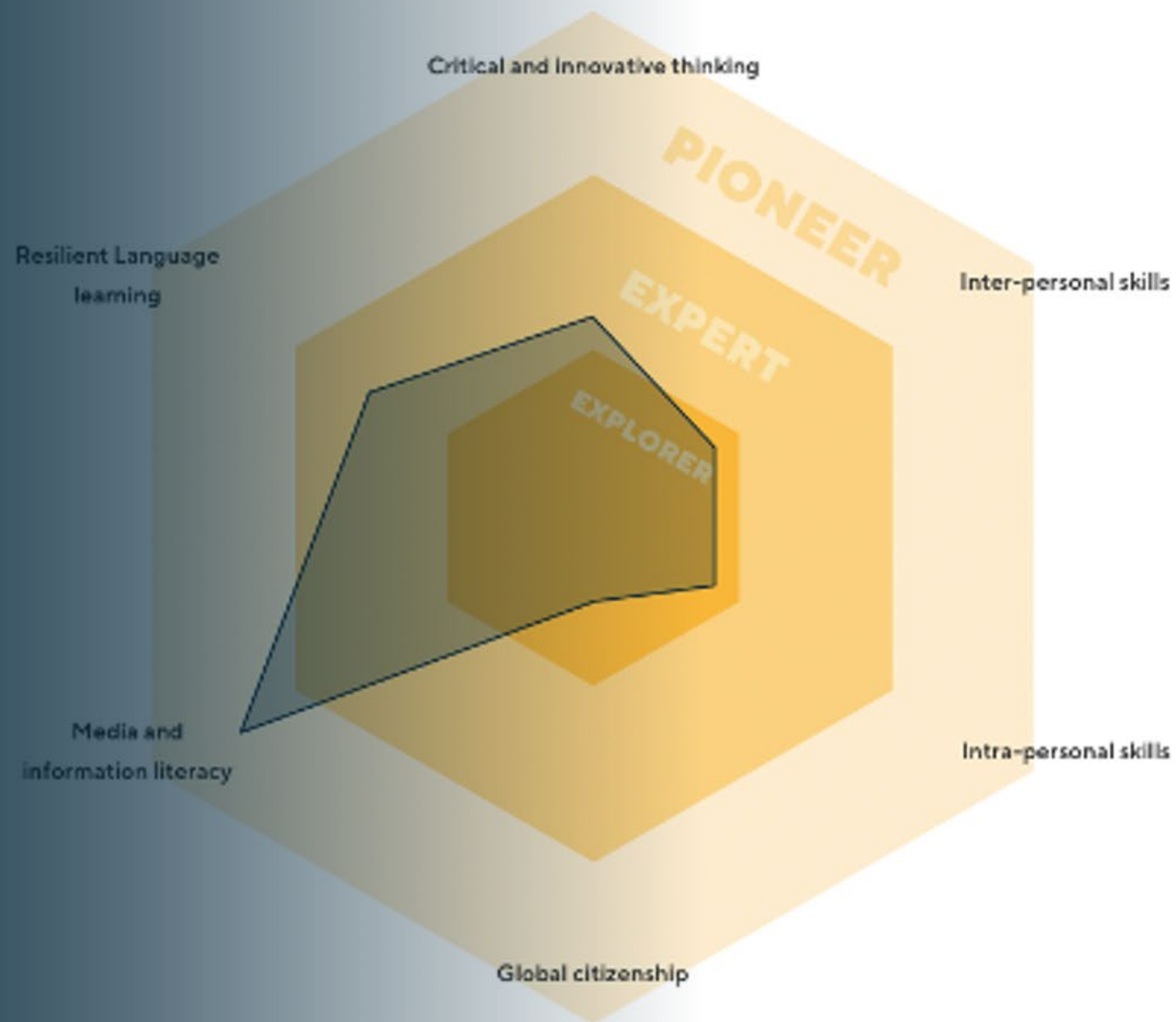
Learners store digital credentials in their own EDC wallet

And

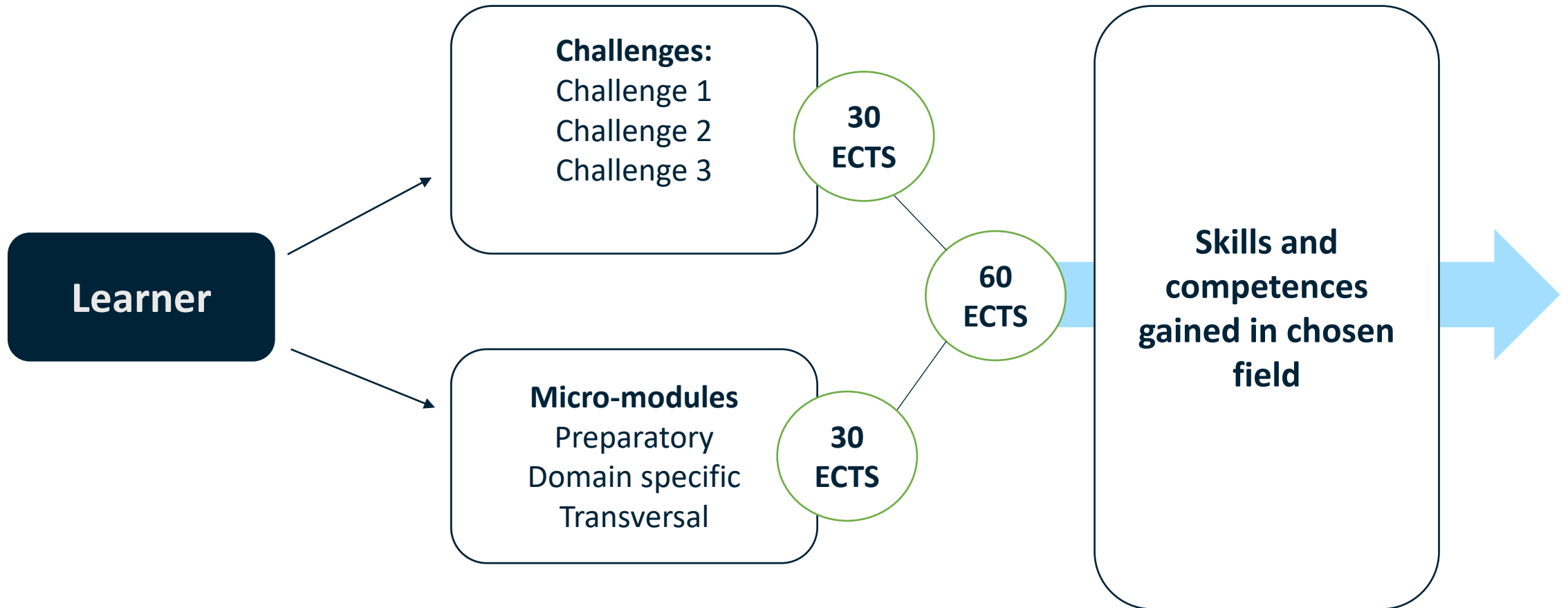
Get an overview of the received micro-credentials and visualizations of their competences in DXP user profile / Competence passport

Transversal skills

Digital micro-credentials



FROM DEGREES TO *FLEXIBLE LEARNING PATHWAYS*



Quality assurance in ECIU University

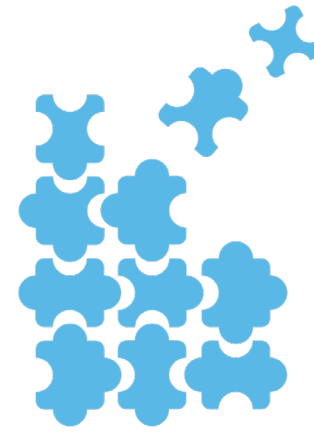
Institutional alignment of QA system

For faculties:

Guidelines, workflows and templates
guidance and co-creation

Integration into study programmes is
key to success

Initiative on systematic recognition



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area



SMART-ER

ECIU University Research Institute for Smart European Regions

Virtual Research Institute

Virtual meeting place for
community building

Research support

Challenge-based approach

SMART-ER Seed programme

Supporting research career
development

Implementation of a shared R&I
Agenda through training, mobility
and networking

SMART-ER Academy

Online PhD Training Programme

Open Science and Leadership
Programme

CHALLENGE-BASED RESEARCH FOR A STRONGER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

How Challenge-Based Research enhances the impact-driven approach
of Europe and European universities.



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Challenge-based research

Working on research questions through the
same prism as education – the challenge-
based approach

Organization of research interests into large
programmes

Introducing projects under these
programmes

Enables research to respond directly to
societal challenges



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union



EIT HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

Boosting Innovation and Entrepreneurship
through European Universities

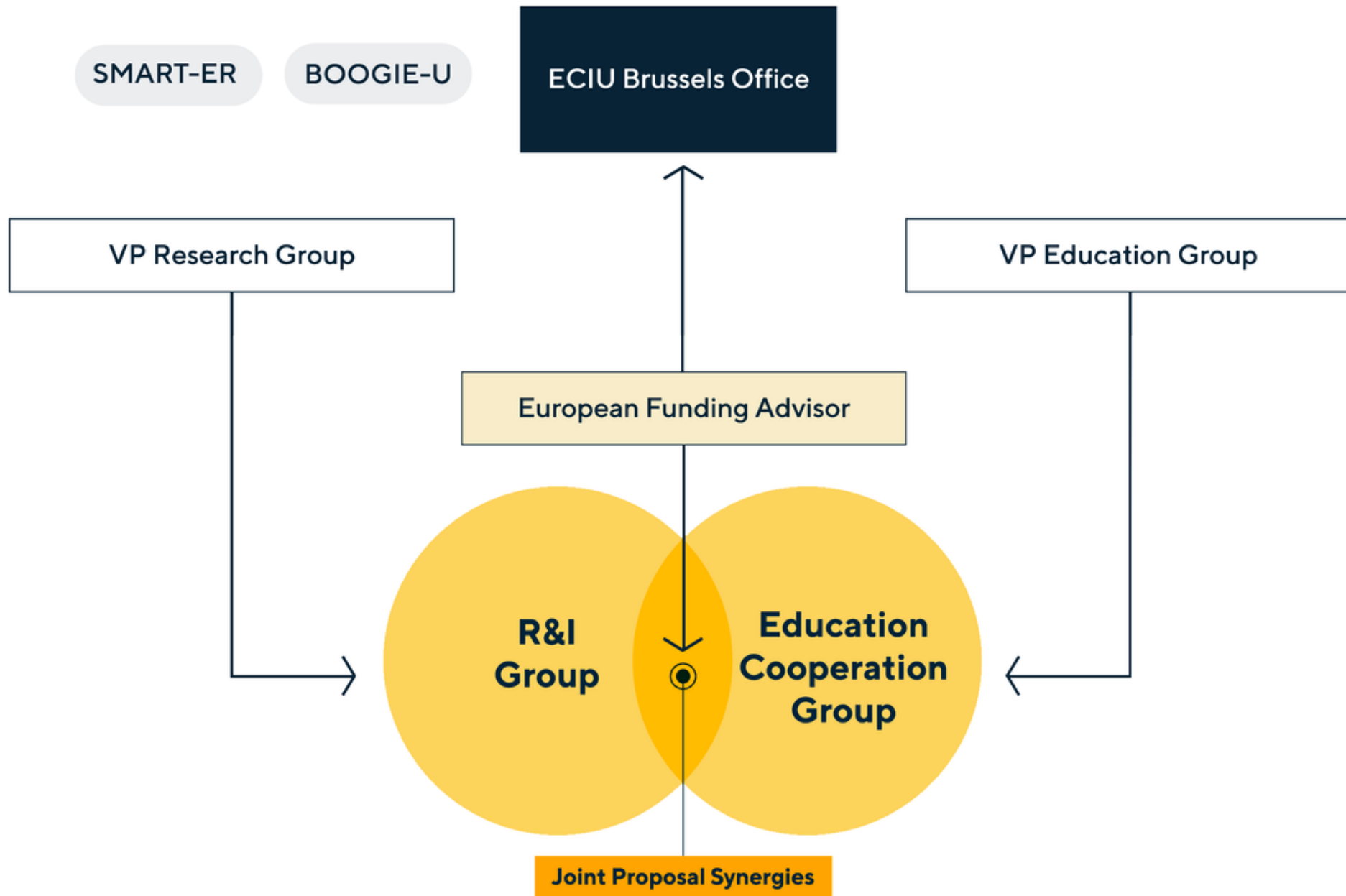
BOOGIE-U



FUNDING NEEDS

- A holistic view on funding to build an organization for the alliance
- Synergies with other EU programmes and funds are crucial
- Explore other options than running from project to project





Strategic European Projects Office – SEPO

FUNDING IN ECIU UNIVERSITY NOW

ECIUn project (Erasmus+ pilot)

• 2019-2022

SMART-ER project (H2020 Swafs)

• 2020-2023

BOOGIE-U project (EIT)

• 2021-2024

ECIUn+ project (Erasmus+)

• 2022-2026 (2028)

ESEU project (legal status)

• 2023-2024

COMMUNITY BUILDING



Thank you!



The ECIU University is an EU-funded initiative that creates a groundbreaking and innovative educational model on a European scale.

www.eciu.eu



**Co-funded by
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