Knowledge Alliances aim at strengthening Europe's innovation capacity and at fostering innovation in higher education, business and the broader socio-economic environment. They intend to achieve one or more of the following aims:

- develop new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning;
- stimulate entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills of higher education teaching staff and enterprise staff;
- facilitate exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge.

Knowledge Alliances are transnational, structured and result-driven projects, notably between higher education and business. Knowledge Alliances are open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectorial cooperation. The partners share common goals and work together towards mutually beneficial results and outcomes. Knowledge Alliances are meant to have a short and long-term impact on the wide range of stakeholders involved, at individual, organisational and systemic level.

As a general rule, Knowledge Alliances target cooperation between organisations established in Programme Countries. However, organisations from Partner Countries can be involved in a Knowledge Alliance, as partners (not as applicants), if their participation brings an essential added value to the project.

The key features of Knowledge Alliances are:

- **Innovation** in higher education and innovation through higher education in enterprises and their socio-economic environment: innovation is considered as state-of-the-art project-specific and related to the partnerships context and analysed needs.
- **Sustainability** of university-business cooperation. A strong and committed partnership with a balanced participation from enterprises and higher education institutions are pivotal for the success of Knowledge Alliances. The role and contribution of each participating organisation and associate partner have to be specific and complementary.
- **Impact** going beyond the project's lifetime and beyond the organisations involved in the Alliance. It is expected that partnership and activities persist. Changes in higher education institutions and enterprises have to be measurable. Results and solutions have to be transferable and accessible to a broader audience.

**Which activities are supported?**

Knowledge Alliances implement a coherent and comprehensive set of interconnected activities which are flexible and adaptable to different current and future contexts and developments across Europe. The following list provides examples of groups of activities:

- Boosting innovation in higher education, business and in the broader socio-economic environment;
- Developing entrepreneurship mind-set and skills;
- Stimulating the flow and exchange of knowledge between higher education and enterprises.
Knowledge Alliances may organise mobility activities of students, researchers and staff in so far as they support/complement the other activities of the Alliance and bring added value in the realisation of the project's objectives. Mobility activities do not constitute the main activities of a Knowledge Alliance.

**Duration of the project:** 2 or 3 years. The duration has to be chosen at application stage, based on the objective of the project and the type of activities planned over time.

**Who can apply?**

A participating organisation can be any public or private organisation established in a Programme Country or in any Partner Country of the world. For example, such an organisation can be:

- A higher education institution;
- A public or private, small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises);
- A research institute;
- A public body at local, regional or national level;
- An organisation active in the field of education, training and youth;
- An intermediary or association which represents education, training or youth organisations;
- An intermediary or association which represents enterprises;
- An accreditation, certification or qualification body.

**Higher education institutions** established in a Programme Country must hold a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). An ECHE is not required for participating HEIs in Partner Countries.

Knowledge Alliances are transnational and involve minimum six independent organizations from at least three Programme Countries, out of which at least two higher education institutions and at least two enterprises.


**How to apply?**


Organizations are invited to submit applications on-line to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels, by using an eForm with attachments. Steps:  
1. Register the partnership's organisations in the Participant Portal and receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC);  
2. Create your electronic application form using your PICs;  
3. Fill in the eForm;  
4. Attach completed versions of the attachments within the eForm;  
5. Submit the eForm on-line.

**Deadline for proposals:**  
Applicants have to submit their grant applications by **26/02/2015 at 12:00** (midday Brussels time)

**Further information on Knowledge Alliances**  