



# UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES ARE REFORMING EUROPE

Arene's objectives for  
the European election 2024



## Universities of applied sciences are reforming Europe

### Bolder investments are needed in research, innovation, and education

#### Applied RDI activities at universities of applied sciences produce fresh solutions to the societal challenges faced in Europe

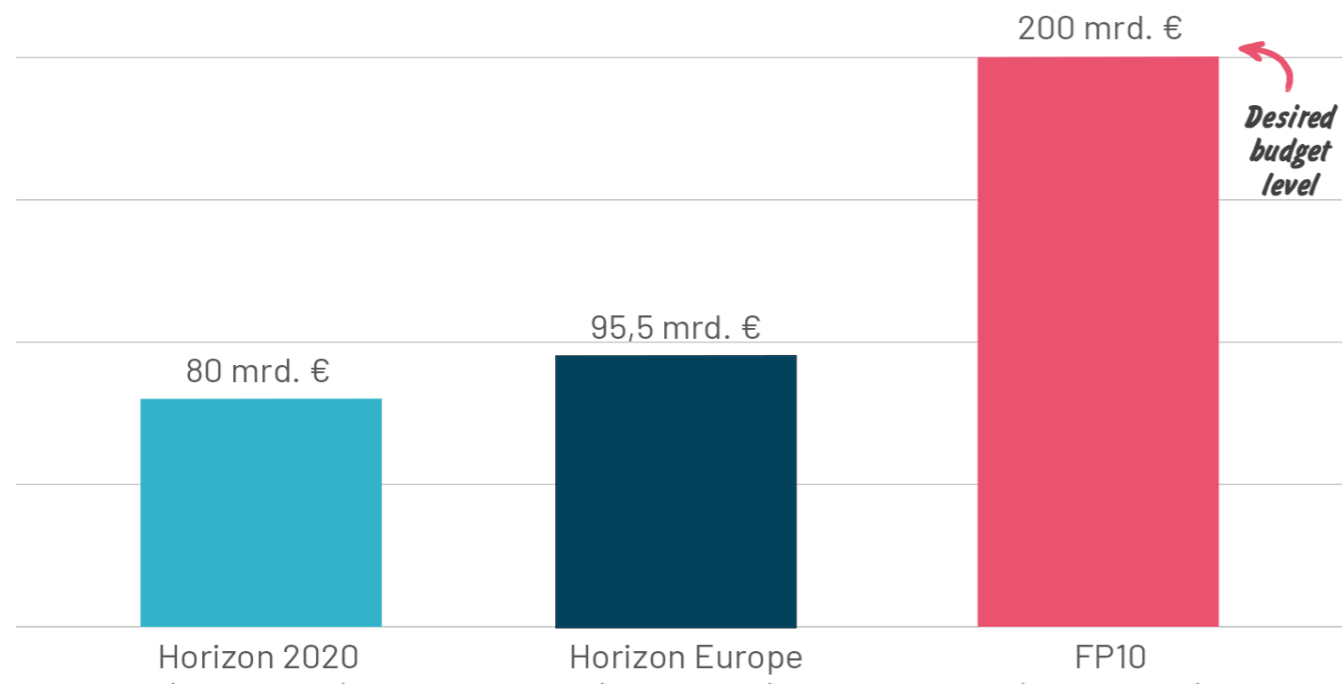
Europe's strategic competitiveness, technological leadership, and ability to cope with the twin transition depend on the EU's contribution to RDI activities.

The funding of the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) for the 2028-2034 period must be doubled to EUR 200 billion. Achieving Finland's national RDI target requires multiplying the amount of competitive funding received by Finnish universities of applied sciences.

The next EU Framework Programme should reaffirm the value of high-quality, multidisciplinary, and applied RDI activities. Impact is a key indicator for assessing the excellence of applied research, creating conditions for the economic growth and new jobs in the short and medium term.



The desired budget of the next EU framework Programme for R&I



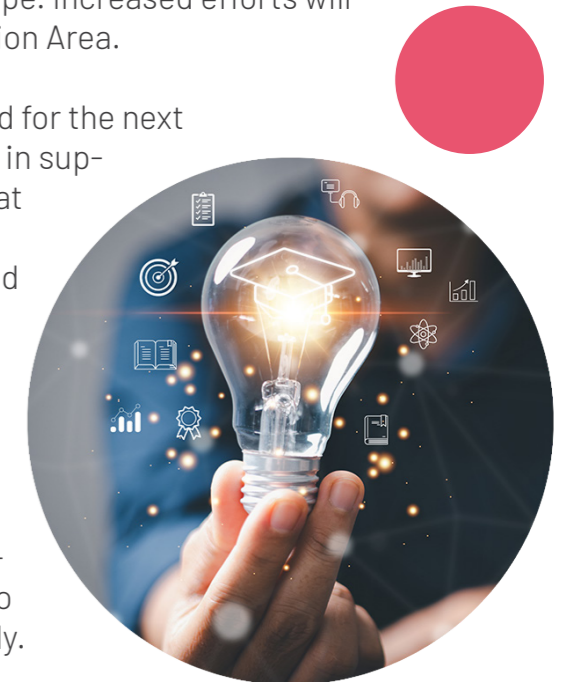
## The education provided by universities of applied sciences fosters future-oriented skills and strengthens the competitiveness of Europe

The development of the European higher education cooperation must recognise each Member States' dual systems in higher education and thus take into account the special features of the universities of applied sciences.

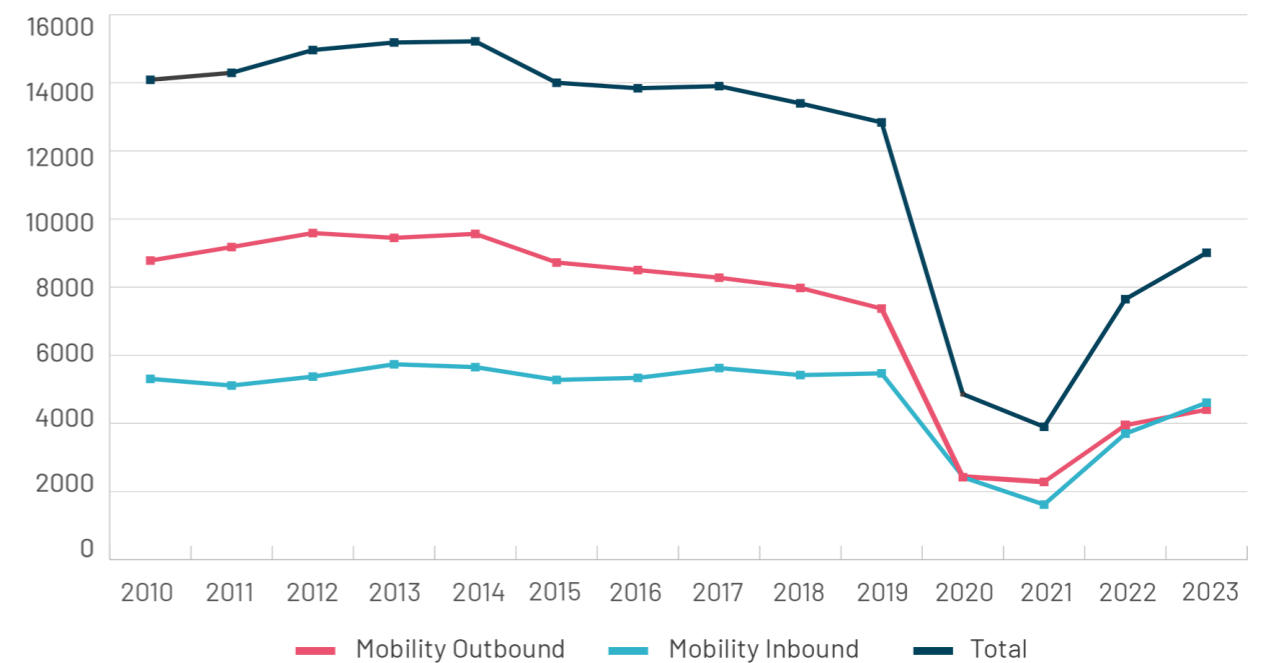
Education is the strongest investment in the future of Europe. Increased efforts will be needed to develop and implement the European Education Area.

The budget for the Erasmus+ programme should be doubled for the next funding period 2028-2034. The programme plays a key role in supporting both students' and staff's international aspirations at the universities of applied sciences. In addition, sufficient funding must be secured for the long-term development and success of the "European University" alliances.

The number of Erasmus+ mobility periods must be increased to reach the EU's 2030 mobility target for higher education: the share of students participating in mobility needs to be increased to 25% of the higher education level graduates. The mobility figures of the Finnish UAS have deteriorated in recent years, and they must now be restored to around 8,000 outbound student mobility exchanges annually.



The development of the student mobility exchanges at the universities of applied sciences in 2010-2022





## The seamless connection between education and RDI activities within the universities of applied sciences strengthens Europe's resilience

All new EU policies and regulations should foster an environment where education, research, and innovation activities can prosper.

The silos between the EU's RDI policy and EU's education policy must be overcome and dismantled. Both policy areas should remain in the portfolio of a single EU Commissioner.

Synergies between EU funding programmes should be further simplified, and these possibilities should be communicated more clearly to the applicants.

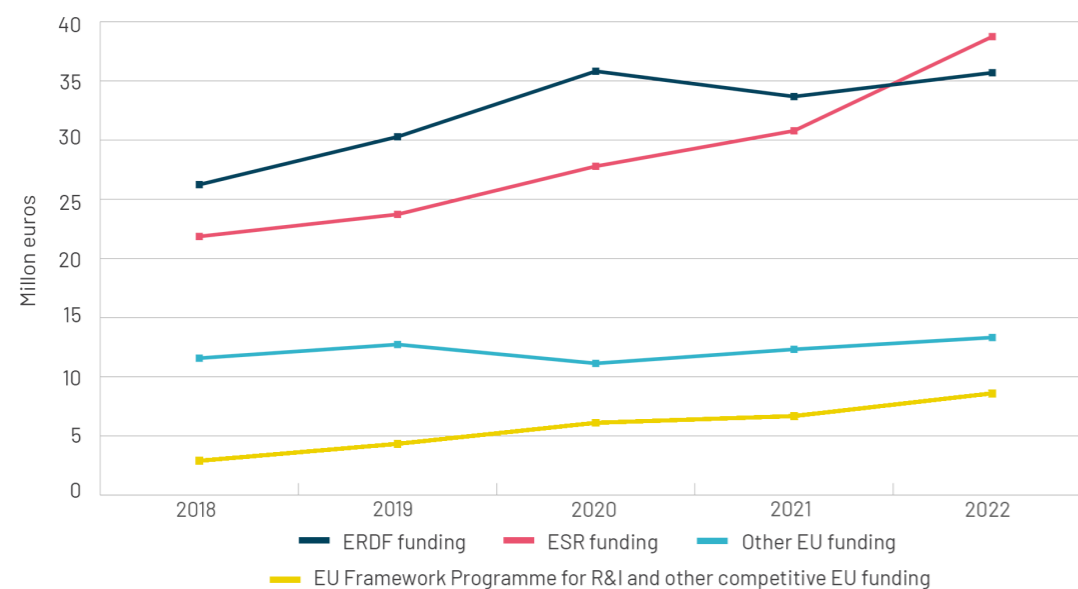
The smooth unification of research, development, innovation and learning activities is a typical operating model among the Finnish universities of applied sciences. The model strengthens the students' critical problem-solving abilities, the employability of students and the societal impact of RDI activities.



The European structural and investment funds should continue to provide funding opportunities for the regional RDI activities of the Finnish universities of applied sciences throughout the next EU funding cycle (MFF 2028-2034).

The new Finnish MEPs should become active members in the Committees of the European Parliament that concern the future of EU's research & innovation policy and EU's education policy (i.e. ITRE and CULT committees).

The development of the amount of EU R&I funding received by the Finnish universities of applied sciences in 2018-2022



# UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES ARE REFORMING EUROPE

