



**Summary Report**  
**Canada-Europe Partnership Forum**  
November 3, 2024 - Ottawa, Ontario



Canadian Bureau for  
International Education

# Background

The Canada-Europe Partnership Forum, held on November 3, 2024, in Ottawa, Ontario, brought together over 150 participants from Canadian and European higher education, policy, and government sectors. Hosted by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) with financial support from Global Affairs Canada, the event served as a critical platform to strengthen relationships and explore partnership potential in international education and research between Canadian and European stakeholders. Held immediately prior to the opening of the CBIE2024 Annual Conference, the Forum offered participants valuable opportunities for networking and dialogue.

The Forum aimed to identify actionable strategies to deepen Canada-Europe partnerships in higher education and research. The full-day event featured presentations and panel discussions, spotlighting key initiatives such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ while focusing on innovative and scalable approaches to collaboration.

This document provides a concise summary of the Forum's key highlights, intended to spark further discussion and explore future opportunities for partnerships.

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# Setting the Stage Canada and Europe

The Forum began with opening remarks by Their Excellencies Dr. Ailish Campbell, Ambassador of Canada to the European Union (via a recorded message), and Geneviève Tuts, Ambassador of the European Union to Canada. Both highlighted the political, social, and economic imperatives driving enhanced higher education collaboration between Canada and Europe.



## Key Takeaways



### Funding and Collaboration

[Horizon Europe](#), [Eureka](#), [ERASMUS+](#), [Mitacs](#), [National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program \(NRC IRAP\)](#), and [CanExport](#) were highlighted as key mechanisms to deepen partnerships.



### Shared Interest and Values

Canada's innovation collaboration with Europe includes ocean science, health, digital infrastructure, and AI, among others, underpinned by shared values. Institutions are encouraged to connect with [Canada's National Contact Point \(NCP\)](#) for guidance.



### Global Scope of Erasmus+

The [Delegation of the EU to Canada](#) is undertaking promotional activities for higher education. ERASMUS+ is a global initiative, facilitating Canada-Europe partnerships through student and staff exchanges and Master's degrees.



## Session 1

# European Perspectives on Partnerships with Canada

Representatives from France Universités, the French Euraxess Network, EURAXESS North America, and Irish institutions discussed strategies for multi-sectoral engagement.

- France Universités emphasized growing engagement with Canadian institutions, citing recent collaborations and agreements.
- EURAXESS North America (based in Washington, DC) provided insights into its support services, including mobility and partnership-building opportunities under Horizon Europe including, opportunities in Pillar 2 (top-down research consortia), Pillar 1 (researcher mobility), and post-doctoral mobility.
- University College Cork emphasized the need for institutional expertise to successfully pursue partnerships and research programs.

## Session 2

# Strategic Considerations for Canada

## Part A- International Research Collaboration

Speakers from the [European-Canadian Centre for Innovation and Research \(ECCIR\)](#), [EURAXESS North America](#), and [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada \(ISED\)](#) outlined opportunities under Horizon Europe.

- The ECCIR highlighted its services to SMEs and institutions, focusing on partnership building, matchmaking support for accessing European markets, providing information on funding programs, and hosting higher education webinars.
- ISED provided an overview of opportunities under Horizon Europe including the Pillar 2 clusters: health; culture, creativity, and inclusive society; civil security for society; digital, industry, and space; climate energy, and mobility; food, bioeconomy etc.; and the global challenges 2025 and 2026-27 work programmes which include the topics of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, digital transformation, health threats, and population aging.
- Notable differences in approaches to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) between Canada and the EU were highlighted, suggesting a need to tailor language in funding applications.
- The [Canadian Association of Research Administrators \(CARA\)](#) Community of Practice for higher education was introduced as a new resource for research administrators.

## Session 2

### Strategic Considerations for Canada

#### Part B- Applied Research and Industry Collaboration

Speakers from [MITACS](#) and institutions in Canada and Ireland shared advice for institutions pursuing funding and collaboration opportunities:

- Align projects with strategic institutional goals.
- Start as a partner rather than a coordinator in EU projects to build experience.
- Foster partnerships and pool resources among smaller institutions and larger counterparts with established infrastructure.

## Session 3

### Horizon Europe: Case Studies

Institutional representatives from Ukraine, Türkiye, and Ireland shared their experiences with Horizon Europe projects, emphasizing:

- The importance of meticulous planning, strong institutional support from different parts of the institution, and personnel succession planning for projects.
- Best practices for proposal development, including engaging with the funder, National Contact Point (NCP) and other networks; mapping work programmes to research expertise; accessing proposal development grants; and navigating consultancy.
- Navigating the EU's funding and tenders portal effectively with the help of a dedicated institutional contact.

This all requires strong vertical and horizontal coordination within an institution. Work must be coordinated across an institution, before a call for proposals, involving Finance, HR, and Research Support, and institutions should build a Horizon Europe team to encompass international engagement, grant-writing, financial, and legal aspects. Internal funding for preparing applications is important and project management expertise.

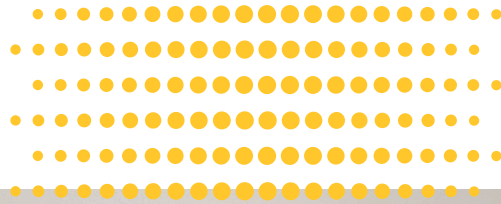
## Session 4

# Canada-Europe Partnership Opportunities

Speakers from Canada, Germany, and Spain showcased successful institutional partnerships:

- Spain's [Internationalisation of the Spanish Higher Education Unit \(SEPIE\)](#) is diversifying inbound and outbound mobility initiatives beyond Latin America and Europe.
- Germany's [DAAD \(Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst\)](#) offers a variety of scholarships, research cooperation grants, field study trip supports, and programs such as the [Visiting Professorship](#).
- Innovative joint programming involving multiple institutions in multiple countries is an excellent opportunity for students to gain language skills and learn in an intercontinental cohort.

Key drivers of successful partnerships include shared values, complementary strengths, acceptance of diverse contexts, and trust. Partnerships work best when there are multiple collaborations with an institution – not just one program or one person.



# Summary of Key Recommendations



## Leverage Tools for Consortia

Find partners through tools such as the Horizon Europe Dashboard, accessible via the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) and [CORDIS](#), the European Commission's longest-running website, for finding partners. The [European University Alliance](#) can be used to test partnerships and types of collaboration.



## Engage Euraxess, NCP, ECCIR

[Euraxess](#) offers information emails and is planning university visits for 2025 for more direct support/contact. Institutions are encouraged to contact [Canada's National Contact Point](#) for tailored support and reach out to [ECCIR](#), which assists SMEs and institutions in partnership building and matchmaking; holds webinars.



## Access Funding Opportunities

Mitacs funding can seed partnerships and create consortia to support collaborative research projects between industry, academia, and governments. Additionally, Erasmus+, a global initiative with over 100 funded projects involving Canadian institutions from 2021–2027, promotes Canada-Europe partnerships through mobility.



## Conclusion

The Canada-Europe Partnership Forum highlighted both challenges and immense opportunities for strengthening partnerships in higher education and research. CBIE's President and CEO, Larissa Bezo, called on institutions to pursue strategic and scalable partnerships in her closing remarks. With shared values, complementary strengths, and robust personal relationships as the foundation, the Forum underscored the potential for joint programming and innovative partnerships to create lasting impact.

For further information about the event or to access the PowerPoint presentations delivered at the event, please visit the [Forum webpage](#) on CBIE's Development and Partnerships [webpage](#).

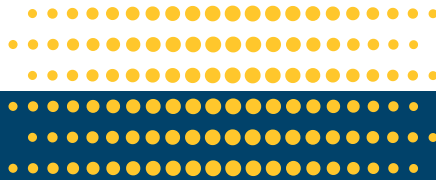
## Special Thanks

CBIE would like to thank Global Affairs Canada for their financial support of the Forum, and thank all of the guest speakers and participants for bringing their expertise, insight, and interest to this pivotal event





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