

# All entities of governing structure up and running



**Deliverable 1.1**

October 2024



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## About EUPeace

**EUPeace is the European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies.**

**Our mission is to provide tomorrow's citizens with the skills, knowledge, and experience to cultivate Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies. We explicitly address all sciences and fields, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural and life sciences as well as engineering, and are inspired by the rebuilt bridge of Mostar – the symbol in our logo – as a testament to how dialogue can overcome conflict.**

Philipps-Universität Marburg		Marburg University
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen		Justus Liebig University Giessen
Université de Limoges		University of Limoges
Università della Calabria		University of Calabria
Universidad Pontificia Comillas		Comillas Pontifical University
Západočeská univerzita v Plzni		University of West Bohemia
Sveučilište u Mostaru		University of Mostar
Çukurova Üniversitesi		Çukurova University
Univerzitet u Sarajevu		University of Sarajevo

## Document information

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## Executive Summary

The EUPeace governance structure consists of executive, governing, and advisory bodies formed from the core Alliance team, with external representation from associated partners in some advisory functions. While the structure was predefined before the funding start, it can be adjusted to meet the Alliance's evolving needs, adhering to principles of transparency, accountability, and collaborative decision-making.

Managing a project across nine universities requires a rigorous application of the PDCA cycle (Plan, Do, Check, Act) necessitating diverse perspectives through multiple advisory groups. The governance framework is organised into decision-making bodies, executive bodies, advisory groups, and quality management entities, with core personnel supplemented by new hires primarily in executive roles.

Key bodies include the Governing Board (GB), composed of university leaders, and the Education Board (EB), which oversees academic development. The Steering Committee (SC) connects the governing and executive levels. The project's founding phase built on existing institutional structures and resources, expanding them to support governance and project execution.

In addition, the EUPeace Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Board (EDIB) addresses central themes, while the Student Council (STC) serves as the political representation for students. The EUPeace Senate, which includes representatives from various stakeholder groups, met for the first time in September 2024, and will elect a chair in April 2025.

Other bodies, such as the Monitoring Committee (MC) and Quality Assurance Board (QAB), ensure quality and effectiveness, with clear roles defined to minimise redundancies. The External Advisory Board (EAB) provides strategic guidance and insights from various fields.

Deliverable 1.1 has been fully met, with all governing bodies established by the end of the first funding year. The governance structure is functional and practical, with planned evaluations and adjustments in the coming years to enhance institutional alignment and development.

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## Glossary & Abbreviations

CO	Coordination Office
COMILLAS	Comillas Pontifical University
CN	Coordination Network
CU	Çukurova University
EAB	External Advisory Board
EB	Education Board
EDIB	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Board
GA	Grant Agreement
GB	Governing Board



JLU	Justus Liebig University Giessen
MC	Monitoring Committee
QAB	Quality Assurance Board
SC	Steering Committee
STC	Student Council
SUM	University of Mostar
UMR	Marburg University
UNICAL	University of Calabria
UNILIM	University of Limoges
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
UWB	University of West Bohemia



# 1. Introduction

The initial four-year period of EUPeace is specifically designed to establish enduring interdependence among our institutions through several means: by developing a governance structure that enhances the existing frameworks of the Alliance's universities; by fostering communities of academic and support staff through personnel mobility; by sharing resources; by creating a teaching and learning experience that anticipates and builds upon the diversity of our member institutions; and by initiating programmes under a unified brand. This report details the implementation of the governance structure of EUPeace.

The proposed long-term institutional initiative aims to cultivate extensive collaboration and facilitate knowledge exchange among participating universities, with the potential to extend beyond the initial project phase. These governance structures are expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the alliance's strategic direction, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and driving innovation in higher education across Europe. The first funding year produced a sound and stable basis for a long-term governance structure of the EUPeace Alliance.

## 1.1. About EUPeace

### Our Vision & Mission

Tragically, the values of peace, justice, and inclusive societies cannot simply be taken for granted. They must be continuously cultivated, studied, and shaped to define the road to an ambitious and challenging socio-political goal. In this, universities have a key role to play. They are at the heart of societies, providing the insights and techniques necessary to address the environmental, technical, political, and social challenges the next generation has to face. Through research and education, they connect people of all generations; they can be model places for protecting and strengthening the values of mutual respect, justice, and inclusion. As such, they are powerful instruments for building peaceful communities.

EUPeace's mission is to provide tomorrow's citizens with the skills, knowledge, and experience to cultivate Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies.

We explicitly address all sciences and fields, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural and life sciences as well as engineering, and are inspired by the rebuilt bridge of Mostar – the symbol in our logo – as a testament to how dialogue can overcome conflict.

## Our Profile

The commitment to Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies is at the core of the European ideal and needs to be continuously cultivated. We argue that peace cannot flourish unless a set of enabling conditions are firmly in place: it goes hand in hand with a deep commitment to justice and inclusion.

EUPeace is comprised of 9 institutions that are similar in size, location and mission within their respective national ecosystems. We are a synergetic mix of universities, characterised by our territorial embeddedness, concern for impact and deep attention to the quality of student life within and beyond our campuses. We have come together, based on long-standing cooperation experiences as well as newly formed ties within the EUPeace universities. We are Marburg University (Germany), Justus Liebig University Giessen (Germany), University of Limoges (France), University of Calabria (Italy), Comillas Pontifical University (Spain), University of West Bohemia (Czechia), University of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Çukurova University (Türkiye), University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as our associated partners in Europe and beyond.

We are embracing and fostering our unique geographic distribution and the implications these geographic roots bring to EUPeace: our institutions are located in regions with a lot of internal diversity and sometimes a still recent history of conflict.

## Our Approach

EUPeace is about strengthening the enabling conditions for peace: understanding them better through research, nurturing them actively through education, and fostering them broadly through societal outreach and innovative practices.

We develop joint and innovative teaching and learning experiences in which students learn to understand ultimate as well as proximate causes of conflict situations – including aspects of technological and environmental interdependencies – gain experience in how to manage conflicts effectively, and how to implement solutions to conflicts.

We bring our entire academic communities together to generate knowledge, competence and innovative approaches to fostering peace, justice, and inclusive societies. All fields and sciences are required to grasp the conditions of conflict prevention, forecasting and resolution, in a world where material, technical and socio-political arrangements are intimately connected.

We come together with our partners from our local communities and international networks to co-construct concrete practices and solutions to turn these competencies into impact beyond academia. To achieve this, the exploration of innovative leverage points for impact, such as our focus on teacher training, is key.







### 1.3. Approach & Methodology

Managing a project involving nine universities spread across Europe requires an even more rigorous application of the principle of the plan, do, check, act (PDCA) cycle as compared to smaller-scale initiatives. The complex interplay and influences among project participants necessitate consideration from various perspectives. To address this, EUPeace establishes multiple tiers of advisory groups, ensuring that plans and decisions undergo scrutiny and discussion from diverse viewpoints.

All EUPeace bodies have been created based on a predefined order, reflecting the most pressing needs for a functioning governance and executive order of the daily work and strategic tasks of the Alliance.

In this process we distinguished between four levels of governing bodies, as displayed in figure 1: decisionary bodies, executive bodies, advisory bodies and bodies dealing with quality management; and two types of involved individuals (core personnel/stakeholders of the partner institutions and new personnel hired for EUPeace). Additional staff was only recruited in the direct area of executive bodies and quality management, while the decisionary and advisory bodies entirely rely on existing institutional and, in the case of the External Advisory Board (EAB) and also the Quality Assurance Board (QAB), external expertise is involved as well.

As part of the founding phase of EUPeace, the **Governing Board (GB)**, consisting of the Presidents and Rectors (or in exceptional cases their designated personal representatives) of all partner institutions, was created (originally termed “Rector’s Board”) and has been meeting since December 2021, as a high-level working group responsible for composing the first EUPeace Mission Statement. Since February 2023 the GB exists as the main decisionary body of EUPeace as a nine-university-consortium. It is accompanied in its work by the Education Board (EB), composed of the Vice-Rectors/Vice-Presidents for Education, fulfilling the role of overseeing the academic development of EUPeace and the strategic implementation of EUPeace content in all partner curricula. The decisionary bodies are advised and supported by the **Steering Committee (SC)**, composed of one high-level administrative representative and one academic representative of each institution, as the connecting link between the governing and the executive level of EUPeace.

The finding and forming phase of EUPeace and its governance has been approached in a multi-step process, building on the structures grown out of the pre-funding phase that heavily leaned on the existing structures and resources of the involved partner institutions, building on these structures to expand the governing bodies and to perform targeted recruitment for positions on the project execution level.

While the GB and the SC were created prior to the project funding start, other governing bodies were implemented after the execution of the Grant Agreement (GA). Among the first bodies to be implemented after the funding start were the **Coordination Office (CO)**, consisting of the administrative team around the Secretary General, the **Communications Office** and the **Digitisation Office**, and the **Coordination Network (CN)**, consisting of the local coordination offices and the CO in Marburg (see report on Milestone 1). The overall Communication and Digitisation Offices, consisting of

communication and digitisation experts at all member institutions, have been established and are supporting the CO and CN in all tasks related to communication and dissemination (headed by JLU as work package 8 lead), as well as all question relating to digitisation within the network (headed by UMR as work package 1 lead).

The **Education Board (EB)**, as main decisionary body in all matters pertaining to curriculum development, started into its first session in December 2023 and since then has been closely working with the leading team of work package 2, Transforming Curricula, and the GB on creating a pathway for a comprehensive EUPeace curriculum.

In addition to the primary governing and administrative bodies of EUPeace, significant emphasis is placed on addressing overarching themes at a centralised level. The project's success hinges on the centralised management and execution of communication, digitisation, and inclusion initiatives. Building upon existing frameworks at participating universities, the previously established EUPeace working group on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion has evolved into the EUPeace **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Board (EDIB)**.

The **EUPeace Student Council (STC)**, composed of two elected student representatives of each member institution, is the main political representation of students within EUPeace. It is student-led and, in its advisory function, independent from the overall administrative level of EUPeace. The STC has been active since late spring 2024, when the student representatives started preparatory meetings for the first official EUPeace Student Council meeting in Limoges. It is closely involved with the activities carried out in work package 5, Student and Campus Live.

The **Senate** (see also milestone 3) has been created. Representatives of all five stakeholder groups (students, doctoral candidates, early career researchers, academics, administration) were nominated and elected at each member site with a term of two years. In the case of the student representatives, some member sites opted to maintain a one-year term rhythm to stay in line with local voting procedures. The EUPeace Senate met for the first time at Comillas Pontifical University in September 2024. The Senate Chair will be selected at the second in-person meeting in April 2025 at Çukurova University.

The **Monitoring Committee (MC)** has been fully implemented and had its first member meeting in May 2024. Prior to this meeting the MC Chair has been in continuous exchange with the Secretary General, together creating all the necessary background documentation and confirming internal timelines in order to best prepare the MC for their tasks. Via its representations the MC is closely working with SC, CN, CO and all work packages to assure efficiency and timeliness in quality monitoring. Next to its controlling function, the MC serves as a forum to exchange on methodologies and project management between the different work packages. It also supports the work of the Alliance in the area of 'impact'.

The **Quality Assurance Board (QAB)** is the one body that experienced a change in function and composition as compared to the original suggestion. Based on detailed discussions in GB and SC it was decided to more clearly separate the responsibilities of MC and QAB, in order to minimise

redundancies and optimise support in the sector of internal monitoring and quality assurance – while also considering the possible overlap with the SC. The QAB has been assigned to fully support and monitor highest quality standards in the development of the EUPeace Curriculum (concentrating on quality assurance of *joint educational offers*), while the MC has retained its role as main body responsible for all monitoring and evaluation activities related to EUPeace project activities (concentrating on quality assurance of *project management*). This clear mandate and separation of tasks between QAB and MC enables the different members of these bodies, taking into account their different profiles, to concentrate on their individual strengths and allows for better outcomes, in both areas.

The **External Advisory Board (EAB)** to EUPeace is an independent advising entity that can be called upon for general strategic advice as well as for an outside view on specific items of concern or dispute. Members of the EAB are selected in order to represent the different areas of expertise especially valuable to the work of EUPeace. These include expertise such as first-hand knowledge on academic work in conflict-stricken regions, representation of schools and other sectors of education, representation of inclusion in the working world, representation of the European youth and insight knowledge of the workings of European University Alliances. The majority of EAB members has been recruited and will meet for the first time online by the end of 2024. The advice of the EAB will feed into the strategic discussions of the entire Alliance, especially in view of the Strategy Forums the Alliance will organise.

## 2. List of Members

*The following list includes member affiliations (department/field of work and university) as of October 2024 – it is subject to changes following local elections and changes. Changes in representatives have taken place, both in the pre-funding period and since the start of the project funding in November 2023. These changes are not depicted for the ease of understanding. In addition, some universities have nominated substitutes for some positions; these substitutes are also not depicted in this specific list.*

### Senate

Students:

- Social Sciences and Philosophy, UMR
- Medicine, JLU
- Water Sciences, UNILIM
- N.N., UNICAL
- Business Analytics and International Relations, COMILLAS
- Law, UWB



- Law, SUM
- Political Sciences, CU
- Health Studies, UNSA

#### Doctoral Candidates:

- Social Sciences and Philosophy, UMR
- History and Cultural Studies, JLU
- Law, UNILIM
- Life Sciences and Technology, UNICAL
- N.N., COMILLAS
- Economics, UWB
- Humanities and Social Sciences, SUM
- Communication, CU
- N.N., UNSA

#### Early Career Researchers:

- Education, UMR
- Materials Research, JLU
- Biological and Health Sciences, UNILIM
- Medicine, UNICAL
- Engineering, COMILLAS
- N.N., UWB
- Humanities and Social Sciences, SUM
- Political Sciences, CU
- Academy of Performing Arts, UNSA

#### Faculty:

- Institutional Economics, UMR
- Organic Chemistry, JLU
- Management Science, UNILIM
- Physics, UNICAL
- Business Management, COMILLAS
- Theory of Electrical Engineering, UWB
- Law, Nikolina Maleta, SUM
- Early Childhood Education, CU
- Management and Organisation, UNSA

#### Administration:

- Service Center for Students with Disabilities, UMR
- International Office, Social and Cultural Sciences, JLU

- Development Office, Social Sciences and Humanities, UNILIM
- Student Services, UNICAL
- Marketing, COMILLAS
- Electrical Engineering, UWB
- International Relations Office, SUM
- International Office, CU
- Rector's Office, UNSA

### **Student Council (STC)**

- Social Sciences and Philosophy, UMR
- Social Sciences and Philosophy, UMR
- History, JLU
- Medicine, JLU
- Water Sciences (Chair), UNILIM
- N.N., UNILIM
- Physics, UNICAL
- Political Sciences, UNICAL
- Engineering, COMILLAS
- Engineering, COMILLAS
- Political Sciences, UWB
- Modern History, UWB
- Economics, SUM
- Psychology, SUM
- Political Sciences, CU
- Mechanical Engineering, CU
- Political Sciences, UNSA
- Law, UNSA

### **External Advisory Board (EAB)**

- Dean, Global and Life Long Learning, University of Kent, United Kingdom
- Professor, Griffith Law School, Griffith University, Australia
- Founder, FACIL'ITI, France
- Deputy Academic Regional Delegate for European and International Relations, France
- VP International Affairs, University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour (UPPA), member of UNITA
- Executive Director, European Center for Peace and Development
- N.N., representative from the youth sector
- N.N., representative from Ukrainian higher education

### **Governing Board (GB)**

- Deputy President (Chair), UMR
- President, JLU
- President, UNILIM
- President's Delegate, UNICAL
- Vice Rector, COMILLAS
- Rector, UWB
- Vice Rector, SUM
- Rector, CU
- Rector, UNSA

### **Education Board (EB)**

- Vice President (Chair), UMR
- Vice President, JLU
- President's Delegate, UNILIM
- Professor, Computer Science, UNICAL
- Vice Dean, ICADE, COMILLAS
- Vice President, UWB
- Professor Philosophy, SUM
- Vice Rector, CU
- Vice Rector, UNSA

### **Steering Committee (SC)**

- Director International Office, UMR
- President's Delegate for EUPeace, Professor for Peace and Conflict Studies, UMR
- Head International Office, JLU
- Professor of Global Health, Migration and Medical Humanities, JLU
- Project Manager, UNILIM
- President's delegate for EUPeace, professor, UNILIM
- Professor of General and Inorganic Chemistry, UNICAL
- Director of International Relations, UNICAL
- Professor of Human and Social Sciences, Department of International Relations, COMILLAS
- Director International (Chair), COMILLAS
- Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development, UWB
- Director International Office, UWB

- Head of the Center for Lifelong Education, Professor, SUM
- Head of International Relations Office, SUM
- Professor of English Language Teaching, CU
- Head of International Office, CU
- Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, UNSA
- Head of Centre for Research and Development, UNSA

### **Coordination Office (CO)**

- EUPeace Chief Development Officer (Director International Office UMR)
- Secretary General of EUPeace (UMR)
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Marburg (UMR)
- EUPeace Communications Officer @ Marburg (UMR)
- EUPeace Communications Officer (JLU)
- EUPeace Curriculum Officers @ Marburg (UMR)
- EUPeace Student Support @ Marburg (UMR)
- EUPeace Digitisation Officer (UMR)
- EUPeace Research Officer (UMR)
- EUPeace Mobility Policy Advisor @ Marburg (UMR)

### **Digitisation Office**

- EUPeace Digitisation Officer (Chair), UMR
- University Computer Center, JLU
- Digitization Office, JLU
- University Computer Centre, UNILIM
- University Computer Centre, UNICAL
- University Computer Centre, COMILLAS
- University Computer Centre, UWB
- University Computer Centre, SUM
- University Computer Centre, CU
- University Computer Centre, UNSA

### **Communications Office**

- EUPeace Communications Officer (Chair), JLU
- Secretary General of EUPeace, UMR
- Communications Officer @ Marburg, UMR
- Project Officers, UNILIM



- International Welcome Office, UNILIM
- Press Office, UNICAL
- Public Relations Office, COMILLAS
- EUPeace Coordinator, COMILLAS
- Marketing Specialist, UWB
- Public Relations Office, SUM
- Project Officer, CU
- Public Relations Office, UNSA

### **Coordination Network (CN)**

- Secretary General of EUPeace, UMR
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Marburg, UMR
- EUPeace Communications Officer @ Marburg, UMR
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Gießen, JLU
- EUPeace Communications Officer, JLU
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Limoges, UNILIM
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Rende, UNICAL
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Madrid, COMILLAS
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Pilsen, UWB
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Mostar, SUM
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Adana, CU
- EUPeace Coordinator @ Sarajevo, UNSA

*In addition to the positions listed, all partners have created a non-personalised EUPeace email address that has been added to the Coordination Network mailing list. This assures that within the local coordination offices, information is distributed without delay even if individual CN members are absent.*

### **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Board (EDIB)**

- Vice President for Equal Opportunities and Career Development, UMR
- Office for Equal Opportunities, JLU
- Doctoral School in Institutional and Organisational Governance, UNILIM
- Director of the Centre of Women's Studies (Chair), UNICAL
- Health Psychology, COMILLAS
- Ombudsperson, UWB
- Office for Students with Disabilities, SUM
- Gender and Politics, CU





- Academy of Music, UNSA

### **Monitoring Committee (MC)**

- Centre for Competence Development (Chair), JLU
- Secretary General of EUPeace, UMR
- Coordination Network, UNSA
- Coordination Network, CU
- WP1 Co-Lead, SUM
- WP2 Lead, JLU
- WP3 Lead, UNILIM
- WP4 Lead, UWB
- WP5 Lead, UNICAL
- WP6 Lead, UMR
- WP7 Lead, COMILLAS
- WP8 Lead, JLU
- Steering Committee Chair, COMILLAS

### **Quality Assurance Board (QAB)**

- Faculty Member UMR
- Faculty Member JLU
- Faculty Member UNILIM
- Faculty Member UNICAL
- Faculty Member COMILLAS
- Faculty Member UWB
- Faculty Member SUM
- Faculty Member CU (Chair)
- Faculty Member UNSA
- EUPeace student, Chair of STC
- EUPeace student, Vice-Chair of STC
- External student not affiliated to EUPeace
- External student not affiliated to EUPeace
- N.N., External expert not affiliated to EUPeace (world of work)
- N.N., External expert not affiliated to EUPeace (world of work)
- N.N., Expert in quality assurance from one EUPeace university
- VLUHR QA, External expert not affiliated to EUPeace (external quality assurance)
- N.N., External expert not affiliated to EUPeace (internal quality assurance)

### 3. List of Meetings

*This list of meetings includes all the meetings organised since the start of the funding period on 1 November 2023 up until the end of October 2024 (deadline for this deliverable).*

#### **Senate**

26/09/2024, Madrid

The Senate meets twice per year, including one in-person meeting.

#### **Student Council (STC)**

04/03/2024

18/04/2024

03-04/06/2024, Limoges

03-06/09/2024, Giessen

29/09/2024

The STC meets regularly online at self-set intervals.

#### **External Advisory Board (EAB)**

The first online meeting will take by the end of 2024, the EAB will decide together of the date and place of its first in-person meeting according to availabilities.

#### **Governing Board (GB)**

12 meetings prior to the start of the funding period starting at the end of 2023

28/11/2023

09/01/2024

23/01/2024

20/02/2024

19/03/2024

02/04/2024

12-13/04/2024, Sarajevo

23/04/2024

14/05/2024

11/06/2024

09/07/2024

03/09/2024

26-27/09/2024, Madrid

08/10/2024

29/10/2024

The GB meets every four weeks online, and twice per year in person.

#### **Education Board (EB)**

18/12/2023

28/02/2024

12-13/04/2024, Sarajevo

22/05/2024

12/07/2024

26/08/2024

26-27/09/2024, Madrid

21/10/2024

The EB meets once per month online, and twice per year in person.

#### **Steering Committee (SC)**

16-17/11/2023, Marburg

01/12/2023

11/01/2024

25/01/2024

07/02/2024

15-16/02/2024, Madrid

27/02/2024



20/03/2024

02/04/2024

12-13/04/2024, Sarajevo

30/04/2024

08/05/2024

21/05/2024

05/06/2024

18/06/2024, Mostar

09/07/2024

05/09/2024

12/09/2024

26-27/09/2024, Madrid

10/10/2024

24/10/2024

The SC meets every two weeks online and every quarter in person.

### **Coordination Office (CO)**

The Coordination Office meets on an everyday basis, as they steer the ongoing business of EUPeace. Team meetings take place every Monday.

### **Communications Office**

The Communications Office meets in the context of work package 8 meetings and their respective task forces. On average, the team meets once a week.

### **Digitisation Office**

The Digitisation Office has opened up a virtual office on workadventu.re to create a shared office space for all Digitisation Office members and allow for meetings without prior scheduling. In addition, the Digitisation Office has held regular online meetings.

### **Coordination Network (CN)**

The CN, much like an Alliance-wide version of the CO, steers the everyday business of the Alliance and therefore is in daily contact. A standing online appointment for all CN members is set for every second Thursday.

### **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Board (EDIB)**

13/03/2024

18/06/2024, Mostar

28/10/2024

The EDIB meets on a quarterly basis, in-person meetings can take place as required.

### **Monitoring Committee (MC)**

27/05/2024

25/06/2024

22/07/2024

28/10/2024

The MC meets monthly online. In-person meetings can take place as required.

### **Quality Assurance Board (QAB)**

The first QAB meeting will be held by the end of 2024 according to availabilities of its members. The QAB meets about five times per year.

## **4. Conclusion**

It can be concluded that Deliverable 1.1 has been fulfilled in its entirety and in a timely manner. By the conclusion of the first funding year, all governing bodies have been established. The structural configuration of the proposed EUPeace governance system has been demonstrated to be both feasible and practical, with the exception of the initial composition of the QAB. In this regard, the re-definition of the QAB as the principal quality assurance entity in the domain of curriculum development has resulted in an enhancement of the overall quality assurance framework of both the project and the Alliance.

## 5. Plan of Action

The EUPeace governance structure will evolve further throughout the first funding period. The Strategy Forums in funding years two and four will be utilised to do an evaluation of the efficiency of the established bodies, and, if necessary, adjustment suggestions for individual bodies will be made.

We will build upon the created structures and elaborate on the working structures of individual bodies. Via regular reports across the different governing levels, we assure checks and balances of each body and allow for necessary adjustments. For the coming years, a main focus of the governing bodies will be to establish innovative pathways towards the strategic institutional alignment of its consortium members, in order to transform perspectives on what constitutes institutional development. To address these often complex and potentially sensitive issues, EUPeace will, now that the governance baseline has been defined, adopt a novel approach and implement Design Thinking principles and methodologies, directly and actively engaging members of the governing bodies, especially highest-level administration in collaboration with the relevant EUPeace governing, staff, and student bodies, in defining how and where Design Thinking is applied in the development of the Alliance.

In parallel, desk and field research on options and feasibility of different legal forms for the Alliance will be a main focus of the governing bodies of EUPeace, jointly working towards a stable and sustainable structure for the long-term vision of EUPeace. This may lead to changes in the structures depicted above, e.g. on a strategic level as to the roles of the different bodies and their mandates, or on a practical and executive level as to the intertwined structures of Coordination Office/Coordination Network and their set-up at alliance level etc.

