

Open letter to Executive Vice President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness

Roxana Mînzatu

Dear Executive VP, Commissioner Mînzatu,

EURASHE extends warm congratulations for the successful **hearing and confirmation as Executive Vice President for People, Skills, and Preparedness**. We look forward to coordinating our joint efforts to tackle the challenges and leverage the existing opportunities within the European Education Area.

As the **voice of Applied Universities in Europe**, EURASHE shares many of the priorities you raised during the hearing. We share your vision for a flexible, inclusive and competitive education system and the EURASHE network and experience plays an important role in achieving this.

In a fast-changing world where the future of work is becoming increasingly knowledge- and skills-intensive, adaptability is of the essence. Education systems must adjust in an equally rapid manner to equip learners of all ages with the skills they need to thrive, and we are committed to strengthening the impact of innovative, high-quality applied teaching and learning.

EURASHE occupies a unique position at the intersection of Higher Education, Applied Sciences, and Vocational Education and Training (VET). Many of our members are actively involved in the **European Universities Alliances**, working to expand European cooperation and enhance the connectedness of the education system. Our efforts involve shaping the **European Degree**, ensuring improved recognition and portability of qualifications across borders and strengthening Europe's **competitiveness** in education and innovation.

As a founding member of the **Bologna Process** and an active consultative member of the **Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG)**, EURASHE helps to shape the future of the European Higher Education Area and connect with other levels of education. We are active in the subjects of **quality assurance**, **degree recognition**, and **flexible learning pathways**, striving for an education system that evolves to meet the needs of modern learners.

By means of our involvement in **Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)** we drive innovation through upskilling and reskilling. CoVE implementation provides practical answers on how to align VET more effectively with higher education pathways, ensuring that VET and Higher Education are complementary.

Applied and professionally orientated higher education can help build a more competitive European knowledge economy. This includes a range of innovative courses, including **micro-credentials**, **short-cycle programmes**, and **applied research degrees**. These tools enable individuals of all ages to update their skills throughout their careers.

EURASHE members have an important role as **connectors** between education, industry, and regions. Together, we are committed to strengthening the **European Education Area** by championing flexible, skills-focused education and by developing innovative solutions for skilling, reskilling, and applied research—critical drivers of Europe's **competitiveness**. At the same time, EURASHE can help to ensure that the competitiveness agenda fully takes into account **social and territorial cohesion**. Knowledge and skills should become the basis for **convergence of Europe's regions**.

As the new College of Commissioners begins its work, we are eager to engage in dialogue on the future of European Education Area and look forward to close collaboration over the next five years.



Hannes Raffaseder
EURASHE President