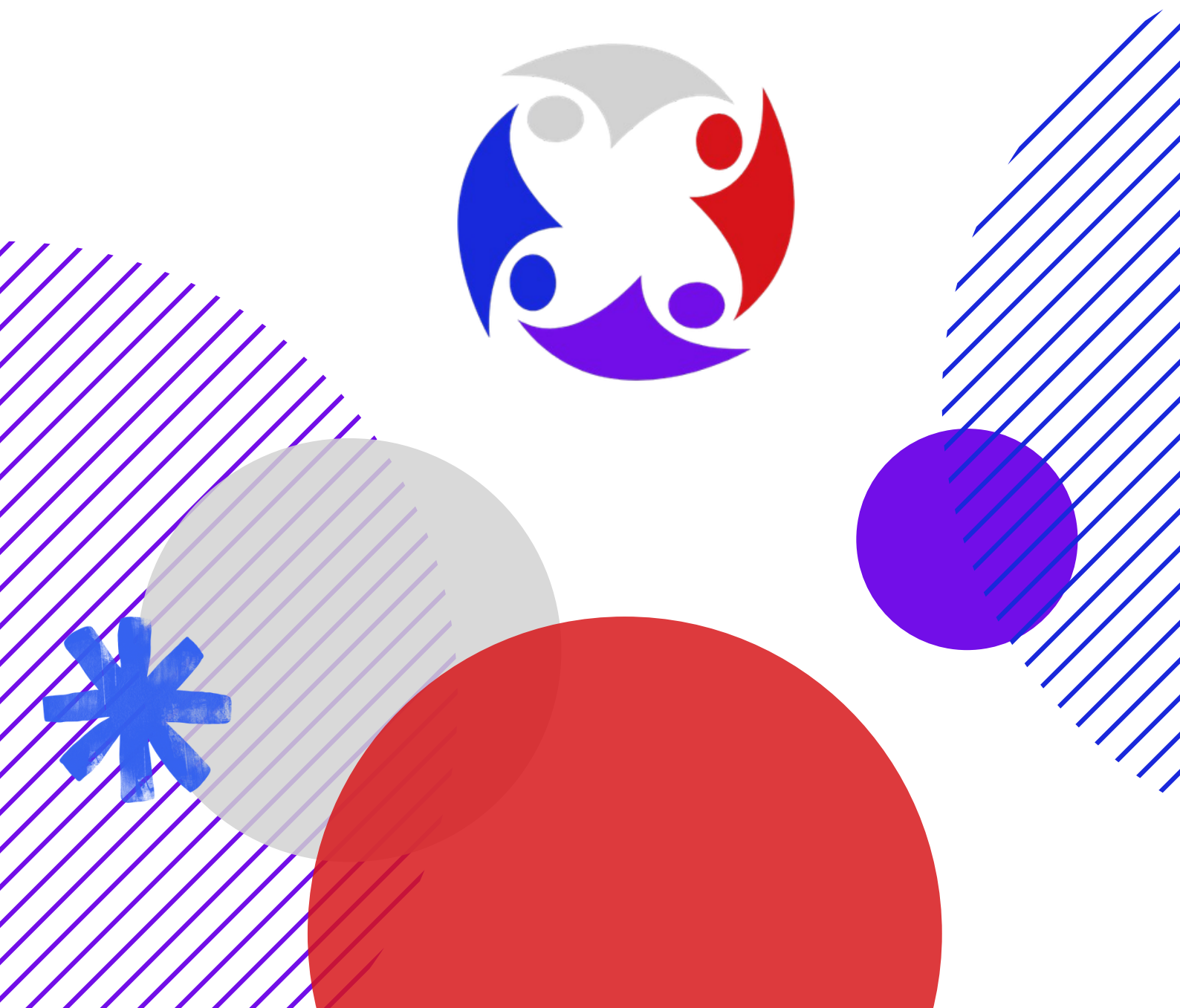


MESTENHAUSER INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATION

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**



MESTENHAUSER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

OUR MISSION

“ Our mission is to empower people and organizations with intercultural competences so they can fully embrace the potential of international collaboration and thrive in an interconnected world. ”

Our work is inspired by the legacy of [Professor Josef A. Mestenhauser](#) (1925-2015), a leading Czech émigré and pioneer in the field of international education.



2025 AT THE MESTENHAUSER INSTITUTE AT A GLANCE

28
EDUCATIONAL
EVENTS

This year, we hosted 28 educational events, including workshops, webinars, and networking events.



>600
PARTICIPANTS

MIIC events were attended by over 600 total participants, including university leadership, academics, colleagues in the private sector, and students.



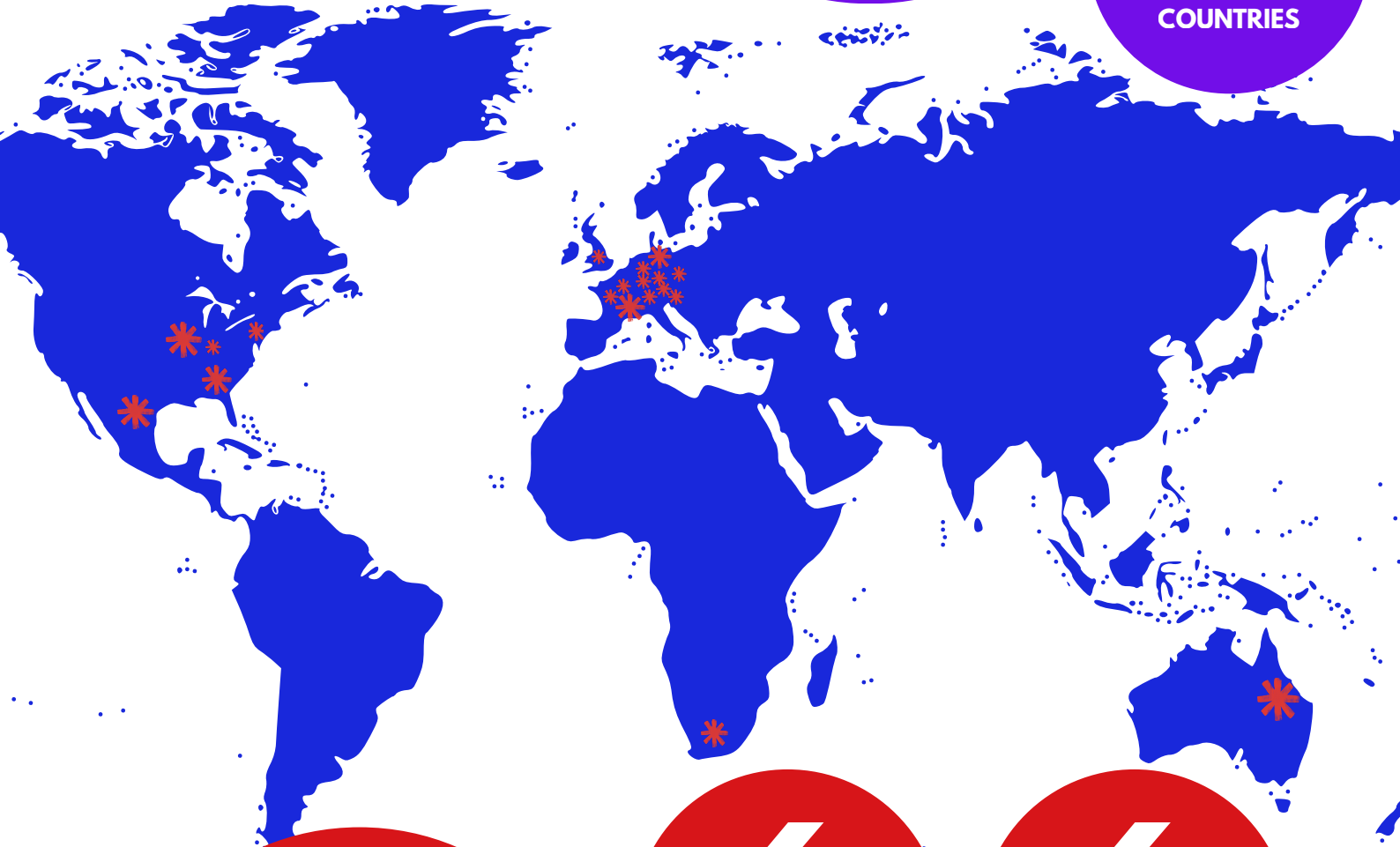
1
SUMMER
PROGRAM

We also launched a new summer program, Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders, with 7 participants.

7
CZECH-AMERICAN
STUDENTS



MIIC COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS



OUR AREAS OF UNIVERSITY CAPACITY BUILDING

LEADERSHIP OF
INTERNATIONAL
-IZATION

INTER-
CULTURAL
COMPETENCE

STUDENT
WELL-BEING

COLLABORATIVE
ONLINE
INTERNATIONAL
LEARNING (COIL)

STUDENT
RECRUITMENT

UNESCO
STORY
CIRCLES

INTL
CLASSROOM

INTL
LEARNING

OUR PROGRAMS

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

The Mestenhauser Institute runs multiple cultural diplomacy and partnership projects with policy makers which aim to strengthen the transatlantic relationship and build connections across sectors to embrace cultural differences. MIIC has held multiple programs, events, and conferences that promote cultural diplomacy within the field of international education, but has also launched our first cultural diplomacy project for youth, Summer School in the Czech Republic: Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders.



**NETWORKING
GATHERING:
EAIE
GOTHENBURG**



**CROSS-
CULTURAL
PATHWAYS
FOR YOUNG
LEADERS**

**NETWORKING
GATHERING:
TRANS-
ATLANTIC
CONNECTIONS**

OUR PROGRAMS

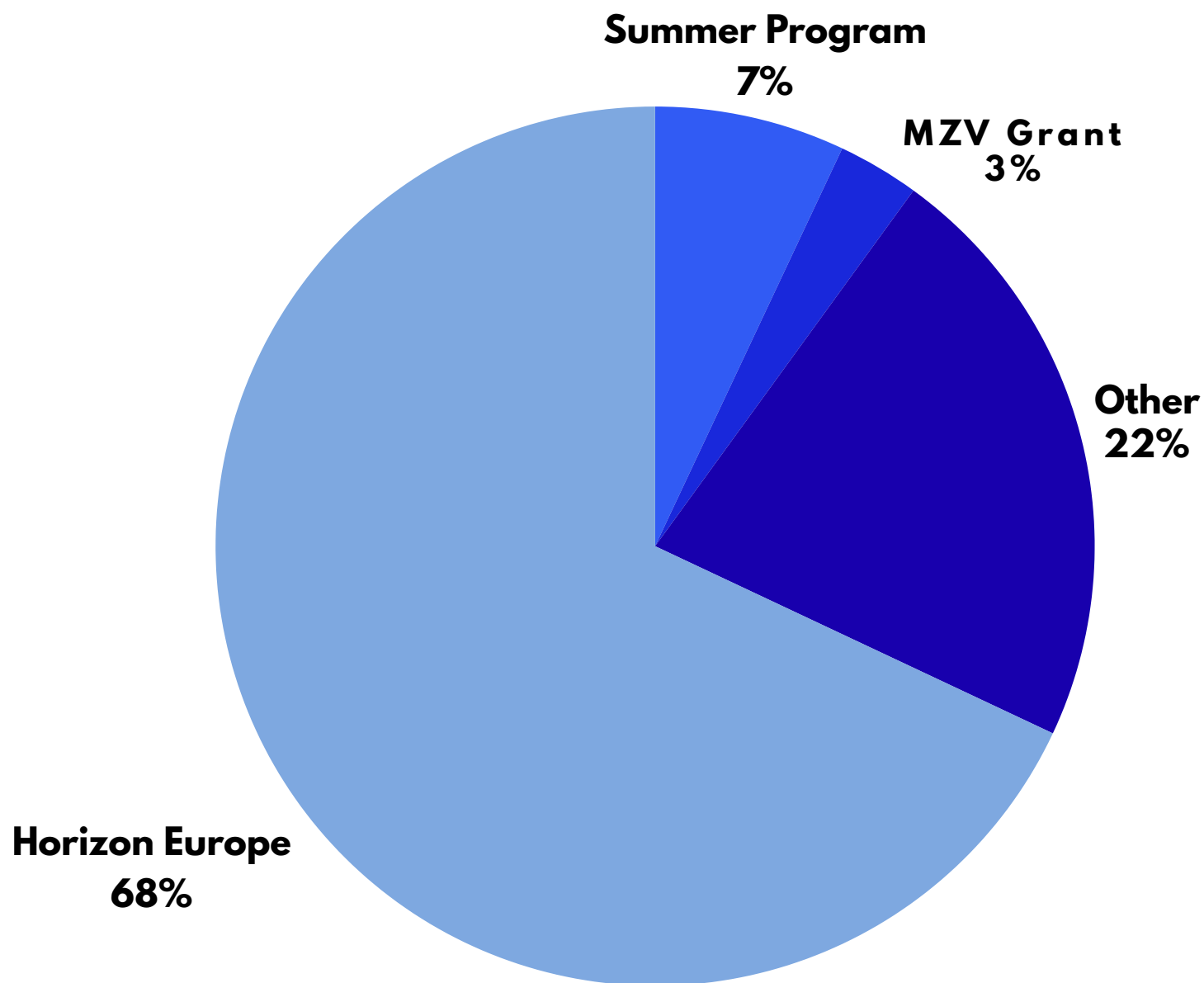
HORIZON RESEARCH PROJECT

On 12-13 November, the YOUROPE team gathered at Coventry University's Brussels hub. We reviewed our first year and planned what comes next. Colleagues from MIIC and Coventry University led workshops on developing key project concepts and building dialogue within our Professional Learning Community.

We also ran 5 virtual PLC meetings for our colleagues in the project.



MIIC FINANCE BREAKDOWN



Celebrating Our Year Together

– 2024 Impact



2024: A Year of Global Collaboration

As we close out 2024, we at the Mestenhauer Institute for International Collaboration (MIIC) reflect on our collective achievements and the incredible impact we've made together. This year marked a pivotal point in MIIC's journey, bringing together global thought leaders, educators, and students through groundbreaking initiatives and transformative educational programs so that everyone can have international experience!

2024 by the Numbers

- Number of Experts/Trainers: 15
- Number of Organized Conferences: 2
- Number of Workshops/Trainings: 14
- Countries Involved: 15
- Participants Served: 290
 - University Leaders: 50
 - Academics: 150
 - Students: 50
 - Diplomats & Policymakers: 20
- NGO Leaders: 20



Major Milestones

- **January - March:** Leading Learning Communities of Academics
- **April - June:** Delivering Masterclass on Professional Learning Communities for Swiss Universities
- **July - September:** Formalizing Collaboration with University of Minnesota
- **October - December:** Kick-off of Horizon Europe Project



Signature Events of 2024

Driving Quality Institution-Wide Internationalization: A landmark event with the Czech Ministry of Education and the University of Minnesota on the challenges faced by Czech and Slovak universities in delivering comprehensive internationalization. The conversation involved over 50+ university leaders and policymakers top worldexperts from the USA, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

Bridging Continents: This event, hosted at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, gathered diplomats, policymakers, and NGO leaders for dynamic discussions with the daughter of Prof. Josef A. Mestenhauser, Patricia Mestenhauser Bergh, on the future of international education, in particular, the theme of intercultural diplomacy.

Looking Ahead – Join Us in 2025

Your support helps us continue this important work. Together, we can expand our reach, deepen our impact, and make internationalization accessible for all students.

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Donate:** Help us sustain and grow our work at <https://miic.world/donate/> and suggest MIIC for workplace/employee giving programs
- **Engage:** Join us at upcoming events and collaborate on initiatives
- **Share:** Spread the word about MIIC and connect us with like-minded individuals and organizations.



MIIC WORKSHOP AND PROJECT BREAKDOWN 2025

I. Our Work with Universities

a. World Expert Series

- i. [Stepping Up Recruitment of International Students](#) with Dr. Shanton Chang, Komensky University. 31.3.2025. 15 participants.
- ii. [Advancing Intercultural Skills for IROs](#) with Dr. Barbara Kappler, University of Ostrava. 10.4.2025. 25 participants.
- iii. [Practical Approaches for International Student Success](#) with Dr. Barbara Kappler, VUT Brno. 11.4.2025. 20 participants.
- iv. [Internationalizing the Curriculum with Dr. Jos Beelen](#), Slezka University in Opava. 15.5.2025. 20 participants.
- v. [Internationalizing Teaching and Learning](#) with Lucie Weissova, Komensky University. 13.6.2025. 20 participants.
- vi. [Introduction to Internationalization of Curriculum](#) with Dr. Jos Beelen, Komensky University. 16.5.2025. 25 participants.
- vii. [Train-the-Trainers: Advancing Intercultural Skills in Business](#) with Dr. Darla Deardorff, Langan's Gallery Prague. 17.6.2025. 15 participants.
- viii. Advanced Cultural Competence Development: Storytelling and Other Techniques with Dr. Darla Deardorff, University of Hradec Kralove. 18.6.2025. 20 participants.
- ix. [Educating Globally-Ready Learners](#) with Dr. Darla Deardorff, University of Ostrava. 19.6.2025. 20 participants.
- x. Internationalization of Learning Outcomes with Dr. Jos Beelen, Komensky University. 24.6.2025. 20 participants.

b. Workshops

- a. [Building Learning Communities for Internationalization of Curriculum at Home EAIE](#) 9.9.2025. 20 participants.
- b. [Comprehensive Internationalization as an Institution-Wide Effort](#) for Oles Honchar Dnipro National University. 4.11.2025. 12 participants.
- c. Building Inclusive Collaborations through Professional Learning Communities. Star Scholar Conference Istanbul. 8.10.2025. 15 participants
- d. Panel: [Critical Perspectives on Geopolitical Challenges to Current International Higher Education](#), with Dr. Eva Janebova, Dr. Harvey Charles, Dr. Jos Beelen, and Ing. Lenka Henebergová, CEEDUCON 2025. 19.11.2025. 60 participants.
- e. [Advancing Intercultural Communication in the DIGISOC Joint-Degree Program](#), Palacký University. 24.11. 2025. 15 participants.

MIIC WORKSHOP AND PROJECT BREAKDOWN 2025

II. Cultural Diplomacy

1. Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders

a. We piloted our 2025 Summer School, [Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders](#) with 6 Czech-American students from July 14th-23rd. This pilot project aimed to bring third and fourth-generation Czech-Americans to CZ and explore cross-cultural leadership, Czech history and culture, and study options across the Czech Republic. The program was a great success for students and the MIIC Community, and the second iteration of the program will run in July 2026.

2. [Networking Gathering: EAIE Gothenburg 2025](#)

a. We are pleased to have done this event, the MIIC and Invited Scholars Networking Event, at EAIE Gothenburg. Our theme this year was Interconnecting Central and Eastern Europe with the World: Advancing International Education Together. We hosted this event for the Central and Eastern Europe region to help advance it and interconnect it with top international educators around the world. It brought together thought partners to co-create strategies for collaborative research, capacity building, educational practices and systemic change across the CEE region. 10.9.2025. 25 participants.

3. **Networking Event: An Evening of Transatlantic Connections**

a. MIIC hosted a networking event to kick off CEEDUCON 2025, [An Evening of Transatlantic Connections](#). The event was hosted by Professor Jaroslav Miller and speakers included Dr. Darla Deardorff and Dr. Harvey Charles. The event was held at the National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education and was attended by leaders in international education. 18.11.2025. 35 participants.

IV. MIIC Experts' Collaborations and Consultancies

a. [Internationalizing Higher Education and Teaching in EU Energy Policy](#), FSEV UK, Energy Policy and Energy Security in the EU

b. Publication: [Critical Internationalization of Higher Education From Internationalization Drift to Ethical Global Engagement](#), edited by Melanie Agnew and Jos Beelen and published by Routledge. 28.7.2025.

c. Collaborative Learning and Internationalization, workshop at International Teaching Week at Brno Technical University. 15.10.2025. 15 participants.

MIIC WORKSHOP AND PROJECT BREAKDOWN 2025

- d. Discussions with Vice Rectors of Czech Universities with Dr. Harvey Charles. 28.5.2025
- e. Discussions with Leadership of Komenský University on Comprehensive Internationalization with Dr. Harvey Charles.10.11.2025.
- f. Critical Lenses on Concepts within Internationalization and How These can Contribute to Inclusivity and Internationalization at Home, Workshop with DAAD. 20.8.2025. 45 participants.

V. Horizon

1. Meeting in Brussels

- a. On 12-13 November, the YOUROPE team gathered at Coventry University's Brussels hub. We reviewed our first year and planned what comes next. Colleagues from MIIC and Coventry University led workshops on developing key project concepts and building dialogue within our Professional Learning Community. 30 participants.

2. Partner Meeting on the Future of Erasmus, American Cooperation Association, Brussels

3. Horizon Partner Learning Community Meetings, 25 participants

- a. 21.1. 2025, online.
- b. 18.2.2025, online.
- c. 15.4.2025, online.
- d. 6.10.2025, online.
- e. 5.11.2025, online.
- f. 13.11.2025, PLC meeting in Brussels with 2 workshops on a) developing key project concepts and b) building dialogue within our Professional Learning Community. Online. 30 participants.

4. STAR Scholars Global Conference, "Building Inclusive Collaborations through Professional Learning Communities", presented by Eva Janebova, Katherine Wimpenny, and Lucy Roberts

VI. 2026 Projects

a. [Spring 2026 World Expert Series](#)

- i. In 2026, we are offering 22 workshops that span 8 topics. These sessions are highly interactive and can be in the form of one-day or half-day practical workshops. We are also bringing in new World Experts, including Géraldine Dufour (UK) and Dr. Melanie Agnew (USA).

b. [Mestenhauser Academy for Leadership in Internationalization](#)

c. [Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders 2026](#)