

12 April 2022

Communiqué de presse

Université de Strasbourg



FRANCE22  
PRÉSIDENTE FRANÇAISE  
DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION  
EUROPÉENNE

# Conference

## European University Alliances, assets for the European Research and Higher Education Areas



**In the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of Europe, the University of Strasbourg and EPICUR Alliance are organising a conference entitled 'European University Alliances, assets for the European Research and Higher Education areas' on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022, from 3.00 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will take place at the Faculté de Droit (Law Faculty) and is by invitation only.**

The European university alliances are at the crossroads of higher education, research excellence and European cooperation. Laureats of the call for projects in 2019, EU-CONEXUS and EPICUR will be used as examples to demonstrate the contribution of European university alliances to the convergence of the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area and the strengthening of collaboration and mobility between different areas of the Union. The event will also address the positive impact of European university alliances at the local level.

The conference is organised by the University of Strasbourg in partnership with the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the European Science Foundation and EuroScience. The conference will bring together European officials and experts from the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG), the Council Working Party on Research (GRC/RWG) and the European Research and Innovation Area Committee (CEER/ERAC) of the European Council,

## Programme

15.00-15.10 - Opening: **Michel Deneken**, President of the University of Strasbourg and President of the EPICUR alliance

15.10-15.30 - Keynote: **Role of research, mobility and networking: key challenges for European university alliances**

- **Alain Beretz**, President of European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical research (COST)

15.30-16.40 – First Round Table: **European university alliances: challenges of associating both higher education and research**

- What is the added value of the European university alliances to European research?
- How can European university alliances develop collaborative responses in education and research?

### Speakers:

- **Michel Deneken**, DENEKEN | President of the University of Strasbourg, Chair of the EPICUR Alliance
- **Karen Maex**, Rector of the University of Amsterdam, President of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), member of the Steering Committee of the EPICUR Alliance
- **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Director General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission (DG RTD)
- **Marc Schiltz**, President of Science Europe, Secretary General of the National Research Fund of Luxembourg
- **Barbara Weitgruber**, Director general for scientific research and international relations at the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research, co-chair of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)

Moderator: **Michael Matlosz**, President of EuroScience

17.10-18.20 – Second Round Table: **European university alliances: new vectors for mobility and networking**

- How do European university alliances offer new opportunities for mobility of students, researchers, and staff?

- How do European university alliances contribute to networking of scientific communities and geographical regions in education, research and innovation?

#### Speakers:

- **Vanessa Debiais-Sainton**, Head of the Higher Education Unit at the European Commission (DG EAC), member of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG)
- **Astrid Hannes**, project manager at the European Regions Research and Innovation Network
- **Nina Hol**, Member of the student board of the EPICUR Alliance, student at the University of Amsterdam
- **Bogumiła Kaniewska**, rector of the Adam-Mickiewicz University in Poznań, member of the Steering Committee of the EPICUR Alliance
- **Jean-Marc Ogier**, President of the La Rochelle Université and Chair of the European University EU-CONEXUS
- **Mateja Robič**, member of Higher Education Division of the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

Moderator: **Véronique Halloin**, President of the European Science Foundation

#### 18.20-19.00 : Take-home messages and final exchanges

#### Speakers:

- **Alain Beretz**, President of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)
- **Claire Giry**, Director General for Research and Innovation of the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation
- **Véronique Halloin**, President of the European Science Foundation
- **Michael Matlosz**, President of EuroScience
- **Jean-Marc Planeix**, Vice-President for Academic partnerships and governance of the University of Strasbourg, strategic coordinator of the EPICUR Alliance

### Who is this event for?

#### The event is open by invitation and will bring together:

- European officials and experts from the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG), the Council Working Party on Research (GRC/RWG) and the European Research and Innovation Area Committee (CEER/ERAC) of the European Council
- Representatives of the University of Strasbourg, the European Science Foundation and EuroScience
- Representatives of EPICUR Alliance and other European university alliances
- Representatives of local and cross-border bodies

## The EPICUR Alliance

EPICUR is a first-generation European university alliance, co-financed by the European Commission in November 2019. It comprises eight higher education institutions from six European countries. EPICUR permits students, teachers, staff and researchers to acquire a wide, unlimited and interdisciplinary academic perspective through a network of European universities, encouraging virtual mobility and developing innovative teaching approaches – whatever the nationality or mother tongue, cultural or socio-economic background. The EPICUR Alliance combines the four core competences of a European university: teaching, research, scientific innovation and interaction with society: these are the four core areas covered by the ‘Carré Européen’, or European Square, of knowledge.

For further information on EPICUR : <https://epicur.education/fr/>



*“European University Alliances focus on the main challenges in the development of higher education, research excellence and new collaboration between universities in Europe. The European Union’s ability to mobilise its resources and creative force in the face of climate, digital, economic and societal change is directly linked to the academic world’s ability to mobilise its teachers, researchers, students and socio-economic partners to find solutions to these global challenges in a coordinated way. The place of research, network-building, student and teacher-research mobility are fundamental questions for university alliances.”*

**Jean Marc Planeix**, Vice-President, Academic Partnerships and Governance of the University of Strasbourg

## European Science Foundation

Created in 1974, the “European Science Foundation” (ESF), is committed to driving progress in scientific research and innovation by delivering independent science operations for the European Research Area. With a community of 10.000 international experts and an in-depth understanding of EU funding mechanisms and the needs of the European Research Area, ESF delivers a large array of services, from grant and project evaluation to EU-funded project coordination, management, communication, as well as platform hosting, programme management, or career-tracking surveys development.

Find out more about us at [www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)!

## EuroScience

EuroScience is a membership based European organisation of researchers and research professionals. We give a place to meet and debate about relevant interdisciplinary matters in science and society to our members from all over Europe and globally.

## Practical Information

Date : 12 April 2022, 15.00 – 19.00.

Place : Amphithéâtre Carré de Malberg, Faculté de droit, 1 place d'Athènes, 67000 Strasbourg

By invitation only. Please confirm your attendance by e-mail to: [tatay@unistra.fr](mailto:tatay@unistra.fr)

To follow the conference online:

Speeches will be in both French and English. A system of simultaneous interpretation will be available.

Contact presse

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