



Campus of European Universities

June 30th 2022

Palais des Congrès de Versailles

Program

Opening session (9 :30 am-10am):

Sylvie Retailleau, Minister for higher education and research, France

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for innovation, research, culture, education and youth (online)

Laurence Farreng, Member of the European Parliament

Michael Murphy, President of the European University Association (online)

Roundtable in plenary session (10am – 11:15am) : [Deepening the European sense of belonging based on common values](#)

Workshops (11:30am – 1pm and 2pm – 3:30pm)

- Workshop A: [Diverse models of European universities, but common challenges](#)
- Workshop B: [Building partnerships with socio-economic stakeholders](#)
- Workshop C: [Role models for the transformation of the European higher education](#)
- Workshop D: [Showcasing European higher education worldwide](#)
- Workshop E: [European universities with students' eyes](#)

Roundtable in plenary session (4 pm – 5:30 pm): [Driving Europe's global role and leadership](#)

Closing session (5:30 pm-6pm) :

Clément Beaune, Minister in charge of Europe, France

Radka Wildová, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science and Research, Czechia

Sylvie Retailleau, Minister for higher education and research, France

Roundtable in plenary session (10am – 11:15am): Deepening the European sense of belonging based on common values

Five years after the Sorbonne speech by French President Emmanuel Macron and three years after the launch of the European Universities Initiative by the European Commission, the European University Campus takes stock of the situation and outlines the future prospects for this new dynamic.

At the forefront of strengthening institutional cooperation in the European education area, European Universities are called upon to “*promote common European values (...) and a strengthened European identity by bringing together a new generation of Europeans who are able to cooperate and work within different European and global cultures, in different languages, and across borders, sectors and academic disciplines*”¹. As the first phase of funding for the alliances launched in 2019 comes to an end this year, this round table will be an opportunity to discuss this ambition of the European Universities.

In particular, alliances such as the European Universities have the potential to actively contribute to the promotion of European democratic values, diversity and equal opportunities, which are the pillars of the 4th key objective of the European strategy adopted by EU Ministers in April 2022 “Deepening the European sense of belonging based on common values”². By mobilising innovative solutions to overcome the slowdown in student mobility and the obstacles encountered in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, European Universities have demonstrated their resilience and opened up new avenues of cooperation and support for their communities. The new phase of the European Universities could thus reinforce the contribution of this initiative to the dissemination of a sense of belonging among students, for example through hybrid mobility or internationalisation at home.

Beyond its impact on member institutions, the institutional transformation carried out within the framework of the European Universities allows for the promotion of common European values, such as academic freedom, institutional autonomy, open science, as well as support for students, academic staff and researchers at risk, especially in light of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The capacity building and coordination of actions that European Universities allow are indeed part of the materialisation of these values and principles promoted at European level.

The speakers invited to this round table will be invited to address the following questions:

- What lessons can be learned from the pilot phase of the European Universities with regard to the objective of deepening the sense of European belonging?
- What are the prospects for the future development of this initiative?

Moderator: **Patrick Nédellec**, Delegate for European and International Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, France

Speakers :

- **Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot** - Director, Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DGEAC) of the European Commission
- **Laurence Farreng** - Member of the European Parliament, member of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)
- **Jakub Grodecki** - Vice President of the European Students' Union (ESU)
- **Renaud Dehousse** - President of the European University Institute of Florence, European universities alliance CIVICA
- **Christina Moberg** - President of the European Academies’ Science Advisory Council (EASAC) (*online*)

¹ [Erasmus+ call of 2022](#)

² [Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe of April 4th 2022](#)

- **Olha Viktorivna Porkuian** - Rector of Vladimir Dahl East Ukrainian University, Ukraine (*online*)
- **Michał Zasada** — Vice-President of the Conference of Rectors of Polish University Schools (CRASP) (*online*)
- **Jean-Marc Planeix** - Vice President academic partnerships and governance at the University of Strasbourg, European universities alliance EPICUR

Workshop A: Diverse models of European universities, but common challenges

Alliances such as the 41 "European Universities" each represent a unique model of cooperation, driven by a common will and strategy. Also, some alliances have chosen a thematic bias (e.g. sustainable development, health, arts, social sciences) while others adopt a geographical approach (e.g. coastal areas or rural regions). However, the diversity of the alliances' models does not prevent them from sharing strategic orientations and challenges, such as the importance of research and innovation and the structuring of their local ecosystems. In this sense, each European University has a potential for scientific, academic and innovation cooperation, which is based on the intensification of exchanges between the researchers, doctoral students and professors who are part of it.

While transnational cooperation between alliance members enhances their attractiveness to students, researchers and international partners and increases the quality of their educational offerings as well as their research and innovation potential, the diversity of models and programmes makes it difficult to adopt a standardised approach to their evaluation. On the contrary, a flexible approach that adapts to each of the alliances' strategies and action plans seems more relevant. This would remove some of the obstacles to the development of alliances, and would encourage the deployment of procedures adapted to European cooperation. In this sense and by way of example, European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities³ tested by the [Euniq project](#)⁴ is experimenting with a harmonised quality assurance procedure, making it possible to monitor compliance with national requirements by European universities without multiplying control procedures.

In order to enable European universities to take their cooperation model further, the European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe adopted by EU Ministers in April 2022 stresses that "*efficient and effective quality assurance processes should be enabled at national level to facilitate a European Quality Assurance approach for joint programmes, according to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), taking into consideration the importance of quality, research and employability*"⁵.

This new context shaped by the strategy adopted by the Council, which highlights the need to exploit synergies linking higher education, research and innovation, calls for exploring the establishment of joint degrees based on European criteria and experimenting with potential legal statutes for alliances. Participants in this workshop will be invited to discuss the diversity of European university models and the challenges they share. They will be able to present the means they have identified to facilitate and support their development for the benefit of the whole sector. In particular, they will be invited to address the following questions.

- How can the full potential of cooperation within the alliances be encouraged in all their missions, including research and innovation? How can quality assurance contribute towards this end?
- What approach and mechanisms should be put in place for the evaluation of European university alliances?

Morning session (11:30am to 1pm)

Moderator - **Thierry Coulhon**, President of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES), France

Speakers :

³<https://www.nvao.net/nl/attachments/view/european%20framework%20for%20the%20comprehensive%20quality%20assurance%20of%20european%20universities>

⁴ The EUniQ project was coordinated by NVAO (Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders) on behalf of the Flemish Community. The project consortium included eight quality assurance agencies, six ministries and the European stakeholder organisations EUA, ESU and ENQA.

⁵ [Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe of April 4th 2022](#)

- **Naveed Syed**, Secretary General of the European universities alliance Enhance
- **Matilde Sánchez Fernández**, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, Universidad Carlos III Madrid - European universities alliance YUFE
- **Anne-Catherine Rota**, Consultant, Elsevier
- **Emily Palmer**, Secretary General of the European universities alliance Una Europa
- **Madalin Bunoiu**, President of the Executive Board of the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), Romania
- **Liesbeth Hens**, Policy advisor Higher education, Ministry of education and training, Flemish community
- **Vanessa Debiais-Sainton**, Head of Unit Higher Education, DGEAC, European Commission

Afternoon session (2pm to 3:30 pm)

Moderator — **Elisabeth Crépon**, President of the Commission des titres d'ingénieur (CTI), France

Speakers :

- **Timothée Toury**, Secretary General of the European universities alliance EUt+
- **Myriam Maumy**, University of Technology Troyes, Deputy Director, European universities alliance EUt+
- **Marie-Jo Goddert**, Executive Director of the ITC and member European Engineering Accreditation Network (ENAEE)
- **Luciana Radut-Gaghi**, Vice President in charge of the European universities alliance Eutopia, CY Cergy Paris University
- **Dominique Rossin**, Director of Education and Research at Ecole polytechnique, European universities alliance EUROTEQ
- **Solange Piszcz**, Deputy Executive Director of the ITC and President of the Association of Accreditation and Quality Assurance Agencies in Europe (ECA)
- **Vanessa Debiais-Sainton**, Head of Higher Education Unit, DGEAC, European Commission

Workshop B: Building partnerships with the socio-economic stakeholders

The alliances selected under the Erasmus+ programme since 2019 include, in addition to their member institutions, nearly a thousand associate members (companies, research centres, higher education and research institutions from outside Europe, regions, agencies), which testify to the ecosystem set up around these alliances. Pioneers at European level in experimenting with more integrated transnational cooperation in higher education, research and innovation, the European Universities mobilise students, researchers, businesses, local and regional authorities, public authorities and civil society.

To develop field experiences and internships in order to develop students' initiative, skills and civic commitment, the European Universities can thus rely on their local ecosystems and the hundreds of partnerships they have established, which enable them to structure a European network of opportunities.

The development of partnerships with economic players also makes it possible to enhance innovation and knowledge transfer, particularly at local level. The projects implemented by the 41 European Universities make it possible to network institutions and their partners, thus structuring innovation sectors and ecosystems on a European scale. At local level, the deepening of European Universities has a knock-on effect, for example by transferring skills and knowledge to strategic industrial sectors, promoting technology transfer capacities and creating spin-offs.

The European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe calls for "*HEIs (to be) further encouraged to turn knowledge into skills, competences and innovation (...) developing close cooperation with economic, social and industrial partners within local and regional research and innovation ecosystems, and facilitating intersectoral mobility*"⁶. By paving the way for more sustainable funding of the alliances and the development of institutionalised cooperation instruments enabling them to organise themselves under a common legal entity, for example, the EU Member States have committed themselves to supporting this cooperation. Similarly, the emergence of a potential common offer of joint degrees based on European criteria would make it possible to fully valorise the competences acquired in joint programmes, in particular the intercultural competences resulting from European cooperation.

The speakers at this round table will be invited to present the challenges and good practices of cooperation between European universities and their economic, social and industrial partners, as well as local and regional authorities. They will be able to present examples of successful cooperation and reflect on the tools that can be used to encourage them.

In particular, they will be invited to address the following questions

- How to encourage partnerships between European universities and economic, social and regional partners at European level?
- How to encourage the transfer of knowledge to future skills and innovation by relying on local or regional ecosystems?

Morning session (11:30am -1pm)

Moderator — **Patrick Levy**, France Universités, France

Speakers :

- **Emil Boc**, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca, Member of the Committee of the Regions, former Prime Minister of Romania

⁶ [Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe of April 4th 2022](#)

- **Eric CASSAN**, deputy vice president for European affairs, Université Paris-Saclay, European universities Alliance EUGLOH (tbc)
- **Andreas Altmann**, Rector of the Management Center Innsbruck (MCI, The Entrepreneurial School), European universities alliance ULYSSEUS

Afternoon session (2pm – 3:30pm)

Moderation — **Christian Lermينياux** Conference of Directors of French Engineering Schools (CDEFI), France

Speakers :

- **Dale A. Martin**, President of the European universities alliance EELISA
- **Jens Schneider**, Vice-Rector for Transfer and International Affairs at Darmstadt Technical University, European universities alliance Unite!
- **Alexis Majos**, fintech investor, Speedinvest, industrial partner of UNITE!
- **Hannes Raffaseder**, Director of Research and Innovation, St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences, European universities alliance E3UDRES2
- **Antoine Cazé**, Vice President Strategy and International Relations, Université Paris Cité, European universities alliance Circle U

Workshop C : Role models for the transformation of the European higher education

By experimenting with deeper forms of cooperation, the European Universities are an "*inspiration n for the wider higher education sector*"⁷. In particular, they are "*models of good practice to further increase the quality, international competitiveness and attractiveness of the European higher education landscape*" based on capacity building and the emergence of a common strategic vision. In this sense, the European Universities are real test beds: they test the ways in which European university cooperation can be deepened, and reveal the benefits that education systems can draw from it.

Thus, the European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe

⁸ states that "*the different types of ongoing collaboration should be increased, and the related outcomes and best practices should be shared in order to inspire the whole higher education sector in Europe, while respecting Member States' competences, academic freedom and HEIs' institutional autonomy*".

In addition to the impact of institutional cooperation on their internal structures, European universities are therefore called upon to act as catalysts for change for their entire sector. By developing joint programmes and common infrastructures, or by seeking to recruit together and offer mobility opportunities to more students, European universities identify bottlenecks and processes that can be replicated elsewhere. By testing the tools of cooperation developed at national and European level, such as a potential legal status facilitating their action or a label that could lead to a European degree, they thus put their experience to the benefit of other forms of university cooperation and of the European Education Area as a whole, in synergy with the European Higher Education Area.

This round table will give the opportunity to the actors of European Universities to present the most appropriate means for the dissemination of their good practices.

They will also be able to present examples of the impact of alliances on national higher education systems. The speakers will address the impact of transnational cooperation carried out by European University alliances at three complementary levels:

- a. For the benefit of European students
- b. For the development of institutional strategies
- c. For the modernisation of national systems of education

Morning session (11:30 am-1pm)

Moderation — **Mathilde Begrand**, Head of the Higher Education Promotion Unit at Erasmus+ agency France

Speakers :

- **Meritxell Chaves**, Coordinator of the European university alliance CHARM
- **Arturas Razbadauskas Alliance**, Rector of the University of Klaipeda, European universities alliance EU-CONEXUS
- **Ana Cristina Perdigão**, Director of the Portuguese National Agency Erasmus+ Education and Training
- **Marcel Vysocky**, Director of the Department of Higher Education Institutions, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
- **Pauline Ravinet**, Policy Officer, Higher Education Unit, DGEAC, European Commission

⁷ [Erasmus+ call of 2022](#)

⁸ [Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe of April 4th 2022](#)

Afternoon session (2pm-3:30pm)

Moderation — **Sébastien Thierry**, interim director, Erasmus+ Agency, France

Speakers :

- **Marilen Gabriel Pirtea**, Rector of West University of Timisoara, European universities alliance UNITA
- **Vladislav Valach**, Director of the Office of International Relations, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, European universities alliance INVEST
- **Ângela Noiva Gonçalves** Deputy Director General of Higher Education, Portugal
- **Marija Filipovic Ozegovic** Director of the Tempus Foundation — Serbian Erasmus+ National Agency

Workshop D: Showcasing Europe's higher education worldwide

The internationalisation of higher education and research is of strategic geopolitical importance for Europe, as highlighted in the European Commission's Communication "[The Global Gateway](#)". As the number of students is expected to continue to grow worldwide in the coming decades, European cooperation of higher education institutions is an asset for the attractiveness of our higher education. In this perspective, the European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe⁹ calls to support joint internationalisation strategies and activities carried out by the alliances, which helps them "*to project themselves internationally, build networks with key partners around the world, strengthen the capacities of partners in third countries and bolster the international (inward and outward) mobility of students, researchers, academics and staff*".

The capacity building provided by European Universities, as well as their outreach capacity, encourages the development of more partnerships and the involvement of third country institutions in the cooperation implemented through the alliances. In this sense, the European Universities are true bridgeheads for all European higher education institutions and enhance global networking. Moreover, they contribute to the emergence of an attractive, more agile and resilient higher education system, capable of adapting effectively to global crises such as the recent covid-19 health crisis or the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.

The internationalisation enabled by European Universities is thus helping to improve the quality of European higher education by attracting talent from around the world and limiting the brain drain. The emergence of an educational offer of excellence at European level, based for example on the success of the Erasmus Mundus Masters and sanctioned by a European diploma, would reinforce this emulation and its positive impact on the skills and knowledge available on the European labour market. The cooperation of public authorities is therefore essential to support the international projection of the alliances and to effectively accompany institutions in their joint internationalisation efforts.

The speakers at this round table will be invited to present examples of joint internationalisation activities and the challenges of the international projection of alliances. They will also be able to put into perspective the means to support their internationalisation efforts, and propose new avenues of reflection.

The following questions may be addressed:

- How can European universities be mobilised to further promote the European higher education offer and what coordinated approaches should be established between European countries?
- How can we support the possible development of the international commitment of European university alliances?

Morning session (11:30 am – 1pm)

Moderation — **Donatienne Hissard**, General Manager, Campus France

Speakers :

- **Stephan Geifes**, Director of the Erasmus+ National Agency for Higher Education, German University Exchange Office (DAAD), Germany

⁹ [Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe of April 4th 2022](#)

- **Michal Uhl**, Director of the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)
- **Kate Vivian**, Acting Director of International Affairs, SciencesPo, European universities alliance CIVICA
- **Vladan Djokic**, Rector, University of Belgrade, Serbia, European universities alliance Circle U
- **Delphine Tessier**, Attaché for Scientific and University Cooperation, Embassy of France in Ireland
- **Lou Grimal**, PhD student at Troyes University of Technology, European universities alliance EUt+, France

Afternoon session (2pm-3:30pm)

Moderation — **Louise Watts**, Head of European Projects, Campus France

Speakers :

- **Ludovic Thilly**, Vice-president for EC2U and european networks, University of Poitiers – Chair of the executive board of the Coimbra group
- **Noor Groenendijk**, Team Leader for Erasmus+ Programme, Nuffic, Netherlands
- **José Aurelio Llana Villanueva**, Director of the Spanish Higher Education Internationalisation Unit, SEPIE, Spain
- **Thomas Baumgartner**, Institutional Coordinator for the European Universities alliance AURORA, University of Innsbruck
- **Antony Tansan Jeyakuma**, Student Representative, European universities alliance Eutopia
- **Moncef Meddeb**, Attaché for Science and Technology, Embassy of France in South Africa

Workshop E: European universities with students' eyes

The European Universities are an initiative dedicated to European students. By developing new learning and exchange experiences, in line with the 50% student mobility target set for them, European Universities contribute to the acquisition of multicultural skills, such as languages, critical thinking and openness to diversity. The 41 alliances selected since 2019 involve almost 20% of students in Europe.

In order to strengthen the sense of belonging to Europe and to give them the means to respond to current and future challenges, European universities are called upon to involve their students more closely in their functioning. In particular, the Erasmus+ Call for Proposals¹⁰ calls that "*students and staff at all levels of the participating organisations are empowered to take an active role in the governance structures of the alliance, where the diversity of the student and staff bodies is reflected*" and that "*students at all levels are empowered to customise their own flexible curricula*". This association contributes to the success of the European Universities initiative, by providing feedback on student experiences and structuring pathways that meet learners' expectations.

Noting the low level of student involvement in this initiative, the "[Manifesto on the Future of Universities in Europe](#)" drawn up by the students of the European Universities Community (EUC) proposes ways of strengthening student participation in European University Alliances, increasing the visibility and impact of these alliances and strengthening their cooperation. The Manifesto identifies five objectives: (1) to develop multicultural and multilingual universities, (2) to develop joint European degrees, (3) to develop international educational mobility in all its forms, (4) to support in-depth reflection on sustainable development policies and (5) to create close cooperation within and between European university alliances.

The speakers at this round table will present their student perspective on the European University Initiative and its future. They will be able to present ways to improve the involvement of students at all levels of the alliances.

The following questions could be addressed:

- How can student interest and involvement in the European University initiative be strengthened?
- What could be the objectives and actions to be implemented in the second phase of the European universities' development, in order to maximise the benefits for their students?

Morning session (11:30 am-1pm)

Moderation: **Juan Rayón** president of the Erasmus student network (ESN) and **Jakub Grodecki**, vice-president of the European students' union (ESU)

Speakers:

- **Safira Nur Allya Ramadhanty**, member of Student Forum, European universities alliance YUFE
- **Malin Arve**, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the "NHH — Norwegian School of Economics", European universities alliance ENGAGE.EU
- **Evelin-Melinda Macho**, Head of Unit, Federal Ministry of Education, Science And Research, Austria

¹⁰ [Erasmus+ call of 2022](#)

Afternoon session (2pm-3:30pm)

Moderation — **Juan Rayón** president of the Erasmus student network (ESN) and **Jakub Grodecki**, vice-president of the European students' union (ESU)

Speakers :

- **Johannes Schuetzenhofer**, chair of EPICUR Student Board, European universities alliance EPICUR
- **Joanne Pagèze**, Vice-President in charge of Internationalisation at the University of Bordeaux, European universities alliance ENLIGHT
- **Apostolis Dimitropoulos**, Secretary General for Higher Education at the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs

Roundtable in plenary session (4pm – 5:30pm): Driving Europe’s global role and leadership

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in line with the Sorbonne speech, wished to support the development of the European Universities Initiative through several axes. The European strategy for strengthening higher education institutions for the future of Europe¹¹, and the recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation¹², adopted on April 5th 2022, recognise the international dimension of European Universities and call for their strengthening in order to stimulate Europe's role and leadership in the world. The Council conclusions call for "*recognising the value of innovative transnational learning experiences and increasing the visibility, attractiveness and reputation, both in Europe and beyond, of such joint programmes provided by alliances of HEIs*". Furthermore, at the [Ministerial Conference for a Global Approach to Research, Innovation and Higher Education on 8 March 2022 in Marseille](#), the European Ministers for Research and Innovation had the opportunity to discuss the international dimension of European University Alliances and to underline their role as ambassadors of the fundamental values and principles of the European Union.

European University Alliances are also a major vehicle for excellence in higher education, research and innovation in the European Union. Indeed, deepening cooperation between European institutions makes them stronger and more visible internationally. Some alliances have chosen a specific geographical approach, targeting for example a cooperation area such as the Mediterranean and Africa. Others have developed ambitious international partnerships, establishing global cooperation frameworks. The alliances thus contribute to the attractiveness of all European institutions to foreign students, researchers and innovators. As evidence of their strong international commitment, these alliances aim to support the creation of multidisciplinary knowledge creation teams involving students, teachers and researchers by 2025 and to accompany the creation of chairs and laboratories with a worldwide reputation. In addition, the opening up of universities to the international arena through programmes such as Erasmus+ or the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions contributes to the international projection of European university alliances. The latter have also demonstrated their ability to support partner countries in their efforts to transform their education, research and innovation systems, in a spirit of cooperation and reciprocity.

Higher education institutions and organisations outside Europe are key players in contributing to the development of the international strategies of European University Alliances. They are indeed real partners in European University projects, and more broadly in research and mobility projects. Moreover, their external view of this particular model of university cooperation can contribute to the reflection on the deepening of alliances.

The speakers at this round table will be asked to consider the following questions

- What lessons can universities outside Europe learn from the successes and challenges of European university alliances? How can these lessons be transferred internationally to facilitate the promotion of higher education cooperation on a global scale?
- How can alliances increase the attractiveness of Europe not only as a study destination, but also as a global partner for cooperation in education, research and innovation?

Moderation - **Matthieu Peyraud** — Director of Culture, Education, Research and Network, Directorate-General for Globalisation, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

¹¹ [Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe of April 4th 2022](#)

¹² [Council Recommendation of 5 April 2022 on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation](#)

Speakers :

- **Vanessa Debiais-Sainton**, Head of Higher Education Unit, DGEAC, European Commission
- **Professor Alberto Barbieri**, Rector of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (*online*)
- **Professor Tawana Kupe**, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Pretoria, South Africa, ARUA (African Research Universities Alliance)
- **Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont**, Director of SEAMEO-RIHED (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation) (*online*)
- **Professor Azzeddine El Midaoui**, President of the Conference of University Presidents of Morocco (*online*)
- **Laurent Bordes**, President of the University of Pau and Adour, European universities alliance UNITA
- **Gregor Majdič**, Rector of the University of Ljubljana, European universities alliance Eutopia
- **David W. Leebron**, President of Rice University, Texas, USA