

Universities, Research & the Future of Europe



PROGRAMME

1 June 2017
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AMERICAS ASIA PACIFIC EMEA

THE GUILD FORUM

12:30 // 13:00 **REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**
@guildEU #FutureofEurope #FP9 #SDGs #research

13.00 // 14.00 **Challenges and Opportunities for the next Framework Programme:
Excellent Science, Widening Participation, and Global Sustainable Development**

WELCOME ADDRESS

Prof. Brian Bech Nielsen - Rector of the University of Aarhus | @AarhusUni

DISCUSSION WITH

Robert-Jan Smits - Director-General for Research and Innovation,
European Commission | @EUScienceInnov

Ole Petter Ottersen - Chair of The Guild | @UniOslo

Jan Palmowski - Secretary-General of The Guild | @janpalmowski

MODERATOR

Maryline Fiaschi - Managing Director, Science|Business | @MarylineFiaschi

14.00 // 15:30 **Research, Innovation and the Citizen: The Added Value of the EU**

DISCUSSION WITH

Eva Åkesson - Rector of Uppsala University | @Eva_Akesson

Anneleen Van Bossuyt - Member of the European Parliament, European Conservatives
and Reformists Group | @anneleen_vb

Janez Potočnik - Prof. emerit. of the University of Ljubljana,
former Commissioner for Science and Research (2004-10) and for the Environment
(2010-14) | @JanezPotocnik22

MODERATOR

Maryline Fiaschi - Managing Director at Science|Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Prof. Ulrike Beisiegel - Rector of the University of Göttingen | @uniGoettingen

15.30 // 16:30 **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

PART II: Members only

16.30 // 18.00 **GUILD WORKSHOPS**

- The Next Framework Programme: Reflections, Ideas, Proposals
- Challenges for Europe's Sustainable Development: Translating the UN's Sustainable Development Goals into priorities for European research
- Talent mobility & internationalisation strategies to compete in a 'global Europe' (led by event sponsor Perrett Laver)

18.00 // 18:45 **PRE-MEETING FOR PRESIDENTS**

18.45 // 20.15 **NETWORKING DINNER**

Address by **Jean-Pierre Bourguignon** - President of the European Research Council | @ERC_Research
Hosted by **Prof. Bernd Engler** - Rector of the University of Tübingen | @uni_tue

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Robert-Jan Smits is Director-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission, which is in charge of defining and implementing European Research and Innovation policy. He was appointed Director-General in 2010 after having, among other things, served as Director for the European Research Area: Research Programmes and Capacity at DG Research (2005-2010), and as Head of Unit for 'Strengthening Cooperation in Research and the European Scientific Base' at DG Research (2002-2005).

Ole Petter Ottersen is Professor of Medicine and Rector of the University of Oslo. He previously coordinated two projects under the EU Framework Programme and served as panel leader for Advanced Grants in the European Research Council from 2008 to 2012. More recently, he led the Lancet Commission that studied the political determinants of global health inequalities. Ole Petter was appointed the first Chair of the Guild in 2016, and in August 2017 he will take up the position of Rector of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

Jan Palmowski became The Guild's first Secretary-General upon its creation on 1 June 2016. A contemporary historian, he started his career at the University of Oxford before moving to King's College London where he taught European politics and EU integration. He was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor at University of Warwick in 2013. His international engagements include membership of the Strategy Commission of the German Science Council (2013-2016), and the Excellence Commission's joint expert group (from 2016).

Eva Åkesson is Professor of Chemical Physics and Rector of Uppsala University – a position she has held since 2012. She has served on numerous boards, including as Chair of the international expert panels for evaluating leadership and governance of education at Helsinki University in 2008 and at Aalto School of Science in 2011. Eva has been engaged with several internationalisation processes and was previously a member of the Swedish Committee of Experts on the implementation of the Bologna process. She has worked extensively on

quality assurance and enhancement of higher education, both nationally and internationally.

Anneleen Van Bossuyt is MEP for the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA) since 2015. She currently serves as a member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee and as a substitute in the Industry, Research and Energy Committee. Anneleen focuses on better regulation, entrepreneurship, the digital internal market, innovation and energy. She is currently shadow rapporteur for the midterm evaluation of Horizon 2020. Anneleen was previously assistant at the European Institute of the Faculty of Law at Ghent University and Chief of the N-VA's Research Department on Europe. In that capacity, she was very closely involved with the Belgian federal government negotiations in 2014.

Janez Potočnik is Professor Emeritus from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana. In 1998, he was appointed Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of Slovenia to the EU. He proceeded to become the Director of the Government Office for European Affairs in 2000, Minister Councillor at the Office of the Prime Minister in 2001, and the designated Minister responsible for European Affairs in 2002. In 2004 Janez joined the European Commission, first as Commissioner for Science and Research (2004-2010), and then as Commissioner for the Environment (2010-2014).

Maryline Fiaschi is Managing Director at Science|Business. Before entering the media business in 2007, she spent six years managing EU education programmes at the European Commission. In addition to leading Science|Business' operations and growth strategy, Maryline is also an external evaluator for several EU Higher Education and Research and Innovation programmes. Maryline holds several degrees, including a degree in European Studies from the University of Louvain and a Masters in History and Italian from the University of Bologna. Her specialties include higher education cooperation, European public affairs and business development.

ABOUT THE GUILD

The Guild is a transformative network of research-led universities from across the European continent, formed to strengthen the voice of universities in Europe, and to lead the way through new forms of collaboration in research, innovation and education. The Guild is distinguished by a commitment to:

EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

For the economic, social and cultural future of Europe, it is critical that we seek to enhance the strengths of universities throughout the continent. The Guild is committed to promoting excellence as the fundamental principle for the allocation of European funding for research and innovation. At the same time, we are committed to develop ways to support the excellence of research and innovation across Europe, through collaboration and structural reforms.

COLLABORATION

The proportion of outstanding universities and research institutions makes Europe unique. Universality and the sharing of knowledge have been a hallmark of universities ever since their creation. It is the universities' capacity for collaboration across small, contiguous spaces and cultures that marks the true potential of European research, innovation and education. We strongly support the value of collaboration in basic and applied research, and emphasise the importance of European funding as an indispensable enabler to maximise this potential.

INNOVATION

Universities have a critical role in the application of new knowledge for the economic, social and cultural benefit of Europe. Universities are a core component of the innovation ecosystem; they have an outstanding track record of working with micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and

of bringing them together in trusted relationships. Moreover, universities develop knowledge in all regions of Europe – within and beyond Europe's economic centres. For all these reasons, we welcome the Commission's commitment to Innovation, and underline the importance of university engagement in the European Innovation Council.

EDUCATION

Only education informed by the latest research can teach students the skills they need as tomorrow's scientists, innovators and critical thinkers. Research-led universities produce the graduates on whom Europe's knowledge economy depends. We also educate Europe's citizens, to enable them to critically engage in public debate, develop an ethical stance, and embrace our cultural and linguistic diversity. As a university network, our commitment to education cannot be separated from our core concerns for research and innovation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Universities are not ends in themselves. We exist for the knowledge we produce, apply and impart. Driven by our public mission to foster the cultural, social and economic well-being of society, we recognise our responsibility to help overcome a growing public disregard for facts and genuine debate. The Guild has been created in the recognition that universities have a particular stake in Europe's legal, economic and cultural future, and that they must help shape it.

Supporting Europe's Societies: Research and Innovation for the Ninth Framework Programme

The European Union provides outstanding added value to research, innovation and education. No other continent, no other group of states has developed such a capacity to bring together the best minds across borders to solve major challenges, create knowledge, and acquire new skills. The budget for research and innovation in the next Framework Programme must be increased to €130bn as the EU must concentrate on those areas where it provides the most added value to Member States. Increased spending on research, innovation and education is essential if we are to strengthen Europe's knowledge economy, enhance citizenship through rational discourse, and engage with the social, cultural and environmental concerns of citizens in innovative ways. Spending on research, innovation and education must concentrate on areas where added value is greatest:

1. Research Excellence

Excellence has been the bedrock of the EU's framework programmes for research and innovation. Through Europe-wide competition for the best ideas, the EU is able to secure a level of international excellence that exceeds that of any national framework, anywhere in the world. This capacity has been built up over successive framework programmes, and it cannot be compromised.

2. Frontier-led Research

Our biggest breakthroughs in knowledge, from the theory of relativity to the discovery of DNA, have come about through frontier-led research. The full impact of these discoveries took decades to be realised. Strengthening Europe's science base through frontier-led research is a critical investment in the quality of research, innovation, and research-led education for decades to come.

The next Framework Programme should build on the success and achievements of the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA). The ERC budget must increase in line with the overall budget. Additional resources should be made available for Proof of Concept calls to enable the best ideas to be translated to innovation.

Funding for the MSCA should increase in absolute and relative terms, as it combines excellence and international experience for Europe's top young researchers. An increase in the budget of ERC and MSCA would prevent the success rates of these highly popular schemes from dropping to unacceptably low levels, guaranteeing their attractiveness and continued success.

To encourage national institutions to benefit from the experience of researchers who have gained international experience abroad, we would welcome the introduction of returning grants. This would foster the internationalisation of our research cultures. Since citation rates tend to be highest for international researchers returning to their national systems, it would also enhance research excellence.

3. Addressing the core challenges of Europe's societies

Europe's states have recognised that they face common challenges framed by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As individual nations have begun to formulate their own action plans there is a particular role for the EU in spearheading a unified approach to tackle the fundamental challenges that affect all Europeans. By addressing the SDGs through its research and innovation policy the EU will enhance its role as a global actor, and relate its mission to the core concerns of its citizens. Research, innovation and education help drive the EU's concern for our sustainable development. Enhanced spending

on collaborative, mission-oriented research is needed to support not only growth and job creation, but also to strengthen the physical, social and cultural well-being of European citizens:

- The Guild supports mission-oriented call topics that have the development of knowledge and solutions to address the challenges that relate to Europe's sustainable development as their starting point.
- The Guild suggests introducing a new action type that places research at the centre of the project, alongside support in the form of research and innovation actions (RIA), innovation actions (IA) and coordination and support actions (CSA).
- 30% of all mission-driven calls should be bottom-up calls to enable researchers to develop outstanding proposals within and across Work Programmes to address the SDGs.
- The SDGs encompass fundamental environmental, social, economic and political concerns, and require interdisciplinary solutions, calling on contributions from all fields of knowledge. Societal challenges cannot be addressed in a comprehensive way unless missions are also defined through approaches in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

In addressing Europe's sustainability challenges, we must frame our research, education and innovation in ways that engage wider society and relevant actors (including the public sector, NGOs, industry and SMEs). Our work must serve to reinforce social cohesion and the trust that citizens have in universities and public institutions, as well as the ethics of rational enquiry and truth-seeking.

4. Closing the Participation Gap Between Higher and Lower Performing Countries

It is critical to the EU and to the strength of its scientific community that the gap between higher and lower performing regions in research and innovation is overcome. For this to happen, all Member States must fulfil their commitment to spend at least 3% of their GDP on research and innovation. The institutional autonomy of universities must be strengthened wherever possible, and the openness of national systems to international collaboration ensured. Further to these national priorities, the EU must ensure that the participation gap between advanced and lower performing regions in the next Framework Programme narrows. This should be done in three ways:

- a. Improving the Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence Actions. These actions were introduced in Horizon 2020, and they must be developed further to ensure that they truly embed excellence in institutions of lower-performing regions. For instance:
 - The focus on research excellence must be further strengthened in the Teaming and Twinning actions.
 - Teaming actions should foster the development of projects within existing institutions.
 - More European Research Area (ERA) Chairs are needed to achieve real impact on the institutional culture of the hosting institution.
- b. Ensuring other funding is leveraged to optimal effect, for instance:
 - Synergies with Structural Funds must be improved significantly, not least through the funding of proposals awarded the 'Seal of Excellence'. To enable this, funding for research and innovation through the structural funds should be increased.
 - Structural Funds should be further used to complement all Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence Actions.
 - Further initiatives to leverage FP9 funding should be tested and mainstreamed, such as the innovative ways of funding ERC grants for participants from lower performing regions through the Norway/EEA grants.
- c. Addressing current structural barriers to collaboration and participation in lower performing regions. Whilst the EU cannot (and should not) compensate fully for differences in national salary levels, greater flexibility in applying the remuneration rules that enables all countries to attract outstanding researchers must be found.

5. Innovation

Besides fostering basic research that produces knowledge for the creation of innovations, universities are curators for open innovation and educators of future entrepreneurs. It is critical that the European Innovation Council (EIC) engages with universities as a quintessential part of the innovation ecosystem and provides support for quadruple helix collaboration between academia, the public sector, industry and civil participants. Support for the strengthening of innovation ecosystems would boost the capacity of universities in acting as motors for disruptive innovation.

It is important that the EIC complements the work of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), and that it can address the 'valley of death' in bringing products from invention to market. The EIC could have a particularly important role in supporting funding for close-to-market innovation through the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI). The EIC should also be attentive to the most successful innovation projects that emerge out of the ERC's Proof of Concept projects, to ensure that these receive further support where necessary.

6. Simplification

FP9 should build on the progress made under Horizon 2020 towards simplification, reducing fragmentation between programmes and increasing transparency in the formulation of the Work Programmes. The most urgent need for simplification in the future lies in the coordination of synergies between FP9 and other funding programmes of the EU. Harmonised rules of participation between the Framework Programme and Structural Funds would be a step forward in achieving feasible and realistic opportunities for combining support from both funds.

The Guild welcomes further steps to make different action types more understandable from a participant's perspective. Finding information about different instruments could be further facilitated by having the Participant Portal cover all funding programmes for research and innovation regardless of their managing authority. Further simplification in managing the grants could be achieved by accepting more national accounting measures and standards.

Finally, a critical area for simplification consists of a better management of applications through the wider introduction of a two-stage applications process, with the success rate for projects in the second round being around 30%. This would significantly reduce the time and resources used for the preparation of applications.

7. Open to the World – International Collaboration

European research must involve collaboration with the best minds all around the world. The excellence of European research and innovation is significantly enhanced through international collaboration. FP9 should be ambitious in addressing common challenges through global partnerships, strengthening joint capacities to fight global crises (such as epidemics), and in building up intellectual and cultural connections beyond Europe. We need a new Framework Programme that is genuinely 'Open to the World', based on principles of genuine collaboration, capacity-building, and the mutual pursuit of excellence. The Guild makes the following suggestions for international collaboration in FP9:

- In addressing societal challenges and finding solutions that relate to the SDGs, we advocate for closer synergies between the Development Cooperation instrument and the next Framework Programme.
- The Guild calls for an Increased number of joint research partnerships worldwide, ideally with a shared budget agreed for the participating partners.

It is critical for the Commission to lead in removing practical obstacles to collaboration, including greater flexibility on intellectual property rules and more appropriate audit requirements.

Sustainability Goals for Europe's Societies:

Research and Innovation for better and longer lives

After subscribing to the UN's seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which the world's nations intend to address by 2030, each country now needs to assess which SDGs are particularly pressing in their particular circumstances, and how they need to be addressed. We need to identify the key challenges facing Europeans together by discussing which areas of Europe's sustainable development can best be tackled together, at the European level. And in identifying the specific issues facing European societies, we can better take into account how Europe can work with other countries and regions to meet common challenges. The next Framework Programme is the opportunity to raise the aspirations for European Research and Innovation, and through its challenge-driven research address our most acute concerns regarding Europe's sustainable development in their complexity and interconnectedness.

For challenge-driven research, we propose to reframe the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals into a small number of headline challenges that capture the most pressing problems of Europe's societies. For this to be effective, the process of articulating Europe's challenges is as important as the outcome, as there must be widespread opportunities for input. In seeing how one might ensure that the SDGs form a framework that is relevant to European researchers and citizens alike, we make the following assumptions:

- The SDGs relate to the most fundamental human concerns, and require all knowledge for their effective realisation. They require interdisciplinary collaboration which draws on the best research from all subjects, including the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).
- In determining the headline goals for research and innovation, their link to the SDGs must always be clear. Some SDGs relate to more than one theme, and the thematic areas of the EU's goals for research and innovation will have areas of overlap and possible tension.
- As the themes will be essentially broad, the Commission will have significant leverage in defining Work Programmes: this allows the Commission to respond to events or crises, but it also heightens the need for effective and transparent stakeholder consultation in formulating Work Programmes.
- Europe's challenges are complex, and the next Framework Programme must embrace this complexity in its challenge-driven research, without recourse to simplistic impact targets. Instead, we underline the importance of the effective communication and dissemination of our work to relevant audiences, to maximise the circulation of ideas. Indeed, linking research and innovation to the SDGs provides the opportunity to articulate fundamental scientific problems and solutions so

that their significance is widely understood, and wider audiences can be engaged with.

The current Societal Challenges defined in Horizon 2020, which contain strong references to sustainability, form a good basis for formulating our future priorities. We should take the current themes as our starting point, and reformulate these so that they can evolve in the following ways:

The current link to the Europe 2020 agenda must be replaced by a focus on the SDGs. The link between each Societal Challenge (or its successor) and the SDGs must be clear. This must entail a new appreciation of the complexity of the problems we must examine: for instance, we must find ways to improve not only health, but also the quality of life; we must not only foster inclusiveness, but also find ways to recognise and respond to concerns about loss of cohesion and identity; we must seek economic growth, but must also understand how this can be managed with regard to the sustainability of our environment.

- A fundamental omission of the Societal Challenges in H2020 has been its lack of reference to the fundamental values of the EU: 'human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights' (Art. 1a, Treaty on European Union, EU). Within and beyond Europe, institutional trust has eroded, citizens are weary of established politics and public institutions, and the spread of 'alternative facts' has begun to erode evidence-based discourse. These elements threaten fundamental European values. We must fund research that understands and responds to these phenomena directly. We must also ensure that the importance of the headline goals of challenge-driven research, and how it helps address some real concerns of citizens, are widely understood and appreciated, to bolster trust in the EU's critical role in research, education and innovation.
- In the attempt to support the Europe 2020 goals, the Societal Challenges in H2020 in effect privileged some fields over others; this is supported by analysis of SSH integration produced by the Commission. To ensure that interdisciplinary approaches to address the SDGs draw on the strengths of all disciplines, the practice of writing Work Programmes and evaluating applications needs to be changed to such an extent that truly interdisciplinary approaches based on excellence can flourish – we need new knowledge produced by our best minds, to address the SDGs, from all our disciplines.
- At least 30% of collaborative ideas on how to address the SDGs should be bottom-up, to provide opportunities to develop ideas and solutions across the Challenges.

To address the key challenges for Europe's sustainable development effectively, we must engage not just our researchers and innovators, but also our students. Sustainability should be built into how we teach our subjects. We need to further support our students' engagement in sustainable development through transferrable skills education, and the support of student societies and volunteering activities.

Universities can make a fundamental and agenda-setting contribution to re-building the social cohesion of the peoples of Europe. To do this, they must work with NGOs, Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises, as well as the public sector, in order to find creative solutions based on our different perspectives, and apply them based on our different abilities. Universities are at the heart of our intellectual, social, economic and cultural fabric. It is through public engagement with relevant actors that new ideas are most effectively circulated and discussed, new solutions are developed in unanticipated ways, and impact is maximised beyond measure.

As the world around us changes at an accelerating pace, we need new research to leverage evolving approaches to economic development, advances in (and access to) healthcare, social cohesion, and trust in the efficacy of public institutions. These challenges will manifest differently throughout Europe – but they must be addressed at the European level where the European value-add is clear. Climate change, (mis-)uses of data, and the need to enhance our knowledge economy are without boundaries. They require the collaboration of Europe's best minds to create knowledge and communicate it effectively. In articulating the fundamental concerns of our societies and identifying how research can help address these, we are also contributing to a wider vision of what the EU should be. We look forward to engaging more widely in the debate over the next months to come, within and beyond our universities.

The Societal Challenges of Horizon 2020

(Budget: € 28.630 billion, 38.3% of total Horizon 2020 budget)

1. **Health, demographic change and well-being** (€7.257bn)
2. **Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and in-land water research, and the bioeconomy** (€3.708 bn)
3. **Secure, clean and efficient energy** (€5.688bn)
4. **Smart, green and integrated transport** (€6.149bn)
5. **Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials** (€2.957bn)
6. **Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies** (€1.259bn)
7. **Secure societies - protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens** (€1.613bn)

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals



<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

OUR NETWORK

Aarhus University was founded in 1928 and today, it is a globally oriented, academically diverse and research-intensive institution with four faculties: Arts, Aarhus BSS, Health, and Science and Technology. Two researchers from the university have been awarded the Nobel Prize, while a large number of AU researchers have also received several highly-coveted research awards and grants. The university, which *Times Higher Education* has ranked within the World's top 100 universities, strives to combine the high level of academic standards of its researchers with collaboration across disciplinary boundaries.

The University of Bologna, founded in 1088, was the first university and is the oldest in the world. It was the first place of study to use the term *universitas* for the corporations of students and masters which came to define the institution. As of 2013, the university's crest carries the motto *Alma mater studiorum* and the date A.D. 1088. The university has about 85,500 students in its 11 schools. It also has a school of excellence named *Collegio Superiore di Bologna*. In the 2016-17, the World University Rankings the University of Bologna was ranked in the world's top 250 universities.

Founded in 1817, **Ghent University** is currently ranked 62nd in the World (and number one in Belgium) in the Academic Ranking of World Universities. The university has pioneered developments in material sciences such as smart textiles, high performing composites, and cutting-edge concrete, but also scientific discoveries in plant biotechnology (e.g. pioneering researchers as Van Montagu, Fiers, and Schell) and in medicine (e.g. first lung transplant, world-class research in immunology and cell death). Ghent University furthermore provides policy advice based on excellent scholarship in areas such as ECTS, human rights, trans-Atlantic trade, EU institutional reform and immigration issues.

Founded in 1451, **University of Glasgow** is the fourth oldest university in the UK, and in the top 1% of the world's universities. As a member of the prestigious Russell Group of leading UK

research universities, Glasgow welcomes students from more than 140 countries worldwide. With an annual research income that exceeds £200 million, the university is recognised internationally for its wide-ranging and ground-breaking research, which not only pushes scientific boundaries, but also benefits industry, society and the environment. Glasgow has exceptional expertise in infectious diseases, clinical medicine, cancer studies, veterinary medicine, accounting and finance, future cities, urban studies, digital humanities, global security, human rights, engineering and sustainable development.

Founded in 1737, the **University of Göttingen** is a research university with strong focuses in research-oriented teaching. It is distinguished by the rich diversity of its subject spectrum in the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, with research foci in neurosciences, biophysical methods, imaging, and religious sciences. In 2003, the University of Göttingen became the first German university with a comprehensive range of disciplines to assume the legal status of a foundation under public law. The University and the University Medical Center form a strong partnership on the Göttingen Campus with five Max Planck institutes, the German Primate Center, the German Aerospace Center as well as the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Innovative, research-drive and rooted in the number-one knowledge hub of the Northern Netherlands, the **University of Groningen** is an internationally oriented university with 30,000 students. The University of Groningen has a strong international reputation for its research, bolstered most recently by the award of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Ben Feringa in 2016. The Zernike Institute of Advanced Materials is one of the top research schools in the Netherlands. Their investment in international interdisciplinary research has resulted in highly esteemed research institutes and groups such as the European Research Institute for the Biology

of Ageing, the Centre for Synthetic Biology and the Willem Barentsz Polar Institute.

Jagiellonian University in Kraków, founded in 1364, is Poland's oldest and one of its best universities. In addition to excellence in education and science, it actively promotes innovation and technology transfer. It has been listed at the first position in the Nature Index 2016 Rising Stars among 25 leading universities in Central-Eastern Europe and among Europe's Most Innovative Universities – REUTERS TOP 100 as the only university from Poland and from Eastern Europe. At the junction of fundamental and applied science stands its unique National Center for Electromagnetic Radiation SOLARIS, equipped with the world's most advanced synchrotron facility.

King's College London is one of the World's top 25 universities. Its outstanding strengths include Health (with Dentistry and Pharmacology ranked in the top five globally), the Social Sciences, Law, and the Arts and Humanities. King's College London is a founding member of the Francis Crick Institute in London. The King's Policy Institute, and the King's Cultural Institute, have been at the forefront of public engagement in London.

Founded 1919, the **University of Ljubljana** is Slovenia's foremost comprehensive university, comprising over 40,000 students. The University of Ljubljana has been distinguished by outstanding funding success in the seventh Framework Programme and Horizon 2020. It is actively engaged in a number of flagship projects through the European Strategy Forum of Research Infrastructures, including the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (DARIAH.EU) and the European Social Survey (ESS-ERIC). The University has pioneered ground-breaking research, including the first empirical verification that the Zika virus causes damage to foetal brains, and a prototype of a regenerative elastocaloric heat pump, which can replace vapour compression based cooling systems (developed with the Danish Technical University).

Founded in 1425, the **University of Louvain** is one of Europe's oldest universities, with 30,850 students. It is among the top 5 comprehensive French-speaking universities in the world. With 1 Nobel Prize, 21 Francqui Prizes, 30 ERC Grants and numerous international awards, teaching at the University of Louvain is based on outstanding research and innovation, with numerous applications for society (62 active spin-offs and 343 enterprises in the scientific park and 4 incubators of the University). The University also received the ECTS label, an EU recognition of the quality of its management of international exchanges.

Founded in 1811, the **University of Oslo** (UiO) is Norway's leading university and consistently ranked in the top 1% of the world's universities (67th in the 2016 AR-WU/Shanghai ranking). UiO has a strong focus on interdisciplinary research, particularly in the university's strategic initiatives on life sciences, energy and the Nordic model. UiO has approximately 200 research projects funded by EU framework programmes, more than half of all Norwegian ERC grants, and coordinates ten national Centers of Excellence. In 2015, UiO researchers contributed to research trials of a new Ebola vaccine, new cancer treatments and new understanding of coeliac disease. UiO has fostered five Nobel Prize Laureates and has a strong record of pioneering research and scientific discovery. Inven2, UiO's technology transfer office, is the largest contributor to commercialization of research in the Nordic region.

Consistently ranked as one of France's best universities, **University of Paris Diderot** was established in 1970, after the splitting of the Sorbonne. Located next to the French National Library, Paris Diderot is a multidisciplinary university comprising 28,000 students (20% international students). Its research strengths include Area Studies (Far Eastern Asia, Anglophone Worlds), Psychoanalysis, Mathematics (Arturo Avila, 2014 Fields Medal), Astrophysics (it contributed to establishing the existence of gravitational waves in 2016), Biology (bioinformatics, genetics) and Medicine (Jean Dausset, Nobel Prize in 1980). Paris Diderot has pledged itself to be a leader in public engagement; its community is frequently approached by the French government for its expertise in social and political issues.

Radboud University, founded in 1923, is a broad, internationally oriented research university. The Humanities, Natural Sciences, Behavioural and Social Sciences, and Medical Sciences all have their state of the art facilities at the green campus in Nijmegen. Radboud University has proven to be very successful in acquiring research grants, both internationally with 69 ERC grants, and nationally, by taking a quarter of all Gravitation grants and twenty percent of all Spinoza grants, the most prestigious research grants in the Netherlands. Radboud University has been awarded the title 'best comprehensive university' in the Netherlands in the last five consecutive years, offering excellent small-scale education to students from over 90 countries.

Originally founded as Scandinavia's second university by the Swedish King Gustaph Adolphus in 1632, the **University of Tartu** is today Estonia's national university. It has recorded outstanding success in attracting national and international research funding, including in Horizon 2020, and through the Framework Programme. World-leading research conducted in the University includes the Estonian Genome Center, a biobank of unique richness and representativeness of Estonia's population. The University is also linked with a number of successful start-ups, including the global online and money exchange service TransferWise founded by Kristo Käärmann, a graduate in Computer Science.

Innovative. Interdisciplinary. International. Since 1477. These have been the **University of Tübingen's** guiding principles in research and teaching ever since it was founded. With this long tradition, the University of Tübingen is one of the most respected universities in Germany. In 2012, its Institutional Strategy was successfully selected for funding in the Excellence Initiative of the German Federal and State Governments, making Tübingen one of Germany's eleven universities distinguished with that title of excellence. Tübingen has also proven its status as a leading university in many national and international competitions – in key rankings Tübingen is listed among the best universities for the Humanities and Social Sciences as well as for Science and Medicine.

Uppsala University ranks among the top 100 universities in the world. Their internationally prominent position is strengthened by their continuing change and ability to forge new paths. The mission is to gain and disseminate knowledge for a better world. Uppsala University is the first university in Sweden, founded in 1477, with a living cultural environment, extraordinary student life and 40,000 students. The University is characterised by diversity and breadth, with international frontline research, cross-disciplinary cooperation at nine faculties and limitless educational offerings at Bachelor's and Master's levels, including 50 international Masters programmes.

Open to new ideas. Since 1365. As a research university with high international visibility and a wide range of degree programmes, the **University of Vienna** is committed to basic research, and is open to applied and research-led teaching. It supports the career development of young researchers, and engages in dialogue with economy and society. Because of its scientific breadth the University of Vienna provides excellent opportunities for interdisciplinary research and teaching. The University of Vienna is one of the oldest and largest universities in Europe. About 9,600 employees, 6,800 of whom are academic employees, work at 19 faculties and centres. This makes the University of Vienna Austria's largest research and education institution. The University of Vienna puts priority on the European Research Area has had important success in obtaining European funding, including ERC.

Founded in 1965, the **University of Warwick** is one of the UK's most dynamic and innovative universities, ranking 7th in the UK and 51st in the world. Warwick has an outstanding reputation for its links with industry, notably WMG's (Warwick Manufacturing Group) relationship with the automotive sector, and the excellence of its teaching. The Economist ranked Warwick Business School's full-time MBA best in the UK, while the Financial Times rated the Distance Learning MBA second in the world and first in the UK. Warwick is proud of its record of bringing researchers, business and policymakers together at regional, national and international levels, with the Warwick Brussels Office playing a key role.



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