# Deliberable D11.1 – TORCH: Annual Open Forum 2 Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Acronym</th>
<th>TORCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Agreement</td>
<td>101017229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Transforming Open Responsible Research and Innovation through CHARM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>University of Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortium</td>
<td>University of Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utrecht University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Montpellier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eötvös Loránd University Budapest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch">https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>D11.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of Deliverable</td>
<td>Annual Open Forum 2 Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Package</td>
<td>WP11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Package Leader</td>
<td>Prof. Gemma Marfany (Rector’s Delegate for Scientific Dissemination, Faculty of Biology, UB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliverable Type</td>
<td>Report (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination Level</td>
<td>Public (PU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License</td>
<td>CC BY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Version</td>
<td>V5 (FINAL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due Date</td>
<td>March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission Date</td>
<td>30 March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors (Main Beneficiary)</td>
<td>University of Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contributors</td>
<td>All Consortium Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101017229
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision No</th>
<th>Prepared By</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-03-2023</td>
<td>V1</td>
<td>Gemma Marfany (UB), Jaime Llorca (UB)</td>
<td>Document index and structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-03-2023</td>
<td>V2</td>
<td>Mária Szulovszky (ELTE), Pia Le Grand (ÅAU),</td>
<td>Rapporteurs Input.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jenny Kirkwood (TCD), Kirsten Hollaender (UU),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Veronika Peciarova (UM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-03-2023</td>
<td>V3</td>
<td>Project Management Team</td>
<td>PMT approval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-03-2023</td>
<td>V4</td>
<td>Vice Rectors Committee</td>
<td>VRs approval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-03-2023</td>
<td>V5</td>
<td>Jaime Llorca (UB)</td>
<td>Final version.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: ANNUAL OPEN FORUM 2 REPORT** ................................................................. 5  
1. **INTRODUCTION & FORUM OBJECTIVES** ....................................................................................... 7 
   - Concept Note .................................................................................................................................. 7 
   - Promotion & Dissemination ............................................................................................................ 8 
   - Participation .................................................................................................................................... 9 
   - Organizing Committee .................................................................................................................. 10 
   - This Report .................................................................................................................................... 10  
2. **FORUM PROGRAMME** .................................................................................................................... 11 
3. **FORUM DEBRIEF** ............................................................................................................................. 15 
   - 3.1 Opening Ceremony ................................................................................................................. 15 
   - 3.2 Plenary Session. ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities .................................................................................................................. 17 
   - 3.3 Panel Session. The European Perspective on the Reform of Research Assessment ............... 25 
   - 3.4 TORCH Clusters. Progress on joint R&I Strategies in European University Alliances.............. 29 
     - Cluster 1: New approaches for Diverse Academic Careers ..................................................... 29 
     - Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities .................................................. 34 
     - Cluster 3: Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges .......... 37 
   - 3.5 Panel Session. University with and for Society: Promoting Citizen Science within Open Science .................................................................................................................. 42 
   - 3.6 Closure ..................................................................................................................................... 48 
4. **OUTCOME & CONCLUSIONS** ........................................................................................................... 49 
   - ANNEX I: PUBLIC PROGRAMME AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL ............................................. 52 
   - ANNEX II: PRESENTATIONS .............................................................................................................. 55
LIST OF FIGURES & TABLES

Figure 1. Open Ceremony. 16
Figure 2. Plenary Session. ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I cooperation between European universities. 24
Figure 3. Panel Session. The European perspective on the reform of research assessment. 27
Figure 4. TORCH Cluster 1: New Approaches for Diverse Academic Careers. 33
Figure 5. TORCH Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities. 36
Figure 6. TORCH Cluster 3: Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges. 42
Figure 7. Panel Session. University with and for Society: Promoting Citizen Science within Open Science. 46
Figure 8. Closure. 48
Table 1. TORCH Open Forum number of participants. 9
Table 2. TORCH 2nd Open Forum participation (online and in-person). 49
Table 3. TORCH 2nd Open Forum social media engagement. 50
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: ANNUAL OPEN FORUM 2 REPORT

The second TORCH Open Forum, under the title ‘Sharing Common R&I Policies and Strategies: Strengthening Collaboration Towards a Transformational Approach’, was held on March 8, 2023, hosted by Trinity College Dublin.

The meeting was addressed to multiple relevant collectives: university Rectors and Vice Rectors, academic and technical staff, as well as any actors engaged in R&I activities and universities’ collaboration. It was also relevant for policymakers, as the European Commission’s perspective was included. More than 120 participants attended the different sessions (online and/or in person), in which 61 chairs, speakers and rapporteurs took part representing several European and national organizations as well as 15 European University Alliances.

The event encouraged reflection on the Alliance’s shared common R&I policies and strategies, discussed pioneering initiatives of universities regarding transdisciplinary and challenge-driven research, and provided the possibility to share results and achievements related to five key R&I areas:

1. Working towards reforming research assessment.
2. Fostering equality, diversity and inclusivity.
4. Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges.
5. Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities.

The Plenary Session on the ‘ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities’ brought together a diverse panel of speakers who discussed the role of the Alliances as innovative living labs within the ERA’s framework. Representatives of different entities shared their views on the Policy Agenda, such as the Coimbra Group, the European University Association, and Science Europe. Links and intersections between the different actions included in the Agenda were highlighted and the (potential) activities of Alliances were also discussed.

The Panel Session on ‘The European perspective on the reform of research assessment’ presented the latest approaches and progress on the revision of the evaluation systems for research institutions, researchers, and funding agencies. All the participants agreed on the need to reform research assessment, such process being a priority for the new European Research Area. The roadmap established by the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) was discussed, including the European Commission’s (DG RTD) perspective.

The TORCH Cluster Sessions (‘Progress on joint R&I strategies in European University Alliances’) served the purpose of exchanging experiences and practices among several Alliances:
· Cluster 1: ‘New approaches for diverse academic careers’. Six Alliances (CHARM-EU, ARQUIS, FORTHEM, YUFE, CIVIS, and EPICUR) shared their progress and plans to promote Open Science and Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity, as well as presented some specific actions and strategies on reforming research assessment.

· Cluster 2: ‘Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities’. Eight examples of initiatives to build collaborative frameworks for joint and shared R&I-related activities were shared by FORTHEM, EELISA, SEA-EU, UNIC, ECIU, CIVIS, and CHARM-EU.

· Cluster 3: ‘Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges’. Good practices and strategies on exploring joint transdisciplinary, challenge-driven research were discussed by representatives of CHARM-EU, EC2U, FilmEU, Circle U, CIVICA, Una Europa, and FORTHEM.

The Panel Session ‘University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science’ brought together representatives of different universities to discuss their institutional plans and support systems to foster Citizen Science.

This report constitutes TORCH’s deliverable D11.1, and contains the Forum Agenda, followed by a debriefing of the meeting sessions, as well as the main outcomes and conclusions. All presentations used during the meeting are collected in Annex II.
1. INTRODUCTION & FORUM OBJECTIVES

CHARM-EU represents a Challenge-Driven, Accessible, Research-based and Mobile model for the co-creation of a European University aligned with the European Values and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is an initiative founded by five research-based universities (University of Barcelona – UB, Trinity College Dublin – TCD, Utrecht University – UU, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest – ELTE, and University of Montpellier – UM), which has recently grown with four new partners (Åbo Akademi University – ÅAU, Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg, – JMU, Hochschule Ruhr West – HRW, and University of Bergen – UiB).

The TORCH Project enhances CHARM-EU’s academic and research networks, as it builds up the R&I dimension of CHARM-EU, promoting a challenge-driven transformative agenda with a transdisciplinary and intercultural vision, laying its foundation in three Cross Cutting Principles of RRI: Interdisciplinarity, Gendered Innovation, Ethics and Integrity; and four Transformational Modules: Common R&I Agenda, Cooperation with Non-Academic Actors, Open Science Practices, Citizen Science and Public Engagement.

Concept Note

The second TORCH Annual Forum was entitled “Sharing Common R&I Policies and Strategies: Strengthening Collaborations Towards a Transformational Approach”. The hybrid event (hosted by Trinity College Dublin) was open to stakeholders engaged in research and innovation as well as university-industry-citizen collaboration.

Within its Research & Innovation dimension (TORCH), the CHARM-EU Alliance is developing its challenge-driven transformative R&I agenda based on a transdisciplinary and intercultural vision to solve complex societal challenges. The TORCH Forum provided the possibility to share results and achievements related to the project and discuss them together with stakeholders, other European University Alliances and Research Performing Organizations. The meeting focused on five key R&I areas:

1. Working towards reforming research assessment.
2. Fostering equality, diversity and inclusivity.
4. Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges.
5. Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities.

The event encouraged reflection on the Alliance’s shared common R&I policies and strategies, discussed pioneering initiatives of universities regarding responsible research and innovation (RRI), and uncovered legal, financial and regulatory barriers to Alliances’ collaborative endeavors. It also
included the outlook of the European Commission and stakeholders interested in research and innovation and university-industry-citizen collaboration.

Exploring synergies and sharing best practices with other European University Alliances that are addressing the same challenges facilitates all HEIs to support innovative solutions and progress in their respective common science agendas. Such sharing of knowledge also supports the values of the ERA policy agenda\(^1\), which lays out a number of priority actions for that period, some of which provide a framework to strengthen future cooperation among Alliances, namely: Action 13 (“Empower Higher Education Institutions to develop in line with the ERA, and in synergy with the European Education Area”), and Action 17 (“Enhance the strategic capacity of Europe’s public research performing organizations”).

Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities involves not only developing aligned policies and transformative actions on strategic areas (research assessment; equality, diversity and inclusivity; Open Science; inter- and transdisciplinary challenge-driven research), but also establishing mutually beneficial partnerships to efficiently share knowledge and competences, exploring efficient governance models that facilitate the sharing of resources and capacities, the streamlining of administrative processes to support research activities, the creation of joint structures, and the establishment of mutual recognition agreements. The European Council and Commission encourage deeper cooperation and the pooling of knowledge and resources to deepen cooperation between HEIs, and invite the Member States to remove obstacles to more compatible higher education systems\(^2\). This provides a framework for a more effective transnational cooperation structure, by which interconnected HEIs are better ready to fulfil all their missions and tackle the great societal challenges. Furthermore, it opens up an “opportunity for HEIs to explore the necessity, benefits, risks and feasibility of setting up institutionalized cooperation instruments, such as a possible legal status for Alliances”\(^3\).

**Promotion & Dissemination**

The 2\(^{nd}\) TORCH Annual Forum was open and publicized through different means and communication channels in order to reach the relevant target audience and maximize the number of participants.

In terms of internal dissemination within the CHARM-EU and TORCH communities, the event was shared via email with the whole community (=500 people) involved in the CHARM-EU Alliance and


its educational and/or research projects (scientific and technical staff, teachers and researchers participating in diverse related activities). The event was included in the highlights section of the of the 2023 February edition of CHARM-EU Newsletter (sent out to ≈1000 subscribers). In addition, all CHARM-EU partner universities distributed the invitation internally among their respective communities.

A specific webpage was created for the event within the official CHARM-EU website including information on the context, programme, registration and practical matters. Specific promotional material was designed to announce the Forum (see posters in Annex I). Registration was managed through the CHARM-EU website.

Following the CHARM-EU and TORCH communication and dissemination strategies and in order to maximize participation and impact, the event was also promoted on social media via different official channels of the Alliance (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram) as well as its partner institutions⁴.

The event was also featured in the 2023 February edition of the Coimbra Newsletter and was shared on the social media accounts of other European University Alliances and organizations with relevant audience such as the European University Association or Campus engage⁵.

**Participation**

The TORCH Forum was addressed to universities leadership, researchers and innovators, European University Alliances staff, and any actors engaged in R&I activities and management. It was also relevant for policymakers, as the European Commission’s perspective was included. The number of participants is shown in Table 1⁶.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>Individual registrations prior to the event</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Participants in Cluster 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Individual in-person registrations</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Participants in Cluster 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Female Chairs/Speakers/Rapporteurs</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Participants in Cluster 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Male Chairs/Speakers/Rapporteurs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁴ For the detailed social media campaign on the CHARM-EU channels (with data about the number of impressions/people reached until March 14, 2023), see Section 4. Outcome & Conclusions.
⁵ See examples in Annex I.
⁶ See footnote 4 for details on online/in-person engagement.
Organizing Committee

The Forum was organized by TORCH staff in close collaboration with the TORCH WPs Leaders. The Forum Organizing Committee is as follows (in alphabetical order):

· Doris Alexander (Associate Director of European Engagement, TCD).
· Brian Broderick (Associate Dean of Research, TCD).
· Siobhán Callaghan (Research Fellow, TCD).
· Meritxell Chaves (Secretary General, CHARM-EU).
· Daniel Griffin (CHARM-EU Teaching Fellow, TCD).
· Kirsten Hollaender (Project Manager, UU).
· Jenny Kirkwood (Administrative Officer, TCD).
· Pia Le Grand (Head of International Cooperation, ÅAU).
· Jaime Llorca (Project Manager, UB).
· Gemma Marfany (Rector’s Delegate for Scientific Dissemination, UB).
· Veronika Peciarova (Project Manager, UM).
· Conor Spillane (Project Manager, TCD).
· Mária Szulovszky (Communications Coordinator, ELTE).

This Report

This report constitutes TORCH’s deliverable D11.1, and contains the Forum Agenda, followed by a debrief of all sessions and presentations, as well as the main conclusions drawn from the discussion. All presentations (ppt) showed during the event are collected in Annex II. The report is to be published in the Project’s website and distributed among the fellow University Alliances and any other interested stakeholders.
2. FORUM PROGRAMME


Venue: Regent House, Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2.

Format: In-person (+ hybrid).

9:00 – 9:30 | Registration

9:30 – 10:00 | Opening Ceremony

Presenter: JENNIFER DALY, Office of the Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin.

Speakers:
· LINDA DOYLE. Provost and President, Trinity College Dublin.
· JORDI GARCIA. Vice Rector for Research, University of Barcelona.
· KATE MORRIS. Head of Campus Engage, Irish Universities Association.

10:00 – 11:15 | Plenary Session | ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities

Chair: MERITXELL CHAVES. Secretary General, CHARM-EU.

Speakers:
· ADRIEN BRAEM. Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe. *Science Europe’s perspective on the new European Research Area.*
· GARETH O’NEILL. Principal Consultant on Open Science, Technopolis Group. *European Universities and Areas of Institutional Change.*
· EMMANUELLE GARDAN. Director of Coimbra Group. *Coimbra Group’s perspective on the new European Research Area.*
· STEPHANE BERGHMANS. Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association. *EUA’s perspective on the new European Research Area.*

Rapporteur: MÁRIA SZULOVSZKY. Communications Coordinator, Eötvös Loránd University.

11:15 – 11:30 | Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30 | Panel Session | The European Perspective on the Reform of Research Assessment

Chair: REKO LEINO. Vice Rector for Research, Åbo Akademi University.

Speakers:


· TERESA MAGUIRE. Director of Research Strategy & Funding, Irish Health Research Board. Reform of Research Assessment - Research funder perspective.

· PAUL BOSELIE. Chair Recognition & Rewards in Open Science, Utrecht University. The European perspective on the reform of research assessment.

Rapporteur: PIA LE GRAND. Head of International Cooperation, Åbo Akademi University.

12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:00 | TORCH Clusters | Progress on Joint R&I Strategies in European University Alliances

· Cluster 1 | New Approaches for Diverse Academic Careers

Chair: CATHERINE COMISKEY. Professor in Healthcare Modelling and Statistics & Academic Director of CHARM-EU, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

Speakers:

· NINA SHIEL, Trinity College Dublin (CHARM-EU/TORCH). CHARM-EU Inclusivity Plan: An Intersectional Approach to Attain Equality in R&I.

· PIA VOIGT, Universität Leipzig. DANIELA PICHLER, Universität Graz (ARQUS R&I). How to foster Open Science - Results from an ARQUS-wide Survey among Researchers and derived Recommendations.

· KATARZYNA MOLEK-KOZAKOWSKA, University of Opole (FIT FORTHEM). Modelling Citizen Science for Education (MSCEDU): Insights from introducing Citizen Science to schools by FORTHEM Alliance universities.

· MARIA PIETILÄ, JOUNI KEKÄLE, University of Eastern Finland (YUFERING). YUFERING portfolio in researcher assessment.

· MIHNEA DOBRE, University of Bucharest. RAFAELLA LENOIR, Autonomous University of Madrid. FABIEN BORGET, Aix-Marseille Université (RIS4CIVIS). Exploring a Path to Research Assessment Reform in a European University Alliance: RIS4CIVIS.
· **ANDREAS RAGGAUTZ**, Universität Graz (ARQUIS R&I). *Pilot: activity framework and research assessment reform.*

· **THRASYVOULOS TSIAHTOS**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (EPICUR). *The deployment of a model researcher assessment framework (EPIQAssess) in the EPICommunity platform.*


Rapporteur: JENNY KIRKWOOD. Administrative Officer CHARM-EU, Trinity College Dublin.

· **Cluster 2 | Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities**

Chair: FERENC TAKÓ. Head of CHARM-EU Office, Eötvös Loránd University.

Speakers:


· **ISABEL SALGUEIRO**, Polytechnic University of Madrid. **DAVID SCHKADE**, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität (EELISA InnoCORE). *EELISA InnoCORE and EELISA Unfolds: opening up our innovation ecosystems, building joint initiatives for innovators and entrepreneurs.*

· **GWENDOLINE TRAISNEL**, Université de Bretagne Occidentale (SEA-EU / ReSEArch-EU). *Building a common strategy in a multidisciplinary alliance: identifying and matching the research forces with societal challenges.*

· **JOHN BARIMO**, University College Cork. **BANU LIMAN**, Koç University. **ROBERTO SAN SALVADOR**, University of Deusto (UNIC). *Towards a strategy for 'engaged' research and a collaborative roadmap with cities and city stakeholders.*

· **PÁDRAIG MURPHY**, Dublin City University (ECIU SMART-ER). *Organising alliance institutions to pilot bottom-up challenge-based research.*

· **CIRO FRANCO**, Sapienza University of Rome (RIS4CIVIS). *Sharing of Research Infrastructures, for the benefit of CIVIS Alliance community.*


· **ARNAUD FABRE**, University of Montpellier (CHARM-EU / TORCH). *TORCH TTOs virtual network.*

Rapporteur: KIRSTEN HOLLAENDER. Project Manager, Utrecht University.

· **Cluster 3 | Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges**

Chair: RAUL RAMOS. Vice Rector for Internationalization Policy, University of Barcelona.

Speakers:
· ALBERT DIAZ, VICENTE ROYUELA, University of Barcelona (CHARM-EU / TORCH). **TORCH Common Science Agenda: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Develop SDG-driven Research Challenges.**

· LUDOVIC THILLY, Université de Poitiers. (EC2U / RI4C2). **Inter-disciplinary research promoted by the EC2U Virtual Institutes.**

· DAITHÍ MAC SÍTHIGH, Institute of Art, Design + Technology (FilmEU). **Dynamic research clusters in film and media arts.**

· DAVID SITBON, Université Paris Cité (Circle U). **When Circle U. meets interdisciplinarity.**

· SÉBASTIEN HUBER, European University Institute (CIVICA). **Promoting interdisciplinary research centred around CIVICA’s four thematic priorities.**

· AINE MOORE, University College Dublin (Una Europa). **Una Europa’s vision towards interdisciplinary hubs for research.**

· NICOLE BIRKLE, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (FORTH EM / FIT-FOR THEM). **The New FORTH EM Research, Innovation and Transfer Mission – background and content.**

Rapporteur: VERONIKA PECIAROVA. Project Manager, University of Montpellier.

15:00 – 15:30 | Short Break

15:30 – 16:30 | Panel Session | University with and for Society: Promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

Chair: GEMMA MARFANY. Rector's Delegate for Scientific Dissemination, University of Barcelona.

Speakers:

· MARKO JOAS, Vice Rector for Collaboration. MATS LINDFELT, Director of Research Services, Åbo Akademi University. **Piloting Citizen Science Support through Small Scale Projects – The Case of Åbo Akademi University.**

· LUKAS WORSCHECH. Head of Division Research and Technology Transfer, Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg. **Citizen science as part of knowledge transfer actions with SMEs.**

· ELLEN ROEMER. Hochschule Ruhr West. **Opportunities for Citizen Science Projects - Experiences at Ruhr West University of Applied Science.**

· JOSEP PERELLÓ. Director of OpenSystemsUB, University of Barcelona. **Co-designing Citizen Social Science for Collective Action: The experience of the CoAct EU project.**

Rapporteur: JAIME LLORCA. TORCH Project Manager, University of Barcelona.

16:30 – 16:45 | Closure

Speaker: BRIAN BRODERICK. Associate Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin.
3. FORUM DEBRIEF

The section below shows a brief summary of the meeting development, with the minutes of all sessions and presentations.

3.1 Opening Ceremony

Universities leadership open the event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening Ceremony</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presenter: JENNIFER DALY, Office of the Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· LINDA DOYLE. Provost and President, Trinity College Dublin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· JORDI GARCIA. Vice Rector for Research, University of Barcelona.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· KATE MORRIS. Head of Campus Engage, Irish Universities Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapporteur: JAIME LLORCA. TORCH Project Manager, University of Barcelona.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The inaugural ceremony is presented by Dr. Jennifer Daly (Office of the Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin), and is opened by Prof. Linda Doyle (Provost and President, Trinity College Dublin), who welcomes all participants to the 2nd TORCH Annual Forum and emphasizes the importance of organizing such meetings in the European R&I context. It is essential for universities to work together, as the UN Sustainable Development Goals can only be addressed in a cooperative manner. Collaboration is vital for universities, especially when it comes to research. The University Alliances are now seen as an important stakeholder in delivering a European Research Area, a European Education Area, and in developing the new European Innovation Agenda. TORCH is also distinctive for the emphasis it places on interdisciplinarity. Prof. Doyle wishes all participants a fruitful meeting, and thanks the TCD staff involved in the Project.

University of Barcelona’s Vice Rector for Research, Prof. Jordi Garcia, greets all attendees, thanks the Trinity College Dublin and its Provost for hosting the event, and stresses importance of collaboration among universities regarding their education and research missions. Prof. Garcia highlights the participation in the TORCH Forum, which welcomes representatives of the Coimbra Group, the European University Association and CoARA, the Irish Universities Association, Science Europe, the Irish Health Research Board, and the DG Research & Innovation (EC), as well as members of 14 fellow Alliances. In addition, around 230 participants registered for the Forum.

7 Session recording available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka8o0n4Nck.
TORCH completed its first stage, and we are now in its second, focused on developing common policies/strategies for the CHARM-EU Alliance and implementing a series of pilot actions within five key R&I areas: 1) Working towards reforming research assessment; 2) Fostering equality, diversity and inclusivity; 3) Championing Open Science; 4) Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges, 5) Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities. The great global challenges must be addressed through interdisciplinary research, or even, “undisciplinary” research. Alliances should act as a bridge between universities and society. Exploring synergies, sharing knowledge, facilitating the exchange of best practices among Alliances are key aspects of what we do. All this provides an invaluable input for HEIs to support innovative solutions and progress their respective R&I agendas, besides promoting deeper transnational cooperation between universities.

Figure 1. Opening Ceremony. Speakers: Prof. Linda Doyle (TCD); Prof. Jordi Garcia (UB); Kate Morris (IUA).
Dr. Kate Morris (Head of Campus Engage, Irish Universities Association) closes the session with a presentation entitled ‘Addressing societal challenges through engaged Research & Innovation’. First, Dr. Morris presents the IUA and its mission, as well as the Irish R&I landscape. Then, reflects on the global challenges the society currently faces (e.g. housing, climate crisis, health, energy, etc.), and points out that Engaged Research & Innovation can help tackle these challenges. The concept of Engaged R&I comprises: 1) bringing beneficiaries into the research and innovation process; 2) a collective transdisciplinary approach; 3) measure societal impact next to industry engagement. An engaged multidisciplinary approach is more effective in solving these problems, as people are on board, it saves time and money, and accelerates impact.

There is political momentum to get these changes embedded within the ERA, which also can be noticed in the R&I funding requirements, both at a European and national levels. Regarding Ireland’s R&I ecosystem, it is a highly connected network, which contributes to make it very competitive. A new national strategy is under implementation in the country, as well, in which the public has involved in defining the major societal challenges. Hence, research is acting as a gateway between society and evidence informed policy making. However, we are far from delivering on this, so Dr. Morris takes the opportunity to call for action: 1) to change attitudes from top down, in order the change the culture; 2) change infrastructures and roles in universities; 3) build capacity (train staff to have the skills to achieve these changes).

3.2 Plenary Session. ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities

The introductory plenary session serves to frame the meeting’s general topic: The ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and the cooperation on R&I among the European Universities. The development to date of the R&I cooperative support structures of the European Universities have both provided valuable insights into, as well as being influenced by, the development of many aspects of the ERA Policy Agenda. The ambition of the European Universities is to be innovative live labs for the agenda, piloting actions, pushing boundaries and promoting positive change for Europe and beyond. Through this session, information on the implementation of the policy agenda 2022-2024 is provided, with a particular focus on action 13 and action 17 as well as asking what happens after 2024.

---

**Plenary Session: ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European universities**

Chair: MERITXELL CHAVES. Secretary General, CHARM-EU.

Speakers:

- LIDIA BORRELL. Secretary General, Science Europe.

---

8 Session recording available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka8oO7n4Nck](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka8oO7n4Nck). See Annex II for the participants’ presentations.
The plenary session, entitled ‘ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities’, is chaired by Meritxell Chaves (Secretary General, CHARM-EU Alliance). She highlights the contribution of European University Alliances as innovative live labs trying to test transformative activities and the effects of the ERA policy agenda on their work. Referring to the cluster sessions, she also highlights one of the general aims of the event as a mapping of experiences of the 15 Alliances participating in the Forum. She then presents the goal of the session and introduces the speakers.

Dr. Adrian Braem (Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe) presents the work of Science Europe by summarizing its core values and mission to define a long-term perspective for European research and to work towards best practice approaches. Regarding Science Europe’s contribution to the ERA policy agenda, he emphasizes that research funding and performing organizations should be at the table when discussing the implementation of the ERA. He highlights the main priorities of Science Europe:

- Contributing to research development and influencing research culture.
- Strengthen science’s role in tackling societal challenges.
- Supporting members to play a role and build strong ecosystems in their national research systems.

Dr. Braem emphasizes that Science Europe is committed to work on several of the ERA Policy Actions (such as Open Science, research assessment and careers, EDI, green transition and research infrastructure). In connection with research assessment, he highlights the association’s contribution to CoARA, as Science Europe was part of the drafting committee and is now involved of the steering board. He emphasizes that they try to ensure that CoARA is as collaborative and bottom-up as possible.

Regarding the development of the new policy agenda, Dr. Braem states that Science Europe is currently developing its strategic vision on ERA and is reflecting on the actions to focus on based on the successes and challenges of the first year. Among the successes and as a result of the growing involvement of stakeholders, he highlights the improving governance and the impetus ERA has gained with the better involvement of Member States. He also emphasizes the good progression of the sub-group on Global Action. On the other side, he considers the uneven progress of the different ERA Action among the challenges together with the insufficient exploitation of interconnections.
between them. Science Europe considers that some of the key issues such as ethics and integrity or the research element of green transition should receive more attention.

The discussions have already started on the development of the new ERA Policy Agenda for 2025-27, and Dr. Braem considers that the mid-term review of the ERA Actions provides an opportunity to improve and bring them closer to the bottom-up research priorities of universities, researchers and funders. Defining the new policy agenda also allows a reflection on the role of the ERA Forum and its stakeholders.

Regarding the question of how the ERA Forum can be improved, Science Europe would like to see more focus on overseeing the implementation of the Actions and ensuring the proper exploitation of synergies. Finally, in terms of the potential improvement of the ERA Policy Agenda for 2025-27, Science Europe would prefer a shorter list of priorities and a more holistic approach on finding solutions to common European issues.

Key Points:

- RPOs and RFOs should be at the table when discussing the implementation of the ERA.
- Science Europe is an important contributor to CoARA that tries to ensure that it is as collaborative and bottom-up as possible.
- Science Europe considers that synergies between the ERA Actions should be better exploited and key issues like ethics and integrity should be incorporated in the Agenda.
- The mid-term review of the ERA Actions provides an opportunity to improve and bring them closer to the bottom-up research priorities of universities.
- Science Europe would prefer a shorter list of priorities that affect the whole research ecosystem and a more holistic approach on finding solutions to common European issues.

Gareth O’Neill (Principal Consultant on Open Science, Technopolis Group) focuses on the ERA Policy Agenda and its connections to University Alliances and the transformational modules. He briefly summarizes the 20 Actions of the current policy agenda considering that Action 13 on Empowering higher education institutions and Action 17 on Strategic capacity of public RPOs are the most relevant Actions for Alliances in general. Concerning TORCH and the CHARM-EU Alliance, he also emphasizes Action 1 on Open sharing of knowledge, Action 3 on the Reform of Research Assessment and Action 4 on Strengthening research careers as important areas.

O’Neill then summarizes the history and the objective of University Alliances and presents the “two sides” of cooperation within them: the educational focus (connected to the Erasmus+ pilot support) and the research and innovation focus (connected to the Horizon 2020 support). Within their R&I dimensions, Alliances are working on the implementation of transformational modules now called Areas of Institutional Change based on their specific choice of strategic focus.
O’Neill presents the seven areas/transformational modules:

1. Regarding the area on Developing a common R&I agenda and action plan the focus is on the commonalities within a particular alliance in terms of strategic objectives. This includes the identification of challenges and convergence, the preparation of action plans, the identification of resources and the scaling of excellence.

2. Sharing resources & infrastructures such as human resources or digital infrastructures is a complex area focusing on bringing together different systems and working out how to achieve interoperability and manage access.

3. The area of Strengthening human capital focuses on supporting researchers and staff by building common framework conditions, finding a balance in the assessment of academics, dealing with brain drain, pooling knowledge and promoting skills and competences.

4. Reinforcing cooperation with non-academic sector is a broad area focusing on collaboration with both the public and the private sectors but with a particular focus on engaging industries and businesses. This can include the development of an innovation strategy, strengthening capacities, promoting an entrepreneurial mindset and cooperation as well as developing an innovation pipeline.

5. Very relevant for TORCH is the area on Mainstreaming Open Science practices such as Open Access and research data managements, promoting Open Science skills, and providing incentives and rewards to encourage Open Science practices by revising assessment systems.

6. The area on Engaging citizens & society contains options to focus on science communication and science’s role in society, citizen science, knowledge creating teams with a team-focused mindset rather than individual research, the outreach to schools and connection with the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The area of Exploring joint structures was added later and focuses on the setup of common technical activities and infrastructure facilitating collaboration within an Alliance with the aim of finding solutions together on common obstacles and sharing best practices.

O’Neill concludes by highlighting the report on the Progress of Pilot 1 University Alliance Projects under the 2020 SwafS support call to be published in March/April 2023. The report is focusing on the challenges, progress and good practices of the Pilot 1 Alliances. He highlights that while some of them face specific challenges (because of their specific disciplinary focus) there are several common challenges with various solutions put forward. He considers that there is a huge progress across alliances in general (sometimes on specific transformational modules, sometimes across them). Key point: While some alliances face specific challenges, they have several common challenges. The solutions put forward by Alliances to overcome these challenges are not always the same.
Emmanuelle Gardan (Director of the Coimbra Group) starts by introducing the Coimbra Group as a significant stakeholder and highlights that CG Members are officially involved in several European University Alliances including CHARM-EU. Coimbra is also an associated partner of CHARM-EU and its TORCH project.

Regarding the engagement with the ERA policy agenda, she highlights that Coimbra Group’s strategic priorities for 2022-23 include actively engaging in the implementation of the European Research Area, more specifically in terms of Actions 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 14. This follows CG’s active involvement in shaping the policy framework behind the Actions which includes:

- Active engagement with the EU institutions in shaping the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe.
- Intense advocacy for promoting stakeholder representation in the new ERA governance (specifically from the university sector).
- Active engagement with the EU institutions in shaping the ERA Policy Agenda for 2022-2024 and soon for the next period.

Regarding Coimbra Group’s involvement in the implementation phase, the association consulted its members on the 20 ERA actions to identify collective priorities and those actions where they can bring added value. This resulted in formal commitment to implement the following eight Actions:

- Action 3. Reform of research assessment.
- Action 4. Attractive & sustainable research careers, balanced talent circulation & international, transdisciplinary & intersectoral mobility across the ERA.
- Action 8. Sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures.
- Action 13. Empowering HEIs to develop in line with the ERA/EEA.

In connection with the most relevant Actions for the Alliances, Director Gardan emphasizes that key thoughts from the Council Conclusion on the European Universities are closely connected to many ERA policy objectives. According to her, this means that all ERA Actions are potentially relevant for the alliances. She highlights two Actions where CG have taken a more proactive role: 4 and 13.

Regarding Action 4 on Strengthening Research Careers, she presents three action strands: 1) the development of a comprehensive European Framework for Research Careers, 2) the exchange of
best practices on skills and mutual learning, and 3) support measures to improve the attractiveness of research careers. This Action received huge support via the formal commitment of 26 Member states, 3 Associated Countries and 12 stakeholder organizations. As a sponsor of the Action, Coimbra Group is ensuring shared responsibility, brings in relevant initiatives, pilots initiatives and supports the implementation of the Action.

Regarding Action 13 on Empowering higher education institutions the two main objectives are the strengthening of the European dimension in R&I and the improvement of the excellence and global competitiveness of European HEIs. CG is involved in the subgroup as co-chair from the stakeholder side. The subgroup has recently adopted the Terms of Reference and discussed the needs of Member States and stakeholders. Within this Action, they will work on facilitating the exchange and sharing of practices, supporting coordination between countries and departments, analyzing the results of studies and providing recommendations on support mechanisms. Finally, she identifies some of the challenges:

· A diversity in the scope and stakeholders of the ERA Policy Actions as well as their state of advancement.

· Silo-approaches, duplications and a plethora of EU initiatives targeting universities.

· Challenges of public communication & outreach, the risk of “Brussels-bubble jargon”.

· Funding issues – no political commitment on defining a percentage of the GDP on R&I from Member States.

Key points:

· Key aspects of the Council Conclusion on the European Universities are closely connected to ERA policy objectives: all ERA Actions are potentially relevant for the alliances.

· Synergies between the different Policy Actions should be better explored and ensured.

· ERA must create tangible impact for final users (researchers & research institutions, in particular universities).

· Funding both on the European and Member States’ level is key for the effective implementation of ERA Actions.

The session is closed by Dr. Stephane Berghmans (Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association), who presents EUA’s perspective on the New European Research Area. He starts with describing the work of the association as providing services and a forum for exchange of practices for their membership while also representing the voice of European universities.

Regarding EUA’s contribution to ERA, he mentions that the association was always very active on ERA. He highlights the establishment of the ERA Forum for Transition without the involvement of other stakeholders than Member States, Associated Countries and the Commission and EUA’s
subsequent work on lobbying to ensure the involvement of Stakeholders in the governance of the ERA. This resulted in the 2021 Council Conclusion and the representative involvement of Stakeholders at the ERA Forum. He highlights that one of the seven types of stakeholders identified are universities and higher education institutions.

In terms of the work carried out during 2022, he talks about the intensive collaboration with regular ERA Forum Meetings, and ERA University Sector Group meetings with participants sharing information and coordinating their input to provide a common message. He also highlights EUA’s active involvement in the ERA Subgroup on Action 9 – Global Approach. Overall, EUA contributed to the sectorial coordination and representation of what Dr. Berghmans considers the most active stakeholder group with specific commitments to ERA Actions from the participating organizations. They are also ready to get involved in the implementation of those Actions.

EUA (and stakeholders in general) are very positive on the overall process (some consider it the “Bologna of research”) but they are awaiting the concrete outcomes. In terms of challenges, he does not see yet the financial commitment of Member States either. (This also reflects in the only Action not reaching the threshold: Action 20 R&I investment and reform.) Another challenge he sees is the disconnection between ERA and the EAA, an issue particularly important for universities and alliances. Regarding their commitment, EUA has committed to all 20 Actions but with 11 considered as high priority. He also showcases how the 11 university associations collaborate and share the coordination of the specific Actions between themselves. In terms of the next policy agenda, he emphasizes that stakeholders will be able to take part in the co-creation process and present their suggestions. He considers that the new framework is also an opportunity to create links between the ERA framework and the EEA.

He considers that alliances could be involved in Action 13 (Reform of research Assessment), Action 17 (Strategic capacity of public RPOs), Action 4 (Strengthen research careers) and Action 3 (Reform of research assessment). Besides, he recommends for consideration Action 6 (Protecting academic freedom), Action 5 (Gender equality and inclusiveness), Action 7 (Better knowledge valorization) and Action 16 (EU-wide access to excellence) depending on the focus of the alliance.

Key points:

- No point trying to establish a European Research Area without those who will be implementing and who are actively involved in it.

- EUA are very positive on the overall process but they are awaiting the concrete outcomes.

- The lack of financial commitment from Member States and the disconnection between ERA and EEA are challenges.
Figure 2. Plenary Session. ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I cooperation between European universities. Speakers: Meritxell Chaves (CHARM-EU), Adrien Braem (Science Europe), Gareth O’Neill (Technopolis Group), Emmanuelle Gardan (Coimbra Group), Stephane Berghmans (EUA).
Once completed all presentations, participants are invited to respond the following question from the audience: How would you summarize post ERA and its impact on society in terms of beneficiaries of research and societal partners like industry, community, government and citizens?

Dr. Berghmans answers that he does not know exactly as the process is at its starting and not yet there where beneficiaries can feel its impact. There are different kinds of actions currently taken such as the Commission launching a CSA to bring stakeholders to the national level starting in 2024. The start of the implementation process will probably also raise the issue that Member States are the ones that have to make sure that national stakeholders are consulted. He mentioned the good example of Norway as a very active country in this regard.

Gareth O’Neill slightly disagrees with Dr. Berghmans as some Actions are progressing relatively well, such as Actions 1, 4 and 3. Regarding Action 1 on Open Science for example, he was working on a monitoring framework with EOSC Future for national contributions to EOSC and Open Science. This has already an effect on the MS level in terms of tracking investments and policies and pushing them towards their collective path. This can trickle down over the years to institutions and ultimately to researchers. Concrete projects have started in connection with Actions 3 and 4 as well.

Emmanuelle Gardan complements on what Dr. Berghmans said on the involvement of national level stakeholders: countries like Austria, Germany and Norway are developing national ERA action plans. They are hoping for more Member States to start developing these actions, which can potentially result in legislative changes and new funding instruments. It’s crucial that stakeholders are sitting at the table regarding implementation as well.

Final question from the audience: Last week the European Commission and the government of UK announced the Windsor framework. Will this change anything?

Stephane Berghmans answers that as soon as it is ratified, it means that the association is wide open. Having UK in the ERA is fundamentally beneficial not just for the UK but for the Union as well. Gareth O’Neill adds that, in principle, the University Alliances are open as well and already accepting new members.

3.3 Panel Session. The European Perspective on the Reform of Research Assessment

A reform of the research assessment system for research, researchers and institutions to improve their quality, performance and impact was called out as a priority area for joint action in the ERA policy agenda 2022-2024 which was approved as part of the Council conclusions on the future government of the ERA on 26th November 2021. This session presents the current European
initiative towards reforming research assessment and fosters reflection on its relevance and impact on both national authorities/agencies and HEIs.

---

Panel Session: The European Perspective on the Reform of Research Assessment

Chair: REKO LEINO. Vice Rector for Research, Åbo Akademi University.

Speakers:

- JEAN-EMMANUEL FAURE. Team leader of Research assessment, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission. Reforming research assessment

- STEPHANE BERGHMANS. Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association. A Reform of Research Assessment. The Agreement & CoARA Coalition - A University Perspective

- TERESA MAGUIRE. Director of Research Strategy & Funding, Irish Health Research Board. Reform of Research Assessment - Research funder perspective

- PAUL BOSELIE. Chair Recognition & Rewards in Open Science, Utrecht University. The European perspective on the reform of research assessment

Rapporteur: PIA LE GRAND. Head of International Cooperation, Åbo Akademi University.

---

Prof. Reko Leino (Vice Rector for Research, Åbo Akademi University) introduces the panel session on the ‘European Perspective on the Reform of Research Assessment’, briefly reviewing the recent developments in the European higher education framework with regards to researchers and institutions evaluation systems.

Dr. Jean-Emmanuel Faure (Team leader of Research assessment, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission) opens the session with a presentation entitled ‘Reforming Research Assessment’. The speaker reflects on the need to reform research assessment as a priority area of the new European Research Area (ERA). The overarching aim is to maximize the quality and impact of research and support the attractiveness of research environments. CoARA (the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment) has 487 signatories from 41 countries as of 3rd March 2023. Based on 10 commitments, the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment sets a shared direction for changes in assessment practices for research, researchers and research performing organizations. It includes the principles, commitments and timeframe for reforms and lays out the principles for a Coalition of organizations willing to work together in implementing the changes.

The European Commission supports CoARA by:

- Being an active member of the Coalition, mainly in its quality as a research funder, and participating in relevant working groups and activities.

- Providing operational support to the CoARA Secretariat, ad interim.

- Providing financial support to the CoARA activities through Horizon Europe.
· Providing policy support in liaising the Coalition with Member States and Associated Countries in the framework of the ERA Forum.

· Fostering global alignment and cooperation with other regions worldwide & synergies with other European initiatives.

Figure 3. Panel Session. The European perspective on the reform of research assessment. Speakers: Reko Leino (ÅAU), Jean-Emmanuel Faure (DG R&I, EC), Stephane Berghmans (EUA), Teresa Maguire (HRB), Paul Boselie (UU).

Dr. Stephane Berghmans (Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association) proceeds to present the CoAra Coalition and agreement in detail. Universities are needed to bring change and should be actively involved in the reform of research assessment. Many universities in some countries have signed the CoARA, but many countries are still missing. The CoARA agreement
is not legally binding (it is more of a morally binding signature towards peer organizations), but it is an agreement with clear commitments. The member organizations keep full autonomy of the steps towards the implementation of the Agreement and the pace of the reform at their organization. There is no membership fee, but resources should be allocated as is needed for each organization.

The European University Association’s role is:

- Supporting EUA members through webinars, seminars, guidelines, etc.

- Platform for exchange and collaboration.

- Engagement in CoARA: e.g. manage/lead a Working Group linked to the core activities of universities and ensure complementarities/synergies between CoARA activities and EUA’s activities.

- Policy Advocacy in the new ERA.

- Global outreach through sister organisations.

- Supporting the Steering Board.

The third speaker, **Dr. Teresa Maguire** (Director of Research Strategy & Funding, Irish Health Research Board) presents the research funder perspective on research assessment. The HRB is a health research funder. Its mission is to support research that improves people’s health, promotes evidence-informed care and creates solutions to societal challenges. The economic constraints on public funding have multiplied, leading to increased political demands to measure impact and demonstrate the value of investing in research. There is a huge need for reform of research assessment. Assessment is one of the most significant processes in the global research arena, encompassing everything from policy goals and programme budgets to project selection, awards and career development.

To conclude, **Prof. Paul Boselie** (Chair of Recognition & Rewards in Open Science, Utrecht University) outlines the state of the art in the Netherlands regarding research assessment, as well as UU’s strategy. In the Netherlands the reform of research assessment started with a position paper published in 2019 with the title ‘Room for everyone’s talent’\(^\text{10}\). During 2021-2027 the Strategy Evaluation Protocol (SEP) is being implemented.

At Utrecht University, there is the Open Science programme including the subtheme of Recognition & Rewards. It consists of: Public engagement; Recognition & Rewards; Open Access; FAIR Data & software; and Open education. Some of the goals are:

- Co-operation instead of competition.

---

· New evaluation criteria.
· Impact.
· Teamwork.
· Leadership.
· Distinction between academic and support staff reduced.

3.4 TORCH Clusters. Progress on joint R&I Strategies in European University Alliances

These sessions, carried out via MS Teams for online participants, focus on the European Universities’ advances and specific initiatives concerning a number of R&I topics, presenting the main progress of the TORCH Project and the fellow Alliances’ SwafS projects. It is divided into three parallel thematic clusters. Each group is led by a chair (to guide the session and discussion, providing questions and moderating the audience’s participation), and has a rapporteur (which takes notes, describing the content of the session, including results and challenges coming out of the debate).

· Cluster 1: New approaches for Diverse Academic Careers

This session goes over specific examples and/or pilots and action plans towards promoting Open Science and intersectional initiatives regarding equal opportunities, non-discrimination and inclusivity within the new research assessment frameworks.

Each speaker has a 10 minutes presentation followed by the possibility of discussing and exchanging ideas with all participants.

Cluster 1: New Approaches for Diverse Academic Careers

Chair: CATHERINE COMISKEY. Professor in Healthcare Modelling and Statistics & Academic Director of CHARM-EU, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

Speakers:

· NINA SHIEL, Trinity College Dublin (CHARM-EU/TORCH). CHARM-EU Inclusivity Plan: An Intersectional Approach to Attain Equality in R&I.
· PIA VOIGT, Universität Leipzig. DANIELA PICHLER, Universität Graz (ARQUS R&I). How to foster Open Science - Results from an ARQUS-wide Survey among Researchers and derived Recommendations.
· KATARZYNA MOLEK-KOZAKOWSKA, University of Opole (FIT FORTHEM). Modelling Citizen Science for Education (MSCEDU): Insights from introducing Citizen Science to schools by FORTHEM Alliance universities.

---

11 See Annex II for the participants’ presentations.
The session, chaired by Prof. Catherine Comiskey (Academic Director of CHARM-EU, Trinity College Dublin), comprises presentations on initiatives to promote diverse academic careers from six Alliances (CHARM-EU, ARQUS, FORTHem, YUFE, CIVIS, and EPICUR), in the framework of their SwafS projects. Prof. Comiskey introduces the topic and welcomes all participants.

Dr. Nina Shiel (Trinity College Dublin, CHARM-EU/TOUCH) opens the cluster session with a presentation entitled ‘Towards a CHARM-EU Inclusivity Plan: An Intersectional Approach to Attain Equality in R&I’. The main topics presented are:

- Equality is a cross-cutting principle of TORCH & CHARM.
- TORCH has recommendations on the gap analysis.
- Dr. Shiel outlined the steps towards a CHARM-EU inclusivity plan.
- She also detailed the benefits of an Alliance level inclusivity plan.
- The Commission will look at all proposals for their gender balance policy when deciding which to fund.
- Dr. Shiel is not aware of any other alliance working on this, but would welcome other Alliances to contact her about this matter.

Regarding data gathering, TORCH is looking to find out whether and to what extent each university is gathering diversity data at all. There will certainly be significant differences.

Dr. Pia Voigt (Universität Leipzig) and Dr. Daniela Pichler (Universität Graz), on behalf of ARQUS Alliance, present ‘How to Foster Open Science – Results from an ARQUS-wine Survey among Researchers and derived Recommendations’. Main topics discussed:
· Recommendations based on an Open Science Survey. Sent to all July/August last year.

· Develop training, support & share policies among ARQUIS researchers.

· Introduce rewards & incentives.

· Provide resources, infrastructure & funding.

· Communicate research results.

Particular emphasis on Open Science not being recognized enough in career progression was made.

**Dr. Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska** (University of Opole, FIT FORTHEM) presents ‘Modelling Citizen Science for Education: Insights from introducing Citizen Science to schools by FORTHEM Alliance Universities’. Main topics:

· FORTHEM Alliance have labs that answer societal challenges.

· FIT FORTHEM brings citizen science to schools through the FORTHEM Alliance universities.

· Universities work with schools to task students with developing their own citizen science projects that are relevant to the local community, e.g. Ukrainian refugees, teenage relationship breakdown, mental health, sex education.

· Young people learn how to conduct research and surveys and collate data with the support of their teachers and the FORTHEM academics.

· Short questionnaire at end of each cycle to see how students felt about research in social science.

· Videos and promotional material made.

Dr. Molek-Kozakowska is asked how far this initiative has gone in co-creation of the citizen science project. Schools with profiles more in humanities and social sciences were chosen, who came up with the interesting ideas that the project could support.

The fourth presentation, by **Dr. Maria Pietilä** and **Dr. Jouni Kekäle** (University of Eastern Finland, YUFE), is entitled ‘YUFERING Portfolio in Researcher Assessment’. Main topics:

· Calling for reform of research assessment. But important to build on good things that already exist.

· Flexible approach that allows recruiters to emphasize their own priorities.

· YUFE-wide piloting taking place in selection of post-doctoral researchers in 2023.

· Implications of the portfolio depend on the academic gatekeeper’s use of the information.

· Reporting in Autumn 2023.
The speakers stress that countries/institutions involved are very different so need a flexible approach to allow for their priorities. It is very important that the portfolio is piloted.

**Dr. Mihnea Dobre** (University of Bucharest), **Dr. Rafaella Lenoir** (Autonomous University of Madrid) and **Dr. Fabien Borget** (Aix-Marseille University), CIVIS Alliance, present ‘Exploring a Path to Research Assessment Reform in a European University Alliance: RIS4CIVIS’. Main topics:

- Promote collaborative inter-institutional research.
- Strengthen interactions between academics/civil society and private enterprise & cultural sectors.
- Develop innovative infrastructure/tools.
- Strengthen mobility of researchers.
- Promote collaboration between research support units.
- With a specific focus on strengthening human capital, mainstreaming Open Science and embedding citizens and society.

The sixth presentation, by **Dr. Andreas Raggautz** (Universität Graz, ARQUS), is entitled ‘Activity Framework and Research Assessment Reform - University of Graz Pilot’. Main topics covered:

- Exploring a Path to Research Assessment Reform in a European University Alliance.
- Need transparency of achievements expected at respective career levels & research culture.
- Work on format for research units (innovation, scientific community, international visibility).
- Create strategy document for next ten years – bottom up, flexible approach.
- Case studies to finish mid-summer 2023.

Prof. Comiskey praises the sensible, broad approach, as it is practical and achievable. With regard to peer assessment, the presenter is asked about their recruitment procedure. Peers are suggested by the department, with rector and vice rector deciding (must declare no conflict of interest). Almost all peers are external.

**Dr. Thrasyvoulos Tsiatsos** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, EPICUR) presents ‘The Deployment of a Model Researcher Assessment Framework (EPIQAssess) in the EPICommunity platform’. Main topics:

- Aim to use digitalization & international collaboration as enablers in the delivery of research & innovation formats.
- Creating Platform EPICommunity following EC guidelines.
· EPICommunity is a solid platform implementing EPIQAssess.

· EPICommunity is open for every researcher and every Alliance.

The speaker is inquired on the number of users the platform has, and how successful have the promotion campaigns been. Part of the EPICommunity is using this resource, but an increase of use is needed, along with the deployment in more universities.

As for the final presentation in the cluster session, Dr. Marjanneke Vijge (Utrecht University, CHARM-EU/TORCH) introduces ‘CHARM-EU: Towards Reforming Research Assessment’. Main topics:

· Focus on reforming research assessments for CHARM EU - towards Open Science.

· Looking at the career track of UU geoscience academic staff.

· Education and societal impact not sufficiently recognized, focus is still on research.

· But how do we measure public engagement? This is the challenge.

· Solutions possible through CHARM-EU, CHARM-8, and TORCH.

---

Figure 4. TORCH Cluster 1: New Approaches for Diverse Academic Careers.
· Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities

The objective of the session is to share the Alliances’ best practices and initiatives towards building collaborative frameworks for joint and shared R&I-related activities. It focuses on the creation of common science agendas and collective/pooled structures seeking long-term sustainable and effective cooperation.

Each speaker has a 10 minutes presentation followed by the possibility of discussing and exchanging ideas with all participants.

---

Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities

Chair: FERENC TAKÓ. Head of CHARM-EU Office, Eötvös Loránd University.

Speakers:

· NICOLE BIRKLE, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (FORTH EM / FIT-FORTH EM). The FORTH EM Joint Research Services and Policy Office.

· ISABEL SALGUEIRO, Polytechnic University of Madrid. DAVID SCHKADE, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität (EELISA InnoCORE). EELISA InnoCORE and EELISA Unfolds: opening up our innovation ecosystems, building joint initiatives for innovators and entrepreneurs.

· GWENDOLINE TRAISNEL, Université de Bretagne Occidentale (SEA-EU / ReSEArch-EU). Building a common strategy in a multidisciplinary alliance: identifying and matching the research forces with societal challenges.

· JOHN BARIMO, University College Cork. BANU LIMAN, Koç University. ROBERTO SAN SALVADOR, University of Deusto (UNIC). Towards a strategy for 'engaged' research and a collaborative roadmap with cities and city stakeholders.

· PÁDRAIG MURPHY, Dublin City University (ECIU SMART-ER). Organising alliance institutions to pilot bottom-up challenge-based research.

· CIRO FRANCO, Sapienza University of Rome (RIS4CIVIS). Sharing of Research Infrastructures, for the benefit of CIVIS Alliance community.

· MARTIN GALVIN, University College Cork. SARI HIRVONEN-KANTOLA, University of Oulu. SARA BJARSTORP, Malmö Universitet (UNIC). Infrastructure for Research - UNIC Centre for City Futures.

· ARNAUD FABRE, University of Montpellier (CHARM-EU / TORCH). TORCH TTOs virtual network.

Rapporteur: KIRSTEN HOLLAENDER. Project Manager, Utrecht University.

---

The cluster session on ‘Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities’ is chaired by Dr. Ferenc Takó (Head of CHARM-EU Office, Eötvös Loránd University), and includes representatives from seven Alliances: FORTH EM, EELISA, SEA-EU, UNIC, ECIU, CIVIS, and CHARM-EU.

---

12 See Annex II for the participants’ presentations.
The first presentation, by Dr. Nicole Birkle (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, FORTHEM), is entitled ‘The FORTHEM Joint Research Services and Policy Office’. Dr. Birkle presents the idea for a joint research support service and policy office as a central place to collect, connect, share as well as for strategy development. FORTHEM made connections in Brussels with regional representatives, plans for joint events and collected commitment letters. Besides, it is also meant to address the needs of new researchers. Next steps are to offer services, support transfer, offer trainings, join forces and support network building and write a book of good practices.

Isabel Salgueiro (Polytechnic University of Madrid) and Dr. David Schkade (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität), in representation of EELISA, present ‘EELISA InnoCORE and EELISA Unfolds: opening up our innovation ecosystems, building joint initiatives for innovators and entrepreneurs’. This initiative expanded now from nine to ten partners. The EELISA Unfolds project is financed by EIT Digital and addresses courses, a repository, a hackathon, mentoring, and a demo-day event. The InnoCore project supports the bundling of activities and organizes some, such as a prototype contest. It brings together good practices, e.g. contests, opening offers to EELISA partners, interlinkages offers, pilots for learning, startup contests in connection with mentoring. Challenges lie in the promotion of activities, the EU vs. National level and in the long-term perspective.

Dr. Gwendoline Traisnel (Université de Bretagne Occidentale, SEA-EU) presents the ReSEArch-EU project advances on ‘Building a common strategy in a multidisciplinary alliance: identifying and matching the research forces with societal challenges’. The Alliance expanded from six to nine members. It wants to contribute to transparency on research strengths, matching and agenda setting. The approach is by a bibliometric analysis based on national and Web of Science Databases, Conference Papers and PhD Theses and also S3 (Smart Specialization Strategies). This resulted in a database of 58000 documents also including H2020 projects, as basis for a performance analysis and a science mapping. They extracted the keywords for the top 100 authors with help of the software Bibliometrix and VOS viewer. This is a combination of methods and now currently working on matching strengths and challenges.

Dr. John Barimo (University College Cork), Banu Liman (Koç University) and Dr. Roberto San Salvador (University of Deusto), representing UNIC, present ‘Towards a strategy for ‘engaged’ research and a collaborative roadmap with cities and city stakeholders’. Focussed on post-industrial transition cities, the Alliance is forming tight bonds with city partners and has signed a MOU with them. Their core concept is engaged research. The MOU is titled: European Declaration on Engaged Research. UNIC are also working on a framework development and showcasing good practices. Also, a roadmap is being developed with the cities and a seed fund call was launched, currently the award recipients are being selected.

The fifth presentation, by Dr. Pádraig Murphy (Dublin City University, ECIU/SMART-ER), is entitled: ‘Organizing alliance institutions to pilot bottom-up challenge-based research’. The Alliance has a Mexican partner as associated member. It is building a Virtual Research Institute for Smart European Regions. The core concept is challenge based research for SDG11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities, and work with testbeds and pilots. So far, the project has identified 4500 researchers.
on this topic with areas such as transport, energy, circular economy, resilient communities, and Citizen Science. Seed funding is used as instrument next to cotutelles, networking, community-based research, and webinars on Citizen Science. The ECIU position paper addresses their teething problems plus the needs for the virtual institute (governance, etc.).

Dr. Ciro Franco (Sapienza University of Rome, CIVIS) shares a presentation on ‘Sharing of Research Infrastructures, for the benefit of CIVIS Alliance community’. CIVIS presents their R&I strategy and institutional transformation model within the RIS4CIVIS project. Currently working on a charter for research infrastructure access and use, with rules and guidelines. To achieve this, a soft approach is chosen. In addition, a database of infrastructures has been developed, with 172 on the list to date.

Dr. Martin Galvin (University College Cork), Dr. Sari Hirvonen-Kantola (University of Oulu) and Dr. Sara Bjärstorp (Malmö Universitet), members of UNIC, present ‘Infrastructure for Research - UNIC Centre for City Futures’, an initiative to be kick-off in September 2023.

To close the cluster session, Arnaud Fabre (University of Montpellier, CHARM-EU/TORCH) presents the ‘TORCH TTOs virtual network’. The speaker explains the background and aim of the Virtual TTOs network for CHARM. Next to local and national networks, the next step is a European network.

Given the time constraints, a brief discussion is held by then end of the session. The main question asked is what happens after the SwafS funding ends. How to maintain the momentum that has been created? For now, first generation Alliances are focused on preparing proposals for European competitive calls. In any case, the Alliances are pushing for a feasible pathway from 2027 onwards.

Figure 5. TORCH Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities.
· Cluster 3: Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges

This session’s goal is to present diverse joint approaches the Alliances are taking to foster transdisciplinary and challenge-driven research.

Each speaker has a 10 minutes presentation followed by the possibility of discussing and exchanging ideas with all participants.

Cluster 3: Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges

Chair: RAUL RAMOS. Vice Rector for Internationalization Policy, University of Barcelona.

Speakers:


· LUDOVIC THILLY, Université de Poitiers. Inter-disciplinary research promoted by the EC2U Virtual Institutes.

· DAITHÍ MAC SÍTHIGH, Institute of Art, Design + Technology (FilmEU). Dynamic research clusters in film and media arts.

· DAVID SITBON, Université Paris Cité (Circle U). When Circle U. meets interdisciplinarity.

· SÉBASTIEN HUBER, European University Institute (CIVICA). Promoting interdisciplinary research centred around CIVICA’s four thematic priorities.

· AINE MOORE, University College Dublin (Una Europa). Una Europa’s vision towards interdisciplinary hubs for research.

· NICOLE BIRKLE, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (FORTHEM / FIT-FORTHEM). The New FORTHEM Research, Innovation and Transfer Mission – background and content.

Rapporteur: VERONIKA PECIAROVA. Project Manager, University of Montpellier.

The session on ‘Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges’ is chaired by Prof. Raul Ramos (Vice Rector for Internationalization Policy, University of Barcelona), and hosts representatives from seven Alliances: CHARM-EU, EC2U, FilmEU, Circle U, CIVICA, Una Europa, and FORTHEM. Prof. Ramos welcomes all speakers and attendees, and introduces the topic, stressing the importance for the Alliances to take on joint transdisciplinary actions.

Prof. Albert Diaz and Prof. Vicente Royuela (University of Barcelona, CHARM-EU/TORCH) open the session, with a presentation entitled ‘TORCH Common Science Agenda: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Develop SDG-driven Research Challenges’. The idea of this initiative is to create

---

13 See Annex II for the participants’ presentations.
multidisciplinary teams composed by TORCH partners to conceive a number of Research Challenges, via a bottom-up three-step method:

- Step 1: Data collection on researchers expertise and interests (questionnaire submitted by each university).
- Step 2: Institutional analysis (results of the questionnaire).
- Step 3: Challenge formulation by teams of researchers after focus groups.

Six challenges are presented, focused on three SDGs: SDG3 (Good Health & Well-Being), SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG13 (Climate Action). The next steps are to support these research groups for the proposals to be further developed and submitted to EU funding calls. Partners benefit from their institutional support: Administrative; financial, proposal preparation, etc.

The speakers also present an interactive user-friendly tool to support the TORCH challenges that visualizes collaborative researcher’s networks among TORCH universities, and identifies key research topics.

The second presentation, by Prof. Ludovic Thilly (Université de Poitiers, EC2U), is ‘Inter-disciplinary research promoted by the EC2U Virtual Institutes’. Prof. Thilly presents the Alliance and the European campus of City-Universities. He explains that research is a major component of their Alliance, each university having its own research profile. A common digital platform for teaching was used to identify research needs of the universities. They cross cut their institutional research domains and four of them were sorted out: Social Sciences and Humanities, Health and Biology, Energy and Environmental Sciences, and Physics and Engineering. In addition, some SDGs have been identified: SDG3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG4 (Quality Education), SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). An Erasmus project was used to create 3 virtual institutes, being the first outcome from the educational component the creation of three joint master programmes, opened in September 2022. Other ongoing initiatives:

- Summer schools and joint PhD trainings.
- Mobility programmes for researchers.
- Joint PhD thesis.
- Joint research programmes: mobility possibilities.

Dr. Daithí Mac Síthigh (Institute of Art, Design + Technology, FilmEU) presents ‘Dynamic research clusters in film and media arts’. First, presents the FilmEU Alliance for film and media arts: four institutions to collaborate around the common objective of jointly promoting high-level education, innovation and research in multidisciplinary field of film and media arts. The FilmEU RIT project designs strategies and action plans around research and innovation in film and media arts. Several research clusters were developed:
· Cultural heritage (Pilot 1): European archive of short animation (lack of reliable data in this field).

· Stereoscopic visions (Pilot 2): decolonizing the panorama of Congo: a virtual heritage artistic research.

· Volumetric cinema & future visions (Pilot 3): expanded memories; artistic experiments into hybrid analogue – digital film production.


· Experimental sound & vision (Pilot 5): artistic research and cognitive film studies; towards a transdisciplinary understanding of cinema.

The key messages of this presentation are: 1) Testing the collaboration of the systems is really interesting; 2) bringing new partners to the alliance is important.

David Sitbon (Université Paris Cité, Circle U) presents ‘When Circle U. meets interdisciplinarity’. Circle U is an Alliance formed by nine partner universities, with two ongoing projects: Erasmus+ and ERIA project (H2020). Examples of Circle U interdisciplinary activities:

· ERIA project: To strengthen R&I collaborations in Circle U. Fostering interdisciplinarity to co-construct solutions with other sectors, involving citizens and society in research and innovation, strengthening human capital, structured collaboration at the European level, among pilot Alliances.

· INTER Circle U. Prize (ICUP): To showcase the best examples of inter- and transdisciplinary research at Circle U.

· SANDPITS (or sandboxes): Innovative workshop facilitated by a specialist in interdisciplinary research to bring together the researchers from the alliance and to kick start new projects.

· ITRN event: Supporting interdisciplinary projects involving at least three universities, four ITRN projects selected in 2022.

· An academic directory tool: to connect the researchers based on common research interests and to allow smooth inter-university collaboration.

Future initiatives:

· Interdisciplinarity is at the core of the Alliance to promote research collaboration.

· Several activities to occur every year and link to other interdisciplinary events.

· R&I integrated into the next roll-out phase.
Dr. Sébastien Huber (European University Institute, CIVICA) shares a presentation on ‘Promoting interdisciplinary research centered around CIVICA’s four thematic priorities’. CIVICA is composed of ten universities, all with the aim to influence the policy making, focused on 4 main areas:

· Societies in transition and crises of Earth.
· Challenges to democracy in the 21st century.
· Europe Revisited.
· Data driven technologies for societal challenges.

One specific thing in CIVICA is the connection to EU as political subject. Its research dimension identified several milestones already, with a focus on Open Science. First call for research proposals has been launched: 11 winning projects out of 27 applications. Second call for research projects: 28 research projects are to be funded by CIVICA. Synergies within and outside CIVICA are centered in:

· R&I management.
· Doctoral training.
· Doctoral community.
· Roadmap for interdisciplinary laboratory.
· Partnerships with other alliances & beyond.

The main barriers found so far are related to the lack of time to address all the challenges and lack of financing.

The sixth presentation, by Dr. Nicole Birkle (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, FORTHEM), is entitled ‘The New FORTHEM Research, Innovation and Transfer Mission – background and content’. FORTHEM is formed by nine universities (two new partners joined in 2022). The R&I project, FIT FORTHEM, focuses on some thematic areas (FORTHEM labs):

· Diversity and migration.
· Multilingualism in school and higher education.
· Food science.
· Digital transformation.
· Climate and resources.
· Experiencing Europe.
· Resilience, Life Quality and Demographic Challenge.
The main lessons learned during the process are:

- Workshops, boot-camps, and surveys identified Early-Stage Researchers as the most vulnerable group FORTHEM needs to address.

- Agendas, policies, action plans, and recommendations will only show their impact after the lifetime of the project.

- Strongholds are identified but need more incentives to be matched, especially in case of experienced researchers.

- Common understanding of co-creation needs to be further developed.

- Open Science as a core topic to be further developed and trained.

- Office needs to be implemented permanently to guarantee results are exploited.

Setting-up the FORTHEM Research, Innovation and Transfer Mission is a direct result of the FIT FORTHEM project and will also drive the alliance forward in the area of research and innovation. Results from FIT FORTHEM are not lost after the end of the project, but are retained and further evaluated and exploited. However, there is still a need for better incentives for researchers to participate in the activities of the alliance, implementing structural measures alone is not in the core of their intrinsic motivation. It needs attractive funding programmess for joint research, even in small formats, CSA and funding schemes especially in the WIDERA program are most appreciated, but it needs more attractive funding lines and better synergies between existing programmes.

Dr. Aine Moore (University College Dublin, Una Europa) presents ‘Una Europa’s vision towards interdisciplinary hubs for research’, which lays out Una Europa’s 2030 Strategy, with three pillars:

- Powering the research for the future.

- Pioneering the education of the future.

- Shaping the society of the future.

Enhancing collaboration in research and innovation:

- Promotion of high-quality and long-term research collaborations to drive the excellence dimension of European research and contribute to the objectives of the ERA.

- Advancing knowledge circulation and connecting complementary research strengths in key interdisciplinary research areas to tackle global and societal challenges.

- Creation of a trans-sectoral Una Europa ecosystem for research & innovation through collaborations with other sectors and society.
· Focus on added-value, going beyond what a single institution can achieve alone and pooling resources to prepare the future leading researchers of Europe and the globe.

Una Europa focus areas are: Cultural heritage; Data sciences & AI; Europe and the World; One Health; Sustainability; Future materials. The Alliance is now establishing a roadmap for R&I, which sets out their path towards a common research and innovation ecosystem that supports the entire spectrum of multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary research.

Figure 6. TORCH Cluster 3: Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges.

3.5 Panel Session. University with and for Society: Promoting Citizen Science within Open Science14

In this panel session, the CHARM-EU new partners (Åbo Akademi University, Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg, Hochschule Ruhr West), along with the University of Barcelona, showcase hands-on experiences from Citizen Science initiatives within universities (research processes that involve citizens, local communities, non-academic stakeholders and the wider society, with the focus on active and participatory research). This session aims to put forward some useful take-home

14 Session recording available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIECPWRU40k. See Annex II for the participants’ presentations.
messages for HEIs about contributing to the reinforcement of societal trust in science, shaping public opinion and increasing citizens' scientific knowledge and awareness.

Panel Session: University with and for Society: Promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

Chair: GEMMA MARFANY. Rector’s Delegate for Scientific Dissemination, University of Barcelona.

Speakers:


- LUKAS WORSCHECH. Head of Division Research and Technology Transfer, Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg. *Citizen science as part of knowledge transfer actions with SMEs.*

- ELLEN ROEMER. Hochschule Ruhr West. *Opportunities for Citizen Science Projects - Experiences at Ruhr West University of Applied Science.*

- JOSEP PERELLÓ. Director of OpenSystemsUB, University of Barcelona. *Co-designing Citizen Social Science for Collective Action: The experience of the CoAct EU project.*

Rapporteur: JAIME LLORCA. TORCH Project Manager, University of Barcelona.

Prof. Gemma Marfany (Rector’s Delegate for Scientific Dissemination, University of Barcelona) introduces the topic, reflecting on the importance of Open Science, as society must have access, free access, to innovation and research outputs generated by universities. Citizen Science (CS) goes even further than Open Science, because it is not only about producing and sharing knowledge, but also about empowering society, making citizens an active part of the scientific process, and involving them in the co-creation of knowledge. It is not an easy task, which encompasses diverse angles, and hence the relevance of this session, focused on how different universities are approaching specific pilot programs and initiatives regarding CS.

Prof. Marko Joas and Dr. Mats Lindfelt (Åbo Akademi University) open the session with a presentation entitled ‘Piloting Citizen Science Support through Small Scale Projects – The Case of Åbo Akademi University’. Prof. Joas starts by introducing their university, and the institutional approach on citizen support systems for CS. ÅAU is committed to the Declaration of Open Science and Research 2020-2025 and associated national policies. The university introduced a CS pilot, with purpose to develop and test forms of support for CS by: creating information materials for researchers; planning the process; supporting at least three research projects with CS elements.

There are different traditions to work with and for society in different disciplines, but it is a two-way collaboration with society, and a key element and goal for universities. The definition elements (which vary a lot depending on disciplinary background) are:

---

· Scientific research conducted with participation from the public (in different phases of the research process).

· Co-creation with the public in the research process.

· Two-way communication and education, both scientists and the public.

The pilot project, in which the ÅAU Library, the Centre for Lifelong Learning, the Communications Department and representatives from the Rectorate are involved, focuses on how to engage researchers to include CS elements in their research practice. It aims to reply some main questions: What kind of support might researchers need when using CS in their research projects? How to select projects that gain most from different kind of support? What kind of service do we need to develop for researchers and citizens respectively? Which collaborations and services within ÅAU do we need to develop to support CS? Its main goals are:

· Raising awareness amongst our researchers about CS and the general public by using a method for producing new knowledge and science impact – collaborative research.

· Developing support structures for the researchers.

· Developing and training researchers in science communication.

· Leading to citizens being active participators rather than objects of science.

The implementation of the pilot involves:

· Arranging information sessions, workshops and webinars for researchers.

· Selecting relevant research projects for the pilot: different faculties and disciplines; previous experience and the need for support; different forms and levels of citizen engagement.

· Developing information material on how to carry out CS together with the researchers in the pilot.

· Offering researchers support with project coordination and communication to increase the possibilities of cooperation with citizens.

· Evaluating the results of the pilot to further develop the support.

The second presentation, by Prof. Lukas Worschech (Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg), deals with the topic of ‘Citizen Science as part of knowledge transfer actions with SMEs’. The goal of knowledge transfer is to transfer knowledge generated at the university to the economy and public sectors with a high degree of efficiency and for social and entrepreneurial benefit. JMU, with its Service Centre Research and Technology Transfer, aims to:

· Provide important impulses for the local economy, society and the environment through research areas with high future potential.
· Build innovative transfer structures and dynamic innovation networks.

· Support the acquisition of collaborative projects between science and industry.

· Promote start-ups and ensure the evaluation and exploitation of inventions.

In addition, the university supports networks with regional SMEs via diverse projects. The ESF-BuDanu: Using Business Data project focuses on transferring knowledge for SMEs employees in Bavaria, as well as providing training in digital skills and exploiting the potential of corporate data. The EFRE BigData@Geo project represents a good example on the application of taking big data to application. It includes an interactive climate atlas that conveys knowledge about climate change in Lower Franconia (Bavaria) in a low threshold and user-friendly way. Citizens are particularly aware of extreme events and are thus primed for the climate change problem, at least in the short term. The needs of decision-makers from society (here the agricultural sector) shape the scientific knowledge process and lead to products/information that science would not have produced without citizen participation.

Dr. Ellen Roemer (Hochschule Ruhr West) presents ‘Opportunities for Citizen Science Projects - Experiences at Ruhr West University of Applied Science’. Dr. Roemer first introduces the university, located in the western part of the Ruhr in a diverse community. Then, shows the taxonomy of Citizen Social Science projects at HRW, by differentiating three forms:

· Contributory projects.

· Collaborative projects.

· Co-created/autonomous projects.

Contributory projects, in which citizens participate as research objects and discussants, usually entail scientific talks and discussions and surveys, and imply mainly a passive contribution from their side (although more active participation is foreseen in the near future). Co-created projects, where institutions are co-creators in research, are carried out with the city council, local companies and NGOs, that provide research questions, secondary data, give feedback to measurement instruments, participate in pre-tests, provide access to the local community for data collection, and provide platforms for discussions and help with interpretation of data.

The key experiences, and the important ingredients for successful CS projects, are:

· Engagement with and integration of researchers and their institutions into the activities of the local community.

· Networking with key stakeholders and actors (citizens, politicians, NGOs, etc.) - digital (e.g., via social media) and non-digital (meetings, events).

· Non-scientific knowledge communication between academics and key stakeholders/actors.
Figure 7. Panel Session. University with and for Society: Promoting Citizen Science within Open Science. Speakers: Gemma Marfany (UB); Marko Joas and Mats Lindfelt (ÅAU); Lukas Worschech (JMU); Ellen Roemer (HRW); Josep Perelló (UB).
The last contribution, by **Prof. Josep Perelló** (University of Barcelona), presents the OpenSystems-UB experience on ‘Co-designing Citizen Social Science for Collective Action: The experience of the CoAct EU project’. Prof. Perelló first highlights the active environment regarding CS initiatives currently taking place in the city of Barcelona. Then, introduces the CoAct project based on co-creation and collective action, with the aim of delivering policy briefs for policy-makers.

CS is about participation, but there are diverse schools, with different notions and approaches for this process. The starting point for the project is the idea that CS is a “form of science developed and enacted by citizens themselves” (Irwin, 1995)\(^{16}\). CoAct understands CS as a participatory research process co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups that share a social concern. The main actors in this project are considered co-researchers, that is, persons having a lived experience in relation to the social concerns and thus recognized as experts-in-the-field. As such, they are co-owners of the research data and results. The idea is to produce an action plan to tackle the common issue, from a collective perspective. Four topics are selected: mental health care; youth employment; environmental justice; and gender equality.

With regards to the mental health side of the initiative, the project decided to focus on social support networks, in order to understand how they work and propose actions to strengthen them. A Telegram Chatbot was developed, through co-creation with citizens, to collect data to end up producing a set of recommendations for policy-makers.

Before closing the session, Prof. Marfany asks all the speakers to provide a brief take-home message for the audience. Dr. Roemer stresses that non-scientific communication is key to promote CS and Open Science, so that real involvement of citizens is achieved, to democratize science. Researchers, as well as administrations, need to make an effort to engage with citizenship. Prof. Worschech highlights the importance of involving young researchers and fostering engagement with SMEs to guide results and innovation towards society. Dr. Lindfelt, from the research support side, emphasizes the need to provide training on CS and communication skills to all practitioners that are part of these processes. Prof. Joas states points out the importance for universities to systematically support CS, not only regarding external stakeholders, but also their own researchers. Prof. Perelló, to conclude, puts emphasis on not doing CS alone (from the researchers’ point of view), but to necessarily include citizenship throughout the whole process.

---

3.6 Closure\(^\text{17}\)

Meeting closing remarks.

Speaker: BRIAN BRODERICK. Associate Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin.

Prof. Brian Broderick (Associate Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin) brings the meeting to a close, by thanking all participants and attendants (online and in-person), and hoping the exchange of experiences and knowledge among the Alliances is useful for further progress their respective projects. Prof. Broderick thanks the organizing committee of the event and highlights the relevance of the programme and speakers. The European Research Area is changing, and it is clear that the way researchers work is changing, and who researchers work with as well. The Alliances are going to play a strong role in that change and thus, in shaping the future European research. That is the main message from today, we can help that transformation by collaborating together.

---

\(^{17}\) Session recording available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIECPWRU40k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIECPWRU40k).
4. OUTCOME & CONCLUSIONS

The second TORCH Open Forum, under the title ‘Sharing Common R&I Policies and Strategies: Strengthening Collaboration Towards a Transformational Approach’, was held on March 8, 2023, hosted by the Trinity College Dublin.

The meeting was addressed to diverse relevant collectives: university leadership, academic and technical staff, as well as any actors engaged in R&I activities and universities collaboration. It was also relevant for policymakers, as the European Commission’s perspective was included. The event was conceived as a dissemination activity not only to share and discuss the TORCH Project progresses, but also as a forum in which fellow University Alliances could showcase their SwafS projects initiatives. As such, all FOREU1 and FOREU2 Alliances were invited to participate, since the main topics covered were relevant to their development:

- Working towards reforming research assessment.
- Fostering equality, diversity and inclusivity.
- Championing Open Science.
- Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges.
- Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities.

More than 120 participants attended the different sessions (online plus in person), in which 61 chairs, speakers or rapporteurs took part. Plenary and panel sessions were recorded and are available in the CHARM-EU YouTube channel. Updates on the event were also live-tweeted. For more details on participation and engagement see Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2. TORCH 2nd Open Forum participation (online and in-person).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online participation during streamed sessions (registrations: 153)</th>
<th>Afternoon Sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Sessions (registrations: 153)</td>
<td>Afternoon Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka8oO7n4Nck">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka8oO7n4Nck</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIECPWRU40k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIECPWRU40k</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening ceremony</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenary Session</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Session</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak number</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total views*</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In person participation during sessions (registration: 68)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total views (as of March 27, 2023) since the videos were published (source: YouTube Analytics).
Table 3. TORCH 2nd Open Forum social media engagement. Data retrieved on March 14, 2023 (except the post-communication posts, on March 27, 2023).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date / Channel</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>LinkedIn</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Instagram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2023.02.07-08</td>
<td>Twitter post n.1 (2082)</td>
<td>LinkedIn post n.1 (664)</td>
<td>Facebook post n.1 (124)</td>
<td>Instagram post n.1 (377)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023.02.16</td>
<td>Twitter post n.2 (1968)</td>
<td>LinkedIn post n.2 (916)</td>
<td>Facebook post n.2 (102)</td>
<td>Instagram post n.2 (261)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023.02.21</td>
<td>Twitter post n.3 (592)</td>
<td>LinkedIn post n.3 (937)</td>
<td>Facebook post n.3 (998)</td>
<td>Instagram post n.3 (417)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023.02.24</td>
<td>Twitter post n.4 (529)</td>
<td>LinkedIn post n.4 (831)</td>
<td>Facebook post n.4 (53)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023.03.01</td>
<td>Twitter post n.5 (2525)</td>
<td>LinkedIn post n.5 (563)</td>
<td>Facebook post n.5 (415)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023.03.06</td>
<td>Twitter post n.6 (1399)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023.03.08-09</td>
<td>Live thread (3971) &amp; tweet (1290)</td>
<td>LinkedIn post communication 1 (1196)</td>
<td>Facebook post communication 1 (154)</td>
<td>Instagram post communication 1 (323)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-comm posts</td>
<td>Twitter post (2056)</td>
<td>LinkedIn post (605)</td>
<td>Facebook post (101)</td>
<td>Instagram post (272)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Plenary Session on the ‘ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities’ put together a diverse panel of speakers who discussed the role of the Alliances as innovative living labs within the ERA’s framework. Representatives of different entities shared their views on the Policy Agenda, such as the Coimbra Group and the European University Association (as universities organizations) or Science Europe (with the research funding organizations perspective), all of them involved in co-creating the general strategy. Linkages between the different actions included in the Agenda were highlighted and the (potential) activities of Alliances were also discussed, with a focus on those of them which are more relevant and could have greater impact on their development.

The Panel Session on ‘The European perspective on the reform of research assessment’ presented the latest approaches and progress on the revision of the evaluation systems for research-performing institutions, researchers, and funding agencies. All the participants agreed on the need to reform research assessment, such process being a priority for the new European Research Area. The roadmap established by the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) was discussed, including the perspective of the European Commission (DG RTD) as well as the Irish Health Research Board (as a national funding agency), the European University Association and Utrecht University.

The TORCH Cluster Sessions (‘Progress on joint R&I strategies in European University Alliances’) served the purpose of exchanging experiences and practices among several Alliances with regards to some R&I key areas:
· Cluster 1: ‘New approaches for diverse academic careers’. Six Alliances (CHARM-EU, ARQUS, FORTHEM, YUFE, CIVIS, and EPICUR) shared their progress and plans to promote Open Science and intersectional initiatives regarding equal opportunities, non-discrimination and inclusivity, as well as presented some specific actions and strategies on reforming research assessment.

· Cluster 2: ‘Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities’. Eight examples of initiatives to build collaborative frameworks for joint and shared R&I-related activities were shared. FORTHEM, EELISA, SEA-EU, UNIC, ECIU, CIVIS, and CHARM-EU presented diverse cases, from the creation of joint research support offices to sharing research infrastructures or setting up networks of TTOs. Speakers agreed on the need to keep developing collaborative frameworks across HEIs.

· Cluster 3: ‘Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges’. Good practices and strategies on exploring joint transdisciplinary, challenge-driven research were discussed. Representatives of CHARM-EU, EC2U, FilmEU, Circle U, CIVICA, Una Europa, and FORTHEM put forward their Alliances’ respective plans to support inter/transdisciplinarity.

The Panel Session ‘University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science’ brought together representatives of different universities (Åbo Akademi University, Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg, Hochschule Ruhr West, and the University of Barcelona) to discuss their institutional plans and support systems to foster Citizen Science, presented some hands-on experiences and participatory projects involving citizens, local communities and the wider society as co-creators, finally sharing some take-home messages as helpful ideas and advice, and pointing out some strengths and caveats when implementing CS research.
ANNEX I: PUBLIC PROGRAMME AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Public Programme

The full programme, along with the concept note and practical information to attend the event, were published at https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch-2nd-annual-forum-march-2023

Banner

![Banner Image]

Twitter & Instagram

![Twitter & Instagram Image]
Social Media Promotion and Live Tweets (examples)

CHARMEU
13/08/2023
8:30 a.m.
The event will focus on five key areas:
- Researcher-teacher interaction
- Diversity, equity, and inclusivity
- Open science and Open Access
- Promoting interdisciplinarity

Join us to learn more about the purpose & agenda of CHARMEU and register now! 🎨

#CHARMEU2023 #ResearchEducation
#ResearchInnovation #OpenScience #OpenAccess #EquityInclusion #Transdisciplinary #CHARMEU

CHARMEU
13/08/2023
10:00 a.m.
One week to go until our 2nd Annual Forum focusing on responsible research & innovation and common R&I strategies.

Learn more about the main topics of the event as well as our diverse group of contributors and register now! 🎨

#CHARMEU2023 #ResearchInnovation
#OpenScience #CHARMEU

CHARMEU
13/08/2023
11:00 a.m.
We would like to say thank you to the speakers, chairs, contributors, and attendees for joining our #CHARMEU2023 journey and taking part in the discussions on current R&I & innovation strategies.

Thank you to those who contributed to the event and to our collaborators representing different national and international actors within the European R&I landscape.

#CHARMEU #ResearchInnovation
#OpenScience #Transdisciplinary

CHARMEU
13/08/2023
1:00 p.m.
Happy to have representatives of 14 alliances sharing their work on AI! Thank you.

#CharlieAlliance #FORTH-EUNICAlliance #UNICAlliance #Teilnahmefrei #EUREKAAlliance #UNICAlliance #EUEUAlliance #EURECAAlliance #EUROSAAlliance #EURECAAlliance #EURECAAlliance #EURECAAlliance #EURECAAlliance #EURECAAlliance

#CHARMEU #ResearchInnovation
#OpenScience #Transdisciplinary

TORCH FORUM 2023
Sharing the future of HE and STEAM

TORCH 2nd Annual Forum 2023: Morning Sessions

University of Barcelona: 9:45 a.m.
TU Delft: 2:25 a.m.

Thank you for attending! 🎨
Join our session on the H2020 Policy Agenda and EU University Alliances with @UlrikeBoroliDam @StefEurope and @EmmaGardan on 08 March 2023 at aTORCHForum2023 at 11:00-12:15 CET. Agenda → bit.ly/3yyG3Ua. Morning → bit.ly/3yyG3Ua. Afternoon → bit.ly/3yecz0Z
Tweetch Tweet

Today, 11:00-12:15 CET: Our colleague @AlainMourreEU @CharmEU @TRUSTEurope and @StefEurope will discuss the policy agenda for Research and Innovation at H2020 Forum 2023. Agenda → bit.ly/3yyG3Ua. Morning → bit.ly/3yAMmg. Afternoon → bit.ly/3yecz0Z
Tweetch Tweet

During the first plenary session @AlainMourreEU Senior Policy Officer @StefEurope CEO Consultant @EmmaGardan Director @StefEurope Director @StefEurope at europeanunion focus on the EU policy agenda and EU cooperation between universities. Tweet
Tweetch Tweet

Charmed by the diversity of EU University Alliances and the potential they offer for collaboration. @UNIBARCELONA @UNI_Bologna @UNIBUENOSAIREBUS can learn from each other. @CharmEU @TRUSTEurope @AlainMourreEU @StefEurope @UNIBARCELONA @UNI_Bologna @UNIBUENOSAIREBUS
Tweetch Tweet

Enjoy the rich and dynamic content at the H2020 Policy Agenda and EU University Alliances session with @UlrikeBoroliDam @StefEurope and @EmmaGardan on 08 March 2023 at aTORCHForum2023. Agenda → bit.ly/3yyG3Ua. Morning → bit.ly/3yyG3Ua. Afternoon → bit.ly/3yecz0Z
Tweetch Tweet

The TWIST policy agenda and H2020 policy agenda session with @UlrikeBoroliDam @StefEurope and @EmmaGardan on 08 March 2023 at aTORCHForum2023. Agenda → bit.ly/3yyG3Ua. Morning → bit.ly/3yyG3Ua. Afternoon → bit.ly/3yecz0Z
Tweetch Tweet
ANNEX II: PRESENTATIONS

Opening Ceremony

KATE MORRIS. Head of Campus Engage, Irish Universities Association.
It is a requirement for funding
- Horizon Europe
- SFI Challenge based funding calls

A competitive edge for Ireland

A competitive edge for Ireland
Research as a gateway between society and evidence informed policy making

1. Change attitudes & culture
2. Change infrastructure & roles
3. Build Capacity

BUILDING CAPACITY
RELAUNCH - 6 WEEK "THINK THE SOLUTION" COURSE
ENGAGED RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOR SOCIETAL IMPACT

2022 OUTCOMES
- Number of new Trainers 2022: 32
- Number of respondents to survey: 22
- Number of training workshops delivered by trainers May 2022 - February 2023: 37
- Number of people trained at workshops: 1,520
- Number of pending workshops March - May 2023: 10
- Number of other events including conference presentations, webinars, seminars: 15
- Number of people in attendance at other events: 3,931

Global reach:
- Deutschland
- Norge
- Danmark
- Sweden
- France
- Belgium
- Canada

30 NEW CAMPUS ENGAGE TRAINERS
THANK YOU

INFO@CAMPUSENGAGE.IE
Plenary Session: ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities

ADRIEN BRAEM. Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe.
CASE STUDY - COARA

- EU Action, 55 projects around the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment - which brings together signatories of the Agreement to work towards its implementation.
- Science Europe (together with the European Skeptics Association and Karen Steenbeek) was part of the drafting committee of the Agreement, and is now a part of the COARA steering Board.
- 47 international organizations have signed the Agreement, as of 24 February 2023.
- Of those, 23/24 COARA members, from 25 countries.
- 32 of 45 Science Europe Member Organizations committed.
- Large diversity of organization types, but still a European: 79% in Europe / 14% in Americas / 1% other regions.
- 9% RPOs / 8% NGOs / 9% Academies & Research community associations / 9% non-profit orgs / 1% other.
- Science Europe is also supporting the setting-up of the COARA Working Groups and will manage one of the Working Groups that will be established.

SCIENCE EUROPE’S PLANNED CONTRIBUTION IN 2023

- Develop an overall strategic vision for the ERA and a roadmap for the ERA Policy Agenda.
- Propose a list of essential ERA Actions to be included in the ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2030, in the form of thematic papers on each of these priorities.
- This position will form the basis of Science Europe’s advices and contribute towards the development of the new ERA Policy Agenda.
- Actively contribute to the discussions in the ERA Forum.

NEW ERA - ONE YEAR ON

Succes

- Involvement of stakeholders has taken a substantial improvement compared to the previous policy cycle.
- Stronger impacts in the ERA, including through better inclusiveness of Member States and increased collaboration.
- Solid group on the Global Approach works well.

Challenges

- Progress towards implementing the different ERA Advise groups from uneven.
- Inter-connectedness and synergies between different ERA Actions and ad hoc panels have not been exploited as much as they could have.
- ERA Policy Agenda is in line with the Commission’s priorities, but certain key issues are missing.

NEW POLICY AGENDA AND HOW IT COULD IMPROVE THE ERA

What is going to happen?

- Discussions are already ongoing to develop the ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2030.
- It will take place first in the ERA Forum and in ERA-Forum Community events.
- Definition of a list of ERA Actions for those who commit themselves.

What could be improved?

- Establish a clear and comprehensive plan for the implementation.
- Increase the engagement of stakeholders and ensure their participation.
- Provide a clearer vision on the overall strategy.
- Enhance communication with the general public.

What are the opportunities for change?

- Enhance the role of the ERA Forum.
- Strengthen the link between the ERA Forum and the Commission.
Plenary Session: ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities

GARETH O’NEILL. Principal Consultant on Open Science, Technopolis Group.

---

**European Universities and Areas of Institutional Change**

Gareth O’Neill
TORCH Annual Forum 2023
08 March 2023 in Dublin

@gtoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

---

**University Alliances**

Council invited EC in 2018 to:
- Strengthen strategic partnerships between HEIs across EU
- Encourage emergence by 2024 of ‘European University’ alliances
- Enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies across several EU countries

@gtoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

---

**Areas of Institutional Change**

1. Developing a common R&I agenda and action plan
2. Sharing resources & infrastructures
3. Strengthening human capital
4. Reinforcing cooperation with non-academic sector
5. Mainstreaming Open Science practices
6. Engaging citizens & society
7. Exploring joint structures

@gtoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

---

**Areas of Institutional Change**

(2) Sharing resources & infrastructures
  - Needs
  - Cooperation
  - Infrastructures for Open Science

@gtoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

---

**University Alliances**

Erasmus+ pilot support: Horizon 2020 support:
2019: 17 new alliances
2020: 24 new alliances
2021: 24 extra support
2022: 4 new alliances

@gtoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

---

**Areas of Institutional Change**

1. Developing a common R&I agenda and action plan
  - Identification of challenges and convergence
  - Preparation of action plans
  - Identification of resources
  - Scaling excellence

@gtoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

---

**Areas of Institutional Change**

3. Strengthening human capital
  - Framework conditions
  - New balance in the assessment of academics
  - Dealing with brain drain
  - Cloud of knowledge
  - Promoting talent (skills and competences)

@gtoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com
Areas of Institutional Change

(4) Reinforcing cooperation with non-academic sector
   - Developing an innovation strategy
   - Strengthening innovation capacity
   - Mainstreaming entrepreneurial mind-set
   - Inducing cooperation
   - Innovation pipeline development

@garethoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

Areas of Institutional Change

(5) Mainstreaming Open Science practices
   - Open Access and research data management
   - Open Science skills and education
   - Open Science incentives and rewards
   - Open Science ambassadors

@garethoneill

Areas of Institutional Change

(6) Engaging citizens & society
   - Science in society
   - Citizen science
   - Knowledge creating teams
   - Outreach to children and schools
   - Sustainable Development Goals
   - Policy feedback

@garethoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

Areas of Institutional Change

(7) Exploring joint structures
   - Common technical activities
   - Facilitating collaboration in activities
   - Common obstacles and solutions
   - Clustering activities to share best practices

@garethoneill

Progress of University Alliances

Report to be published in March/April 2023 by REA

Progress of Pilot I University Alliance Projects
under IBA-SwafS-Support-1-2020 Call

Looks at challenges, progress, and good practices of the Pilot I University Alliances

@garethoneill
gareth.oneill@technopolis-group.com

European Universities
and Areas of Institutional Change

Thank you!
Plenary Session: ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities

EMMANUELLE GARDAN. Director of Coimbra Group.

Facts and Figures

- Involved in ERA
- 45 universities from 28 European countries
- >1,500 students / >320,000 staff members (teaching, research, services)
- 44.4% of all signatories in H2020:
  - 28% of all H2020, Via and ERA projects awarded under Pillar I
  - 13% of all ERA funded grants
  - 15% of all ERA CDC funding
  - 25% of all ERA grants in H2O2
- 28% of all ERA, Via and ERA projects under Pillar II
- 37% of all ERA CDC funded grants
- >20% of all ERA funded projects

New ERA: A Strategic Priority for Coimbra Group for 2022-2023

- Actively engaged in the implementation of the European Research Area, more specifically for Actions 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 14
- Reform of research assessment (ERA is a founding member of the LCAEA)
- European universities initiative
- European strategy for universities
- Continue strengthening Coimbra Group engagement with society
- Continue developing policies, tools and guidelines to limit the impact of BREF on universities’ core activities

CG Engagement with the New ERA

- Actively engaged with the EU institutions in shaping the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe (Nov 2021), which sets out principles for research and innovation for the first time ever.
- Intense advocacy for promoting stakeholder representation, and specifically university sector representation in the new ERA governance.
- Coimbra Group is formally registered as an ERA stakeholder since Nov 2021, and currently represented as such in the ERA Forum by the EUG (London) and YERUN (alternates).
- Actively engaged with the EU institutions in shaping the ERA Policy Agenda for 2022-2024 (set of 20 Policy Actions) and soon for the next period.

CG Engagement in the Implementation Phase

- Which role for CG? Consultation of our members on the 20 ERA actions to identify those that both are priority for us collectively – where we can bring added value.
- Formal commitment to implement the ERA Policy Actions:
  - Action 3. Reform of research assessment:
    - CG members of 15 groups leading the preparation & setting of guidance – Global scoring member
  - Action 4. Partnership for excellence in research, science, culture, education, innovation & internationalisation:
    - CG members of 15 groups leading the preparation & setting of guidance – Global scoring member
  - Action 5. Reform of the ERA internal process:
    - CG members of 15 groups leading the preparation & setting of guidance – Global scoring member
  - Action 6. Reform of the ERA funding model:
    - CG members of 15 groups leading the preparation & setting of guidance – Global scoring member
  - Action 7. Reform of the ERA mobility model:
    - CG members of 15 groups leading the preparation & setting of guidance – Global scoring member
  - Action 8. Reform of the ERA governance model:
    - CG members of 15 groups leading the preparation & setting of guidance – Global scoring member

Most relevant specific actions for the alliances: the why?

- May 2020 Council Conclusions on the European Universities:
  - “European Universities with:
    - contribute visibly translate achieving the ambitious aim of an innovating, globally competitive and attractive ERA and ERA is fully present with the HEA.
    - A pledge to boost the excellence dimension of HEI
    - While promoting gender equality, inclusiveness, and equity,
    - allowing for excellence and stimulating international cooperation between higher education institutions in Europe, and inspiring the transformation of higher education”.
  - “European Universities are:
    - strengthening the attraction for academic and research careers,
    - supporting institutional change, for example, through inclusive gender equality plans,
    - and stimulating cooperation with surrounding educational actors,
    - working towards open science & open education, engaging with citizens for solving societal challenges and
    - reinforcing excellence in education and research for global competitiveness”

Most relevant specific actions for the alliances: the how?

- “European universities will contribute to strengthen the research & innovation dimension of ERA in Europe by developing a common agenda, shared aspirations and resources, pooling critical mass, strengthening human capital & matching non academic actors in teaching & research, connecting with surrounding innovation ecosystems, with intern and extern”.
- “European universities will be guided all actions with:
  - “Innovative, including gender equity assessment & reporting systems that take into account the open science, quality of teaching, transfer & knowledge and competencies
  - Improved human and physical resources and strengthening innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems, including the HEA and the open access publishing infrastructures, open access & sharing, as well as open data ecosystems”.
- “European universities should be guided to prepare the enhancement of the “European Charter for University Freedom” and the “Code of Conduct for the Enhancement of” and chain implementation, including the H2020 and ERA projects leading future ERA funding initiatives”.
- April 2020 Council Conclusions on the European Strategy for Universities:
- “These actions should be supported, where appropriate, in promoting the development of collective academic and sustainable careers, in networks of universities and research, for innovation laboratories and platforms”.

62
**ERA ACTION 4: STRENGTHENING RESEARCH CAREERS**

- **Goals:**
  - Development of a comprehensive European Framework for Research Careers
  - Exchange of best practices in skills and mutual learning to support inter-sectoral mobility and more balanced personnel career paths in Europe (e.g., ResearchCareers Observatory, ERA Talent Platform)

- **Timeline:**

- **Highlights:**
  - Technical document on a European Framework for Research Careers
  - Partnership for young researchers
  - ResearchComp, ERA Talent Platforms and Research and Innovation Careers Observatory

**ERA ACTION 13: EMPOWERING HEIs FOR ERA IN SYNERGY WITH EEA**

- **Goals:**
  - 16 Member States (+2)
  - 3 Associated Countries
  - 12 Stakeholder Organisations

- **Policy approach:** subgroup w/1-year mandate, reporting to ERA Forum

- **1st meeting on 8th March 2023,** Brussels co-chaired by DG RTD, France and Coimbra Group: subgroup scope and mandate adopted; needs identified by MS, AC and SHO for 2023; experts’ presentations shaping the work plan until 2024.
ERA ACTION 13: EMPOWERING HEI FOR ERA IN SYNERGY WITH EEA

**Objectives**
- Facilitate exchange and sharing of practices
- Develop a European Excellence Initiative
- Support coordination between countries and departments
- Analyse results of studies
- Provide recommendations on future support mechanism

**European dimension in R&I**
- Achieve excellence and innovation in science and society through integrated and institutional cooperation of higher education institutions
- Support implementation of ERA actions in higher education institutions

**Excellence, competitiveness**
- Align Member States' efforts to improve global visibility, excellence and competitiveness of Europe's HEIs

MOST RELEVANT SPECIFIC ERA ACTIONS FOR THE ALLIANCES: THE CHALLENGES

- Diversity of ERA Policy Actions
  - Scope
  - State of advancement
  - Synergies between actions
- Slow approaches (ERA, EAA, EHEA) and plethora of EU initiatives targeting universities recently which can be counter-productive
- Public communication / Outreach
  - Risks of EU-“Brussels Bubble Jargon” and distance
  - Success criteria: ERA must create tangible impact for final users (researchers & research institutions, in particular universities)
- Funding (EU/MS) is key for effective implementation of ERA actions
Plenary Session: ERA’s Policy Agenda 2022-2024 and R&I Cooperation Between European Universities

STEPHANE BERGHMANS. Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association.
Panel Session: The European perspective on the reform of research assessment

JEAN-EMMANUEL FAURE. Team leader of Research assessment, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission.
Panel Session: The European perspective on the reform of research assessment

STEPHANE BERGHMANS. Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association.

A Reform of Research Assessment
The Agreement & CoARA Coalition
a university perspective

Panel members:
- STEPHANE BERGHMANS, Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association
- STEPHANE BERGHMANS, Director of Research & Innovation, European University Association

Drafting an Agreement, a co-creation exercise

Universities are needed to bring about change

What about CoARA’s future...
What are the challenges ahead?

Signing the agreement...
What does it mean for my institution?

What to expect and how will it affect us
Signing the agreement...
What does it mean for my institution?

A word on coalition funding

- No membership fee will be applied to CoARmA members.
- The preliminary work plan and budget of the CoARmA were endorsed by the Constitutive Assembly.
- The document describes the tasks foreseen for the CoARmA during the period 1st December 2022 to 31st December 2023, the corresponding budget necessary and available, and the fundraising strategy.
- The Secretariat has been tasked with fundraising. It will engage with public funding organisations, philanthropies, and other organisations within and outside the Coalition. It will also apply to relevant calls for proposals.

Participants will keep full control on the steps they make to implement the Agreement and the speed of their reform journey, which can vary from organisation to another depending on many factors."

Organisations commit to share information on the progress made and lessons learnt in their reform journeys according to the timelines included in the Agreement. Sharing of information shall be done on the basis of self-assessment and only to those organisations will be validated by the Coalition.

EUA CoARmA work plan
Establishing rules for EUA.

In the next few months...

- Platform for exchange and collaboration
- EUA members in CoARmA
- European Commission (EC) activity on the Horizon 2020 programme
- European Parliament activity on research and innovation
- Global contact through stakeholder organisations
- Support for sharing success stories: Reporting on the implementation of the Agreement and establishing CoARmA cases.

Thank you for your attention

More questions?

stpharm@tasselman@eualoica.eu
Panel Session: The European perspective on the reform of research assessment

TERESA MAGUIRE. Director of Research Strategy & Funding, Irish Health Research Board.
Reflections

- Informed, proportionate and transparent
- Evolution not revolution
- Will involve responsible use of metrics
- Risk appetite (compliance and accountability)
- Time, Skills and Systems - resourcing HEIs, HSE and Research funders
  - Governments need to acknowledge and invest in the people and systems for assessment, management, governance, coordination and evaluation of research
Panel Session: The European perspective on the reform of research assessment

PAUL BOSELIE. Chair Recognition & Rewards in Open Science, Utrecht University.
Other career pathways will become more important.

Diversity and validation of career paths.

Debbie Jemison, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

NINA SHIEL, Trinity College Dublin (CHARM-EU/TORCH).
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

PIA VOIGT, Universität Leipzig. DANIELA PICHLER, Universität Graz (ARQUIS R&I).

What is Arqus R.I. Workpackage 5?

Work Package 5 strives for enhancing Open Science within the Arqus Alliance

Implementation and Outcomes:
- Arqus-wide Survey among researchers regarding Open Science
- Recommendations to enhance Open Science within the Arqus Alliance
- Open Science skills: implications for alternative assessment approaches
- Open Science Ambassador Network
- Open Science training materials

Open Science Survey among Researchers

The aim of the survey among researchers in the Alliance was to gather experiences, hurdles, wishes and suggestions regarding practicing Open Science activities. On this basis, and including respective scientific literature on the topic, recommendations were developed for the Alliance, the universities, and the researchers in order to enhance Open Science.

Sections of the questionnaire:
- Open Science knowledge and experience
- Open Science activities
- Open Science support
- Open Science needs

Conduct of the survey:
- Digital questionnaire via Lime Survey
- July and August 2022
- Researchers at PhD level and above
- Arqus R.I. Universities: Graz, Leipzig, Lyon 1, Padua, Vilnius
Recommendations on Open Science

Recommendations to enhance Open Science in Arqus

2. Introduce rewards and incentives for Open Science practices in researcher(s) assessment respecting discipline and career stage specifications.

- Consider Open Science activities in research evaluation and as inherent part of research integrity.
- Acknowledge Open Science practices as scientific contributions.
- Monitor and display Open Science activities in local infrastructures (OGIS).
- Start plans and discourse forums (e.g., panels, working groups) including researchers as well as academic support staff for the development of quality-based criteria and for the recognition of open science activities.
- invoice discipline-specific differences and include researchers in developing quality-based criteria for research assessment.

How to enhance Open Science?

- Develop and share policies, guidance and training offers among Arqus researchers, provide consulting and increase visibility of Open Science support services.
- Introduce rewards and incentives for Open Science practices in researcher(s) assessment respecting discipline and career stage specifications.
- Provide resources, infrastructures and funding to enable Open Science activities regarding the discipline-specific needs.

Recommendations to enhance Open Science in Arqus

3. Provide resources, infrastructures and funding to enable Open Science activities regarding the discipline specific needs.

- Provide long-term financial support for quality-assured, preferably community-owned and open source infrastructures and tools.
- Provide proper funding for Open Access publications and data sharing via publication funds.
- Provide staff resources that support researchers in practising Open Science.
- Establish and sustain open platforms for sharing research software and tools and infrastructures within the Arqus alliance.
- Provide researchers with shared access to trustworthy Open Science infrastructures within the Arqus Alliance.

List of references

- All survey graphics generated and provided by Tommaso Caruso, Luigi Gnoisi, Nicoletta Parise, Maria Letizia Tartarini (University of Padua, 2022).
- Recommendations and data will be published open access (Opa)

76
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

KATARZYNA MOLEK-KOZAKOWSKA, University of Opole (FIT FORTHEM).
Survey for pupils, taken after each cycle

4KCES/24 in numbers:
14 schools in 4 countries
20 teachers involved in CS supervision
over 420 pupils involved in CS mini-projects
30 university students trained as CS facilitators
3 types of surveys administered
6 onsite events organized
12 videos in 5 languages developed for instruction and promotion of CS
23 academics involved in coordinating, training, modelling CS for schools

Thank you!

FIT forthem.

Prof. Iriana V. del Abad
iriana.delabad@unibas.ch

FMI-ETH: Life Long Learning in Science and Engineering Education Lab
FIT forthem: Student Advisory Council for Education

Universitat de Barcelona
Trinity College Dublin
Université de Montpellier
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

MARIA PIETILÄ, JOUNI KEKÄLE, University of Eastern Finland (YUFERING).

YUFERING portfolio in researcher assessment

Dr. Jouni Kekele and Dr. Maria Pietila, University of Eastern Finland
2nd TORCH Annual Forum, 8 March, 2023

Calls for reforming research assessment

Examples:
- DORA declaration (2013): For the purposes of research assessment, consider the value and impact of all research outputs. Consider a broad range of output measures, such as influence on policy and practice.
- UNESCO Recommendation on OA (2012): Open Science allows open access to research in scholarly communication, enabling through rigorous and participatory review, thus contributing to democratization of knowledge.
- CUBIA (2022): Recognize the diversity of research activities and practices, with a shortlist of outputs, and reward early sharing and open collaboration.

YUFERING portfolio

Profile as researcher:
- Own background, education, training, skills and experience, vision for promoting Open Science
- Main merits, achievements and their significance
  1. research
  2. teaching and supervision
  3. community engagement and societal outreach
  4. teamwork, management, and/or leadership
- Description of 5-10 key publications or presentation contributions to support the argument: Open science merits or achievements (qualitative)
- Significance of the merits and outputs
- Academic age
- Research experience in years

Young Universities for the Future of Europe – YUFE

YUFERING is a joint project of the YUFE alliance. Among other things, it aims at:
- transforming recognition, reward and circulation of talents and learning across Europe;
- making Open Science the “new normal” by creating a YUFE Open Science Strategy.

Research- and evidence-based development of the YUFERING portfolio

Central declarations on responsible research assessment, policy papers, reports on metrics and career assessment, national initiatives on research assessment, narrative CVs.

YUFE universities’ central recognition and reward structure and variants of qualitative assessment (pre-Open Science) + holistic approaches

What we built:
- Narrative CV focused on researcher’s individual capacities and skills supported by evidence (outputs/examples)
- Covers diverse aspects of academic work: Holistic view of research expertise and contributions
- In addition to research and teaching, societal interaction and transnational skills in the emphasis on leadership
- Focuses on the output of work rather than metrics (e.g., focuses on a limited number of research outputs)
- Broadening the understanding of outputs and g., collaborative software

Conclusion and next steps

YUFERING Portfolio for the purposes of assessment and academic career development within the YUFE alliance

Flexible approach that allows researchers to emphasize their own priorities (taking into account what the academic field and career stage) and that is applicable to different national and institutional contexts

YUFE activities planned in the selection of post-doctoral researchers for YUFERING Programme in 2023

Implications of the portfolio used in the academic governance, viz: academic mobility, recruitment committees (member) use of the general information

Reporting in fall 2023

Thank you!
Questions or comments?
Ideas for collaboration?

Please contact:
jouni.kekele@yuf.fi, maria.pieta@yuf.fi
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

MIHNEA DOBRE, University of Bucharest. RAFAELLA LENOIR, Autonomous University of Madrid. FABIEN BORGET, Aix-Marseille Université (RIS4CIVIS).

What is CIVIS?
CIVIS Alliance = part of the bigger programme of European Alliance Initiatives launched by the European Commission in 2020.
- 49 EU pilot alliances
- today = 44 alliances
- Funded both under Externity and Horizon 2020
- CIVIS = partnership of 11 universities

What is RIS4CIVIS?
A network project of the CIVIS Alliance
Research and Innovation Strategy for CIVIS

The Research component of CIVIS
Main objectives:
- Promote collaboration across university research that can impact on complex societal challenges of the 21st century
- Strengthen interactions and co-creation of knowledge between academia, citizens, policy and cultural realms
- Address the research needs arising between the alliance partners through interdisciplinary, shared research infrastructures and innovative funding for joint projects
- Shaping a vision of change and innovation and a model for other University Alliances

WP3. Case Studies in RIS4CIVIS
Module 4: “Strengthening Human Capital”

Module 5: “Mainstreaming Open Science”
The CIVIS C5 Award
Pilot case study on the Research Assessment Reform

Module 6: “Embedding Citizens and Society”
Set up an adequate common framework for the recognition of Science Dissemination (SD), Citizen Science (CS) and Open Innovation (OI) initiatives by universities: CS/SD Award; Research Assessment Reform.

Research Assessment Reform in RIS4CIVIS
Challenges:
- CRH different approaches in the signatories universities (also, different national contexts).
- Timeframe: the need to limit the time for reaching a consensus in the pilot phase.
- Strategy: establish a long-time commitment for promoting the reform.
- Scale: the need to address to different stakeholders and not only to communicate, but also to convince them about the necessity of this change.
Research Assessment Reform in RIS4CIVIS – Global View

CoEAA Signatories in the alliance
- Aix-Marseille University
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- University of Bucureşti
- Universidade Autónoma de Madrid
- Stockholm University

CIVIS/ RIS4CIVIS
Fabien Berger (Aix-Marseille Université)
fabien.berger@univ-amu.fr

Mihnea Dobres (University of Bucharest)
mihnea.dobres@uibuc.ro

Rafaela Lenoir (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
rafaela.lenoir@uam.es

[Image of logos and additional information]
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

ANDREAS RAGGAUTZ, Universität Graz (ARQUUS R&I).

Activity Framework and Research Assessment Reform - University of Graz Pilot

Where do we come from?
- Research evaluation
- Appointment procedures
- Research information system
- Open Science policy, Open Access initiatives
- Recommendations for research assessment (Quality Audit)

Where is ...

Research Assessment – Alternative Approaches
- Activity Framework
- Research Fora
- ArQuus Task Force to accompany the Graz pilot

Activity Framework
- Transparency on the achievements expected at the respective career level and research culture
- Activities in research and research funding
- Promotion of early stage researchers
- Teaching achievements and innovations
- Societal engagement / outreach activities
- Management performance
- Transferable skills

Guidance and support in evaluation and appointment procedures, resource allocation, incentives
Monitoring the performance (dashboard)

Research Fora
- Format for research units to internally discuss topics centered around
  - Innovative research
  - Impact within scientific community and the society
  - International visibility
- Outcome: strategy document on the development for the next 10 years
- Bottom-up, flexible, uses the creativity and innovation potential of the unit under evaluation
- Traditional formal self-evaluation report can be replaced by the fora

Further aspects of CoARA
- Assessment by (international) peers
- Bibliometric analysis: yes, but...
- Rankings not used in assessments and evaluation
- Funds for peers, workshops, site visits etc.
- Benchmarking within ArQuus, CoARA, national networks

Thank you!

Andreas Raggautz
University of Graz
Performance and Quality Management
A-8010 Graz, Universitätsplatz 3
Tel. +43.316.386.1800
Andreas.raggautz@unigraz.at
Andreas.Raggautz

82
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

THRASYVOULOS TSIATSOS, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (EPICUR).

Flow of Presentation

- EPIQAssess Model Researcher Assessment Framework
- Towards EPICommunity Platform

The context

- Early career researchers on the epicenter!

EPIQAssess Model Researcher Assessment Framework

EPIQAssess Description

Key characteristics

- Key feature is the focus on actual deployment and implementation of the framework as a practical tool in university life
- EPIQAssess builds upon a context analysis of recent publications and adds value to the debate by offering an actionable approach to ignite change

EPIQAssess as basis for strengthening human capital

Main aim:
- To support digitalisation and international collaboration as enablers in the delivery of the Research & Innovation framework. EPICommunity

Main objectives:
- To enrich the current research and career evaluation systems with qualitative criteria (EPIQAssess)
- To create a prioritisation framework aimed at lowering the threshold for participation amongst underrepresented groups (by effecting incentives, such as rules and rewards, e.g. more condensates and lodges) on top of EPIQAssess to promote EPICommunity (EPIPlan): to design a non-commercial, open and transparent registry of European researchers and the necessary platform for creating a European social network of researchers (EPICommunity) to support academic matchmaking and collaboration.

EPIQAssess: Problem statement & context

European Universities should create attractive, creative, safe and sustainable academic homes for their most valuable resource: their human capital

However, current researcher and staff assessment models are not sufficiently catering for value performance or acknowledgement of competencies and skills

There is a demand for practical models to help universities achieve these objectives

Structure of EPIQAssess

Two levels

- Institutional level
- Researcher/group level

Four dimensions

- Research
- Innovation
- Teaching & Learning
- Service to Society

Categories of criteria

- Core criteria
- Specific criteria
- Personal qualities
Steps towards EPICommunity

EPICAssess in EPICommunity

- Implementing EPICAssess in EPICommunity

EPICommunity Characteristics

- A social network for Researchers
- Interoperable with Europass
- Can be used as
  - a tool for strengthening human capital
  - a tool for deploying EPICAssess / Peer assessment
  - a tool for ECR/Professors matchmaking
  - as a tool for collaboration in groups
  - as a tool for finding experts/expose profiles

EPICommunity as a tool for deploying EPICAssess / Peer assessment

EPICommunity as a tool for ECR/Professors matchmaking

EPICommunity as basis for strengthening human capital

https://epiassess.epicommunity.eu/
Facebook, LinkedIn and EPICommunity google chrome audit

Conclusion & Invitation for participation

- EPICommunity is a solid platform implementing EPIGAess
- EPICommunity is open
  - for every Researcher
  - for every Alliance

We are inviting you to participate and collaborate via EPICommunity!

Thank You! Questions?
Cluster 1: New approaches for diverse academic careers

MARJANNEKE VIJGE, Utrecht University (CHARM-EU / TORCH).

Structure

- UU's Open Science programme
- UU's TRIPLE model
- UU's MERIT model

Education track in UU

Towards reforming assessments for CHARM-EU

Challenge:
Education and societal impact not sufficiently recognised & awarded, still prime focus on research

Possible solutions:
- TORCH & beyond: institutional change through analyses & knowledge exchange, e.g. workshops/research visits for managers, support/scientific staff, HR
- CHARM-EU: alliance manifesto
- CHARM-EIGHT: testing research assessments, e.g. transdisciplinary joint PhD programs

Towards Open Science

TRIPLE Model: Team Spirit as the default approach to working in academia

In addition, professors with a special focus (e.g. public engagement, interdisciplinary education, regional education)
Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities

NICOLE BIRKLE, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (FORTHEM / FIT-FORTHEM).

The FORTHEM Joint Research Services and Policy Office
A Common Structure for a Better Support for Experienced Researchers, Early-Stage Academics and External Partners in FORTHEM

Dr. Nicole Birkle
FIT FORTHEM Managing Coordinator & FORTHEM General Secretary
presentation based on input provided by Jacinte Bottun (Stevens Institute of Technology)
Alex Serban and Delia Stefanefi (IJUBS)

2nd TORCH Annual Forum | March 2023

FORTHEM Alliance

- 1st funding period by Externus - 2019 - 2022
  - 7 partnert universities, 3 members
- 2nd funding period by Externus - 2022 - 2026
  - 9 partnert universities, 5 members

FIT FORTHEM Project

- Funded by H2020 2021 - 2023
  - 7 original partner universities + three partners from a MUC
  - FORTHEM members

Major objectives to create this first trans-national and transversal support structure:
- Foster the dissemination and sharing of good practices on R&I services
- Provide information on best practices of R&I services and collaborative mechanisms
- Collect FIT FORTHEM's results and experiences for further implementation across
- Develop a strategic plan for the future

What was done so far in FIT FORTHEM (coordinated by uLU):
1. Establishing strong connections with the representatives of the FORTHEM regions in Brussels:
   - organizing 3 joint events with regional representatives of FORTHEN Project
2. Contributions to policy briefs and recommendations
3. Official Launch of the FORTHEN Research Services and Policy office in June 2022

What comes next? (coordinated by uLU):
- Boost services of the joint virtual office
- Joint staff training and capacity building in R&I services
- Strategic capacity building in R&I services
- Joint publication of an Externus MUC

FORTHEM Annual Conference

For more information, please visit:
- www.forthem-alliance.eu
- www.fit-forthem.eu

Contact:
- info@forthem-alliance.eu
- info@fit-forthem.eu
- info@fit-forthem.eu

Social Media:
- https://www.facebook.com/fithem.aliance
- https://www.linkedin.com/company/fithem.aliance
- https://twitter.com/FIT_FORTHEM
- https://www.instagram.com/fithem.aliance
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA7E0n1JjE5-28H01T80f8g
- https://www.instagram.com/fithem.aliance

FORTHEN Alliance

- Jyväskylälä yliopisto
- Université de Bourgogne
- Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz
- Università degli Studi di Palermo
- Latvijas Universitāte
- Universiteit Antwerpen
- Universitetet i Agder
- Universitat de València
- Uni. Lucian Blaga din Sibiu
Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities

ISABEL SALGUEIRO, Polytechnic University of Madrid. DAVID SCHKADE, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität (EELISA InnoCORE).

what is EELISA?

EELISA (European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance) is the first alliance of Higher Education institutions from different countries in Europe meant to define and implement a common model of European engineer rooted in society.

EELISA’s acronym also pays tribute to women engineers through the memory of Elisa Leonida Zamfirescu (1887-1973), one of the very first women to obtain an engineering degree in the world.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation under EELISA

EELISA is developing activities in innovation & entrepreneurship under two projects

- Inno4ALL (Unlocking Full Innovation Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship)
- EELISA InnoCORE (Innovation & Entrepreneurship: Skills, Toolkit, Models and Science)

Entrepreneurship and Innovation in EELISA InnoCORE: Main Initiatives put in place

1. Opening capacities and offering new EELISA innovation & education activities - Example of the First EELISA Prototype Context

   - On 9th, we have organised the first international workshop to encourage research and innovation processes and on education activities. More specifically, we would like to highlight the First EELISA Prototype Challenge.

   - The main objective was to work on new teaching models for entrepreneurship and processes that do not include traditional ways of experiences. The main objective was to create malleable and interactive didactic systems designed to foster the understanding of need and to offer new tools to students and educators.

   - The prototype challenge allowed students to reflect on the model of entrepreneurship that they used to foster their understanding of the process.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation in EELISA InnoCORE: Main Initiatives put in place

2. Opening capacities and offering new EELISA innovation & education activities - Example of the First EELISA Prototype Context

   - On 9th, we have organised the first international workshop to encourage research and innovation processes and on education activities. More specifically, we would like to highlight the First EELISA Prototype Challenge.

   - The main objective was to work on new teaching models for entrepreneurship and processes that do not include traditional ways of experiences. The main objective was to create malleable and interactive didactic systems designed to foster the understanding of need and to offer new tools to students and educators.

   - The prototype challenge allowed students to reflect on the model of entrepreneurship that they used to foster their understanding of the process.

   - The main objective was to work on new teaching models for entrepreneurship and processes that do not include traditional ways of experiences. The main objective was to create malleable and interactive didactic systems designed to foster the understanding of need and to offer new tools to students and educators.

   - The prototype challenge allowed students to reflect on the model of entrepreneurship that they used to foster their understanding of the process.

   - The main objective was to work on new teaching models for entrepreneurship and processes that do not include traditional ways of experiences. The main objective was to create malleable and interactive didactic systems designed to foster the understanding of need and to offer new tools to students and educators.

   - The prototype challenge allowed students to reflect on the model of entrepreneurship that they used to foster their understanding of the process.
Entrepreneurship and Innovation EELISA innoCORE: Main Initiatives put in place

1. Opening, running and offering new EELISA innovation and co-creative activities: The example of the First EELISA Innovation Challenge
   - The EELISA Innovation Challenges (EICs) are not only an opportunity for the researchers to share their ideas with the wider scientific community, but also a way to stimulate the entrepreneurship of the wider EELISA community. The challenges are designed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among the EELISA community.
   - The EICs are also an opportunity for industry partners to connect with EELISA researchers and to learn about the latest developments in the field.

2. The EELISA Innovation Action Plan rests on three pillars and aims...
   - To create an EELISA Incubator of support along the stages of the start-up journey.
   - To share key startup experiences, knowledge, and lessons learned among EELISA partners and stakeholders.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation under EELISA: Strengths and good practices, challenges and barriers

1. Core strengths and good practices
   - EELISA Ecosystems are key drivers for the development of new businesses.
   - EELISA Ecosystems foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

2. Challenges and barriers
   - Limited resources and funding.
   - Limited awareness and understanding of entrepreneurship.
   - Limited networks and connections within the EELISA community.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation under EELISA: Strengths and good practices, challenges and barriers

Challenges and services
- Limited resources and funding.
- Limited awareness and understanding of entrepreneurship.
- Limited networks and connections within the EELISA community.
- Lack of support for startups and entrepreneurs.

Services offered
- Mentorship and guidance.
- Access to funding and resources.
- Networking opportunities.
- Legal and financial advice.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation under EELISA: Strengths and good practices, challenges and barriers

Challenges and services
- Limited resources and funding.
- Limited awareness and understanding of entrepreneurship.
- Limited networks and connections within the EELISA community.
- Lack of support for startups and entrepreneurs.

Services offered
- Mentorship and guidance.
- Access to funding and resources.
- Networking opportunities.
- Legal and financial advice.
Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities

GWENDOLINE TRAISNEL, Université de Bretagne Occidentale (SEA-EU / ReSEArch-EU).
Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities

JOHN BARIMO, University College Cork. BANU LIMAN, Koç University. ROBERTO SAN SALVADOR, University of Deusto (UNIC).

Towards a Strategy for ‘Engaged’ Research and a Collaborative Roadmap with Cities and City Stakeholders

John Barimo, Banu Liman and Roberto San Salvador

The European Declaration of Engaged Research was signed by University and Municipal Leadership at the UNIC Citylab Festival in Oulu, Finland on the 15th of June 2022

A Cross-Institutional Engaged Research Strategy

- Objective: to strengthen the boundary spaces between our European University and our post-industrial cities, and by engaging their citizens in co-creating strategies to achieve a truly cross European collaboration space.
- The UNICAER Meets the City framework supports and encourages the co-creation of engaged research at a truly European level.
- ER roadmaps for encourage and assistant new collaborative initiatives focusing on post-industrial transitions. E.g., superdiversity, inclusion and mobility research challenges are contextualised for post-industrial transitions in cities.
- Research roadmaps to be updated on a regular basis.

UNICAER Meets the City Framework Process is Continuous and Enables Transformative Engaged Research in UNIC Cities

1 Envision ER
2 Strategize ER
3 Perform ER
4 (Re)Assess ER

Contact Details
UNIC European University Engaged Research

UNIC for Engaged Research (UNICAER)
- Co-producing a common understanding of engaged research
- European Declaration on Engaged Research
- UNIC Engaged Research Strategy
- UNICAER Meets the City
- Engaged Research Seed Fund

UNIC European University of Post Industrial Cities

UNIC

"An overarching term that describes a wide range of comprehensive research approaches and methodologies that share a common interest in collaborative engagement 'with' and 'within' society."

Objective: to support the concrete work on actual challenges in collaboration with the city and the university partner.
- Promoting the development of research capacity amongst researchers (non-traditional backgrounds).
- Partners needed for the co-creation of the innovation in the approach to post-industrial transition and for the uptake (dissemination and exploitation) of the co-created innovative approaches → beyond UNIC.
- Promotes the development of truly European collaborations where the initiatives can be made inclusive and representative for the superdiverse populations of the cities involved.
- Currently finalising the selection of award recipients.
Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities

PÁDRAIG MURPHY, Dublin City University (ECIU SMART-ER)
Strong interest and need for more opportunities to support bottom-up approaches and joint initiatives in Horizon Europe

Building a Virtual Research Institute for a European University alliance

Needs include:
- Co-created agenda and mutual understanding across institutions and between all stakeholders
- Programme-based funding opportunities to address complex challenges, building long-term 4-towards partnerships & durable ecosystems
- Recognition of societal impact and flexible research outputs
- Sustainable & holistic approach to funding European University alliances across all their missions
- Clarification on legal issues incl. joint recruitment, affiliation, branding and other issues for a successful alliance

"Challenge-based research for a stronger and more sustainable Europe" ECU Position paper/May 2022

Thank you

Dr. Padraig Murphy
Associate Professor, School of Communications
Associate Dean for External Engagement, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities

CIRO FRANCO, Sapienza University of Rome (RIS4CIVIS).

RIS4CIVIS: Sharing Research Infrastructures for the benefit of CIVIS Alliance community

Ciro Franco, Head of Sapienza Research Office
8th March 2018

RIS4CIVIS Project overall aims

➢ To produce an integrated, long-term &I strategy enabling members of the CIVIS European University to integrate their know-how, expertise and resources in the service of Research and Innovation
➢ To transpose the CIVIS Alliance strategy into an institutional transformation model serving as inspiration for other European Alliances and/or Universities wishing to engage in R&I cooperation as well as for the European Commission in designing its future programmes and policies, by removing fragmentation, regulatory or legal barriers and by fostering optimisation of R&I resources

Module 2: Identified endpoints

A) Definition of a long-term joint strategy for the creation of a CIVIS RI label. The label will be used by the all 22 RI, which will define an identifier in a common manner and include all external users and will adhere to the same general principles in terms of access and use regulation, in order to ensure the label’s credibility. The label aims to illustrate the principles and the requirements set out in the CIVIS RI Charter (label endowing procedure)

B) Establishment of an single information access point to CIVIS RIs by the use of a joint portal (Institutional Platforms). Including the availability in an open-access environment of early papers, by any user belonging to CIVIS institutions and eventually to external users, as long as not belonging to CIVIS Alliance, intensifying CIVIS partner institutions are multi-accesses. Also enhancing the visibility of RIs not only inside the CIVIS community but also externally, towards external stakeholders

CIVIS Charter main Rules and Guidelines (1/2)

➢ The RI is able to offer its services to international users, with a minimum machine time devoted to external users coming from other host institutions
➢ The RI has internal regulations concerning, in particular, the access terms
➢ The conditions of access to the services of the RI are transparently known to all users
➢ The RI management ensures that projects are carried out in compliance with the norms of service and professional conduct, as well as the legislation and regulations relating to safety of property, people and the environment
➢ CIVIS RI label is mentioned in any R&I output (i.e. publications, patents, technical reports, etc.) resulting from the use of the RI

CIVIS Charter main Rules and Guidelines (2/2)

➢ Each RI commits to having a web page on its institutional website dedicated to the equipment. The web page should show at least the following information:
   - Scientific Manager of the instrumentation; laboratory, location and building of the equipment; Model, type and characteristics of the equipment; Services available by the use of the equipment; Technical staff/Expertise devoted to the use of the equipment; Contacts for requiring the use and the reservation of the instrumentation; Rules of access, including any other relevant information as analysis, requiring free registration for internal and external users
   - The scientist in charge of the RI delivers a yearly report on the use of the equipment by external users as well as on training/networking activities eventually organized with the participation of external users

Main expected benefits from the Charter and from CIVIS RI label

➢ Enhanced awareness regarding RI availability throughout CIVIS community
➢ Fostered visibility of RIs also towards non-CIVIS users
➢ More efficient and effective use of RIs, also by facilitating RI access
➢ Transparent access within a common framework and shared principles ensuring quality of Risources
➢ Benefits from different services supporting RI development
➢ Sharing of competencies and expertise
➢ Opportunities for fruitful networking among RIs
➢ Enhancement of international mobility of qualified HR
➢ Reduced fragmentation of the Research and Innovation ecosystem
➢ Making industry more aware of opportunities offered to improve their products
CIVIS Research Infrastructures IT database

- Creation of the IT Tool/Database, that includes all of the 517 open research infrastructures interested in be part of the HORIZON strategy. The database collects information about main characteristics of the IR (i.e., name, location, description, ERC panel, keywords, etc.) and how to access them (contact persons, services provided, access requirements, link to usage regulations).
- The database, in order to guarantee its sustainability and continuous updating in the future, will be easily updated by the same entities in charge of the existing (or additional) IRs (see "Document: guide for entities in charge of Research Infrastructures").

CIVIS Sharing Research Infrastructures Platform

- Release of the "Sharing Research Infrastructure Platform", an online interactive Platform, directly connected to the database, that aims to enhance the visibility and to facilitate the access and the share of open Research Infrastructures (RI) not only throughout the Alliance scientific community but also towards third parties and external stakeholders, including businesses, with the aim of favoring public-private interactions and technology-transfer practices.
- The Platform allows to find, using search filters, information about the main features of each IR (i.e., name, location, description, ERC panel, keywords, etc.) and how to access them (contact persons, services provided, access requirements, link to usage regulations).

Thanks for your attention

Ciro Franco, Sapienza Università di Roma
Ciro.Franco@uniroma1.it
Cluster 2: Intensifying R&I cooperation between universities

ARNAUD FABRE, University of Montpellier (CHARM-EU / TORCH).

**Objectives & actions**

**Actions to implement**
- Creation of a Sharepoint to gather all information related to the network
- Arrange at least 2 online meetings to meet each other, discuss and share good practices and insights about various subjects (success stories, social innovation,)

**Goal:** Reinforce the cooperation between universities on R&I and improve our process thanks to experience sharing.

**Success criteria & risks**

**Success criteria**
- Actions and meetings are arranged
- Resources needed: online space such as Sharepoint to share documents and good practices
- Created and implemented a common grassroots movement of co-workers, strategy of protection, new ideas and interests are transmitted to be valued, what relationship universities have with other universities to offer innovation...

**Risks**
- Lack of involvement from TTOs, especially if the structure is external to the university
- Mitigation action: get a dedicated support in each university to foster the involvement of all TTOs and emphasize on the benefits of this pilot (possibility to transfer documents, sharing good practices and advice...)

**Milestones**

**Expectations**

**Main objective ➔ Experience sharing**

**Our objectives & success indicators:**
- During the first meeting: Discuss about a common document to standardize practices or a common process (detection and protection of inventions, transfer spin-off...)
- Demonstrate the added value of each partner
- Regular implication of the network members (e.g. meetings for instance)
- An open-network: Discuss about the idea to select an internal stakeholder if needed (e.g.: EUT3)
- Meet us in Montpellier at the end of the year
- Discuss what can happen after the end of the TORCH project.
Cluster 3: Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges

ALBERT DIAZ, VICENTE ROYUELA, University of Barcelona (CHARM-EU / TORCH).
Cluster 3: Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges

LUDOVIC THILLY, Université de Poitiers. (EC2U / RI4C2).
European Campus of City-Universities (EC2U)

Addressing all missions of the Knowledge Square

3 Virtual Institutes

- Education
- Research
- Innovation
- Serving up society
- Interdisciplinary

Ongoing:

- Summer schools & Joint PhD trainings
- Mobility programmes for researchers
- Joint PhD theses (collective)
- Joint research programmes

Thank you!
Cluster 3: Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges

DAITHÍ MAC SÍTHIGH, Institute of Art, Design + Technology (FilmEU).

FilmEU brings together four European Higher Education Institutions to collaborate around the common objective of jointly promoting high-level education, innovation and research activities in the multidisciplinary field of Film and Media Arts.

FilmEU, RIT designs strategies and action plans around research and innovation in film and media arts.
Cluster 3: Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges
DAVID SITBON, Université Paris Cité (Circle U).

CIRCLE U. HISTORY

- Ongoing Circle U. projects
  - Erasmus+ “Circle U. project” (Nov 2020 - Oct 2023) with a budget of 5 Mio EUR
  - Horizon 2020 “ERIA project” (Sep 2021 - Nov 2024) with a budget of 2 Mio EUR

- Circle U. application to Erasmus+ European Universities “roll-out” call 2023
  - Application submitted by 31 January 2023
  - Results expected by end of June 2023
  - Project likely to be started by 1 November 2023

CIRCLE U. ALLIANCE

The Circle U. ERIA project was developed in response to the Smart (Science with and for Society) call for projects of the executive 2020 pillar to strengthen the Research and Innovation Dimension of Circle U.

Coordinated by CIRCLE, with 30 partners involved in Circle U. 65 Scientists and Scientists, it represents a funding of 2 million euros for 3 years with 6 blocks:
- Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research
- Strengthening human capital
- Structural collaboration at the European level, among pilot Alliances

INTER CIRCLE U. PRIZE (ICUP)

To showcase best examples of inter- and transdisciplinary research at Circle U.

- Prof. Rajaee, University of Oslo
  - UNICPS: Urban Estructures and Their Impacts on Climate, Environment, and Living Society
- Prof. Robert Klinge, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
  - Towards Sustainable Systems
- Prof. Barbara McLaughlin, King's College London
  - The Language of Weatherators

SANDPITS (OR SANDBOXES)

- A research program in UCLouvain, facilitated by a specialist in interdisciplinary research (Lamareth Avrami, University of Leeds), to connect researchers from our Circle U. universities and external stakeholders and kick start research projects.
- Funding applications and new funding to be followed
- First session: September 1st – 2nd, 2023
- Second session: November 28th – 29th, 2023

Interdisciplinary Thematic Research Networks (ITRN)

Support interdisciplinary projects involving at least 3 universities

4 ITRN selected in 2022:
- Risk, Future Narratives and Sustainability: Students’ Perspectives from 3 Circle U. Universities (AU, HUB, UIO)
- Syrian Refugees in Lebanon and Denmark (All, KCL, UCL)
- Common Atmospheric Pollutants: first aggregation stages + water interactions + aerosol formation (All, KCL, UCL)
- Global Health, Sustainable Development and Individual Responsibility: contradictory or complementary concepts? (KCL, UB, UIO)

AN ACADEMIC DIRECTORY TOOL

To connect our researchers based on research interests and to allow smooth inter-university collaboration
TO BE CONTINUED

- Interdisciplinarity at the core of the Alliance to promote research collaboration
- Several activities to encourage peer and link-to-other interdisciplinarian networks
  [https://www.circle-u.eu/support-office abrir mail para aplicaciones en la página de equipos 2023.html](https://www.circle-u.eu/support-office abrir mail para aplicaciones en la página de equipos 2023.html)
- ILI integrated into the next roll out phase

Circle U.

The Circle U. Newsletter: [https://www.circle-u.eu/newsletter/index.html](https://www.circle-u.eu/newsletter/index.html)
The Circle U. website: [https://www.circle-u.eu/](https://www.circle-u.eu/)

Contact: david.sitbon@u-paris.fr
Cluster 3: Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges

SÉBASTIEN HUBER, European University Institute (CIVICA).

CIVICA members
A ten-member alliance founded in 2019 and reflecting the diversity of European higher education

CIVICA Research: focus areas

Societies in Transition and Crises of Earth

- Societal dimensions of the Earth System & sustainability
- Global Sustainable Development Goals
- Knowledge and assessment systems regarding the environment and development
- Urban transformations

Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century

- Democratic backsliding
- Reform of democracy, democratic innovation
- Polarisation
- Social embeddedness of democracy (inequality)

European Revisited

- Multilevel governance of migration
- Constitutional resilience in the EU
- EU and the world
- Green values and green economy in the EU
- Interdisciplinary approaches in EU-focused social science and humanities research

“The backstop of the European Union has changed a lot so it’s good timing for the CIVICA initiative to address issues and come up with ideas that will bring forward the entire project of the EU.”

—Sébastien Dabard, Professor of Economics at Nanterre University, member of CIVICA’s thematic group Europe Revisited
Data-Driven Technologies for the Social Sciences

- Artificial intelligence and the society
- Societal changes triggered by digital technologies
- Using new technologies for the social good
- Innovation digital methods for social science research

CIVICA Research milestones

Spring 2021
First call for collaborative research projects (11 selected for funding, out of 200 proposals)
First joint research seminars
Launch of the CIVICA training academy
First international symposium on Data-Driven Technologies for the Social Sciences

Fall 2021
First research seminar on public administration
Launch of the CIVICA training academy
First international mini-conference
Open Science roadmap event

Spring 2022
Launch of the CIVICA training academy
Launch of the CIVICA training academy
Creation of the Open Science roadmap of the CIVICA research project
First international mini-conference
First research seminar on public administration

Fall 2022
Launch of the CIVICA training academy
Launch of the CIVICA training academy
Second round of CIVICA seminars
Two research semesters completed
Two events of open science seminars
Launch of the CIVICA training academy

early 2023
Third round of CIVICA training seminars
Fourth round of CIVICA training seminars

Spotlight: First call for research proposals

- Open 1 Feb-23 March 2021
- 11 winning projects out of 27 applications
- € 4,300,000 from H2020 plus partner and co-funding
- Most teams involve 3-4 universities (one involves 6)
- 50% of all projects submitted fail at least one objective

"CIVICA research support allowed me to put together a diverse, multi-disciplinary global network, with partners from every field of academia and practice. Coordinating such a massive research project has been a thrilling experience for me and the whole team."

— Marius Vorsic, Research Fellow at EUI, winner of 2022 Platform project "Digital Justice in Europe: Break the Silence"

"The process of debating and discussing research interests, finding common activities and identifying theories is exciting and fruitful and open more to the complications and isolated periods."

— Roger Fraser, Executive at SISI, member of CIVICA’s institutional group Data-Driven Technologies for the Social Sciences

Spotlight: Second call for research proposals

28 Research projects funded by CIVICA
22 of which have a focus on CIVICA Research
11 winning projects in October 2022
€350,000 amount of funding for the 11 winning proposal
3 average number of partners per winning project

"I very much look forward to hosting the MEDIA project because it will build on our ideas to span across the social and economic dimensions of change and management, to address the need of a much larger project that builds on the strengths of our research for societal impact."

— Professor at the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) and co-founder of the MEDIA project
WP5

Synergies within and outside CIVICA

**Objective:** explore synergies and common actions within CIVICA and with other alliances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Synergies within CIVICA</th>
<th>Synergies with other alliances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk management</td>
<td>Case study of risk management strategies</td>
<td>Case study of risk management strategies for other alliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision making</td>
<td>Development of decision-making models</td>
<td>Development of decision-making models for other alliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decentralization</td>
<td>Strengthening of decentralized governance</td>
<td>Strengthening of decentralized governance for other alliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision community</td>
<td>Strengthening of decision community</td>
<td>Strengthening of decision community for other alliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research for interdisciplinary laboratory</td>
<td>Integration of research activities</td>
<td>Integration of research activities for other alliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership with other alliances &amp; beyond</td>
<td>Strengthening of partnership</td>
<td>Strengthening of partnership for other alliances</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Highlights:**

- International doctoral excellence
- National training survey
Cluster 3: Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges

AINE MOORE, University College Dublin (Una Europa).

Una Europa’s vision towards interdisciplinary hubs for research
Aine Moore, University College Dublin

Towards a University of the Future: Our journey so far

Una Europa in numbers

Powering the Research of the Future

Enhancing collaboration in research and innovation

+ Promotion of high-quality and long-term research collaborations to drive the excellence dimension of European research and contribute to the objectives of the ERA
+ Advancing knowledge circulation and connecting complementary research strengths in key interdisciplinary research areas to tackle global and societal challenges
+ Creation of a trans-sectorial Una Europa ecosystem for research & innovation through collaborations with other sectors and society
+ Focus on added-value, going beyond what a single institution can achieve alone and pooling resources to pursue the future leading researchers of Europe and the globe

Una Europa Focus Areas

- Cultural Heritage
- Data Science & AI
- Europe and the World
- One Health
- Sustainability
- Future Materials
Interdisciplinary hubs for research

- Evolution of academic Self-Steering Committees (SSCs) into truly interdisciplinary hubs for education and research and innovation.
- Development of strategies & action plans to support the transformation with actions to boost cross-sectoral capacity, incl. plans for societal outreach projects.
- Focus on enhancing opportunities for early career researchers, their well-being, development of sustainable and attractive research career and professional skills training.
- Development of targeted instruments to incentivise and reward academic engagement and collaboration in order to put academics (fellowships, sabatinas, secondments,...)

Establishing a Roadmap for R&I

Una Europa’s R&I Strategy sets out our path towards a common research and innovation ecosystem that supports the entire spectrum of multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary research.

- Developing an investment pathway to support the implementation of our R&I Strategy
- Opening up research infrastructures and resources
- Strengthening research collaboration with society and industry e.g. citizen science
- Enhancing research capacities through professional and institutional development

@una_europa
#Una_Europa

Follow Una Europa on social media or subscribe to our newsletter:
Cluster 3: Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges

NICOLE BIRKLE, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (FORTHEM / FIT-FORTHEM).

FORTHEM Alliance

- 1st funding period by Erasmus+ 2019 – 2022
  - 2 partner universities, 3 missions: 9 Million €

- 2nd funding period by Erasmus+ 2021 – 2024
  - 6 partner universities, 5 missions: 14.4 Million €

FIT FORTHEM Project

- Funded by H2020 2021 - 2023
  - 11 partner universities
  - 2 Million €
  - 2 new partners signed a MoU in 2023

Thematic Areas of FORTHEM Labs

- Creative Economic Development
- Knowledge Transfer
- Cultural Heritage
- Arts and Aesthetics
- More to come:

Three core groups and three strategic goals

1) Experienced Researchers
2) Early Stage Researchers
3) Non-academic partners, especially SME and the policy sector

2 work packages in FORTHEM 2022 – 2026

1) Joint Research Innovation Transfer Services and Policy Office (ULBS, ULB)
2) FORTHEM Academy for Early Stage Researchers (GJL, UCI)

MAIN STRATEGIC GOAL 1:
Make FORTHEM a strong foundation for excellent joint research projects developed by experienced researchers

MAIN STRATEGIC GOAL 2:
Make FORTHEM a role model for training Early Stage Researchers (ULBS) prepared for multiple career pathways

MAIN STRATEGIC GOAL 3:
Make FORTHEM a strong partner in the value chain of innovation and transfer processes and in policy advice in the field of R&D

The FORTHEM R & B Mission based on results from the FIT FORTHEM project

The Main Topics in FIT FORTHEM

- Professionalization in R & I management
- Joint research agendas, and recommendations / protocols related to Open Science Policies, science communication, interdisciplinarity of research, co-creation, knowledge transfer, human resources development
- Sharing infrastructures and resources, e.g. digital resources and showcasing strongholds in research
- fostering co-creation and entrepreneur & mindset in FORTHEM labs and beyond, matching with non-academic partners
- New forms of science communication and showcasing project results
- Establishing joint support structures including a Joint Virtual Support Office

Lessons Learned

- Workshops, boot-camps, and surveys identified Early Stage Researchers as the most vulnerable group FORTHEM needs to address.
- Agendas, policies, action plans, and recommendations will only show their impact after the lifetime of the project.
- Stongholds are identified but need more awareness to be matched, especially in case of experienced researchers.
- Common understanding of innovation needs to be further developed.
- Open Sciences as a core topic to be further developed and opened.
- Office needs to be implemented permanently to guarantee results are acceptable.
Panel Session: University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

MARKO JOAS, Vice Rector for Collaboration. MATS LINDFELT, Director of Research Services, Åbo Akademi University.
Panel Session: University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

LUKAS WORSCHECH, Head of Division Research and Technology Transfer, Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg.
Panel Session: University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

ELLEN ROEMER. Hochschule Ruhr West.

Opportunities for Citizen Science Projects
Experiences at Ruhr West University of Applied Science

Mülheim an der Ruhr and its citizens
We are located in the Western part of the Ruhr in a diverse community

Contributory projects
Citizens participating as research objects and discussants

Key experiences
Important ingredients for successful Citizen Science projects are …

– Engagement with and integration of researchers and their institutions into the activities of the local community
– Networking with key stakeholders and actors (citizens, politicians, NGOs, etc.) - digital (e.g., via social media) and non-digital (meetings, events)
– Non-scientific communication with key stakeholders and actors

Ruhr West is a small, young University
A little bit of our history

Year Founded 2009
Campuses Mülheim an der Ruhr / Herne
Faculties 4
Institutes 7
Degree programmes 32
Students 6,605

Opportunities for Ruhr West
Taxonomy of Citizen Social Science projects

Form of CS

Scientific talks and discussions
Stadium Generale
Nacht der Wissenschaft

Contributory projects
Institutions are co-creators in research projects

Third-party funding on a national and EU-level (e.g., digitalization, mobility, energy)
Service learning / research projects
Public participation projects
Panel Session: University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

JOSEP PERELLÓ. Director of OpenSystemsUB, University of Barcelona.

Co-designing citizen social science for collective action (CoAct)
The case of CoAct for Mental Health

JOSEP PERELLÓ
OpenSystems, Universitat de Barcelona / UBACS

Co-Researchers: persons having a lived experience in relation to the social concerns and thus recognized as experts-in-the-field. They are co-owners of the research data and results.

The social is not a part of reality that can be segregated off in any meaningful way; instead, it is a principle of connection, association and relationship.

Citizen Science – Epistemological viewpoint

[ Citizen science...

Citizen Social Science in CoAct

Participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern.

Organization: Universitat de Barcelona / UBACS

Panel Session: University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

JOSEP PERELLÓ. Director of OpenSystemsUB, University of Barcelona.

Co-designing citizen social science for collective action (CoAct)
The case of CoAct for Mental Health

JOSEP PERELLÓ
OpenSystems, Universitat de Barcelona / UBACS

Co-Researchers: persons having a lived experience in relation to the social concerns and thus recognized as experts-in-the-field. They are co-owners of the research data and results.

The social is not a part of reality that can be segregated off in any meaningful way; instead, it is a principle of connection, association and relationship.

Citizen Science – Epistemological viewpoint

[ Citizen science...

Citizen Social Science in CoAct

Participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern.

Organization: Universitat de Barcelona / UBACS

Panel Session: University with and for Society: promoting Citizen Science within Open Science

JOSEP PERELLÓ. Director of OpenSystemsUB, University of Barcelona.

Co-designing citizen social science for collective action (CoAct)
The case of CoAct for Mental Health

JOSEP PERELLÓ
OpenSystems, Universitat de Barcelona / UBACS

Co-Researchers: persons having a lived experience in relation to the social concerns and thus recognized as experts-in-the-field. They are co-owners of the research data and results.

The social is not a part of reality that can be segregated off in any meaningful way; instead, it is a principle of connection, association and relationship.

Citizen Science – Epistemological viewpoint

[ Citizen science...

Citizen Social Science in CoAct

Participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern.

Organization: Universitat de Barcelona / UBACS
Participants’ commitment and dynamics

Microstories and its interpretation by CoResearchers, Identification of “most relevant” stories

Complex networks and the CoResearchers interpretation

Co-designing citizen social science for collective action

Sociodemographics and its interpretation by CoResearchers

Aggregating data and the CoResearchers interpretation

Sharing an experiences means...

Have things in common
Be aware that we are not alone
See that we are not isolated
Observe the strength of a community, if a joint action needs to be taken
Avertion empathy
Highlight the differences

Political Fiction

Actions, demands and recommended tone

Action

Assembly / Policy brief

Get to know mental health experiences while taking part in our research!

https://cacteers.ac.uk