

February 28 2019 – Press release

Strasbourg University creates EPICUR with 7 universities across Europe, from Amsterdam, Freiburg, Karlsruhe, Mulhouse, Poznań, Thessaloniki and Vienna.

The creation of European Universities is a vector of attractiveness for European institutions worldwide, but not only. The aim behind the initiative « European Universities » is to bring together a new generation of creative Europeans, who are able to cooperate across languages, borders and disciplines to address the big societal challenges and skills shortages that Europe faces. Therefore, this call from the European Commission aims to strengthen the European identity and allow each student to have international training at a time when retreating to populism and identity are only strengthening. The University of Strasbourg wants to take up this challenge by leading a partnership of eight universities firmly committed to building a project deeply rooted in the values of a Europe of knowledge beyond frontiers.

EPICUR (European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions), composed of the 8 partners,

- Adam-Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland;
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece;
- University of Amsterdam, Netherlands;
- University of Freiburg, Germany;
- University of Haute-Alsace, France;
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany;
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria;
- University of Strasbourg, France;

is a new and ambitious project elaborated as an answer to the Pilot Call “European University” launched in the framework of the European Commission Erasmus+ Programme. The call’s intention is to encourage the emergence by 2024 of some twenty innovative “European Universities” networks across the EU that go beyond existing higher education cooperation models. It aims to establish a European higher education inter-university “campus” offering curricula where students can experience mobility at all study levels. Moreover, European Universities should contribute to increase the quality, the international competitiveness and the attractiveness of European higher education.

EPICUR builds bridges between the creative academic communities of eight leading European universities, serving as intellectual hubs to the surrounding research and innovation landscapes and beyond. Located in campuses across Europe, EPICUR will contribute to shaping the European Education, Research and Innovation Area by inviting a new generation of European citizens to engage in interdisciplinary,

multilingual, research-inspired teaching and learning as well as cutting-edge research and innovation. It focuses on the field of university teaching and places liberal arts and sciences education, the digital transformation of teaching forms as well as the expansion of mobility for students at the heart of its collaboration. In addition, the European languages and the various networks in which the universities are embedded form the focal points of the collaboration.

"Our strengths to become a major European university are what we have in common and what we can contribute to one another. We are eight universities with similar strategic profiles, with a long tradition of cooperation in an intercultural context, and full of ambitions for our students' research and success."
Michel Deneken, President of the University of Strasbourg

Learn more about the 8 partners:

Learn more about the University of Amsterdam – The Netherlands

The University of Amsterdam, founded in 1632, enjoys a reputation for world-class excellence in research and training. This general university currently ranks among the top 20 European universities. It is, like the University of Strasbourg and the University of Freiburg, a member of the LERU (League of European Research Universities). More than 30,000 students take courses in its seven faculties and more than 3,000 doctoral students are conducting research.

<http://www.uva.nl/en>

Learn more about Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - Greece

With its 74,000 students, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is the largest Greek university. Founded in 1925, this general university is one of the scientific centres of attraction in South East Europe. More than 4,000 doctoral students and more than 2,000 researchers conduct research in its ten faculties.

<https://www.auth.gr/en>

Learn more about the University of Freiburg - Germany

Founded in 1457, the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg im Breisgau welcomes some 25,000 students. It is characterised by a mix of traditional disciplines and modern technology. Its comprehensive training offer extends from information technology to the humanities and social sciences, through to natural sciences and medicine.

<https://www.uni-freiburg.de/>

Learn more about the University of Haute-Alsace - France

The University of Haute-Alsace has 8,500 students, enrolled in 170 courses from DUT level, Bachelor degree, engineering degree, master degree, up to PhD level, taught in 4 faculties, 2 IUTs and 2 engineering schools in Mulhouse and Colmar, France. It also has 14 research laboratories carrying out fundamental to applied research. As a highly innovative multidisciplinary university, it is recognised for the quality of its vocational education (including more than 35 apprenticeship programmes) and cross-border training (with more than 10 bi- or tri-national) programmes.

<https://www.uha.fr/>

Learn more about the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology - Germany

Being „The Research University in the Helmholtz Association“, KIT creates and imparts knowledge for the society and the environment. It is the objective to make significant contributions to the global challenges in the fields of energy, mobility and information. For this, about 9,300 employees cooperate in a broad

range of disciplines in natural sciences, engineering sciences, economics, and the humanities and social sciences. KIT prepares its 25,100 students for responsible tasks in society, industry, and science by offering research-based study programs. Innovation efforts at KIT build a bridge between important scientific findings and their application for the benefit of society, economic prosperity, and the preservation of our natural basis of life.

<https://www.kit.edu/>

Learn more about Adam-Mickiewicz University, Poznań - Poland

The Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, named after a prominent Polish poet, is one of the three leading Polish universities and can draw on 100 years of history. More than 40,000 students and 1,300 doctoral students take courses and conduct research in 15 faculties in total.

<https://international.amu.edu.pl/>

Learn more about the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna - Austria

The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna is a centre for training and research on renewable resources and sustainability and includes the natural sciences, technology and economics. About 12 500 students take courses in its 15 departments.

<http://www.boku.ac.at/en/>

Learn more about the University of Strasbourg - France

The University of Strasbourg welcomes 51,000 students, of which 20% are international students covering 150 nationalities. With its 35 components, 78 laboratories and research units, it is distinguished by the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of its training offer. It conducts a research of excellence provided by nearly 2,800 lecturer-researchers, including four active Nobel Prize winners.

<https://www.unistra.fr>

Media contact

University of Strasbourg: Christine Guillot

Tel: +33.3 68 85 14 36 - Mobile: +33.6 80 52 01 82 - christineguillot@unistra.fr