

Press release
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The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) joins the EPICUR European University Alliance



University of Southern Denmark © Press & research communication, SDU

The EPICUR alliance, led by the University of Strasbourg, welcomes a new member: the University of Southern Denmark (SDU).

The University of Southern Denmark brings the number of members of the EPICUR alliance up to nine. Currently, the alliance includes:

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

As a first step to joining the alliance, the University of Southern Denmark, with 27,000 students and 3,800 employees will be integrated into the different activities and the steering committee during the final year of the first phase of the project, which will end in October 2022. The university will be fully integrated into EPICUR during the deployment phase of the alliances 2022-2028. This enlargement comes at a time when the European Commission has just launched the new call for proposals in the framework of Erasmus+, to support the further development of the European University Initiative on 30 November 2021. This new call

for proposals aims in particular enabling institutions to join existing alliances and to provide operational funding for a period of six years following the three years of the pilot phase.

"We are delighted to welcome the University of Southern Denmark to the EPICUR alliance. It is an important asset to strengthen its presence in Northern Europe and particularly to have among its members a university that is very advanced in the development of professional and continuing education programs. The University of Southern Denmark has also integrated the objectives of sustainable development in all its strategic axes. In addition, the University of Southern Denmark has many associated partners due to the fact that the campus is located in six cities in Denmark. This is an important aspect for the alliance to increase its relations with public and private partners at regional, national and European level."

Jean-Marc Planeix, vice President of Academic Partnerships and Governance of the University of Strasbourg and strategic director of EPICUR



For **Jens Ringsmose**, rector of the University of Southern Denmark, *"joining the EPICUR alliance means playing a leading role in the future of European education and research"*. He is convinced that *"the nine universities will be able to derive substantial benefits from their mutual commitment to the ongoing development of the project"*.

To be part of this alliance of *"such great and competent universities to co-develop innovative education and research for the Europe of the future is a real honour"*.

EPICUR belongs to the first generation of European University Alliances, co-funded by the European Commission in November 2019. It now consists of nine higher education institutions from seven different European countries. EPICUR enables students, teachers, staff and researchers to gain a broad, unlimited and interdisciplinary academic perspective through a network of European universities. By promoting mobility (virtual and physical), developing innovative didactic approaches, regardless of nationality, mother tongue, cultural or socio-economic background, the EPICUR alliance combines the four core competences of a "European university": teaching, research, scientific innovation and interaction with society - these are the four key areas covered by the European Knowledge Square.

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

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