

euroCRIS Membership Meeting 2025

May 13-15, 2025
Leuven, Belgium

15 May 2025

17 characters in search of interoperability: European University Alliances in Belgium

Pablo de Castro

euroCRIS Secretary

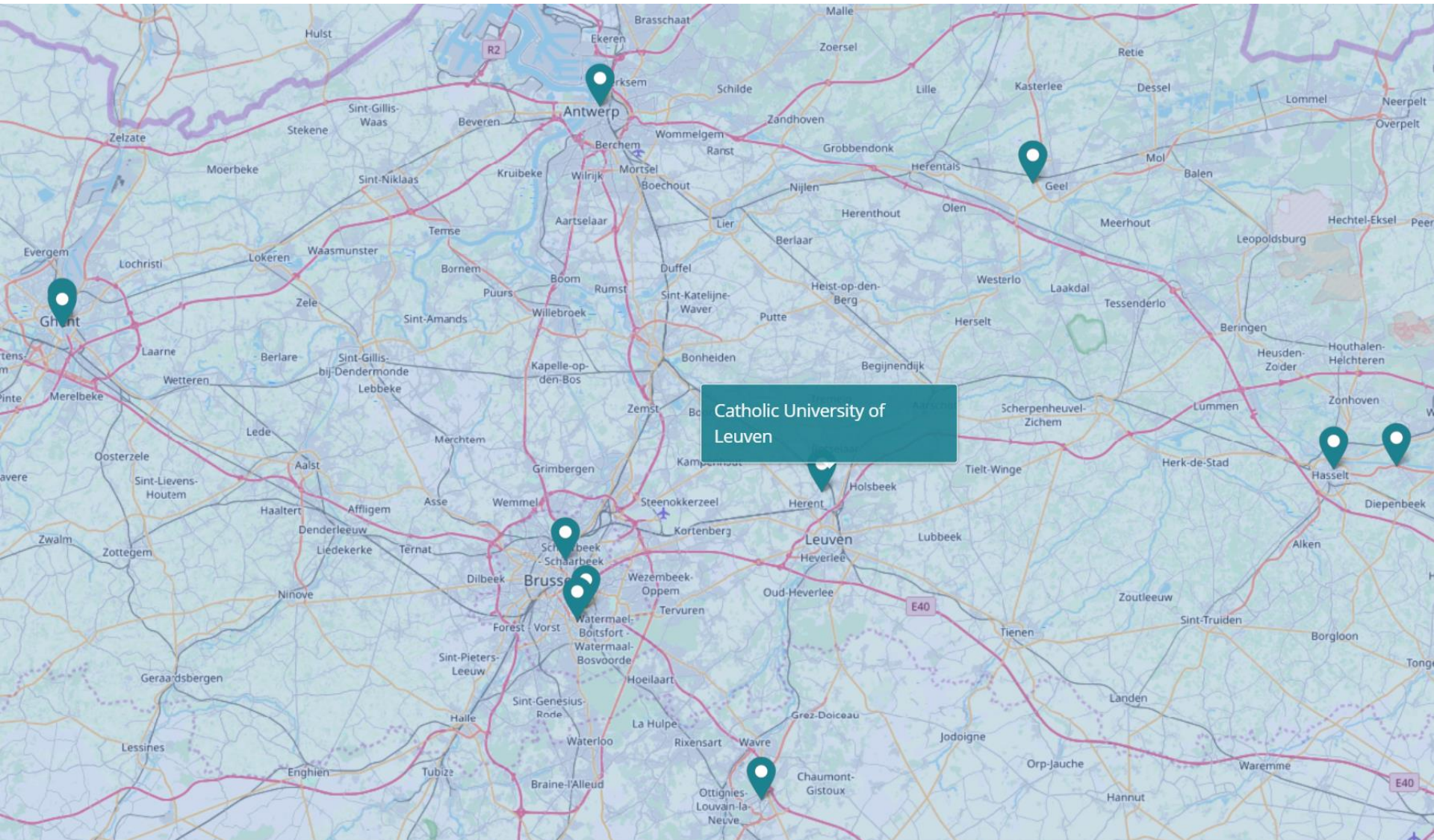
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Belgian institutions represented in European University Alliances (17)

Institution	Alliance	Geographical region	Political region	Harvested by FRIS?
UC Louvain	Circle.U	Wallonia	Wallonia	N
Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)	CIVIS	Brussels	Wallonia	N
UC Leuven-Limburg Hogeschool	E3UDRES2	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Universiteit Gent	ENLIGHT	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Université de Mons	EUNICE	Wallonia	Wallonia	N
Universiteit Hasselt	EURECA-PRO	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB)	EUTOPIA	Brussels	Flanders	Y
Luca School of Arts	FILMEU	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Howest Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen	RUN-EU	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven)	UNA Europa	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Université de Liège	UNIC	Wallonia	Wallonia	N
Haute École de la Province de Liège (HEPL)	UNIGreen	Wallonia	Wallonia	N
Université de Namur	UNIVERSEH	Wallonia	Wallonia	N
HOGENT—Hogeschool Gent	UREKA SHIFT	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Universiteit Antwerpen	YUFE	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Hogeschool VIVES	ARTEMIS	Flanders	Flanders	Y
Hogeschool Thomas More	HEROES	Flanders	Flanders	Y

European University Alliances

- “65 universities in 35 countries”
- Una Europa (KU Leuven) includes Edinburgh Uni as one of its (multiple) heavyweights
- Thematic focus
- Strong emphasis on teaching & learning (led by the DG Education, funded by Erasmus+ programme) but *also* with a large research component
- Specific **funding for research** under H2020 research framework programme – plenty of EUAs have applied and received additional funding for their specifically designed research plans
- Great diversity in ‘research-intensiveness’ across networks
- Plenty of smaller institutions in “non-research-intensive” countries (but also in the other ones): a way to build Europe

The alliances embody what Enrico Letta refers to in his report on the future of the EU Single Market as the *fifth freedom* – to learn, work together, research, innovate, share knowledge and capacity across borders⁴. Evidenced as a “catalyst for renewed integration” in European higher education⁵ and as an effective “tool for promoting European identity based on a common sense of belonging through everyday practice”⁶, the European Universities initiative already represents a fundamental achievement for the European Union of strengthened transnational cooperation in higher education, **bringing Europeans closer together, as an undeniable symbol of peace, cooperation and unity.**



The alliances embody what Enrico Letta refers to in his report on the future of the EU Single Market as the *fifth freedom* – to learn, work together, research, innovate, share knowledge and capacity across borders⁴. Evidenced as a “catalyst for renewed integration” in European higher education⁵ and as an effective “tool for promoting European identity based on a common sense of belonging through everyday practice”⁶, the European Universities initiative already represents a fundamental achievement for the European Union of strengthened transnational cooperation in higher education, **bringing Europeans closer together, as an undeniable symbol of peace, cooperation and unity.**



Journal of Contemporary European Studies >

Volume 32, 2024 - Issue 2: The Europeanisation of identities through everyday practices

Open access

The Europeanisation of identities through everyday practices

Bringing Erasmus home: the European universities initiative as an example of ‘Everyday Europeanhood’

Alexander Frame & Barbara Curyło

Pages 334-349 | Published online: 18 Oct 2022

Cite this article

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14782804.2022.2134986>

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1,765

Views

12

CrossRef

citations to date

Thematic focus – example



Faculty and staff For students

Home Our alliance
About Hasselt University ✓

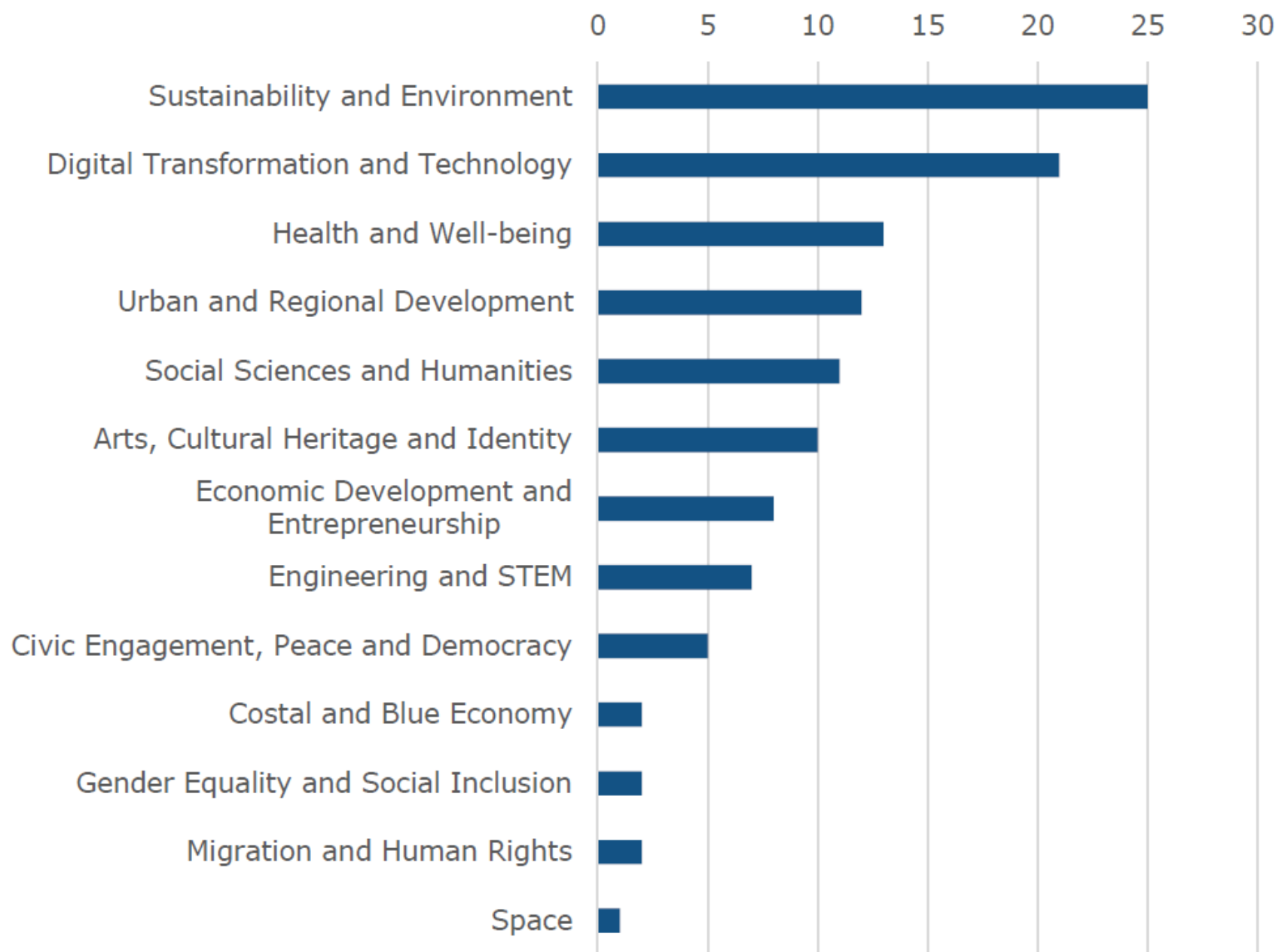
EURECA-PRO

Hasselt University is a proud member of the EURECA-PRO alliance of 9 like-minded European universities on responsible consumption and production.

Together, we aim to enable students and staff to study, teach and research in the field of responsible consumption and production.



FIGURE 50. MAIN THEMES OF ALLIANCES



Extra funding for research – example

RE-EURECA-PRO

The research arm of EURECA-PRO

General Introduction

RE-EURECA-PRO is a research arm of EURECA-PRO. The common goal is to strengthen the research and innovation dimension and the transformative future potential of EURECA-PRO, in line with the 2040 long-term version of a virtual university for responsible consumption and production.

<https://www.eurecapro.eu/re-eureca-pro/>

RE-EURECA-PRO – REsearch and innovation dimension of the European University on REsponsible Consumption And PROduction

Fact Sheet

Reporting

Results

Project description



University alliance gets behind sustainable consumption and production

Sustainable consumption and production patterns are a UN Sustainable Development Goal. The EURECA-PRO Alliance of seven universities (Montanuniversitaet Leoben, Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg, University of Petrosani, University of Leon, Technical University of Crete, Silesian University of Technology and Mittweida University of Applied Sciences) is promoting research in the field of Responsible Consumption and Production. The EU-funded RE-EURECA-PRO project will increase the research and innovation dimension and the transformative potential of the Alliance, in line with its long-term 2040 goal of a joined virtual and integrated European campus. RE-EURECA-PRO is also in line with the extensive education dimension defined by the EURECA-PRO Erasmus proposal submitted in February 2020.

[Show the project objective](#)

Keywords

[European Universities](#)[research](#)[innovation](#)[human resources](#)[societal engagement](#)[life-long learning](#)[SDG12](#)

Project Information

RE-EURECA-PRO

Grant agreement ID: 101035798

[Project website](#)

DOI

[10.3030/101035798](https://doi.org/10.3030/101035798)

Project closed

EC signature date

3 June 2021

Start date

1 September 2021

End date

31 August 2024

Funded under

SCIENCE WITH AND FOR SOCIETY

Total cost

No data

EU contribution

€ 1 998 750,00

Coordinated by

MONTANUNIVERSITAET LEOBEN

Austria

The issue of fragmentation

Multiple factors prevent smooth interoperability across institutions

- Geographical
- Administrative
- Technical
- Human



European Universities Alliances: an opportunity for Catholic Universities?

The **European Universities Initiative (EUI)**, launched by the European Commission in 2019, aims to foster unprecedented levels of cooperation among higher education institutions across Europe. By creating transnational **alliances**, the initiative - currently counting 65 alliances with **more than 570** higher education institutions - **seeks to enhance** the quality, inclusiveness and competitiveness of European higher education. **For Catholic universities, this presents both unique challenges and significant opportunities to integrate their foundational values into a broader European educational framework.**

These webinars will showcase the European Commission's initiative, share experiences, discuss challenges, and highlight opportunities for Catholic higher education institutions.

Organized by the **International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU)**

Understanding the European Universities Alliances from Catholic Universities' Perspectives

6 May 2025, 11:30-12:30 CEST

Agenda

4. Testimonies & Panel Discussion with Catholic Universities

with the interventions of:

Maria Amália Silva de Oliva, Arturo Varona Bosque, Teresa Morales De La Fuente -
Universidad Pontificia Comillas (EUPeace)



Mariet Vriens - KULeuven (Una Europa)



Marian Aláez - Universidad de Deusto (UNIC)



Richard Van Wezel - Radboud University (NeuroTechEU)



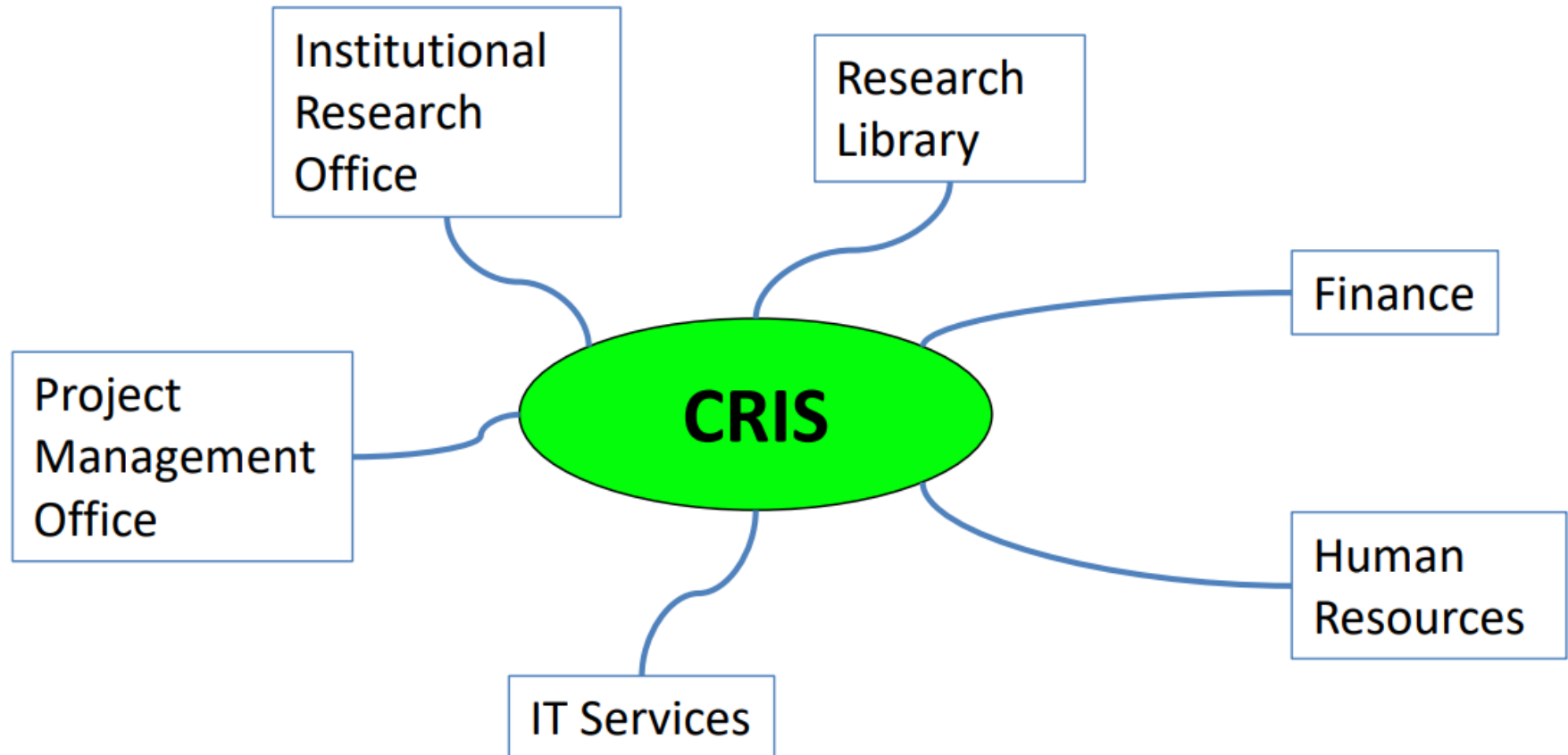
Juan Perez-Miranda - Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (ACE²-EU)



Human interop standing in the way of technical interop: a frequent challenge in the RIM domain

- Colleagues from Internationalisation tend to lead
- How can you expect technical interoperability to be kept into the picture if libraries, research offices and IT services are not part of the cross-institutional discussion?
- We've often seen this before in the CRIS area
- No-one says it's easy

Institutional Management



Researchers

Technical interoperability: why?

Multiple reasons why an alliance CRIS makes sense*:

- Showcase research strengths of alliances
- Including experts in various research disciplines at an international level
- Promote research collaboration, joint research projects and sharing of resources
- Knowledge Transfer from most to least research-intensive institutions regardless of geography

* Same reasons why national/regional CRIS make sense!

Technical interoperability: a few best practices



Common Open Data Repository | 2

Abstract:	Open science is a critical element of EU policy and strategies, which improves dissemination, knowledge transfer to industry and society, and the transparency and reproducibility of research as part of our Dissemination and Impact, besides ensuring that the project outcomes and findings are publicly available on the STARS EU website. STARS EU research projects will progressively include data management plans. They will implement a dedicated repository compliant with the FAIR principles (M6), where all our research data will be available. The present document describes the steps carried out to implement such a repository.
Project Partners	1. Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen (The Netherlands) 2. University West (Sweden) 3. Bremen University of Applied Sciences (Germany) 4. University of Franche-Comte (France) 5. Cracow University of Technology (Poland) 6. Silesian University of Opava (Czech Republic) 7. Polytechnic Institute of Braganca (Portugal) 8. University of La Laguna (Spain) 9. Alexander Moisiu University Durres (Albania)

Technical interoperability: a few best practices

To gather information about the current situation of each partner, we carried out a survey (see ANNEX I) with the corresponding responsibility of each institution. The results can be found in *Table 1*

University	open data repository?	If yes, provide the internet address.
Instituto Politécnico de Bragança (IPB)	Yes	https://dados.ipb.pt/
Université de Franche-Comté (UFC)	Yes	https://search-data.ubfc.fr/
Hanze UAS	Yes	https://dataverse.nl/dataverse/hanze
Silesian University in Opava (SUA)	No	
Cracow University of Technology (CUT)	Yes	https://rodbuk.pl/
University "Aleksandër Moisiu" Durrës (UAMD)	No	
University West (UW)	No	
University of La Laguna (ULL)	Yes	https://research-data.ull.es/research-data/
HS Bremen (HSB)	No	

Table 1: Individual open data repository from each partner

THE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Given the situation described above, we considered the following alternatives:

1.- To create a common ODR only for those partners who currently do not have one

We quickly discarded this first option, as we thought it did not comply with the project's requirements, nor was it aligned with the concept and vision of a European University Alliance to use the Latin expression, "*E pluribus unum*" (from many, one).

2.- Externalize the common repository to a dedicated editorial company

In this case, we had different meetings with Elsevier, who oversees the open data from one of the partners (ULL, see *Table 1*), which includes both the legacy and the new data. Although it was an attractive possibility, technical difficulties precluded implementing this option before the deadline. Besides, most partners favoured using some of the free publicly available tools for this purpose.

3.- Implement a common ODR in an accessible platform

We contacted platforms like Open Aire (<https://www.openaire.eu/>) and Zenodo¹ (<https://zenodo.org/>). In both cases, we knew that different EU alliances had used them for similar purposes (for instance, in the case of OpenAIRE, CONEXUS, EUT+, Aurora, or Eutopia are using OpenAIRE CONNECT as a single-entry point to the alliance's research production).

As the team in Open AIRE informed us if all the partners have repositories already registered and indexed in OpenAIRE, setting up the first version would be easy and fast from a technical point of view. As this is not the case, the solution was not so simple.



EUTOPIA Alliance

EUTOPIA Open Research Portal

Type
Research produ...

Scholarly works
Search in OpenAIRE



Join

EUTOPIA is an ambitious alliance of 10 like-minded universities ready to reinvent themselves: the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca (Romania), the **Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)**, the Ca' Foscari University of Europe (Italy), CY Cergy Paris Université (France), the Technische Universität Dresden (Germany), the University of Gothenburg (Sweden), the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), the NOVA University Lisbon (Portugal), the University of Pompeu Fabra (Spain) and the University of Warwick (United Kingdom). Together, these 10 pioneers join forces to build the university of the future.

Gateway Information

Created: 13-Jul-2022

3
Projects ?

2
Linked Zenodo Communities ?

10
Data sources ?

10 Content Provider

EUTOPIA Alliance

Göteborgs universitets publikationer - e-publicering och e-arkiv

Share

Qucosa - Technische Universität Dresden

Share

Vrije Universiteit Brussel Research Portal

LIST OF SOURCES

Filters

Funder

- ☐ ANR
☐ EC

The following results are related to [EUTOPIA Alliance](#). Are you interested to view more results? Visit [OpenAIRE - Explore](#).

3 Project

EUTOPIA Alliance

EUTOPIA-TRAIN (EUTOPIA - Transformation of Research and Innovation)

☒ Project

Funder: EC Project Code: 101017419

[Link to](#) [Share](#) [Deposit](#) [Embed](#)

EUTOPIA-SIF (EUTOPIA-Science and Innovation Fellowships)

☒ Project

Funder: EC Project Code: 945380

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EUTOPIA (European Universities Transforming to an Open Inclusive Academy for 2050)

☒ Project

Funder: ANR Project Code: ANR-19-GURE-0014

[Link to](#) [Share](#) [Deposit](#) [Embed](#)



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Welcome to Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Advanced search



Research units



Profiles



Projects



Research output



Activities



Equipment

EURECA-PRO Research Inventory

EURECA-PRO's research inventory of **SDG12 projects resulted in 488 research projects covering 805 SDG12 research topics.**

Please use the arrows for page navigation and click on the small dots to see the project information:



Number of SDG 12 projects

2 of 9

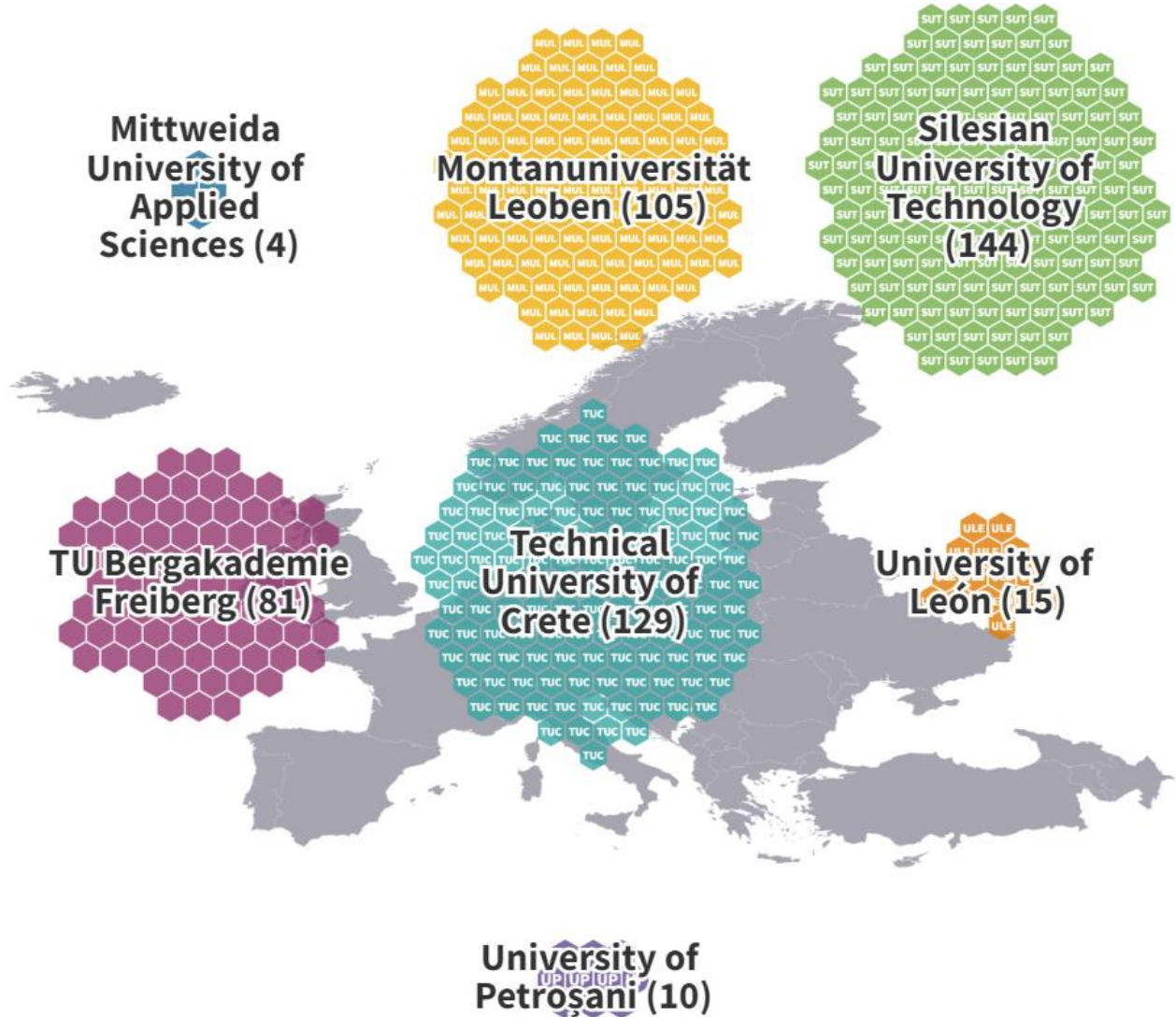
University ■ Mittweida University of Applied Sciences ■ Montanuniversität Leoben ■ Silesian University of Technology ■ TU Bergakademie Freiberg
■ Technical University of Crete ■ University of León ■ University of Petroșani



<https://www.eurecapro.eu/research-inventory/>

SDG 12 projects per University

3 of 9



Technical interoperability: a few best practices

Title		Research area	University
1	700 MHz NMR Spectrometer Bruker AVANCE III 700	NATURAL SCIENCES » Chemical sciences	University of Gdańsk
2	Amnis ImageStreamX Mk II Imaging Flow Cytometer System	MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES » Basic medical research	University of Gdańsk
3	Automation Robotics and Control	ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY » Electrical engineering, electronic engineering, information engineering ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY » Other engineering and technologies	University of Malta
4	Barocycler 2320EXT	NATURAL SCIENCES » Biological sciences	University of Gdańsk
5	BD FACSAria Fusion Flow Cytometer	NATURAL SCIENCES » Biological sciences	University of Gdańsk
6	Biodimar	NATURAL SCIENCES » Biological sciences	University of Bretagne Occidentale
7	Biomedical Engineering laboratory	ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY » Electrical engineering, electronic engineering, information engineering ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY » Other engineering and technologies	University of Malta

Technical interoperability: possible next steps

EURECA-PRO member institutions and their CRIS systems (as of 29/09/2022)

Institution	CRIS brand	DRIS entry
Montanuniversität Leoben (AT)	Pure	https://dspacecris.eurocris.org/cris/dris/dris02261
Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (DE)		
Technical University of Crete (EL)		
Universidad de León (ES)	DialnetCRIS	In pre-production (not yet released)
Silesian University of Technology (PL)	Omega-PSIR	https://dspacecris.eurocris.org/cris/dris/dris01129
Universitatea din Petroșani (RO)		
Hochschule Mittweida (DE)	VIVO	https://dspacecris.eurocris.org/cris/dris/dris01397
Hasselt University (BE)	DSpace-CRIS	https://dspacecris.eurocris.org/cris/dris/dris02263
Université de Lorraine (FR)		

Figure 2: Snapshot for the available institutional CRIS infrastructure at EURECA-PRO member universities as of Aug 2022. Data taken from the euroCRIS Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS)

Technical interoperability: possible next steps



FIS-LANDKARTE

KARTEN

ÜBERSICHTEN

STATISTIKEN

Einrichtung:

Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg



Einrichtung: **Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg**

Anschrift: Akademiestraße 6
09599 Freiberg

Bundesland: Sachsen

Organisationsform: Universität (staatlich)

Eingesetztes FIS: **DSpace-CRIS**

FIS-Hersteller*in: Lyrasis

Institutionelle Bezeichnung: keine Angabe

Betriebsstatus: **in Planung/im Aufbau**

Anwendungsbereiche: Drittmittelanzeige, Berichtslegung/Statistik, Außendarstellung, Auskunftssystem, Hochschulbibliographie

Technical interoperability: possible next steps

- Why not turning the expansion in the coverage of institutional research information management systems into an objective of the European University Alliance?
- If some institutions within an alliance have expertise in the implementation of open-source solutions like DSpace-CRIS or VIVO, it shouldn't be too hard to introduce Open Science practices to universities that do not have any at present
- There is currently no clear framework for the evaluation of the success of EUAs – this could well be one to highlight in the spirit of Knowledge Transfer

Possible criteria for assessing EUA success (from a research perspective)

It could be argued that an aggregated research information management system would allow many of the indicators to be monitored that could constitute a framework for the evaluation of at least the research dimension of European University Alliances. Some of these indicators could include:

- Increase in rates of co-authored publications across the alliance;
- Increase in rates of funded projects collaboratively raised and run by alliance members;
- Some proxy for the impact of research activities held within the alliance (number of doctoral students participating in shared Doctoral Training Networks, data on mobility for students, ECRs and research and professional services staff, open science indicators, citizen science projects, participants in research seminars, etc)
- Collaboration with external stakeholders to Academia, notably with Industry and local authorities



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Thanks!
Questions?

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