LERU
Representing research universities in Brussels

Dr. Katrien Maes
Chief Policy Officer LERU

Meeting of the EU affairs representatives – CPU
French Rectors Conference - 11 June 2014
21 European research-intensive universities committed to the values of high quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.

Founded in 2002

Influence policy in Europe
Develop best practice
Relevance for all RIUs
Commitment

- **Encourage education** through an awareness of the frontiers of human understanding

- **Foster the creation of new knowledge through basic research** as the ultimate source of innovation in society

- **Promote research across a broad front**, which creates a unique capacity to respond to new opportunities and problems.

Proactive policy development and articulation through the publication of papers, meetings in Brussels and other activities

Opportunities for institutional reflection, exchanges of experience and collaborative actions
LERU members:
University of Amsterdam
Universitat de Barcelona
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
University of Freiburg
Université de Genève
Universität Heidelberg
University of Helsinki
Universiteit Leiden
KU Leuven
Imperial College London
University College London
Lund University
University of Milan
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
University of Oxford
Pierre & Marie Curie University
Université Paris-Sud
University of Strasbourg
Utrecht University
University of Zurich
# Members

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<tr>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>KU Leuven</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Universitat de Barcelona</th>
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<td>Finland</td>
<td>University of Helsinki</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Lund University</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Pierre &amp; Marie Curie University (UPMC)  Université Paris-Sud University of Strasbourg</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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Purpose

- **Influence policy at European Union (EU) and Member State (MS) level**
  - EU (EC, EP, ECo, ERC, EIT, JRC, ERAC, ERIAB, etc.)
  - MS (prime ministers, ministers of research, ministers of finance)

- **Develop best practices**
  - Between 21 members
  - Institutional reflection, exchange of experience, collaborative actions

- **Relevance for all Research-Intensive Universities**
  - EU
  - Global
EU Lobby

European Research Area

ERASMUS+

THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

HORIZON 2020
Tools

• Proactive **policy development** and articulation through the publication of **papers, meetings** in Brussels and other activities

• Position papers
• Advice papers
• Briefing papers
• Notes
• Statements
Facts and Figures

+ 550,000 students
+ 50,000 PhD students
+ 55,000 academic staff
+ 55,000 non-academic staff
+ 12,000 PhD degrees / year
+ €300 M EU projects / year
+ € 5 BN total research budget
+ 20% of ERC grants
+ 55,000 MA degrees / year
+ 230 Nobel Prizes & Field Medals
How does LERU work

**Rectors’ Assembly**

**Board of Directors**  **LERU Office**

**LERU Policy Committee**

**Communities**  **Working Groups**  **Expert Groups**
Rectors’ Assembly

- **Highest decision-making** body of the League
- Each member represented by its **head of institution**
- Meets **twice a year**
  - May 2014 at the University of Helsinki
  - November 2014 at the University of Milan
  - May 2015 at the Université de Genève
  - November 2015 at Imperial College London
Board of Directors

• Implements decisions of the Rectors’ Assembly
• Monitors the budget
• Composition
  - Bernd Huber (Chair), President of LMU München
  - Andrew Hamilton, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University
  - Alain Beretz, President of the University of Strasbourg
Policy Committee

- Consists of rectors, vice-rectors and senior academic managers from LERU universities.
- Develops LERU policy positions along a broad range of topics
- Chaired by Professor David Price (UCL)
Communities (I)

- Representatives of all member universities
- Work on LERU policy or collaborative issues
- Operate on a continuous basis
- Led by a steering group with the support of a LERU Office member
Communities (II)

- Vice-Rectors for Research
- Vice-Rectors for Learning & Teaching
- Doctoral Studies Community
- Research Careers Community
- Senior Officers Network
- EU Research Projects Managers
- Directors of Communication
- Chief Information Officers
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Enterprise and Innovation
Working Groups (I)

- Address a specific topic
- Duration is limited in function of their remit
- Activities are led by a steering group, with the support of a LERU Office member
Working Groups (II)

- Alumni
- Charitable Funding
- Deans of Theology & Religious Studies
- Ethics
- E-Learning
- Gender
- Law Deans
Expert Groups

- Established with a limited task and for a limited time
- Provide expertise to an existing LERU representative body
- 5/10 individuals from LERU universities
- Exceptionally non-LERU experts may be involved
- A chair is appointed and a LERU policy officer supports their activities.
- LERU Expert Groups
  - Legal Expert Group
  - Ranking
  - Research Integrity
Other activities

- LERU Doctoral Summer School
- LERU Bright Conference
- LERU Spring Reception
- LERU Autumn Reception
- LERU SSH Voice Events
- LERU Launch events
Collaboration with other SHOs and institutions

- ERA Platform
  - EUA, Science Europe, EARTO, Nordforsk, CESAER (& IDEA League and EuroTech Universities Alliance)

- ESF, Vitae, SwissCore, CTWS, etc.
International collaboration (I)

- Formation of a **network** of organisations of research-intensive universities:
  - Association of American Universities (AAU)
  - Consortium of China 9 Research Universities (C9)
  - Group of Eight Australia (Go8)
  - League of European Research Universities (LERU)

=> **Hefei Statement** on Characteristics of Research Universities
International collaboration (II)

- Other similar organisations
  - Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU)
  - Russell Group (RG)
  - U15 Canada
  - U15 Germany
  - RU 11 Japan
  - Hong Kong 3
International collaboration (III)

- **Aim**: Global Council of Research-Intensive Universities, comparable and complimentary to the Global Research Council
LERU Office

Prof. Kurt Deketelaere
Secretary-General

- Daily management of LERU
- Representation of LERU
- Head of the LERU Office
LERU Office

• Dr. Katrien Maes, Chief Policy Officer
• Laura Keustermans, Policy Officer
• Alea López de San Román, Policy Officer
• Bart Valkenaers, Press and Communications Officer
• Veerle Van Kerckhove, Administrative Coordinator and PA
LERU engagement with ERA

- Early and active engagement
- Notes to the incoming Commissioner (2009, 2014)
- LERU position and advice papers on careers, doctoral training, women, open access, KT, …
- Meetings, working groups, conferences, …
- Partnership with EC and SHO
• Bilateral with EC, July 2012 – December 2013
• Other SHO MoU: EUA, EARTO, Nordforsk, and (later) Cesaer
• Science-Europe: unilateral statement
• LERU MoU – 12 commitments
  1. Encourage LERU universities to carry out actions
  2. LERU join SHO platform
  3. Share information with the EC and report
LERU’s MoU commitments on ERA

1/ Research careers in line with C&C and LERU paper
   a) Recruitment according to open, transparent and merit-based recruitment procedures
   b) Vacancies on Euraxess
   c) HR strategies
   d) HR Logo

2/ Gender strategies in line with LERU paper
LERUs MoU commitments on ERA

3/ EU-wide supplementary pension fund and portability of social security rights in line with LERU paper

4/ Structured doctoral training in line with EU Principles for IDT and LERU papers

5/ Academia-industry mobility programmes in line with LERU papers ((post-)doctoral)
LERUs MoU commitments on ERA

6/ Twinning/teaming cooperation

7/ Open access to publications and to data in line with LERU paper

8/ Knowledge transfer: cooperation with industry, professionalisation, services in line with LERU paper

9/ E-science: digital services
MoU process and results

1. Encourage LERU universities to carry out actions
2. LERU join SHO platform
3. Share information with the EC and report

- Survey (42 Q) among members
- Other activities: HRS4S workshop, gender data, ERASGHRM WG pension fund and WG professional development, doctoral summer school, EIT-F internships, joint white paper on teaming, LERU WG open data, TTO workshop, …
- Report to the EC (11/2014) and Briefing Paper (1/2014)
- SHO platform meetings and Innovation Convention sessions
Positive assessment

• New insights and new actions for LERU Communities and WGs
• Reinforced partnership with SHO
• 13 December 2013: key achievement(s) and reaffirming joint commitment to ERA
Reflections on ERA

• Valuable framework - Should be continued
• How to progress in the next legislature
  a) BAU: cf. Council Conclusions Feb. 2104
    ❖ Serious application of the European Semester? NRP-NCM... AGS
  b) Targeted legislative measures
    ❖ Where clear need
    ❖ Practical progress possible(OA, VAT on infrastructures equipments)
  c) ERA Framework Directive (Art.182,5 TFEU)
    ❖ Passive prohibitions, no active obligations
    ❖ Attribution, subsidiarity, proportionality
    ❖ Politically realistic? Time frame?
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