

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

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

Université Paris-Sud 11

Pierre & Marie Curie University

Université de Strasbourg

Utrecht University

University Zurich

21 European research-intensive universities committed to the values of high quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.

Founded
in 2002

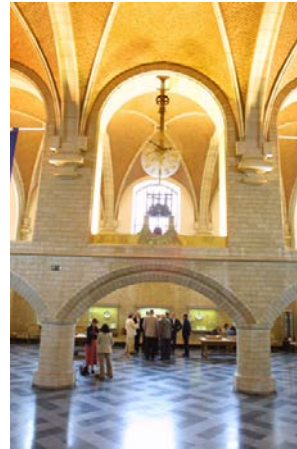
Influence policy in Europe
Develop best practice
Relevance for all RIUs

League of European Research Universities



- **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.

Commitment



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**

Members

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

Belgium	KU Leuven	Spain	Universitat de Barcelona
Finland	University of Helsinki	Sweden	Lund University
France	Pierre & Marie Curie University (UPMC) Université Paris-Sud University of Strasbourg	Switzerland	Université de Genève University of Zurich
Germany	University of Freiburg Universität Heidelberg LMU München	United Kingdom	University of Cambridge University of Edinburgh Imperial College London University College London University of Oxford
Italy	University of Milan		
Netherlands	University of Amsterdam Leiden University Utrecht University		

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



ERASMUS+



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

- 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
- LERU papers on ERA in 2002, 2007, 2011
- 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



- 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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