



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 18 December 2019

WK 14383/2019 INIT

LIMITE

ERAC-SFIC

WORKING PAPER

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	SFIC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (SFIC)
Subject:	LERU : Pushing the frontiers of innovative research

Delegations will find attached the PowerPoint presentation concerning the item 6 of the SFIC plenary agenda of 18 December 2019.

The logo consists of the letters 'L', 'E', 'R', and 'U' arranged in a 2x2 grid. The 'L' and 'E' are in the top row, and the 'R' and 'U' are in the bottom row. The 'R' is a vibrant orange color, while the 'L', 'E', and 'U' are a dark grey. The entire logo is contained within a white square that has a subtle drop shadow.

LE
RU

PUSHING
THE FRONTIERS
OF INNOVATIVE
RESEARCH

University of Amsterdam

Universitat de Barcelona - University of Cambridge

University of Copenhagen - Trinity College Dublin - 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 - Sorbonne University

Université Paris-Sud - University of Strasbourg - Utrecht University

University of Zurich

Who we are (I)

- An association of **European research-intensive universities**;
- Committed to the values of **high quality teaching**;
- Within an environment of **internationally competitive research**.



Who we are (II)

- Non-profit organisation
- Founded in 2002
- 23 members



Purpose

- **Influence policy at European Union and Member State level**
 - EU: Commission, Parliament, Council, ERC, EIT, JRC, ERAC,...
 - MS: prime ministers, ministers of research, ministers of finance
- **Develop best practices**
 - Between 23 members
 - Institutional reflection, exchange of experience, collaborative actions
- **Relevance for all Research-Intensive Universities**
 - Europe
 - Global



Members (I)



- Based in 12 European countries
- Membership only upon invitation
- Research-Intensive, Comprehensive

Members (II)

LERU members:

University of Amsterdam
 Universitat de Barcelona
 University of Cambridge
 University of Copenhagen
 Trinity College Dublin
 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
 Sorbonne University
 Université Paris-Sud
 University of Strasbourg
 Utrecht University
 University of Zurich



Members (III)

Belgium	KU Leuven	Netherlands	University of Amsterdam Leiden University Utrecht University
Denmark	University of Copenhagen	Spain	Universitat de Barcelona
Finland	University of Helsinki	Sweden	Lund University
France	Sorbonne University 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
Ireland	Trinity College Dublin		
Italy	University of Milan		

CE7

Charles University Prague	Czech Republic
University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
University of Belgrade	Serbia
University of Warsaw	Poland
University of Tartu	Estonia
Eötvös Loránd University	Hungary
University of Zagreb	Croatia

Collaboration with other stakeholders & institutions

- ERA Platform
 - EARTO, EUA, Science Europe, CESAER, EU Life, TAFTIE, EIRMA, ERF, ERRIN, Eli
- Other associations of European universities, including EUA, Coimbra Group, the Guild, Yerun, etc.



International collaboration (I)

- Global council of research-intensive university networks

- Australia, Go8
- Canada, U15
- China, C9
- East Asia, AEARU
- Europe, LERU
- Germany, U15
- Hong Kong 3
- Japan, RU11
- UK, Russell Group
- US, AAU



- Yearly meetings, hosted by one of the networks
- Discussion on issues of common interest such as open science, academic freedom, importance of SSH, etc.

International collaboration (II)

- United Nations
 - Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council
 - Member of the UN Academic Impact



International dimension of ERA

1. Cooperation with countries outside EU 28 and Associated countries

- International collaboration is very important to LERU members:
 - They collaborate with institutions across the globe
 - They attract students from across the globe
 - Some have campuses in other parts of the world
- LERU:
 - Global council of research-intensive university networks
 - United Nations
- In general: ERA priorities are important priorities for all global research players: important to be aware of what others do policy-wise and to align where possible.

International dimension of ERA

2. International cooperation in Horizon Europe:

- Association to Horizon Europe:
 - In favour of widening association to non-European countries such as Canada or Japan
 - First focus on countries that are in or closely linked to the ERA but not (yet) Associated
- Addressing societal and industrial challenges requires international collaboration → align Horizon Europe with SDGs and stimulate 3rd country participation
- Some practical recommendations:
 - Stimulate the inclusion of 3rd countries in 'normal' collaborative projects
 - Access to funding for research should be reciprocal (except in cases of specific strategic relevance)
 - Flagging of topics is helpful

International dimension of ERA

3. Cooperation with China, cooperation with Africa and Science Diplomacy

China:

- LERU members cooperate extensively with China
- No plans to change this, but increased awareness of potential problems

Africa

- African Research Universities Alliance
- KU Leuven study on cooperation between LERU members and African universities
- UK Global Challenges Research Fund

Science diplomacy

- Important tool in international relations

Contact

League of European Research Universities (LERU)
Minderbroedersstraat 8
3000 Leuven
BELGIUM

www.leru.org
Info@leru.org

