

arQus

European University Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT



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arqus-alliance.eu

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2022

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2023



Values

Argus acts in defence and promotion of diversity and human rights, equality and justice in Europe and the world.

- The core university values: openness, innovation and culture for sustainable development.
- The unique role played by universities in pluralism and democratic participation, and dissemination of knowledge through economic and cultural development.
- The conviction that through education, we are stronger in their pursuit of the common good.

05

Argus Mission Statement 2022-2032

DIE UNI GANZ IST TEIL DER
EUROPÄISCHEN
HOCHSCHULANLAGE
ARGUS.
SEI AUCH DU DABEI!



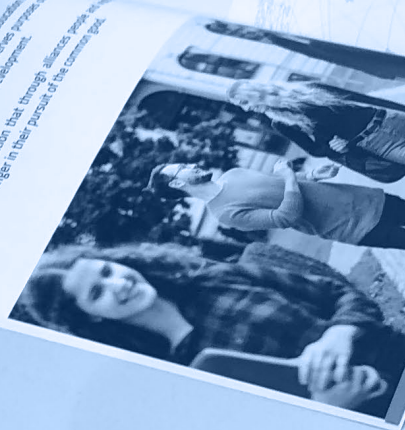
University
of Applied Sciences
Argus

DIE UNI GANZ IST TEIL DER
EUROPÄISCHEN
HOCHSCHULANLAGE
ARGUS.
SEI AUCH DU DABEI!



University
of Applied Sciences
Argus

EUROPÄISCH
STUDIERN.



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Dorothy Kelly

Coordinator of the Arqus Alliance

Dear Arqus Community,

At the conclusion of another impactful year of our Alliance, it is a great pleasure for me to reflect on the remarkable progress we have made together.

One of the highlights of the year has been the expansion of our Alliance with the addition of Maynooth University as our ninth full member, completing the expansion strategy agreed in late 2021, when the Universities of Wrocław and Minho joined us, all three of them greatly contributing to our cultural, linguistic and academic diversity and strengths.

The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) also joined us as an associate partner formally in 2023. Our cooperation with our new Ukrainian partner has benefitted from the Arqus With Ukraine project funded by NAWA, the Polish National Agency, covering both training programmes and visits to Arqus universities.

This year has been the fifth of our collaborative endeavour since the signing of the 2018 foundational MoU, five years of commitment to all three major university missions, as now formalised in three mission-based Action Line Boards to coordinate the Arqus approach to each.

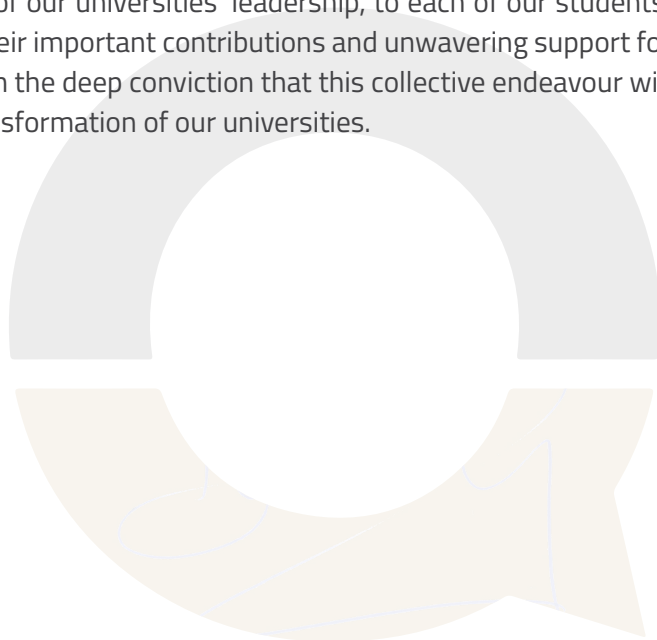
In education, the first Arqus joint Master's degree in European Studies now has its first cohort of students at four of our universities; the second in Cybersecurity is under evaluation, as the alliance works on the identification of the next set of full joint degree programmes and microcredentials to be set up. Over the past twelve months, Arqus also held to its commitment to preparing students for the complex challenges of the globalized world by initiating a series of diverse innovative programmes for students of all three cycles, including the first edition of the Arqus Talent Scholarships for doctoral and Master's students.

The commitment to reinforce the research dimension of our Alliance was made manifest during the first Arqus Research Days held in Brussels in October 2022. During this academic year Arqus has developed different initiatives aimed at supporting academics for the development of joint research projects as well as training them in open science strategies and transfer skills for linking their research results to the local ecosystems.

“Excellence with and for all” continues to be our main roadmap. Through the different actions promoted by our Arqus Hubs and Communities of Practice, the Alliance is creating an environment that embraces continuous staff development, diversity, plurilingual competences and deeper intercultural understanding. The Arqus Annual Conference held in April 2023 in Graz was devoted to the theme of Human Rights, the defence of which is a key core value of the Alliance.

While we celebrate these achievements, we acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Looking forward, we aim to deepen our collaborative initiatives, broaden participation and engagement of our communities, and amplify the internal and broader societal impact of our collective endeavours.

I would like to express my gratitude to all members of our universities’ leadership, to each of our students, academics, professional staff and stakeholders for their important contributions and unwavering support for Arqus. Together we will continue building bridges with the deep conviction that this collective endeavour will truly lead to structural, systemic and sustainable transformation of our universities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy', with a stylized flourish underneath.

THE ALLIANCE

Arqus Annual Report 22-23

9

Universities

317,000+

Students

23,800+

Academics

14,500+

Technical Staff



Vision

A forward-looking, open, integrated and research-driven European University, building transformative excellence with and for all.

Mission

To transform European higher education, research and innovation through deep cooperation and progressive integration, in pursuit of an equitable and sustainable future together.



Major Goals

- ✔ Effective barrier-free cooperation at all levels of institutional activity in order to better respond to existing and emerging societal challenges.
- ✔ Joint evidence-based institutional learning, arising from acting as a common laboratory beyond the mainstream, innovating in pursuit of systemic, structural and sustainable impact.
- ✔ Engaged communities of learners, academics, professionals and alumni in multi-level habitats working together for sustainable progress.
- ✔ Co-created attractive flexible challenge-based and research-driven academic offer.
- ✔ Joint transformational disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and innovation.
- ✔ Enhanced intercultural competence, global understanding and respect for diversity throughout our communities.

arQus

European University Alliance

University of Granada

University of Graz

Leipzig University

Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1

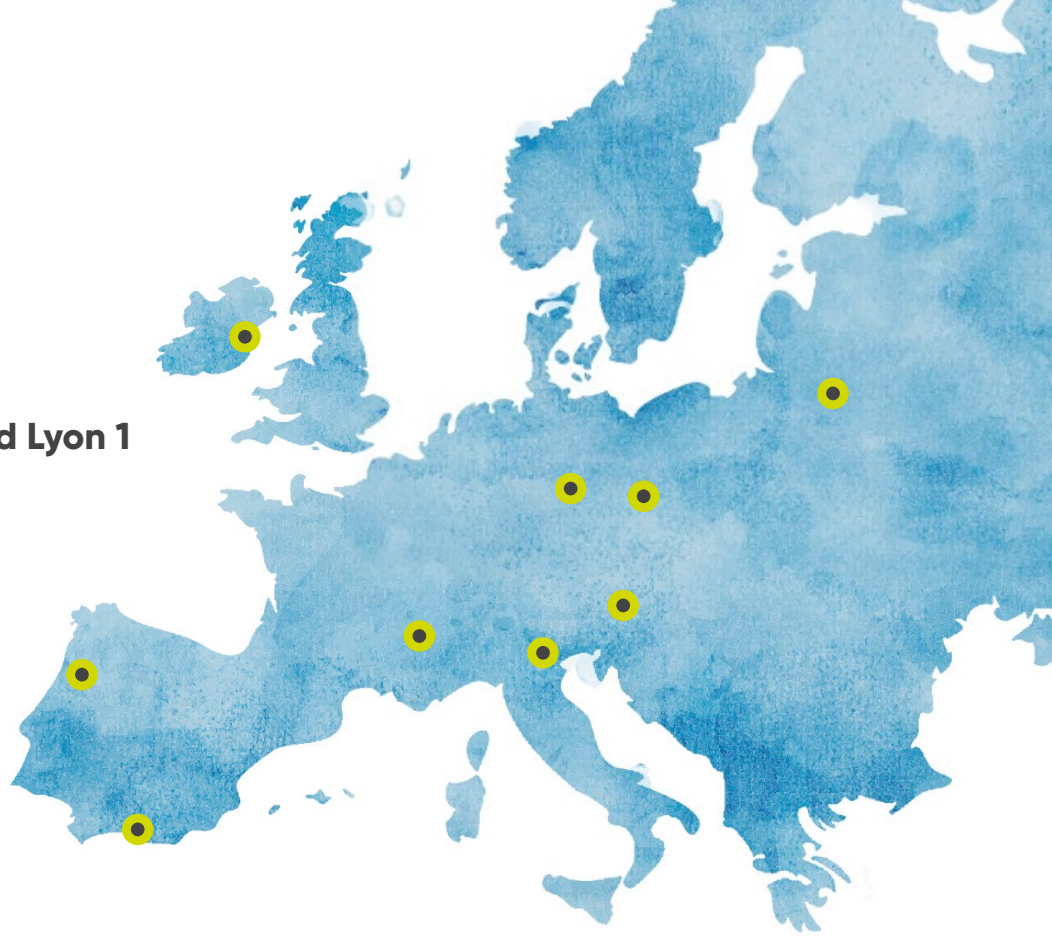
Maynooth University

University of Minho

University of Padua

Vilnius University

University of Wrocław



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



Vilnius
universitetas





**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Maynooth University, new full member of the Arqus Alliance

Maynooth University has officially joined Arqus this year, becoming the ninth full member of the Alliance, which is increasingly more diverse in languages, cultures and regions within Europe. The addition of Maynooth University, renowned for its dynamic growth, research excellence and commitment to societal engagement, marks the completion of Arqus's enlargement strategy initiated in 2021, which also involved the integration of the Universities of Minho and Wrocław in 2022.

Maynooth brings expertise in digital transformation, climate change, sustainability and European integration, aligning with Arqus's focus on these priority research areas, which are themselves major social challenges. With a rich history dating back to 1795, Maynooth University was formally established in 1997 and has since then become Ireland's fastest-growing university, boasting a diverse student body of over 15,000 from more than 100 countries. The institution offers a broad spectrum of undergraduate, Master's and PhD programmes across various disciplines, emphasizing inclusivity, international partnerships and collaborative research.

"Arqus mission emphasizes inclusive systemic impact, collaboration and innovation in higher education, aiming to educate socially conscious citizens, generate cutting-edge knowledge and foster global cooperation. Maynooth's commitment to equality, diversity and scholarly pursuits aligns seamlessly with Arqus core values", as highlighted by the Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly. President of Maynooth University, Eeva Leinonen, expressed excitement about partnering with esteemed institutions within the Arqus Alliance, envisioning mutual benefits for students, faculty and European society at large through interdisciplinary collaboration and cultural exchange.

As the Alliance eagerly welcomes Maynooth community, the proverb "*Ní neart go cur le chéile*" resonates, signifying strength in unity, underscoring the collective and shared purpose of fostering a cohesive and impactful European higher education landscape.

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

- ✓ Auvergne- Rhône-Alpes's Regional Council
- ✓ Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Granada
- ✓ Coimbra Group
- ✓ Delegation of Austria's National Students Council in the University of Graz
- ✓ Erasmus Student Network International
- ✓ Erasmus Student Network Granada
- ✓ Erasmus Student Network Lyon
- ✓ Erasmus Student Network Minho
- ✓ Erasmus Student Network Padova
- ✓ Granada City Hall
- ✓ Granada's Provincial Council
- ✓ Leipzig University's Student Council
- ✓ Minho Business Association
- ✓ Municipality of Braga
- ✓ Municipality of Guimarães
- ✓ National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA)
- ✓ Office of the Marshal of the Lower Silesian Voivodship
- ✓ Padua's County Council
- ✓ Students' Union of the University of Minho
- ✓ The House of Europe Lyon- Rhône- Alpes
- ✓ Utrecht Network
- ✓ Vilnius Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts
- ✓ Vilnius City Council

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA)

The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) was established in 1615 and re-established in 1991 after almost a century of closure by Soviet authorities. Nowadays is the institution with the highest level of accreditation as outlined by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science. It is also one of Ukraine's few universities with internationally recognized diplomas and intensive international collaboration activity with other universities in Europe and worldwide.

NaUKMA is consistently ranked as one of the top universities in Ukraine both by national and international standards, with faculties such as business, law, journalism, humanities and economics receiving top rankings.

The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy cherishes the reputation of safeguarding freedom, leadership and innovation, the three concepts that have become its guiding principles, contributing to the transformation of Ukraine into a democratic nation, with respect for the rule of law and a civil society that participates in the nation-building process.

NaUKMA joined the Arqus Alliance as a new associate partner in September 2022. This partnership brings new opportunities for the Alliance to support Ukrainians and Ukrainian higher education through direct cooperation with this leading research and autonomous university. Thus, the collaboration with NaUKMA allows the Arqus Alliance to take actions that have Ukrainian students and scholars not only as their targets, but also as an active counterpart. In addition, many of the Arqus institutions have already included NaUKMA in their Erasmus + proposals which will hopefully allow the development of joint teaching, research and mobility opportunities in the near future.



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
KYIV-MOHYLA ACADEMY



arqus
European University Alliance

**A YEAR
OF
EXPERIENCES**



October 22

Arqus celebrates the Arqus Day

On Arqus day, every 18th October, we celebrate the enormous motivation, ambition and effort of all Arqus communities to transform the European higher education and to build a sustainable future together through deep cooperation and common values.

This date marks the anniversary of the first Arqus Rectors' Council where the highest level institutional representatives of the Arqus universities presented publicly their commitment to boosting excellence of higher education with and for all, research and innovation by strengthening the cooperative ties that already existed between us.



Erasmus Days - Special Edition of the Arqus Café

Arqus celebrated the Erasmus Days by inviting students from all over Europe to practise languages at its famous Arqus Cafés! The Erasmus Days are held every year to celebrate the Erasmus + programme as a whole. The event aims to recognise the programme's success and showcase the benefits of the life-changing learning experiences it offers.

This year, these days ran from 13th to 15th October and, students were able to learn languages while talking or listening about their Erasmus experiences abroad.



October 22



Arqus Research and Innovation Days 2022

From 24th to 26th October, Arqus Research & Innovation held the Arqus Research Days in Brussels. The event brought together European policy makers, Vice-Rectors of the Arqus universities and members of the Management and Communications team of the Alliance to discuss the results achieved so far and to plan the second half of the project.

The first day, 24th October, Vice-Rectors of the Alliance met with members of the European DG for Research and Innovation (DG-RTD), the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE Committee) of the European Parliament and with members of the European University Association (EUA) to discuss the policy priorities and possible ways to continue fostering the R&I dimension of the European Universities.

The other two days were devoted to internal working meetings of the Arqus R.I. Project to discuss lessons learned and next steps.



November 22

CZEDUCON 2022 Conference in Prague

Arqus participated in the International Conference on Strategy and Policy in Higher Education (CZEDUCON 2022), the flagship event in the field of higher education under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Conference took place in Prague on 21st and 22nd November 2022.

The Arqus Inclusion & Diversity Hub, represented by Lucia Gennaro (University of Padua), participated in the panel "Inclusion: consolidating and promoting resources and ideas" that took place on 22nd November at 10:00 CET. Lucia Gennaro (University of Padua) joined Stephan Geifes, Director of the DAAD, in the discussion. The moderator was Martin Bogdan, policy officer at the Academic Cooperation Association.



ARQUS

▶ JOINT MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERINTELLIGENCE

Arqus universities sign the Cooperation Agreement for a new joint Master's programme

The Universities of Granada, Minho, Padua and Vilnius signed the Cooperation Agreement for the Arqus joint Master's programme "Master in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence".

The degree will be a full-time Master's Programme jointly developed and taught in English. It will offer specialised academic education in Cybersecurity, Cyberintelligence and International Relations for Cybersecurity, and will combine physical mobility with other formats such as virtual, blended mobility or specific face-2-face courses for its delivery.



December 22



Arqus Advent Calendar

In December 2022, Arqus published its very first advent calendar on Instagram. Each day of the month up to the 24th, a new “case” was opened on our Instagram stories and our viewers got the chance to discover a Christmas tradition, a Christmas song or a Christmas recipe from one of the Arqus countries. Among other things, we shared the Italian recipe of the Panettone, the Austrian Christmas song “Es wird scho glei dumpa” and the traditional “Weihnachtsmarkt” from Germany! This advent calendar was an opportunity to promote intercultural knowledge and to offer some less academic content.

Equal opportunities in higher education: from vision to practice

On 8th December, Arqus participated in the Roundtable discussion “Equal opportunities in higher education: from vision to practice”, organised by the Equal Opportunities Team of Vilnius University on the occasion of Human Rights Day.





January 23

Arqus welcomes Maynooth University as a new full member of the Alliance

In January 2023, Maynooth University officially became the ninth full member of the Alliance, completing the Arqus enlargement strategy initiated in 2021. Maynooth University brings a dynamic, rapidly-growing, research-led and engaged institution to the Alliance, but also makes Arqus more diverse thanks to incorporating new languages and a new culture.

Maynooth University's leadership in the field of digital transformation and data, climate change and sustainability, and European integration, were identified by the Alliance as priority research areas. Additionally, as host of Scholars at Risk Europe, and in driving Ireland's sectoral response to helping Ukrainian students and researchers access the Irish higher education system, Maynooth University has demonstrated its commitment to widening participation and inclusivity.



An in-person meeting with the European commission

On 30th and 31st January, Rectors representing each of the 44 European University Alliances met in person in Brussels in the presence of Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, Youth and Sport.

The meeting was aimed at taking stock of the end of the Alliances' piloting phase (2019-2022), and at discussing together the next deployment phase of 4 + 2 years, as well as the long-term future of the European Universities initiative, including post-2027 under the next EU budgetary period. Pilar Aranda Ramírez, Rector of the University of Granada, represented the Arqus Alliance in this event.

Rectors reflected upon the progress made by their Alliances on the implementation of a European interuniversity campus, the 50% target for student mobility, the progress towards a joint degree based on common European criteria, or how to forge a culture of cooperation between the Alliances and between them and their innovation ecosystems and communities, among other themes.





February 23

Arqus joins the University of Minho in the kick-off of the celebrations of their 50 Anniversary

The Alliance Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, and the Rector of the University of Granada, Pilar Aranda, were invited to participate in the kick-off of the 50 Anniversary Celebrations of the University of Minho on the date of its 49 anniversary.

In his speech at the ceremony unveiling the programme of the 50 Anniversary Celebrations which will last until the end of 2024, the Rector of the University of Minho, Rui Vieira de Castro, emphasised that the Arqus Alliance is one of the most significant contexts in which UMinho affirms its vocation as a university open to the world and committed to the international materialisation of its project in the fields of higher education, research and innovation.





March 23

Workshops of the Arqus AIFRS series on minority and minoritized languages in Europe

On 2nd and 3rd March 2023, the Arqus Alliance hosted two workshops as part of the series “Revitalizing Minority and Minoritized Languages in Europe” within the framework of the Arqus International Forum on Romance Studies (AIFRS). Led by a team from the Department of Romance, Italian, Galician-Portuguese and Catalan Philology at the University of Granada, the AIFRS organized this cycle for the study and promotion of minority and minoritized languages, particularly those within the spectrum of Romance languages (Galician, Sardinian, Judeo-Spanish, Franco-Provençal, Mirandese, etc.).

The inaugural edition was devoted to plurilingualism and multiculturalism on the Iberian Peninsula and extended its sessions until May 2023.

Revitalizing Minority and Minoritized Languages in Europe

WORKSHOPS
University of Granada
Faculty of Philosophy
and Languages



Stefan Koch (U. Graz)

**From Medieval to Modern
Asturian and Leonese**

2nd March: 12:30 - 13:30

3rd March: 15:30 - 16:30

David Porcel (U. Granada)

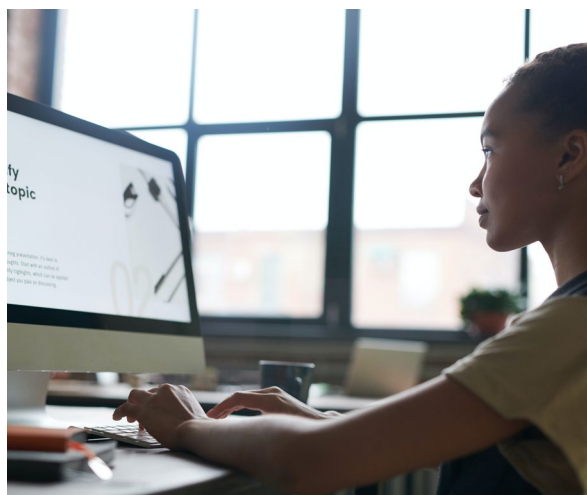
**Mirandese, a minority and
minoritized language in Portugal**

2nd March: 13:30 - 14:30

3rd March: 16:30 - 17:30



Co-funded by
the European Union



Arqus R.I. webinars on co-creation practices

On 6th and 20th March, the Arqus R.I. team at Vilnius University organised two webinars on co-creation practices involving different stakeholders in content creation at partner members. The webinars titled “Co-Creation Labs in Practice: Co-creating, Implementing and Learning from Social-Oriented Science Activities” counted on the participation of Arqus researchers from all career stages, disciplines and cross-disciplinary research fields as well as other external stakeholders interested in the topic.



March 23

EDLab project kick-off meeting in Brussels

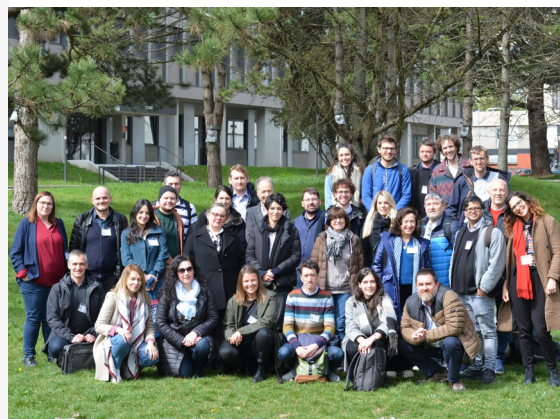
The EDLab project “European policy experimentation in higher education: piloting a joint European degree label” kicked off in Brussels on 7th March 2023. The event brought together 30 participants from Arqus, ENLIGHT, EUTOPIA and SEA-EU Alliances, as well as associate partners and the European Commission to get the project off the ground and to establish the roadmap for the completion of the objectives and results. Namely, the kick-off meeting aimed at introducing the team members, creating a general overview of the European Degree Label and building a mutual understanding of the different action lines, activities and results. The 30 participants of the event came from universities of the 4 Alliances represented, some associate partners and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).



First Arqus R.I. Bridging Workshop on “Bridging the Green and Digital Transitions”

On 28th and 29th March 2023, over 30 researchers from the different Arqus partner universities met in Lyon 1 to discuss and make the link between two major societal challenges, the digital and the green transitions.

During the two days, participants from Granada, Graz, Kiev, Minho, Padua and Vilnius took part in thematic sessions on different aspects such: Urban transition, Environmental health, Sustainable computing, Civic engagement, Management and storage of resources and Modelling for Sustainability. The aim of this event was not only to encourage collaboration between researchers from Arqus universities, but also to build bridges between different research fields such as natural sciences and engineering, or humanities and social sciences and computer science.





Annual Conference 2023 in Graz

The third Arqus Annual Conference, themed “Promoting Human Rights in Arqus”, was hosted by the University of Graz from 3rd to 5th April 2023. The opening ceremony was led by the Austrian Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research, Martin Polaschek. The Conference centered its first plenary session on the defence and advancement of Human Rights, echoing the commemoration of the 75 Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights this year.

Esteemed figures like Myroslava Antonovych, Head of the Centre for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, participated in this round table discussion. Approximately 250 representatives from across all Arqus universities, comprising senior management, academics, administrative and professional staff, students, doctoral researchers and stakeholders, convened at this major Arqus annual event.

April 23



First Workshop “Arqus for Ukraine”

On 24th and 25th April, the University of Wrocław hosted the first of the three scheduled workshops for management, academic and administrative staff of Ukrainian universities organised within the “Arqus for Ukraine” project funded by the National Agency of Academic Exchange of Poland (NAWA). The main goal of the workshop was to foster networking and the initiation of in-depth cooperation in the areas of management, research and administration between the Arqus and Ukrainian partner universities.



May 23



Arqus PhD Week for Careers Outside Academia

A total of 28 PhD candidates and postdoctoral students from Arqus universities participated in this major event and shared their experiences and concerns about their professional future, addressing relevant topics such as the skills and competencies for private sector employment, the impact on organisations of the incorporation of doctoral profiles, the open innovation and the career development in knowledge transfer.

The PhD Week is developed in the framework of the Arqus PhD Pursuit, the Alliance's initiative that stands for bridging research and education to prepare early-stage researchers for existing and emerging grand societal challenges by enhancing their international competitiveness inside and outside academia and contributing to regional and European innovation strategies.

Human Rights Café on Mental Health Challenges during the Thesis Writing

On 19th May, the Arqus Student House and the Student Engagement Team Padova collaborated to organise this event aimed to shed light on the mental health challenges faced by students during the thesis writing process. The Human Rights Café provided an insightful platform for a common discussion, delving into the experiences and struggles encountered by students while undertaking their thesis. The café consisted of UNIPD international current students or alumni speakers, including an MA student, two graduates and a PhD student. They shared their personal encounters with thesis stress and offered practical tips on managing it effectively.





May 23

Arqus Summer School on Democracy

From 22nd to 26th May, the University of Wrocław hosted the “Arqus Summer School on Democracy: Ukraine on the road to Europe” with the aim of engaging young scholars in a critical reflection on Ukraine’s current political and economic transformation.

A total of 22 PhD students, 14 coming from Arqus universities and 8 from Ukrainian universities, in the disciplines of political science, sociology, history, law, philosophy, economics and communication participated in this grand event.

This Summer School was part of an initiative of the Polish Ministry of Education and Science and the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) to subsidise activities with partner universities from Ukraine that are complementary and synergistic to those planned within the framework of Arqus.



2nd Arqus R.I. Bridging Workshop on “Bridging the Green and Digital Transitions”

Around 25 researchers from six Arqus universities participated in the second workshop “Bridging the Green and Digital Transitions”, hosted by Vilnius University and devoted to Digital Urban Transitions and Sustainable Computing.

The event aimed at fostering collaborations between researchers from the Arqus universities and an interdisciplinary approach integrating different research fields such as natural sciences and engineering or computer science. The purpose was to bridge insights from various disciplines and connect research on green and digital transitions in a mutually beneficial manner.



June 23



56th Arqus Steering Committee meeting at the University of Minho

The 56th Arqus Steering Committee meeting took place on 22nd and 23rd June in Guimarães (Portugal). The event aimed to oversee the progress of the Arqus Work Plan for 2022-2026 and involved discussions on the status of various projects within the Alliance, including Arqus R.I., EDLab and Cyberactioning.

The first day encompassed a comprehensive review of the Alliance current state, with updates from university members, the Student Council and Action Line Boards. The Arqus language policy, the renewal of the Open Mobility Agreement for 2023-2028 and revisions of the governing documents of Arqus' structures were on the agenda. On the second day, the focus shifted to Arqus' global dimension and collaboration with external partners.

1st Arqus Workshop dedicated to innovative teaching at Lyon 1

On 22nd and 23rd June, the University Library of Sciences hosted the 1st Arqus Lyon 1 workshop on educational innovation, co-organised with iCAP, the service in charge of technology enhanced learning.

It provided an opportunity to exchange best practice, share information about the Innovative Pedagogical Practices projects supported by the iCAP service and the tools available, while raising awareness of what Arqus can contribute in the field of pedagogical innovation.

This workshop was also an occasion to highlight the achievements of all our Lyon 1 candidates for the Arqus Teaching Excellence Awards, as well as those of the 2023 winners (from the Universities of Minho and Granada).

Workshop on innovative teaching in Lyon 1





June 23

"Social Involvement in Public Universities of Andalusia" Award from the Forum of Social Councils of Public Universities of Andalusia

The Forum of Social Councils of Public Universities of Andalusia awards the Arqus Alliance for its contribution to social progress. The candidature was presented by the University of Granada, as Coordinator of the Alliance, in the category "Internationalisation Experiences of Andalusian Universities".



Arqus International Innovators Award 2023

The Arqus International Innovators Awards finals took place on 27th June, during the Born Global Start-up Festival (BGSF) in Leipzig. The 4th Arqus International Innovator Award (previously known as the Virtual Company Creation Challenge) went to Karion Therapeutics from the University of Minho. Karion is developing a novel drug candidate for aggressive cancers with an unprecedented mode of action. More than 700 people from all over Europe voted and selected their favourite entrepreneurial team among the different final candidates.





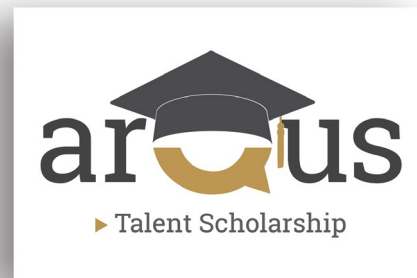
July 23



A table avec Arqus

To promote the different cultures among the alliances, the University of Lyon 1 organised in its staff restaurant a food event called "Arqus à table". For a week, from the 17th until the 21st, the food from one or two Arqus countries was served to the staff members. People attending had the chance to try, among other things, Curry Wurst from Germany, the famous Tiramisu from Italy and also a delicious Irish stew. During the whole week, the local Arqus team was present to give some explanations about the Alliance and distribute goodies as well as brochures.

arqus
European University Alliance



Arqus Talent Scholarship Fund

In July, Arqus announced the results of its first call for the Talent Scholarship Fund, an ambitious programme tailored to proficient graduates aspiring to pursue a Doctoral or Master's Degree at any of the Arqus universities. A total of 7 PhD and 9 Master students were awarded.

Results 1st call
(for PhD students)



July 23

Arqus moVEs

In July 2023, the pilot edition of Arqus MoVEs was launched, a virtual exchange dedicated to all students starting an international mobility experience at the beginning of the academic year 2023/24. The programme is open as well to those who haven't had the chance to go abroad for studies yet but wish to meet new people in an intercultural and multilingual environment.

Who is "Arqus MoVEs" for?

This initiative is intended as a pre-mobility project that involves students across:

- Different academic background
- Different cultures
- Different languages
- Different ages
- Different disciplines
- Different time zone

Virtual Exchange
Prior to students mobility departure

Co-funded by the European Union

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European University Alliance



Arqus Open Science Days in Leipzig: Empowering researchers for embracing openness

Arqus members working on the Open Science Agenda met for a very fruitful two-day workshop at Leipzig University on 27th and 28th June 2023.

The objective of the meeting was to work on the design and elaboration of new Open Science (OS) training materials. The final goal is to provide Arqus researchers with a good entry point for OS activities and motivate them to incorporate openness into their daily work.



July 23



Arqus Summer School on Advancing Learning Assessment: Fostering Collaboration and Innovation

From 18th to 21st July, the Arqus Summer School “Enhancing Students’ learning using appropriate assessment strategies” took place in Puvočiai, Lithuania.

This event marked the inaugural summer school for teaching staff organized within Arqus, providing an invaluable opportunity for participants from diverse partner universities to convene for three days of learning and exchanging ideas about assessment in higher education.

30 educators from six Arqus universities attended this Summer School.



August 23



Summer School for German and Spanish

The Language Centre at Leipzig University and the Modern Languages Centre at the University of Granada organised this intensive course that started on 21st August 2023 in Leipzig and lasted for a month.

The Summer School is a comprehensive language course in which students either focus on Spanish or German. This year around 30 students took part in this opportunity to improve their language skills. All students spent the first week together in Leipzig.

The German students travelled to the University of Granada the following week and spent the rest of the summer school (three weeks) there while the Spanish students stayed in Leipzig for two more weeks.



September 23



A delegation from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy visits the University of Granada

The visit was aimed to establish concrete measures for the participation of NaUKMA in the various work plans of the Alliance. The delegation, consisting of the President of the university, the Vice-Presidents for Academic Affairs and for Research, the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Sciences and the Head of the International Office, participated in a series of meetings with the Rector of the University of Granada and his governing team, with the Coordination team of the Alliance as well as with academic and research staff. Five NaUKMA students visited Granada as well. They engaged with representatives from various Vice-Rectorships, University Associations and Students' Services.

Seminar "Unlocking Global Responsibility: Revolutionizing Higher Education through Challenge-Based Learning in the Planetary Crisis"

The University of Minho hosted this introductory seminar about "Challenge Based Learning" (CBL) on 27th September 2023. The Seminar was led by Jakob Grandin, one of the designers of CBL experiences during the first stage of the Arqus Alliance (2019-2022). The event was broadcast live on the Minho YouTube channel.

Unlocking Global Responsibility:
Revolutionizing Higher Education
through Challenge-Based Learning in
the Planetary Crisis

Webinar by Jakob Grandin
Wednesday, 27th September
17:30h CEST

Universidade do Minho



September 23

33rd Annual Conference and Exhibition of the European Association for International Education (EAIE)

From 23rd to 26th September 2023, Arqus participated in the 33rd Annual Conference and Exhibition of the European Association for International Education (EAIE) in Rotterdam (the Netherlands) together with other 6 Alliances.

In this grand professional gathering of over 239 exhibitors and more than 6,000 higher education staff from around the globe, Lucia Gennaro, member of the Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Hub at the University of Padua, participated in a discussion panel on how to engage non-traditional students in European University Alliances. Namely, Lucia focused on two aspects: how the initiatives promoted at the level of the Alliance influence the individual partner universities in particular in inclusive mobility, and vice versa, how activities and initiatives to support students with fewer opportunities to engage in mobility experiences are developed within the Alliance.



11-15 SEPTEMBER 2023

SUMMER SCHOOL ON DEMOCRACY

In search of new understanding

summerschool@uwr.edu.pl



Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange



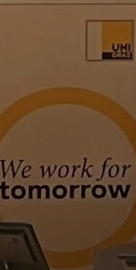
Summer School on Democracy: In search of new understandings

The summer school took place from 11th to 15th September 2023 in Wrocław, and focused on a new understanding of democracy in the early 21st century. The programme was designed for 20 PhD students (10 from Wrocław and 10 from abroad). The initiative is framed within the Arqus for Ukraine project supported by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.



KEY MILESTONES IN THE LONG RUN

ACHIEVEMENTS THAT CAME TO STAY



Joint Master's Programmes

The Arqus Alliance aims to centre its efforts on enabling a widely diverse student body and enhancing their learning experience, promoting their individual and collective professional development.

At the moment, the Alliance offers three full joint degree programmes at Master's level:

- ✓ **Master's Programme in European Studies:**

The jointly developed programme brings together the Universities of Granada, Graz, Leipzig and Vilnius, and focuses on the relationship between Europeanization and globalization, the impact of global developments on Europe and the changing role of the continent in the new world order. The start date for the second edition of this programme will be October 2024.
- ✓ **Master's Programme in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence:**

The programme offers specialised academic education in Cybersecurity, Cyberintelligence and International Relations and Law for Cybersecurity. It is jointly delivered by four Arqus universities: Granada, Minho, Padua and Vilnius. The expected start date is September 2024.
- ✓ **Master's Programme in Translation:**

The Multiple Master's programme in Translation brings together different approaches to translation and translation studies, enhancing collaboration between Arqus universities, providing future graduates with a broader vision of this discipline and ensuring their smooth integration into the international labour market.





Communities of Practice

The Arqus Communities of Practice (CoPs) are communities of professionals that come together for bench -and peer- learning in all areas of institutional activity, as well as to offer staff development opportunities across all partner institutions.

A fundamental component of the CoPs is the exchange of practice among staff members of the Arqus universities, with the aim of creating a mutual space for sharing experiences and - in a deeper sense - establishing a collective and shared identity. Joint activities, discussions, information sharing channels, identification of problems and proposal of solutions are some of the activities carried out by these communities.



Three calls have been launched so far, and ultimately, the following 11 CoPs have been established: Arqus Network of Language Centre Directors, Research Support Officers, Arqus Analytics, Artificial Intelligence for the Sustainability in Higher Education, Arqus International Forum on Romance Studies, Cultural Activities, Arqus Cultural Communities' Network, Community of Practice for Discrimination, (Sexual) Harassment and Mobbing Prevention and Management at Universities, Projects Finance Management Offices and Exchange Network on Urban Studies. Though the objectives of each community may vary, all aim to share their expertise in order to better address existing and emerging challenges.

Arqus Talent Scholarship Funds and Arqus Innovation Fund

The Arqus Talent Scholarship Fund is a scholarship scheme aimed at talented students who want to pursue complete postgraduate studies (Master's or Doctorate) at one of the Arqus partner universities. A compulsory mobility (study period, training, research stay) at a second Arqus partner university is included, while the Alliance encourages applicants for multiple and longer stays at the different universities of the Arqus Alliance. This initiative is particularly addressed to refugees, asylum seekers and students with fewer opportunities.

In the academic year 2023/24, the Alliance welcomed the first 16 scholarship holders to its universities.

The Arqus Innovation Fund aims to incentivize innovative bottom-up initiatives by Arqus staff and students by providing seed funding to foster innovation and entrepreneurial thinking and to increase the visibility of Arqus internally and promote stakeholders engagement. In a first call, 18 innovative projects developed by Arqus students and staff were funded with €828,430. With a call for ad hoc bottom-up initiatives in fall 2023, the Alliance aims to financially support innovative activities developed by Arqus staff and students that go hand in hand with the objectives of the Arqus Alliance and the three major action lines of Education, Research & Innovation and Societal Engagement.



Open Mobility Agreement

The Arqus Open Mobility Agreement (OMA) is an open tool aimed at facilitating seamless mobility for students and staff between Arqus partner universities. Arqus was the first Alliance implementing such an innovative tool that allows full and automatic recognition, taking advantage of the complementarity of the academic offer and socio-economic contexts.

The OMA offers an unlimited number of places for incoming students within the Alliance and it is available to all fields and all levels of study.



The Arqus OMA has been implemented since 2019 based on a growing shared academic catalogue and ample joint learning opportunities certified by the Arqus Academy and grounded on joint standards deeply anchored in the guidelines and principles of the Erasmus+ charter.

Maynooth University recently signed up to the Open Arqus Mobility Agreement for the period 2023 - 2028.



Arqus Open Science Ambassadors

One of the objectives of Arqus is to foster community- and identity-building across our member universities. Open Science (OS) is one of the guiding principles in research to strive for cooperation, reusability and transparency across disciplines and borders. Within this framework, the Open Science Ambassador Network, launched by the Arqus R.I. project, is aimed at the implementation and development of Open Science activities in the Arqus Alliance.

The ambassadors are experienced experts in Open Science. They promote and commit to the implementation and realisation of Open Science guidelines and activities across the member universities of the Arqus Alliance by:

- ✓ **Inspiring and engaging other researchers (especially PhD students and postdocs) for practising Open Science.**
- ✓ **Promoting Open Science in the Alliance and sharing best Open Science practices in their specific scientific disciplines.**
- ✓ **Supporting others with their expertise, especially in developing Open Science training materials and advising researchers, who want to implement (more) openness in their research processes.**

The 16 Open Science Ambassadors selected in the first call of April 2023 met online on 1st June to discuss how they will foster the development of Open Science within Arqus: contribution to the OS training programme, advice for potential practitioners and advocacy of OS at the institutional level.

The profile of the Ambassadors, with details on their expertise, will be accessible on a specific Open Science section on the Arqus website soon, so that researchers interested in OS of the nine Arqus universities will be able to ask for their advice.



Arqus Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers



The interdisciplinary mentoring programme supports doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in their academic career development through peer-group training sessions and connecting them with experienced researchers who serve as mentors. The programme offers training not only to the mentees, but is also an opportunity for mentors to expand their skills with regard to supporting young researchers.

The second edition of the 9-month Arqus Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers will start in October 2023 for a group of 9 postdocs and 9 predocs. There will be a mix of online and in-person meetings to offer flexibility and facilitate long-lasting connections.

The networks created in the mentoring programme will prove to be an invaluable resource for a successful career in academia and bring about collaborations between researchers of different career stages and disciplines.



OUR PROJECTS

EDLab



The EDLab project aims to test the implementation of European joint degree programmes and the European Degree Label, with special emphasis on France, Italy, Portugal and Spain. The project, coordinated by the University of Granada, brings together 13 universities from Spain, Portugal, Italy, France and Belgium, representing Arqus and three other European University Alliances (ENLIGHT, EUTOPIA and SEA-EU). EDLab also counts on 35 associate partners, which include national ministries and quality assurance agencies, European and global university networks, student and alumni associations, along with other partner universities from the four alliances. EDLab is part of the initiative of the European Commission to pilot a joint European degree label based on a set of common criteria. The initiative was announced in the European Strategy for Universities and the Council recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, adopted on 5 April 2022. EDLab was one of the 6 projects selected by the European Commission in that call.

More specifically, EDLab objectives are:

- ✓ Analyse the suitability of the criteria proposed by the European Commission for the award of the European Degree Label (EDLabel);
- ✓ Analyse the barriers existing for their fulfilment, with particular but not exclusive reference to four target countries: France, Italy, Portugal and Spain;
- ✓ Analyse how an EDLabel and joint programmes enhance the global attractiveness of the European Higher Education System;
- ✓ Analyse the procedure for the issue of an EDLabel and its format, along with potential barriers to be addressed.
- ✓ Produce detailed recommendations on the basis of the project's findings.

The project will last 12 months, from 01/03/2023 to 29/02/2024





Cyberactioning



Co-funded by
the European Union

The Cyberactioning project's main goal is to support the Arqus Joint Master's Programme in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence, with a mobility path along the partner universities, and a MOOC in Cybersecurity aiming at training a minimum of 800 students from non-ICT sectors in each edition.

The proposal was originated by four universities of the Arqus Alliance (University of Granada, University of Minho, University of Padua and Vilnius University), in collaboration with six SMEs and Research Centres (Constella Intelligence – Securiq Sistemas S.L., Digitalsign – Certificadora Digital SA, Eurotux Informatica SA, Amped SRL, Qascom SRL and Fundacion IMDEA Network), all of them covering four different European countries (Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain) and with a high level of expertise in the field of cybersecurity.

The 4-year project is being coordinated by the University of Granada with a total budget of €2,902,380.

Other expected key results are:

- ✓ **A scholarship programme to attract highly qualified students.**
- ✓ **A programme of agreements and incentives to attract faculty, companies and research centres and generate synergies.**
- ✓ **The acquisition of key technological infrastructure for support of the programmes.**



CYBERACTIONING

Arqus for Ukraine

An initiative by the Polish Ministry of Education and Science and the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) to subsidise activities with partner universities from Ukraine that are complementary and synergistic to those planned to be implemented within the framework of the European University Alliances. Wrocław University's International Office obtained funds to enable cooperation between Ukrainian universities and members of the Arqus Alliance.

This project has enabled some Ukrainian universities (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University, Yuri Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi and the Arqus associate partner Kyiv Mohyla Academy National University) to be involved in training and development programmes such as summer schools in political science and life disciplines, workshops for management, academic and administrative staff, and several study visits by students and staff to Arqus universities.



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Arqus Research and Innovation (Arqus R.I.)



Co-funded by
the H2020 Programme
of the European Union

This three-year project, funded with €2M by an H2020 call devoted to “Science with and for Society”, has focused on reinforcing the Arqus research and innovation community and developing resources in the areas of Open Science, Citizen Science and Co-creation in Transfer.

Six networking events and a seed funding programme have brought together nearly 300 researchers.

These meetings have sparked a dozen new joint research project applications to calls of the Horizon Programme such as WIDERA, Health (Stayhealthy), Pathfinder Challenges, MSCA Doctoral Networks, Green ERA Hub and Interreg, as well as national funding programmes.

Other collaborations such as joint publications, teaching exchanges, PhD student exchanges, etc. have also been the result of these encounters.

In line with the public debate around the reform of research assessment, Arqus R.I. has been the seed for a Task Force working on this subject within the Alliance.

An Open Science Ambassador Network created as a result of this project will offer researchers the opportunity to get training and advice on OS practices and the consequences for their research and career.



Resources for researchers created in the project are available online via devoted sections on Arqus Transfer Expertise (focusing on innovative co-creation in transfer), Open Science and Open Research Agenda Setting (Stakeholder Engagement).

This project has laid the foundations for a solid joint research and innovation dimension of the Arqus Alliance and its Final Conference set the roadmap for the future with proposals to continue strengthening R&I cooperation.

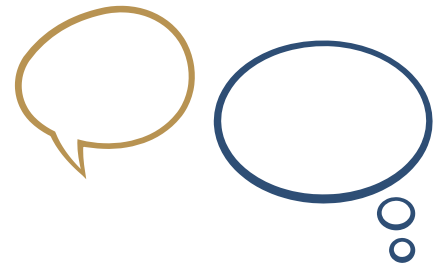
In the last week of November 2023, Arqus R.I. representatives will meet with more than 30 other R&I projects of European University Alliances to exchange on their respective results in terms of institutional transformation.





OUR COMMUNITIES

Student Agora



The Arqus Student Agora stands as a dynamic framework empowering students to lead co-creation initiatives, significantly enhancing their participation and personal development across the Arqus Alliance. As the Alliance expands, students' perspectives are crucial, combining a bottom-up and top-down approach to ensure diversity, sustainability and engagement in research, governance and community development.

One pivotal aspect of this framework is the Student-led Arqus Change Makers' Space (ACMS), a transformative hub for innovative ideas and practices. Here, students drive positive change, fostering a more inclusive, multicultural and student-friendly environment with tangible outcomes. In May 2023, the ACMS launched a Call for Student Co-designed Projects to shape the educational environment, boost student engagement and enhance personal and professional development, with five selected projects currently in development.

To further enhance student experiences, the Arqus Induction Pack, published at the end of September 2023, maps initiatives and resources such as the Arqus Alumni Mentorship Programme, Arqus Student Ambassadors Programme and Arqus Student Co-designed Projects. These initiatives epitomize the essence of student-led co-creation, fostering a vibrant European University experience within the Arqus Alliance.

The recently launched Arqus Alumni Mentorship Programme, initiated in September 2023, bridges alumni with current students and graduates. This programme provides mentorship, career guidance and networking opportunities, supporting students in work-integrated learning and their transition to the global workforce.

In September 2023, the Arqus Student Agora introduced the Student Ambassadors Programme, aiming to create a network of student ambassadors across Arqus Alliance member universities. This initiative empowers students to champion Alliance values, engage with peers and local communities, and bolster the Alliance's global academic standing.

Since October 2022, student services, in collaboration with Arqus students, have been developing a Student Services Network Toolkit to enhance the student experience across institutions. This ongoing mapping process offers valuable insights into fostering a more enriching and supportive environment for students.

These initiatives resonate with the Alliance's core principles of academic excellence, mobility and societal engagement. They empower students as change agents, leaders and collaborators, fostering a strong sense of belonging within the Arqus community.



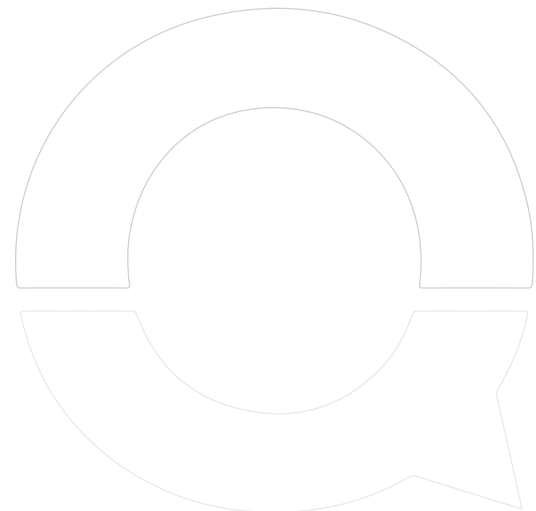
AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

The Arqus Alliance Ambassadors Programme is a unique opportunity for students to represent their home university while gaining international experience and building a network of contacts within the Arqus Alliance community.

As Arqus Ambassadors, students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of training and activities, such as promoting and participating in events, facilitating communication between their home university and other members of the alliance, and contributing to the development of joint projects.

The programme offers students the chance to develop valuable skills, such as cross-cultural communication, teamwork and leadership, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the academic and cultural contexts of the Arqus Alliance partner universities.

**AR
QUS**
STUDENTS
AMBASSADORS
PROGRAMME



ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

An Arqus Alumni Mentorship Programme mentor is an Arqus Alumnus who volunteers to guide and support a mentee in their career development. Mentors are alumni of one of the Arqus Alliance universities, who have some experience and expertise in their field. Mentors are expected to be passionate and committed to supporting their mentee's growth and development – they should be willing to share their experience, expertise and knowledge, provide guidance and feedback, and act as a sounding board for their mentee's ideas and goals.



An Arqus Alumni Mentorship Programme mentee is a current student or recent graduate (up to one year) of one of the Arqus Alliance universities who seeks guidance and support in their career development. Mentees should have an idea of their career goals and aspirations and a willingness to learn and grow professionally. Mentees are selected based on their academic and professional achievements, interests, and goals. They are matched with a mentor who has similar professional interests and experience.

Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Hub

The Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Hub aims at mainstreaming inclusion, widening access for vulnerable, underrepresented and disadvantaged groups and providing the conditions for a diverse university community to thrive within the Alliance.

One of the key outcomes of the Hub's work this year was the delivery of the "Arqus Action Plan to support students and scholars at risk – with a focus on Ukraine". One very distinctive feature of the Action Plan was the integration in the working group of the National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), Arqus associate partner. Driven by the initiative of NaUKMA, the Hub also disseminated a survey to over 1.500 Ukrainian students who studied abroad during the 2022-23 academic year, with the objective of collecting their experiences and recommendations on the support services offered to them by their host universities.

The Hub is also developing a project on the topic of inclusive learning, through the implementation of workshops to support all students, including those with learning difficulties, in their learning strategies.

The team has participated in various conferences, both at the Alliance level and at the European level. In December 2022, they presented the Hub at Vilnius University during a roundtable discussion on equal opportunities in higher education, while in October 2023 they exchanged experiences and best practices with other Alliances in the Open Conference "European Alliances: a hotbed of different approaches to diversity and inclusion".

The Hub has also been actively participating in the inter-Alliance network on inclusion, the European "Diversity and Inclusion Hub". In the near future, they are planning to organise the very first Arqus Staff Week on Diversity and Inclusion, and to involve academic and administrative staff and students in a more pervasive way to make the Arqus Alliance truly inclusive and diverse.

Arqus Living Labs

The Arqus Living Labs work as generators of innovative responses to three major and interconnected thematic priorities for the 21st century: Climate Change & Sustainable Development, Artificial Intelligence & Digital Transformation and European Identity & Heritage.

The Living Labs constitute open spaces for the promotion of multiple bottom-up groupings of students, academics, professionals, external stakeholders such as companies, non-governmental organizations, local and regional authorities, schools, museums and so on, working together towards the common goal of contributing to solving Europe's long-term challenges through education, research and innovation in a science-based and democratic way.



Arqus Plurilingual and Intercultural Hub



Multilingualism and interculturality are key in the Arqus Alliance. The Alliance stands for enhancing the language skills of staff and students by promoting activities such as the Arqus Cafés, the plurilingual summer/winter schools and diverse online offers (such as courses, workshops, etc.).

During 2022/2023, the Arqus Cafés offered 12 different languages, trained 47 tutors and had more than 1000 visits. The plurilingual summer language schools also drew significant participation with nearly 40 Arqus students on board. In addition, the A1 Online Language Courses boasted over 100 participants across two courses for German and Lithuanian, and plans are underway to expand the programme to include other Arqus languages.

The online series “9 Months, 9 Universities” gained substantial traction with nearly 300 views for its first talk. Furthermore, the Plurilingual and Intercultural Hub will offer from October and November 2023 two programmes for English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI): “Building the Arqus EMI Community of Practice” and “Weekly Language Workshops for EMI”. The Arqus Digital Pre-Mobility Toolkit will take a significant step forward with the upcoming meeting in Leipzig at the end of November 2023.

The Network of Language Centre Directors, an Arqus Community of Practice, has held three meetings, at which over 50 participants actively worked on the action fields in its Agenda 2030 for a Plurilingual and Intercultural University. At the same time, significant progress on the Arqus Multilingualism Module was made at an initial meeting dedicated to the project in Vilnius.

Additionally, the team is working on adding the new Arqus languages of Polish and Portuguese to the Alliance’s terminology database.





**LINKING
LOCAL
ECOSYSTEMS**

Arqus is also committed to attaining excellence in knowledge transfer, ensuring that the benefits of all knowledge generated by the Alliance have profound social impact, as well as in active local and regional engagement, driving sustainable progress and cooperation amongst our ecosystems.



International Innovators Award

The Arqus Linking Local Ecosystems initiative has produced a variety of results and outputs over the course of 2023. The Arqus International Innovators Award, the Alliance programme intended to identify and foster university-based start-ups planning to internationalize very early, was presented in Leipzig as part of the Born Global Start-up Festival in front of more than 200 visitors.

Prior to the award ceremony, more than 700 people from all over Europe voted and selected their favourite entrepreneurial team.

The 4th Arqus International Innovators Award (previously known as the Virtual Company Creation Challenge) went to Karion Therapeutics from the University of Minho.



International Soft Landing for Young Entrepreneurs (ISLYE)

A second important pillar of Linking Local Ecosystems is encouraging student entrepreneurs to engage in international exchange. The ISLYE programme is a format of a start-up exchange between Arqus universities that was already tested in the period 2019-2022. It is now being upscaled to facilitate incubation at the European level of at least 6 start-ups per year. The ISLYE Programme's online training will start soon at the different Arqus member universities.



LEARNING PATHWAYS AND TEACHING INNOVATION

Learning Pathways

Arqus Learning Pathways is dedicated to creating joint academic offer through the establishment of new joint degrees, the incorporation of various mobility initiatives as curriculum enhancements in ongoing programmes, and the educational portfolio expansion with collaboratively designed microcredential courses.

Key developments include the advancements in the Arqus Mention certificate to encourage and distinguish student international experiences gained in the Arqus Alliance. The Alliance also intends to pilot criteria for degree programmes and other learning experiences that meet the necessary requirements for an Arqus Label, following the initiatives of the European Commission regarding the European Degree. An overview report on the implementation of microcredentials analysing national regulations has been compiled. Future initiatives for microcredentials development include a face-2-face training session for those interested in microcredentials development based on the practices of Maynooth University and a framework for jointly prepared microcredentials. In addition, two calls are scheduled for release, one for Mobility Windows and another for virtual Curriculum Enhancement activities, offering additional support for academic staff members. These strategic steps are integral to advancing and achieving the overarching goal of providing flexible and successful academic offer for students from Arqus universities.



Teaching awards



The Arqus Teaching Excellence Awards is an initiative promoted by the Arqus Teaching Innovation leaders that honours teachers of all disciplines at one of the Arqus universities and celebrates examples which are recognized as excellent and innovative in the context of university teaching.

The second edition of the Arqus Teaching Excellence Awards concluded successfully with the selection of two new teaching best practices in the categories of “enabling research-based teaching” and “enabling students”. The promoters of both projects and winners of this edition were announced during the third Arqus Annual Conference held at the University of Graz in April 2023.

The award for the most innovative project in the category of enabling research-based teaching went to the course “Humanitarian Medicine – Thinking Global, Acting Local” developed by Margarida Correia-Neves and Jorge Hernâni-Eusébio from the School of Medicine at the University of Minho, in collaboration with the academics Beatriz Costa, Carolina Lopes, Carolina Martins, Célia Araújo, Duarte Baptista, and Nuno Madureira. Under the motto “For a more humane medicine”, the course includes aspects of humanitarian medicine, humanism in health and human rights that were missing from the core curriculum of the Master’s Programme in Medicine offered by this university.



The winning project in the category of enabling students was the course “Fundamentals of Physical Education” developed by Isaac José Pérez López, Professor at the Physical Education and Sports Department at the University of Granada. The innovative nature of the above project is found, mainly, in the three pillars on which it was built, which are very significant for the current students: fiction, social networks and gaming.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt, blue jeans, and a black backpack with 'OAKLEY' written on it, is walking away from the camera. She is pulling a dark blue rolling suitcase. The setting is an airport terminal with a large glass and metal structure. The text 'ARQUS ON THE MOVE' is overlaid in large white letters on the bottom left. The background shows a row of luggage carts and a building with 'YDA' logos on the windows.

ARQUS ON THE MOVE

Key accomplishments of Arqus on the move highlight the Alliance commitment to mobility enhancement, including the establishment of the Arqus Mobility Observatory, dedicated to monitoring mobility dynamics within the Alliance, as well as the promotion of new mobility formats such as the short-term and virtual mobilities, the Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs), the mobility windows, the twinning exchanges or the ISLYE mobility programmes for young entrepreneurs.

At the heart of the Alliance internationalization lies the Arqus Open Mobility initiative. This framework, aligning with

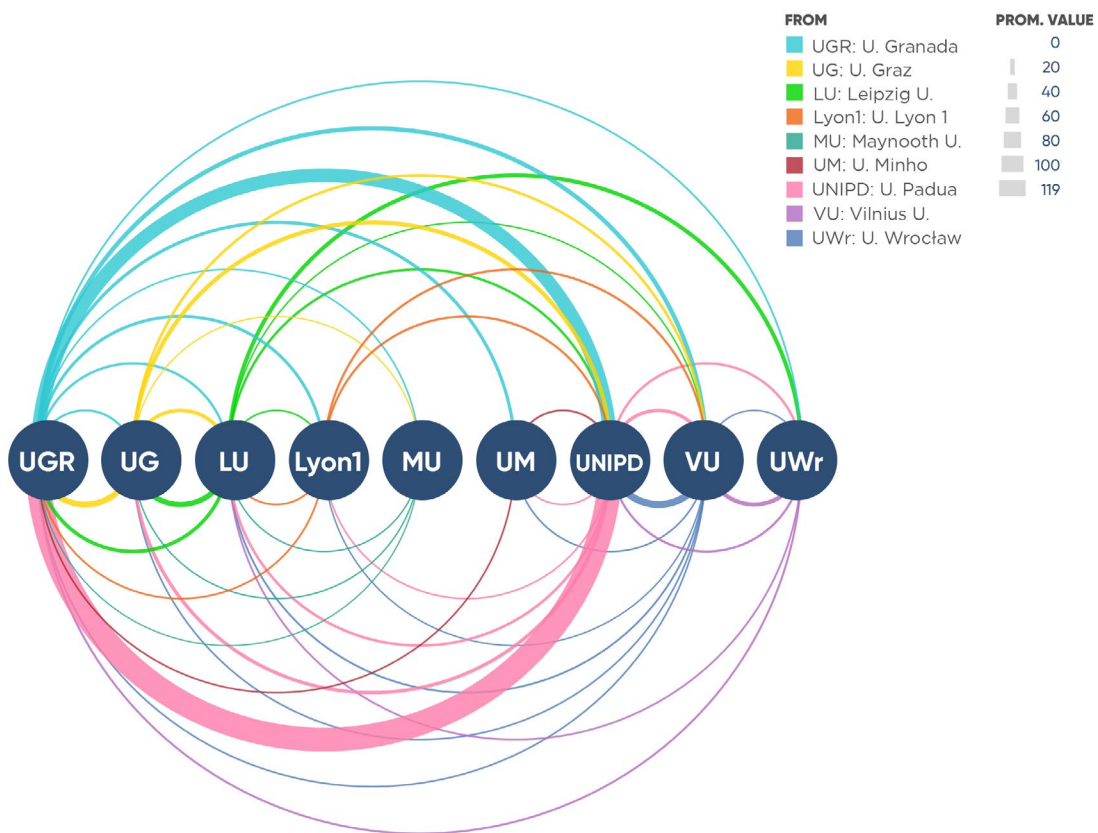
Erasmus Charter principles, fosters unlimited intra-alliance mobility for all fields and levels. Since 2019, the Arqus Open Mobility Agreement and the collaboration within the Alliance has allowed an increase of seven times the number of mobilities among Arqus universities.

A total of 59 study visits were carried out within the framework of the Arqus for Ukraine Project coordinated by the University of Wrocław and financed by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.

OUTGOING STUDENTS

2022/2023

(Mobilities among Arqus universities)





The professional and personal experience gained by the participants, representatives of Ukrainian universities, will certainly contribute to the development of the internationalization process at Ukrainian universities and, on the other hand, their visits to Arqus partner universities will certainly contribute to their knowledge of Ukrainian universities.

Arqus MoVES

Virtual Exchanges for International Mobility Experiences

The Alliance has just launched the first edition of Arqus MoVES, a virtual exchange dedicated to all students starting an international mobility experience at the beginning of academic year 2023/24 (degree seeking or exchange students). The programme lasts 8-10 weeks and it is open as well to those who haven't had the chance to go abroad for studies yet but wish to meet new people in an intercultural and multilingual environment.

The initiative is intended as a pre-mobility project that involves students across different academic backgrounds, cultures, languages, ages and disciplines, and it will equip participants with a set of key skills such as intercultural and global competence, critical thinking, inclusive multilingualism, digital competences, and others. Students who meet the requirements, will be given an Arqus Mention, a certificate of participation and even a certificate of award if they distinguish themselves in terms of commitment as well as of active participation.



International Day of Tolerance
60 November

Co-funded by the European Union

International Day of #ClimateAction
24th October

Fight for our future

arQus
European University Alliance

HAPPY Arqus Day!

arQus
European University Alliance

18th Oct

Co-funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

6 days to promote skills throughout Europe!

#ERASMUS DAYS 9 > 14 of October 2023

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

26th Sept

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

International Day of Peace
21st September

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

PRIDE DAY

28th June

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

20th June

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

International Day of Women and Girls in Science
11th Feb.

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

International Day of Education
24th January

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season...
...and a happy and peaceful New Year!

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

17th November

HAPPY International Students' Day!

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

MAY HAPPY EUROPE DAY!

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
17 May 2023

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

HAPPY Patrick's Day
17th March 2023

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

International WOMEN'S Day
8 March

the future is FEMALE

arQus
European University Alliance

Co-funded by the European Union

OUTREACH

7 editions of the Arqus Cafés

At the Arqus Café, you can expand your language and cultural knowledge informally and with other language learners in online language cafés. Participants have the support from language tutors who are not language teachers, but competent language speakers. The cafés are not language courses, but an opportunity to use foreign languages in a relaxed atmosphere and in a small group.



Arqus Knowledge Pills

The monthly podcast of the Arqus Alliance that introduces research ongoing at Arqus universities in a short and comprehensive way. Each episode highlights one researcher from an Arqus university by inviting them to explain their research in 15 minutes. By 30th September, there were 22 episodes published.



Accent matters

On the occasion of Europe Day on 9th May 2023, representatives of the different Arqus universities recorded a fun video under the motto 'Accent Matters' to share the variety of languages within the Alliance and to promote linguistic and cultural diversity as a value that unites us.



Arqus Success Stories

Periodically the experiences and learnings of students, academics or professionals who have participated in or led some Arqus activities and initiatives are shared on the Alliance's social media channels. The goal is that these success stories can inspire others and increase the Arqus communities' engagement. So far, 13 stories have been published.



Alexander Jaworski

Co-Founder and CEO of Greenhub



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

A key recommendation when testing business models is to get out of the building and talk to people. Arqus enabled exactly that by moving us out of our narrow ecosystem and talking to potential partners, innovators and in our case, experts in business model innovation, indoor farming and aquaculture from Norway. A soft landing in the European market with a lasting impact. Everyone involved was very attentive and put us in touch with people who pushed the idea and made us aware of local particularities.

“ A unique opportunity to connect and network with European innovators



Giovanna Lollo

Associate Professor



My personal Arqus highlights are the cooperation via research stays of a PhD student from our partner university in Padua, and the organization of one workshop on nanomedicine-based approaches to stimulate the immune response against tumours.

What I loved most was the merging of competencies and disciplines in an international context. In the future, we plan to consolidate our collaboration and connect with other universities of the Arqus alliance to expand our network.

“ What I loved most was the merging of competencies and disciplines in an international context



Javier Mula Falcón

Predoctoral Teaching and Research Staff



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA

The experience in an Arqus destination (University of Minho) through the teaching and learning programme was very positive. It allowed us to get to know another higher education system and other researchers from whom we have learned different ways of doing and thinking and with whom we have created collaborative ties. Ties that we still maintain through joint training synergies. And this is undoubtedly the most remarkable aspect: Knowing that the Arqus experience has not been a one-off event but has been a first step towards strengthening and consolidating collaboration and learning between people, groups, and universities.

“The Arqus experience has not been a one-off event, but a first step towards future collaboration and learning



Sabrina Meneghello

PhD Student in Geographical Studies



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

Thanks to Arqus, I spent a short research period (Research Exchange Stay) at the University of Granada in Spain, in the department of Human Geography. The exchange allowed me to strengthen my collaboration with some professors and PhD students I had already met in Padua.

During my stay, I discussed with geographers in Granada the final results of my PhD thesis and my recent publications. I established relations between the University of Granada, my department in Padua and another university of the Arqus Alliance to organize a student mobility project. The Research Stay gave me also the opportunity to present my PhD results at an international conference on topics of my interest. The period in Granada was a very fruitful experience!

“The mobility of people, the exchange of ideas, and the resulting relationships make the difference in every research project

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2,109
followers

 **890**
likes

Impressions in the last year **140,266** 

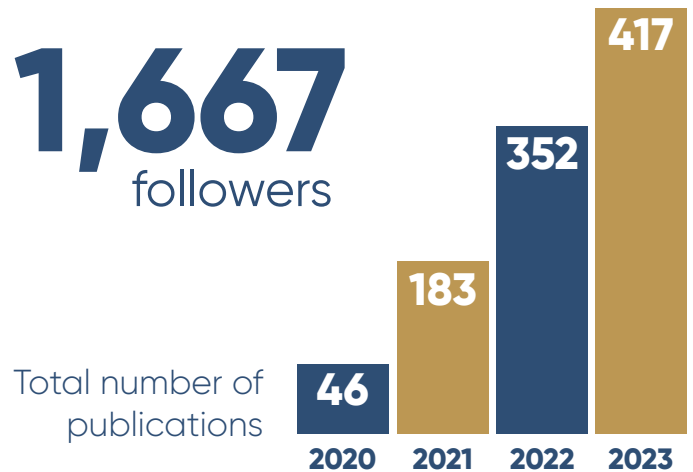
Reactions in the last year **2,385** 

Data from 08/11/2022 to 07/11/2023

 Instagram

1,667
followers

**NUM
BERS**





1,140
followers

3.4%
(3-month
average)



624
subscribers

Impressions

137,800 ✓

Engagement Rate

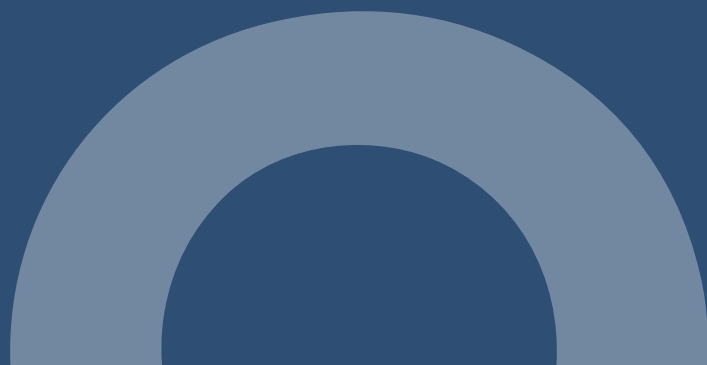


33,000+
users

10
episodes
this year

167
news

148,374+
Pageviews



A large group of people, including men and women of various ages, are seated in a grand, ornate hall. They are all smiling and clapping, suggesting a celebratory or appreciative event. The hall features high ceilings, arched windows, and numerous framed portraits of men in suits hanging on the walls. The lighting is warm and focused on the audience.

STRONGER TOGETHER

CZEDUCON Conference 2022*21st and 22nd November 2022*

The CZEDUCON conference was organised by the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS) together with the Ministry of Education under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Top representatives of European Universities met with representatives of the European Commission as well as experts, government officials and education specialists to jointly address the issues of developing and implementing strategies in the field of internationalisation of higher education in Europe.

The Arqus Inclusion & Diversity Hub, represented by Lucia Gennaro (University of Padua), participated in the panel "Inclusion: consolidating and promoting resources and ideas".

Other topics discussed included the European University AllianceS, digitalization of education and virtual learning exchanges, joint educational programmes, the role of higher education institutions in lifelong learning and synergies between education and research.

CEL/ELC Forum Languages in European University Alliances

1st and 2nd December 2022

The conference “Languages in European University Alliances: Challenges and Issues” was organised by the European Council for Languages at the University of Seville on 1st and 2nd December 2022. The CEL/ELC Forum brought together more than 50 speakers from 10 different European Universities.

They shared their experiences and reflections on the role of languages in the concept of the European University, HELP (Language Policy in Higher Education) and strategies, methodologies and actions to promote plurilingualism. Alba Delgado, Olaf Bärenfänger and Kerstin Gackle from Leipzig University and Guadalupe Soriano from the University of Granada, all members of the Arqus Plurilingual & Intercultural Hub, spoke about language policy and language activities in the Arqus Alliance, such as the Arqus Café and the Arqus Termbase.



European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education – EQAR Members’ Dialogue

8th and 9th December 2022

The 12th EQAR Members’ Dialogue “Back to the Future – How to embrace current and future trends without losing sight of our aims” was held in Prague on 8th and 9th December 2022.

The event was hosted by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, under the auspices of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Radka Wildová, opened the Members’ Dialogue that also counted on the participation of European Universities such as YUFE and 4EU+ Alliances.

Many topics were discussed, ranging from the European Strategy for Universities and the Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective cooperation, to the Quality Assurance (QA) of micro-credentials, QA of the European Universities and the European Degree and the value of Cross-border QA, Transnational Education and the European Approach.

Fernando Galán, Arqus Consortium Manager, participated in the session “World Café – Voyage around European Developments” and chaired the discussion group about “European University with joint internal QA”.



“Back to the Future”
How to embrace current and future trends without losing sight of our aims

9th December, 10:15CET

- **World Café - Voyage around European developments**

Talk: European University with joint internal QA
 by Fernando Galán, Arqus Consortium Manager

eqar ///

YUFE Townhall 2023

15th to 17th February 2023



The YUFE Townhall stands as the foremost annual event within YUFE, designed to convene all stakeholders, both internal and external, for discussions on shared concerns. Its purpose includes deliberating on the outcomes and achievements of YUFE, as well as outlining future strategies for the advancement of the European Universities Initiative.

Held in Rijeka from 15th to 17th February 2023, the YUFE Townhall 2023 centered on examining the impact and role of European Universities in relation to their stakeholders, higher education systems and broader societies. Fernando M. Galán, Consortium Manager of the Alliance, contributed to Panel II titled “European Strategy for Universities and European University Alliances”.

Consultation meeting with Coordinators of European University Alliances in Brussels

6th March 2023

The meeting addressed crucial facets of the future trajectory of the European Universities Initiative. The Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, and the Consortium Manager, Fernando Galán, participated in this meeting organised by the European Commission. The agenda encompassed comprehensive discussions and updates on policy developments at the European level by key figures from the DG EAC and the EACEA.

Key topics included communication strategies concerning Alliances' outcomes and activities, ongoing efforts regarding the future of the European Universities Initiative post-2027, specifically focusing on an investment pathway. Additionally, emphasis was placed on establishing a monitoring framework for the initiative to ensure its efficacy and success.



2nd TORCH Annual Forum

8th March 2023

On 8th March 2023, the Arqus R&I team actively engaged in the 2nd Annual Forum of TORCH, the R&I Project within the CHARM-EU Alliance. The primary objective was to exchange mutual R&I policies and strategies while bolstering collaborations among the research and innovation dimensions across European University Alliances.

Arqus R&I made significant contributions within the “New Approaches for Diverse Academic Careers” cluster. Pia Voigt from Leipzig University and Daniela Pichler from the University of Graz presented insights from an Arqus wide survey among researchers, focusing on fostering Open Science and deriving recommendations from the findings. Additionally, Andreas Raggautz from the University of Graz presented the upcoming pilot project on research assessment reform, a collaborative effort involving several Arqus universities led by the University of Graz.



Italian and French Universities in the European Universities Initiative

30th March 2023



Arqus members from the University of Lyon 1 and the University of Padua participated in this event taking place on 30th March at the University of Turin. The main goal of the encounter was raising awareness around concrete projects, existing Alliances and initiatives being deployed in Italian and French universities in terms of mobility, research endeavors, projects targeting local communities, innovative teaching, forms of internationalization of teaching within European University Alliances and student-led initiatives.

Spreading innovative results and best practices to European University Alliances

3rd May 2023

The conference was co-created by four Erasmus+ National Agencies, based in Austria (OeAD), Germany (DAAD), Hungary (Tempus Public Foundation) and Norway (HK-dir). It was organised as a fully onsite event in Bergen (Norway) from 3rd to 5th May 2023. The conference, scaled for 140 participants representing European University Alliances, national agencies, other higher education institutions, national authorities, the European Commission and other stakeholders, had two main objectives: to identify and spread innovative results and best practices from European University Alliances to other higher education institutions and to discuss and explore the transformative impact of the European University Alliances on higher education in Europe. Andreas Raggautz (Strategic Development, University of Graz) presented the evolution of the Arqus research and innovation dimension and, more specifically, the Arqus R.I. project. Other topics discussed were the creation of sustainable knowledge ecosystems, effective cooperation structures and wider societal outreach of the Alliance.



Europa. Kompetenz. Berlin

9th May 2023

The Arqus Project Officer at Leipzig University participated in this panel discussion by the European University Alliances in Berlin on the occasion of Europe Day and the European Year of Skills.

The objective was to discuss how Berlin universities are contributing to prepare Europe for the future.



Meeting of Spanish and French universities involved in European Universities Alliances

22nd May 2023



As part of the Treaty of Friendship between France and Spain signed in January 2023, the French Embassy in Spain and the French Institute organized, on 22nd May 2023, a Franco-Spanish Conference around European Universities.

The panel of speakers included Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of the Higher Education Unit at the European Commission, Joan Subirats, Minister of Universities in Spain and Jacques Comby, in charge of European Universities for the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. The Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, and the Vice-Rector for International Relations at the University of Lyon 1, Hélène Courtois, participated in a session on the Joint Degree, the European Degree Label and the accreditation system. The Conference encompassed other topics, extending from the internationalization of Alliances towards Africa and Latin America to pivotal deliberations on research within these European Universities.

2nd Edition of the European Student Assembly

31st May to 2nd June 2023



The European Student Assembly 2023 was held from 31st May to 2nd June at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. The ESA's main goal was gathering students from most European University Alliances to debate current issues, draft political recommendations for the future of Europe and advocate them among stakeholders and decision-makers. The 210 student participants were selected out of more than 1,400 applications for their engagement and motivation.

They came from 28 different countries, 40 Alliances and 144 universities. Aleksandra Kabala, a student at the University of Wrocław, represented the Arqus Alliance in this major event, one of the flagship initiatives of the European University Community (EUC).

She participated in Panel 8 "*Cities of the future. How could sustainable cities contribute to European autonomy and people's welfare?*"; with the topic of sustainability at the centre of the discussion.

Open session on internationalisation strategies of European University Alliances during the Coimbra Group Annual Conference

1st June 2023



The Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, participated in the Open Session “Alliances Becoming Global Actors: Opportunities and Challenges” organised in the framework of the Coimbra Group 2023 Annual Conference & General Assembly hosted by the University of Cologne on 1st June 2023.

The session, also joined by representatives of 4EU+ and CHARM-EU Alliances, focused on the global outreach of the Alliances and the contribution of the European Universities Initiative to European Higher Education’s global attractiveness, competitiveness and engagement.

Erasmus + Staff Training Week at the University of Lyon 1

13th to 15th June 2023



From 13th to 15th June, Lyon 1 organised a Staff Training Week on challenges and opportunities for European University Alliances.

This university hosted mobility officers from Arqus universities as well as from YUFE and CIVIS Alliances for an exchange on the different mobility programmes and the challenges they can involve.

Meeting with the Coordinators of the European Universities

22nd June 2023



European representatives from the DG EAC met online with the Coordinators of the European Universities for a reflection on the Investment Pathway and the draft Monitoring Framework for the European Universities.

This meeting aligned with ongoing discussions aiming to establish a sustainable and predictable investment pathway architecture, a critical element to actualize the long-term, multi-mission vision of the European University Alliances.

These discussions aim to create a financial framework that ensures sustainability over time, reflecting the collective vision expressed by the European University Alliances in their joint statement dated on 29th September 2023.



In September, the Arqus Alliance participated in the II Forum of Universities for the Future of Europe, organised by the Spanish Ministry of Universities in Barcelona in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The event gathered together members of all the Alliances of the European Commission's initiative of European Universities. Discussed topics during the 8 programmed parallel sessions included the European Degree label, the research and innovation activities of European University Alliances, their European legal status, the monitoring framework for the European Universities Initiative, the external and social dimensions of European partnerships, the financial sustainability of the Alliances and the European quality assurance and automatic recognition system. Dorothy Kelly, Arqus Coordinator, Pedro Mercado, Rector of the University of Granada, Rui Vieira de Castro, Rector of the University of Minho, Patrycja Matusz, Vice-Rector for Projects and International Relations at the University of Wrocław, and Fernando Galán, Arqus Consortium Manager, participated in the Forum. Dorothy Kelly moderated the thematic session dedicated to the European Degree Label and Fernando Galán participated as a speaker in the session devoted to the monitoring framework for the European Universities.

IMAGE CREDITS:

Czeducon Conference, page 67:

Organiser of the event: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and DZS (Czech Republic).

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YUFE Townhall 2023, page 70:

Image taken from the streaming on YouTube

Italian and French Universities in the European Universities Initiative, page 72:

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Spreading innovative results and best practices to European University Alliances.

Training and Cooperation Activity Conference in Norway, page 72:

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2nd Edition of the European Student Assembly, page 74:

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European University Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT

OCT **2022** – SEP **2023**



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**Universidade
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