

Arqus European University Alliance Research and Innovation dimension

Update April 2023

Arqus I E+ (Oct 2019 – Sept 2022)



Arqus RI H2020 (Jan 2021- Dec2023)



Arqus II E+ (Oct 2022- Sep 2026)



Widera Excellence Init.?



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DIMENSION OF THE ARQUS ALLIANCE

Colour code

- Arqus RI
- Arqus II
- Arqus II and Alliance

RESULTS TO DATE – at April 2023

CLUSTER MAP – at Sept 2022:

“Arqus partners acquired 18 shared H2020 projects in the last ~1,5 years of the H2020 framework programme, after having acquired 13 in the ~5 years leading up to that. + 5 joint projects in the Horizon Europe framework programme so far”

FOLLOW-UP OF RESEARCH COLLABORATION

- Regular updates of Cluster Map
- Creation of follow-up mechanisms of new R&I collaborations among Arqus partners (TF3 WP14)

4 Large Networking Workshops (180 participants)

- on Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence:
 - Resulting in promising research collaboration between Arqus universities
 - Seed funding for research collaboration meetings

8 Research Focus Fora (RFF): 1) European Cultural Heritage, 2) Changing Societies 3) Climate Change and Biodiversity, 4) Digital Humanities, 5) Smart Materials, 6) Artificial intelligence, 7) Cancer diseases, 8) Healthy Ageing

200+ short term researcher exchanges (all career stages)

NETWORKING OF RESEARCHERS

- Bridging Workshops to explore potential for interdisciplinary projects between climate change and artificial intelligence: 1st one held March 2023 in Lyon, second one May 2023 in Vilnius.
- Application for WIDERA Excellence Initiative in the pipeline (€5M, 20% for research activities): April 2023
- Future networking through WP02 Living Lab and seed funding through WP13 Arqus Talent & Innovation Fund

NETWORKING OF VICE-RECTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESEARCH

- 5 High-Level Seminars bringing together VRs responsible for R&I at Arqus universities
- JOINT RESEARCH ACTION PLAN (v1 April 2022)

- Constitution of AL Research & Innovation
- 2nd version Joint Research Action Plan (May 2023) and regular updates beyond

RESEARCH ASSESSMENT REFORM

- Best practices Document
- Discussion Paper
- Recommendations on skills and competences for researchers in various assessment scenarios

- Adhesion to initiatives on Reform of Research Assessment:
 - CoARA
 - Pilot at University of Graz

OPENNESS POSITION PAPER

- Recommendations to enhance Open Science in Arqus and for innovative research assessment

OPEN SCIENCE

- OS Ambassador Network -> Community of Practice WP03
- Training materials to practice OS

- Mentoring Programme for ESRs
- Summer/winter schools for ESRs on transferable skills
- PhD Career weeks Outside Academia

EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT

WP07

- Mentoring Programme for ESRs
- WP02 Summer Schools- PhD Advisory Board
- Training programme for careers outside academia
- ESR Development Resource Centre + Visiting Scholar Scheme

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT/CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Recommendations and Toolbox on Open Research Agenda Setting based on 7 pilot workshops (CC + AI)
- Future -> WP02 Arqus Living Lab and WP08 Linking Local Ecosystems (AL Societal Engagement)

INNOVATION IN TRANSFER

- Common training programme and guidelines
- 2 Pilot Co-Creation Labs in transfer
- Future -> AL Societal Engagement (with WP02 + WP08)

SHARING OF STRUCTURES AND INFRASTRUCTURES

- EuRep database for sharing of research infrastructures
- Network of Research Support Offices -> Community of Practice WP03

HORIZONTAL INITIATIVES

- Created Task Force Gender, Diversity + Inclusion
- Arqus R&I Updates (newsletter)
- Arqus R&I Days in Brussels (outreach to policy-makers)

Overview of the research and innovation dimension of the Arqus Alliance in April 2023 / 1

With the creation of a specific **Action Line for Research & Innovation** as one of the three pillars of Arqus, the R&I dimension of the Alliance is entering a new phase of its evolution.

After starting out as one of the six initial action lines in Arqus I and then expanding with the addition of the H2020-funded Arqus R.I. project, it will now continue developing under the guidance of one of the three new Arqus Action Lines covering the universities' missions (Education, Research & Innovation and Societal Engagement).

Action Line R&I will be in charge of WP07 of Arqus II (PhD Pursuit) and WPs 1, 2, 3 and 5 of Arqus R.I. The remaining WPs of Arqus R.I. (4 and 6) will belong to Action Line Societal Engagement, together with WP02 Living Lab and WP08 Linking Local Ecosystems.

In **Arqus II, WP07 PhD Pursuit** is taking over and developing much of the former AL6 activities of Arqus I (ESR mentoring, training for careers outside academia, mobilities for postdocs...) while adding a new comprehensive offer for ESRs with the creation of an ESR Development Resource Centre and benefiting from the support of a PhD Advisory Board. The Network of Research Support Officers is becoming a Community of Practice in WP03 and the future update of the Cluster Map is included in the Joint Research Action Plan.

The **Arqus R.I. project** has initiated its final stage (running out in December 2023), and while focusing on finalising the remaining activities successfully, it is also working on the dissemination of results, with the aim of ensuring their exploitability. Project members are also actively anchoring the continuity of the project's legacy in Arqus II work packages, e.g. with the creation of the Open Science Ambassador Network as a Community of Practice in WP03.

Overview of the research and innovation dimension of the Arqus Alliance in April 2023 / 2

A detailed **Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy of Arqus R.I. results** will be approved at the Annual Conference 2023, containing an exhaustive continuity plan, which is already being implemented. This plan includes, for instance, regular updates of the Joint Research Action Plan, the continuation of researcher networking activities to foster scientific collaboration, a pilot in research assessment reform, further use and development of training materials in OS, co-creation and knowledge transfer and the development of a tracking and follow-up procedure of new research collaborations. The application to the **WIDERA Excellence Initiative in Horizon Europe**, if approved, would contribute to develop especially the aspect of joint researcher support structures.

As mentioned above, some aspects of the Arqus R.I. project will be further developed in **Action Line Societal Engagement** (namely Re-thinking Transfer and Stakeholder Engagement), while others will be covered by horizontal Work Packages such as WP13 Arqus Talent & Innovation Fund (e.g. seed funding for research collaborations) or WP14 Strategic Development (e.g. designing a process for the follow-up of new research collaborations).

Three horizontal initiatives have been set up and could underpin the work of the R&I dimension in the future: the Task Force for mainstreaming of Gender, Diversity and Inclusion; the Arqus Research and Innovation Days, as outreach to European policy-makers; and a specific newsletter called [Arqus R&I Updates](#) (to subscribe, click [here](#))

All of the above will contribute to **continue building the Arqus research community**. The Annual Conference in Graz, with the first meeting among WPs belonging to each of the three Action Lines, and particularly AL Research & Innovation, will be an important milestone in this process.

See [previous Fact Sheet](#) (October 2022).