



**FOUR LARGE WORKSHOPS ON AI/DIGITAL  
TRANSFORMATION AND GREEN  
DEAL/CLIMATE CHANGE**

September 2022

Arqus Research & Innovation Project  
(Grant agreement No 101017448)

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## 1. Introduction

The Arqus Research & Innovation project (Arqus R.I.) is a H2020-funded project that aims to enhance the research and innovation dimensions of the member institutions of the Arqus European University Alliance. With the ambition to develop scientific cooperation within the alliance and to consolidate the structures necessary to do so, the activities carried out within the framework of Arqus R.I. are organised around three challenges:

- Challenge 1 - Aims to create an Arqus community seeking excellence and interdisciplinarity to address key societal challenges
- Challenge 2 – New Perspectives on Research. Addresses assessment approaches for excellence in research and develops a shared transfer strategy.
- Challenge 3 – Open to Society. Focuses on the necessary transition to a more open and inclusive science through the engagement of a wider range of stakeholders in the knowledge creation process itself.

The work carried out by Work Package 1 (WP1 thereafter) is at the core of Challenge 1 as its main objective is to foster scientific cooperation through scientific events and support for the development of collaborative projects. It focuses on two of the main key societal challenges: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Transformation and Green Deal/Climate Change.

This report is devoted to the presentation of the results to date meeting the goals 1.1 (“Developing mutual knowledge and trust amongst research teams”), 1.2 (“Creating synergies amongst research teams leading to joint research projects and activities”) and, to a lesser extent, 1.3 (“Fostering an Arqus community of inquiry”) of WP1. Complementing the individual reports of each workshop (annexed to this report), it looks back at four workshops organised during the first half of 2022 in four different universities members of Arqus. It reviews the organisation of the events themselves and the difficulties that may have been encountered. It also gives the results obtained and the short- and medium-term prospects, as well as some recommendations on how to deal with this kind of scientific event.

In accordance with the commitments made in the Grant Agreement, this report is public. Therefore, while it is primarily intended for the services of the European Commission and the members of the Arqus alliance, it is also designed and produced to be accessible and useful to a wider audience. Given the importance of linking scientific communities across Europe to produce knowledge and innovations to address climate and digital challenges, this report is intended to help organise similar events.

## 2. Workshops overview – overall goals and scientific approach

The main goals of the four events were the goals of WP1<sup>1</sup>, which is to lay the ground for the building of research communities and in doing so to create the most favourable conditions possible for the development of new collaborations or the strengthening of pre-existing ones. In accordance with one of the main challenges of the European University Alliances – developing innovative ways of collaborating and nurturing joint activities – these hybrid events, on the borderline between a classic scientific event and a networking time to get to know each other, deviated from the traditional “presentations” format. Therefore, in order to foster synergies between the participants, the programs, developed in close collaboration between local Arqus teams and researchers, put the emphasis on group sessions and other networking formats.

In line with the identification of common fields of excellence carried out in Action Line 6 of the Erasmus+ project (action 6.1. Cluster Map), it was decided from the drafting of the Arqus R.I. application that the workshops would be dedicated to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Transformation on one hand and to Green Deal/Climate Change (CC) on the other hand. The four universities in charge of organising these events – Bergen, Graz, Lyon and Vilnius – have therefore divided up the organisation of these events according to their fields of expertise and their ability to identify researchers locally who are willing to get involved in the organisation and facilitation (see Table 1 next page for a short overview of the four events).

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<sup>1</sup> WP 1 “Building an Arqus research community”: Task 1.1/ Finding a common ground & Task 1.2/ Building a community of inquiry.

Table 1. Overall information on the workshops

<b>Workshop n°1 (Climate Change WS 1): Climate Risks in a Changing World</b>	
Institution: University of Graz	Names of organizers: Harald Stelzer, Philipp Weißert
Workshop title: Climate Risks in a Changing World	Dates: 26-29/04/2022
Place: Schloss Seggau, Styria, Austria	Number of participants: 42
<b>Workshop n°2 (Artificial Intelligence WS 1): Interdisciplinary Research Workshop: FinTech: Finance, Technology &amp; Regulation</b>	
Institution: Vilnius University	Names of organizers: Gintarė Tamašauskaitė-Janickė, Alfreda Šapkauskienė, Anzelma Ūselienė
Workshop title: FinTech: Finance, Technology & Regulation	Dates: 18-20/05/2022
Place: Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania	Number of participants: 54
<b>Workshop n°3 (Artificial Intelligence WS 2): Arqus Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization</b>	
Institutions: Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1; Université Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne	Names of organizers: Salima Hassas, Amaury Habrard, Laura Bousquet, Romain Thinon
Workshop title: Arqus Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization	Dates: 01-03/06/2022
Place: Université Lyon 1, Villeurbanne, France	Number of participants: 66
<b>Workshop n°4 (Climate Change WS 2): Climate Risks in a changing world</b>	
Institution: University of Bergen	Names of organizers: Brooke Wilkerson, Jakob Grandin, Nora Haukali
Workshop title: Climate risks in a changing world	Dates: 07-08/06/2022
Place: USF Verftet, Bergen, Norway	Number of participants: 42

The Universities of Graz and Bergen developed together their scientific approach and decided to focus on the various dimensions of risk connected to CC. The idea was to have the same topic but to approach it from similar yet slightly different and complementary approaches in order to share knowledge and ideas on research concerning natural and societal risks and develop a better understanding of how they might be related, aiming to enable researchers to explore climate change risk from multiple disciplinary perspectives and provide a forum for exchanging research ideas and interests within this overarching theme.

- Two workshops on Green Deal/CC organised in Graz (26-29/04/22) and Bergen (07-08/06/22).

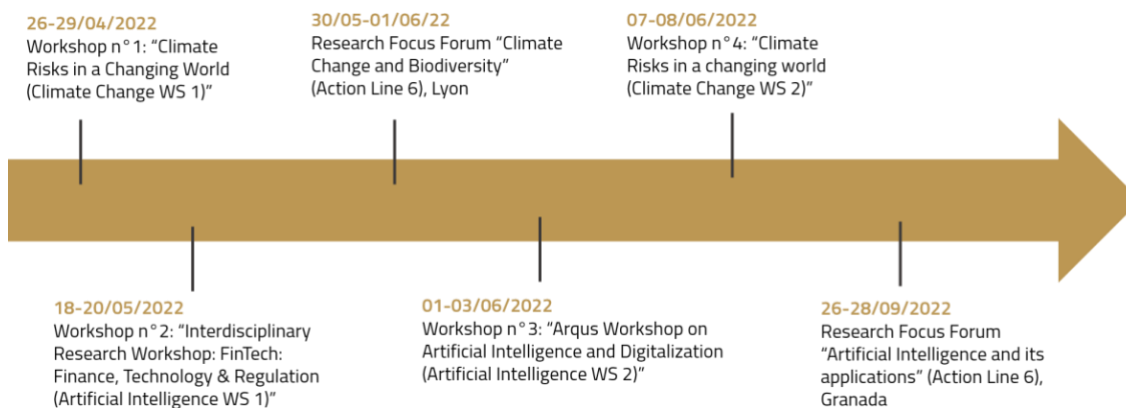
As the workshop on AI/Digitalisation organised by Lyon should have originally taken place in January 2022, it was designed to be broad in terms of topics in order to bring together the widest possible community, while the one in Vilnius would be dedicated to a more specific approach: Fintech & Finance (Lithuania, leader in continental Europe by the number of licensed e-money and payment institutions, being ranked in the TOP10 of the Global Fintech Index, has strengthened its position as one of the top ecosystems globally for developing and rapidly scaling innovative Fintech solutions). The event in Vilnius was also designed to give the opportunity to reach intersectoral synergies by involving representatives from the business sector and other institutions.

After the postponement of the Lyon workshop due to national Covid-19 restrictions, we decided to keep both approaches since the preparation of the one in Vilnius was too advanced to change it.

- Two workshops on AI organised in Vilnius (18-20/05/22) and Lyon (01-03/06/22).

The large workshops in Arqus R.I. were complemented by two Research Focus Forums organised by Arqus Action Line 6 – Research Support and Early Stage Researcher Development (action 6.4 Research Focus Forums) in the Erasmus+ funded part of the Alliance. This is why we included them in the timeline below: in line with the desire to make Arqus a truly transformational lever for our universities, all Arqus scientific events are indeed linked to each other, whether they fall under the Arqus Erasmus + or Arqus R.I. H2020 work programmes.

Figure 1. Timeline



### 3. A look back

#### 3.1 Workshops planning and resources

The organisation of these workshops was initiated by Arqus' desire to respond, as a European university alliance, to the major challenges of climate change and digital transition. It was therefore necessary to transform this desire into concrete activities which would benefit the research communities of the member universities themselves. This was possible thanks to the involvement of researchers from the universities organising the events and the close collaboration between them and the local Arqus teams. For the researchers in charge of the scientific organisation of the events, the possibility of benefiting from a pre-established network and dedicated human and logistical support was a more than notable advantage that contributed to the success of these workshops.

It is also important to highlight that the organisation of the workshops, although managed by each responsible university, was collective. If four universities out of seven were in charge of organising a workshop, all seven were involved in their preparation and, above all, in the effort to disseminate calls and involve their local communities as much as possible. Every Arqus member was aware of the processes and, when the organisation encountered challenges (see 3.2 Difficulties faced and results obtained), they were discussed collectively. Consequently, one of the main resources was the Arqus Alliance and the local teams, especially but not restricted to concerning the contacts with potential participants.

The calls were launched from three to six months before the events and the participants had to register through online forms and/or dedicated websites<sup>2</sup>. For each workshop, this first step was followed by the dissemination of the programmes, during which participants were asked to confirm their attendance. As our aim was to work towards the building of research communities, we did not select the participants, except if their home university decided to have an internal selection due to limited resources not being able to meet all demands.

The average cost of organising such an event for between forty and sixty people is around €12 000 (see Appendix 1 for more details), double (or even triple) the dedicated funding received for this project. A significant co-financing effort was therefore made by each organising university. Graz and Bergen decided to have the workshops outside of their university - in a castle ([Schloss Seggau](#)) where the participants would stay throughout the event for Graz and in a concert venue ([USF Verftet](#)) overlooking the sea for Bergen -, the others used their campuses as locations, except for the social events (dinners). In Lyon's case, the Welcome Event was also a Closing one for the Research Focus Forum on Climate Change and Biodiversity (30/05-01/06) organised by Action Line 6 of the Erasmus+ project, so the costs were shared. In addition to the economy of scale that this represents - it is less expensive to organise one dinner for one hundred people than two dinners for fifty people each - it also allows scientific emulation and gives researchers the opportunity to meet colleagues outside their traditional fields of expertise. In this case, bringing together researchers specialising in artificial intelligence and others specialising in climate has, for example, enabled the initiation of a collective cross-disciplinary reflection, which could be used in future Arqus activities (just think of the bridging workshops planned for spring 2023, which will be devoted to the green and digital "twin" transition).

The human resources also differed from event to event, with the participation of external stakeholders working for FinTech businesses, professors at other universities as keynotes or local policy makers (e.g. Stina E. Oseland, Climate Director at the Municipality of Bergen). What remained stable however, was the support of local scientific experts to set up the programmes as well as during the event (to chair the group sessions for instance).

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<sup>2</sup> See for example the website dedicated to the workshop in Lyon: [https://clarolineconnect.univ-lyon1.fr/icap\\_website/view/3800](https://clarolineconnect.univ-lyon1.fr/icap_website/view/3800).



### 3.2 Difficulties faced and results obtained

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic that affected Europe anew in 2021, the Arqus R.I. Coordination Officer had to request back in 2021 a 7-month postponement to the REA Project Officer. Considering that the objective of the workshops was the effective networking between researchers, the possibility of organising such events online was considered ineffective to reach their goal and consequently quickly put aside. In the end, all four workshops took place between the end of April and June 2022.

On top of that, three difficulties we faced were beyond our control:

- the political situation in Eastern Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to many cancellations in Vilnius. The team in Vilnius raised concerns about their event well in advance, which enabled us to discuss the possibilities of a postponement or a hybrid format. We ruled both of them out since we could not be sure that the situation in Eastern Europe would improve by Autumn 2022, while a hybrid event would have had an extremely negative impact on the networking dimension of the event.
- a new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Europe resulted in restrictions of the number of people gathered in the same room in France. All events saw cancellations due to the pandemic, but the one in Lyon was the most affected since it had to be postponed shortly before the original dates.
- cancellations and delays in Bergen due to a staffing shortage at major European airports at the time.

Because of these out-of-our-control events, the most challenging aspect of these workshops was having a sufficient number of participants coming from Arqus universities. Indeed, only one workshop (Lyon) reached the target of 50-60 participants including 30 from Arqus universities and not from the organising member. Two out of four (CC Bergen and CC Graz) did not reach the threshold of fifty participants in total (forty-two participants each) and two did not reach the threshold of thirty participants from Arqus universities other than those organising the event (CC Graz and AI Vilnius, respectively twenty-one and sixteen).

See Table 2 on the following page for more detailed information about the number of participants.

Table 2. Participants in detail

	Artificial Intelligence		Climate change & biodiversity		TOTAL
	LYON	VILNIUS	BERGEN	GRAZ	
BERGEN	4	1	12 <sup>3</sup>	2	19
GRANADA	9	7	11	4	31
GRAZ	5	2	3	20 <sup>3</sup>	30
LEIPZIG	3	0	2	1	6
LYON SAINT-ETIENNE	28 <sup>3</sup>	5	7	4	44
PADUA	6	2	3	4	15
VILNIUS	4	19 <sup>3</sup>	4	6	33
NON-ARQUS UNIVERSITIES	3 <sup>4</sup>	4	0	1 <sup>5</sup>	26
BUSINESS SECTOR	0	9	0	0	
OTHER INSTITUTIONS	4	5	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>204</b>
NON-HOST ARQUS UNIVERSITIES	31	17	30	21	99
TOTAL ARQUS UNIS	59	36	42	41	178

<sup>3</sup> Host university.

<sup>4</sup> Two out of three from the University of Wroclaw, which is now a full member of the Arqus alliance.

<sup>5</sup> From the University of Wroclaw, which is now a full member of the Arqus alliance.

In addition to the reasons outlined above, the difficulty to attract as many researchers as expected could also be explained by the fact that with these workshops we were testing an innovative format of collaborative workshops – between a classic conference and a networking event, with working group sessions instead of presentations and a prominent collective dimension – which are not yet well known by researchers. This kind of " scientific speed-dating " spread out over two/three days was destabilising for some people, especially for those mainly looking for opportunities to present their research after having been kept from them for at least two years due to Covid-19.

The desire to make participants think and work in original ways also took different forms depending on the event, as the organising teams were given some latitude and consequently not all events were organised in exactly the same way. The following can be mentioned:

- The use of collaborative tools to involve colleagues in real time who were unable to attend working sessions for various reasons. E.g.: with the framapad used in the Lyon workshop. An example via the link below, <https://annuel2.framapad.org/p/coreai-9ui7?lang=fr>
- The use of calls as starting points for collective reflection (Graz) or, on the contrary, as the result of prior mind mapping work (Bergen)
- The will to work simultaneously in several temporalities and dimensions: the present and the individual for the workshop participants, the long term and the collective for the whole Arqus community via the development of perennial tools (framapad mentioned above, participants' booklet which will be enriched over time) and the development of dedicated support mechanisms upstream (via seed funding and the other Arqus opportunities which were presented during the events).

The organisation of these workshops also shows the challenge of building a community of researchers who, while sharing common concerns, have for the most part pre-existing scientific networks which Arqus has no intent to replace. In this respect, the workshops made it possible to raise awareness of the role of the alliance as a facilitator, as an additional tool and a vector of as many and diverse opportunities as possible. We can be satisfied that a more integrated and synchronized way of working together is already developed throughout the Arqus community. We will use it to keep on building the Arqus research community and make it more robust and fertile.

More broadly, and despite some difficulties encountered by some partners illustrating the difficulties of reconciling alliance-level objectives with certain local imperatives<sup>6</sup>, all the workshops were overall very successful. All partners were represented and we had almost all profiles of researchers, from very experienced ones to PhD willing to engage towards into an internationalized career path. Where a selection of participants had to be made by the member universities (e.g. due to insufficient funds to meet all applications), special attention was paid to the gender issue. However, this was not enough to balance the number of participants between men and women (see Table 3. Below regarding the gender of participants to the four events) and shows that more needs to be done in this respect

Table 3. Number of participants to the workshops by gender

	Male	Female	Non-binary	TOTAL
LYON	37	28	1	66
VILNIUS	33	20	1	54
BERGEN	26	16	0	42
GRAZ	20	22	0	42

Almost two hundred researchers from all Arqus partners had the occasion to meet and discuss. Some of them already started developing common ideas and collaborative projects and a significant number of research teams identified work overlaps. Although some exchanges had obviously been initiated beforehand, it is indisputable that the exchanges are much richer and more numerous since the beginning of 2022 and the organisation of the workshops. This is confirmed by the researchers themselves, many of whom have mentioned this new dynamic in their feedback on the events.

### 3.3 Feedback

A survey was systematically carried out among the participants after each workshop. See Appendix 2 for the template of this survey.

Thanks to this feedback, most of which was enthusiastic, and the understanding of the expectations and wishes of the participants in this kind of event, it will be possible to improve what needs to be improved when organising similar events in the future.

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<sup>6</sup> For example, the long selection process of funded participants in Granada affected both the organisation of the events and the participants and led to last-minute cancellations and caused much stress to the participants from Granada as their stays were booked very late.

### 3.3.1 What worked and what did not work

The networking aspect was really praised by the participants of every workshop. They enjoyed the atmosphere and having the opportunity to get to know each other and discuss potential future projects. They particularly appreciated the working group sessions and the social events, which thus should be offered in future similar events. Besides, out of 84 respondents overall, 75 declared that they are interested in working with Arqus partners, with some already mentioning names and specific Horizon Europe calls that they are planning on applying to. Furthermore, the participants praised the mix between early stage and established researchers. For these reasons, we can say that the workshops did succeed in creating various synergies between the participants.

To create this networking atmosphere, we chose to develop a new format for the events and to derive from the traditional “presentations” one. It was a bit puzzling for some participants, that complained about the lack of moments dedicated to presentations. We think however that the format must remain as the objective of the events was to foster communication between the participants. That being said, the pre-event communication has to put forward the unusual format and its collaborative dimension. This needs to be highlighted as early as in the call so that participants can understand what type of event they are registering to.

The presentations about Horizon Europe Calls and funding opportunities received mixed feedback from the online surveys, with some describing them as difficult to understand. Even so, both the feedback survey and the informal feedback we received during the events were positive, especially since the presence of HEU representatives gave the participants the possibility to ask them questions directly.

### 3.3.2 Requests from participants

Aside from the feedback we mentioned, the participants requested more structure. Although the events should remain quite informal so that participants would not be too constrained, more structure can be implemented with a pre-event meeting with the moderators so that they know what will be expected from them as well as short descriptions of each group session in the programmes. It was also requested that Arqus facilitates exchanges through sharing the participants’ contacts. It can of course be done through a list or a booklet (as already done for the event in Lyon (the booklet can be found [here](#)), but we will discuss in 3.1.2 the possibility of a future “Arqus Online Marketplace” where the contacts could appear.

Participants also requested some help in writing HEU applications from Arqus. We do agree that it is essential that local Arqus officers help researchers in that regard. Furthermore, participants showed that they preferred having more time for the group sessions than for keynotes and presentations given by officials. It was also suggested to invite business representatives, especially for the AI workshops.

## 4. A look forward

### 4.1 Actions in the pipeline

#### 4.1.1 Seed funding

As part of Task 1.2 “Building a community of inquiry”, an [open call was launched in June 2022 for the Alliance Seed Funding](#). It aims to support collaboration through the funding of consortium meetings and other activities organised to establish medium or long-term collaborative projects. The call is open until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 and has a total of 10 000 euros that each university can award to an unlimited number of projects. Here is the list of the calls launched by each university:

- Granada: UGR researchers wishing to set up joint research initiatives with other Arqus researchers are eligible for seed funding. Priority will be given to participants in RFFs and large workshops of Arqus RI. Please contact your local Arqus RI Officer: [luisabern@ugr.es](mailto:luisabern@ugr.es)
- Graz: [Open Calls: Arqus Seed Funding \(uni-graz.at\)](#)
- Leipzig: [Announcement on the website](#) (with a link to the call in the intranet).
- Lyon: <https://www.univ-lyon1.fr/universite/international/appels-a-projets>
- Padua: [Calls for applications & Opportunities | Università di Padova \(unipd.it\)](#)
- Vilnius: [Researchers Are Invited to Apply for “Arqus” Seed Funding \(vu.lt\)](#)

#### 4.1.2 Ideas to be matured/developed: Arqus Marketplace, Arqus Network of expert evaluators

Most participants declared that they would be interested in working with researchers from other partner universities, some of them even mentioning names, subjects and specific calls. Some collaborations are already well advanced and at least two projects for each focus area are expected to be submitted by autumn 2022. Others will most certainly materialise in the next Horizon Europe work programmes published in the coming weeks and months.

It should also be noted that efforts to develop links, trust, mutual knowledge and collaboration between the research support services of Arqus partners also contribute to the development of the "Arqus community of inquiry". In this respect, the numerous meetings of the WP1 working group (as well as the work related to WP2 or to Action 6.7 Research Environment of the Arqus Erasmus+ AL6 work programme), should also be highlighted.

Two other ideas were submitted by the workshops' participants and subsequently discussed during Work Package 1 meetings to prepare future implementations:

- The creation of an "Arqus marketplace" where researchers could express needs such as collaborators from the partner universities or specific material. This marketplace would keep the Arqus scope and would only be available to researchers working for the partner universities. It would help researchers locate the resources they are looking for and whom to contact, and therefore be a tool to support and foster innovative and collaborative projects. This could be a platform hosted in the Arqus homepage where, additionally to the networking function, information on past networking workshops could be stored (presentations, summaries, contact details of researchers and their research interests, success stories) and future networking events would be announced.
- The creation of an Arqus Network of expert evaluators with experience in evaluating project for European programmes, which could support applicants developing proposals by reviewing them and making improvement suggestions to the proposals.

The idea is to have the widest possible range of tools, by offering this Arqus research community under construction perennial tools, sustainable over time, which complement the key moments that are the meetings themselves.

## 4.2 Recommendations

### 4.2.1 To organizers and participants of such events

Below are some recommendations for organisers of such events, based on the experience of the four workshops mentioned above. Given the success of these workshops, it is certain that other similar Arqus events will be organised in the near future, on the themes already covered and, more broadly, in all the fields in which the alliance partners have expertise to offer:

- The interdisciplinary dimension and format of the event should be particularly emphasised by the organisers and should be clearly stated in the call for participation/communication. Researchers are used to events where they present their work and not to networking events. Therefore, they expect to have more time dedicated to presentations of their research. Although the workshops' objective was for researchers of Arqus universities to get to know each other, it was through discussions during group sessions and not through traditional presentations.
- Generally speaking, organisers must give clear guidelines to the participants (including moderators) to avoid for instance that they prepare long presentations or to be sure that moderators know what is expected from them. Researchers have to keep in mind that this is a networking event and that they will not have the opportunity to present their work as they are used to.
- Organisers have to start communicating about the event early on (the dissemination of the call should ideally be initiated at least one year in advance in order to set a date and ensure the participation of the greatest number) and do the same throughout the entire process, especially concerning the dissemination of the programme.
- In order to prevent cancellations as much as possible, organisers should emphasise that by registering, participants commit to participating or at least communicating their cancellation to the organisers in advance. Putting forward the networking aspect and thus the importance of having enough participants is advised.
- Organisers must be careful not to neglect the social activities and be sure to leave sufficient time and book big enough locations for these.
- Organisers should ask participants to give a short presentation of the local research around the conference topic at the beginning of the event. It should be clearly explained that it will only be an overview.
- The event must have sessions dedicated to funding opportunities as it is essential to foster the development of common research projects.
- Organisers must choose locations outside of campus at least for the social activities in order to have a less formal atmosphere and therefore encourage networking.



- Organisers have to send documentation about the content of the event that is not restricted to the programme, for example a booklet showcasing the participants and presentations of HEU calls before and after the event.
- Organisers must consider the time period as it could be very challenging to get adequate rooms during exams.
- Participating researchers should be aware of the modalities of the event and be prepared to equally invest in scientific/academic activities as well as in social activities and networking time. The latter are indeed essential to quickly initiate closer connection and linkages between the researchers from different universities.

#### 4.2.2 To Arqus as an Alliance

Below are some recommendations for the Arqus alliance itself and its decision-making bodies:

- Reaching the number of participants fixed by the KPIs was the most challenging part. Setting aside the sanitary and geopolitical situations, as well as cancelations for personal reasons, this difficulty is to be understood as a consequence of the lack of institutional communication about Arqus at each university. Furthermore, the discrepancy shows an unequal level of communication at each university. Some suggestions could be:
  - To ask each university to adapt the calls to their audience as cultural and linguistical habits could challenge communication. This doesn't necessarily mean that they would be translated into the local language, but adapted to the local standards.
  - Special attention should be given to the universities where it is more difficult to catch the attention of the researchers. The help of the Arqus Communication Team could be an option.
- It is crucial to communicate as early as possible with other Arqus local officers so that they can disseminate the call adequately and answer the questions they will receive. Organisers of Arqus events have to communicate about Arqus:
  - Before the event so that participants will be aware of its context and networking opportunities;
  - During to present how Arqus could help researchers build joint projects;
  - After to keep the momentum going and show our long-term engagement.
- In order to develop their international outreach and collaborative dimension, universities should promote and support this type of networking events. This requires financial support – it has been the case in several of the Arqus events already organised – but also the provision of sufficient human resources to support researchers and relieve them of the logistical and administrative burden of organising such events.

#### 4.2.3 To policymakers and funders

- While the provision of funding for the organisation of such events is obviously a good thing and represents a real incentive, it is essential to provide funds to ensure the participation of the researchers themselves. The fact that this is dependent on the universities' ability to find additional funding jeopardises the success of these initiatives.
- Funding institutions must be open and available for presentations of their opportunities during the events to support researchers in their collaborative efforts.

## Appendix 1 – Costs for Organising the Workshops

<b>Workshop n°1 (Climate Change WS 1): Climate Risks in a Changing World</b>	
Food and drinks (including social events)	719,90€
Renting of seminar rooms (including computers and microphones)	9 714€
Goodies	No goodies were given
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10 433,90€</b>
<b>Workshop n°2 (Artificial Intelligence WS 1): Interdisciplinary Research Workshop: FinTech: Finance, Technology &amp; Regulation</b>	
Food and drinks (including social events)	6 911,61€
Renting of seminar rooms (including computers and microphones)	1 949,31€ (only IT and live on Youtube)
Guided visit of the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights	342,0€
Goodies	643,87€
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 846,79€</b>
<b>Workshop n°3 (Artificial Intelligence WS 2): Arqus Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization</b>	
Food and drinks (including lunches at university restaurant)	4 741,26€
Renting of restaurants (social events)	7 040,43€
Goodies	644,38€
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12 426,07€</b>
<b>Workshop n°4 (Climate Change WS 2): Climate Risks in a changing world</b>	
Food, drinks and venue	6 400,78€
Dinner at restaurant	5 084€
Consumables (paper, pens, folders)	152,52€
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11 637,30€</b>

## Appendix 2 – Template Survey & Contact Sheet

### Survey Arqus R.I. Large Scale Workshop

What worked best about the workshop and why (also including organization and call)?

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What could be improved and how (also including organization and call)?

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What do you think about this format of holding the workshop in general? What could be improved?

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Have you identified a call that you are planning to apply in?

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Have you been inspired to collaborate with your Arqus colleagues, and how might Arqus facilitate that collaboration?

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Other comments:

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**Contact Sheet**

I would like to stay in contact with Arqus to be informed about future possibilities to collaborate in my field.

Field of Interest:

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I have already identified a specific call / collaboration and would like support from Arqus in future proceedings.

Call:

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Collaboration:

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Name:

Email (in print):

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# ANNEX

## Individual reports of the four workshops

- **VILNIUS - Artificial Intelligence WS 1.**  
Interdisciplinary Research Workshop: FinTech: Finance, Technology & Regulation
- **LYON - Artificial Intelligence WS 2.**  
Arqus Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization
- **GRAZ - Climate Change WS 1.**  
Climate Risks in a Changing World
- **BERGEN - Climate Change WS 2.**  
Climate Risks in a Changing World

**Arqus R&I – WP1 Large Workshop report**

**Interdisciplinary Research Workshop: “FinTech: Finance, Technology & Regulation” (Artificial Intelligence WS 2)**



Key information	
Institution: Vilnius University	Name(s) of organizer(s): dr. Gintarė Tamašauskaitė-Janickė, asoc. prof. dr. Alfreda Šapkauskienė and Anzelma Ūselienė
Workshop title: FinTech: Finance, Technology & Regulation	Dates: May 18 to May 20, 2022.
Place: Vilnius University, Universiteto str. 3, Vilnius	Number of participants: local (VU + business) / Arqus partners / others: 28 (19+9)/17/9

**1) Workshop planning and resources**

This workshop was the first one in a series of workshops on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization. At the beginning it was planned to organize it after the workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization would take place in Lyon in January, 2022, but due to the sanitary restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Lyon’s workshop was rescheduled to the beginning of June. From the start of the planning process the organizing committee of the event at Vilnius University after number of internal discussions made the decision to organize the workshop on Fintech. Lithuania, being a leader in continental Europe by the number of licensed e-money and payment institutions, being ranked in the TOP10 of the Global Fintech Index, has strengthened its position as one of the top ecosystems globally for developing and rapidly scaling innovative fintech solutions (more on Fintech in Lithuania - [>>>](#); Fintech landscape in Lithuania 2021 – 2022 [>>>](#)). VU research community’s close collaboration with the Fintech business sector in Lithuania also gave the chance to widen the scope of

the event, i.e. to be open not only to the researchers, but also invite the representatives from private sector of Fintech field to share their needs and expectations to the academic community.

Willing to select the expressions of interest from Arqus Alliance researchers and to evaluate the possible engagement we decided to proceed with the **first stage**: the plan was to publish the pre-registration call in November 2021 kindly inviting researchers and academics representing all career stages and all disciplines or cross-disciplinary research field from the Arqus Universities to save the date and express their interest to participate. Each connection, the ideas in the relevant areas with different approaches on the topic and motivation to share their insights among colleagues from different science fields to be welcomed. In online preregistration form we included the list of the topics of the workshop to be indicated by participants:

- 1. European FinTech policy: risks, regulatory strategies and consumer protection**
- 2. Computational finance: crypto assets, blockchain technology, algo and high-frequency trading, hedging and investing strategies**
- 3. Artificial intelligence in the data intensive domains of finance, government, business; big data analytics**
- 4. Security and privacy solutions**
- 5. RegTech: technologies for supervision and compliance**
- 6. Digital transformation (banking, investment, insurance, environment, health, energy, etc.)**

At the **second stage**, we planned to provide the details on the program and the event and contact directly the registered participants.

Following the WP1 objectives, our aim was to note the participants about the additional value participating in the workshop: the chance by different working ways to reflect on the interdisciplinary ideas generated together with colleagues from Arqus Universities, thus creating not only networking opportunities but also developing their identity as an Arqus Research Community, hopefully culminating in joint research efforts for Scopus/WoS publications, joint research projects. Also, that the participation in this event would open up opportunities for priority access to assistance, research instruments and funding according to next seeds and other funding programmes.

The pre-registration call (<https://www.arqus-alliance.eu/news/arqus-ri-workshop-artificial-intelligence-2>) was published according to the plan on Arqus homepage, VU website and sent to the WP1 contact points – first step with the deadline till 31<sup>st</sup> of December (later on we extended the deadline till the 28<sup>th</sup> of February and spread this through WP1 contact points). We received 64 expressions of interests to participate in the workshop, out of them 42 were from Arqus universities excluding hosting.

The second stage – we contacted directly the registered participants to confirm their participation (deadline till 04.27). At this point, some researchers who registered at the first place did not confirm their participation. Therefore, we reached all WP1 contact points to get in touch with them and ask them to register.

The agenda for the next step was constructed in order to maximize the interaction, networking and building up new interdisciplinary and intersectoral synergies to the intentions to work further together on the research ideas, identify prioritized research topics for the future, to create the opportunities for the researchers to discuss concrete ideas for research projects and open funding calls. The first day “Who we are: interdisciplinary synergies” was dedicated for the introduction sessions and working in groups (after key note lecture) introducing themselves, their research topics that are interesting for researchers at the moment. The second day “Who we are together: interdisciplinary science-AI and Fintech-business synergies” was devoted to the intersectoral synergies: the representatives from Fintech industry sector took active part in the networking session and also moderated discussion between researchers, experts, AI + Fintech companies’ representatives was arranged. Industry representatives of FinTech invited to participate in the discussion were Inga Karulaitytė



Kvainauskienė (Regulatory expert, FintechHub LT Board member); Andrius Ramoška (Member of FINTECH Lithuania/Infobalt, Co-founder and CEO at Soverio); Andrius Petkevičius (CEO at BCCS - Blockchain Cybersecurity and Compliance Solutions – cluster); Evelina Kvedaravičiūtė (Project Manager for Financial Market Development, Bank of Lithuania). The third day’s morning session was dedicated to the presentation on successful practices in Fintech as an inspirational part, followed by funding opportunities’ session and afterwards the brainstorming session on future collaboration and final remarks was planned. Vilnius University Research Projects Division prepared the handouts on the funding opportunities (selected open, future calls, also calls from the draft agendas) in Horizon Europe, Internal Security Fund Programme, Digital Innovation Council) to be sent before the event for the participants to get acquainted with them and be prepared to discuss their ideas already knowing the EU political agenda on calls related to Fintech.

Since our event was followed by workshop on AI in Lyon, we agreed with the colleagues from Lyon to promote the upcoming event and pre-announce the seed funding instrument as a great opportunity for further development of discussed ideas, intensifying and strengthening networking between the researchers.

**- Difficulties encountered**

We encountered the difficulties at the second stage of organizing process – although all registered participants were contacted and requested to confirm their participation (deadline was till 04.27), many researchers who registered at the first stage did not confirm their participation. Therefore, we reached individually WP1 contact points to get in touch with the researchers and ask them to register asap. On May 4<sup>th</sup> we had 16 confirmations from Arqus, 1 from outside Arqus and 9 VU (sadly 12 cancelations (9 from Arqus) mostly due to changed geopolitical situation after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. 29 participants did not communicate at all on their plans (20 from Arqus).

University	Expressions of interests to participate until 28 February 2022	Final confirmations (final numbers): 04/05/2022	Cancellations	N/A	Additional new participants after deadline, for 04 05 2022
Leipzig University	5	0	3	2	0
University of Graz	4	2	1	1	0
University of Granada	25	6-8	2	15	0
University of Padua	2	2	1	1	2
University of Bergen	2	1	0	1	0
University of Lyon	4	5	2	0	3
University of Wrocław	-	0	-	-	0
University of Minho	-	0	-	-	0
Vilnius University	19	9	2	8	0
Other	3	1	1	1	0
In total	64	26-28	12	29	5
In total from Arqus (excluding hosting)	42	10-16	9	20	5

We consulted WP1 leader and project coordinator whether to proceed further with the organization of the workshop having in mind that we would not meet the target “at least 30 participants per workshop coming from Arqus universities different from the host university”. Our suggestions were: 1) to proceed even if the target is not met; 2) postpone the event till the autumn 2022 hoping for the stabilization in geopolitics and more quantitative participation

from Arqus Alliance universities. We did not suggest to choose the hybrid format since the aim for the researchers to network and get to know each other would not be reached, also there would be a risk that other registered and confirmed participants would opt to the online participation. More than that, hybrid format of the event would raise the total costs of the event drastically.

After consultations with Arqus RI Project Officer at the Commission and having introduced the situation, it was agreed to proceed with the organization even if only with 50% of f2f attendants foreseen.

We adapted the agenda and updated the whole organization according to the challenges of having less participants. We arranged and communicated on the broadcasting (through Arqus and VU Youtube channel) of 2 key note speakers with Q&A sessions and also session on funding opportunities. Also these parts of the event were recorded and after the event the link to the recordings were sent to everyone who expressed interest to participate (to 64 participants). The option to arrange the opportunity for hybrid networking was waived due to the difficulties for the researchers to effectively work in the groups.

Another difficulty was the participation of some of the participants only partly, i.e. the researchers from Lyon came to Vilnius only in the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> event day (but luckily joined the evening programme), others (one from Graz and 4 from Granada left on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the event due to flights availability). Therefore, we faced the challenge to arrange the continuing networking on the ideas which were discussed on the first and the second days.

## 2) Workshop outcomes

- Report on the activities (description of the workshop plan and activities conducted)



[The first day of the event “Who we are together: interdisciplinary synergies”](#):

After a short Introduction to the Workshop and the ARQUS Alliance by Pro-Rector for Organizational Development and Community Affairs Dr. Rita Rekašiūtė-Balsienė, and Anzelma Ūselienė (Head of Research Projects Division). We noted in the beginning of the event that as organizers, to achieve the purpose of this event, we invite and expect from the participants to attend every part of the whole event programme.

The keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Simon Chesterman, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore and Senior Director of AI Governance at AI Singapore, gave an online lecture on challenges regulating artificial intelligence (AI).



Afterwards the researchers were invited to participate in introductory session (working in groups): introducing themselves, their research topics that are interesting for researchers at the moment. We formed the groups according to their expressed field of interests in the registration form and that he same group would not have more than 2 members from the same institution (we had 3 groups). We asked the participants in groups to introduce themselves and talk about their research: who is he/she, where does he/she work, what is the setting of their work, what are their main research topics, what is most interesting for them at the moment, what could be the proposals in which they think their work would fit (we had sent out a targeted list of HEU project calls

we had sent out a targeted list of HEU project calls

beforehand). We had also prepared lists of these calls and provided them in the folder we distributed at the beginning of the workshop in the information package they got at the registration desk. After formal introduction we proceeded with the informal part of the program introducing this part as the opportunity to continue with the discussions on the possible research ideas.

[The second day “Who we are together: interdisciplinary science-AI and Fintech-business synergies”](#)

was devoted to the intersectoral synergies: the representatives from Fintech industry sector took



active part in the networking session and also moderated discussion between researchers, experts, AI + Fintech companies’ representatives was arranged: among the representatives of FinTech were Inga Karulaitytė-Kvainauskienė (Regulatory expert, FintechHub LTBoard member); Andrius Ramoška (Member of FINTECH Lithuania/Infobalt, Co-founder and CEO at

Soverio); Andrius Petkevičius (CEO at BCCS - Blockchain Cybersecurity and Compliance Solutions – cluster); Evelina Kvedaravičiūtė (Project Manager for Financial Market Development, Bank of Lithuania).



There were 9 new participants from Fintech industry sector who actively participated in session by working in groups with researchers and shared expectations to the researchers from their perspective. The session was very intense, there were 4 groups formed.

[The third day “Who we are together: science-business and fundings’ synergies”](#)

was dedicated to the presentation on successful practices in Fintech by Mr. Linas Būtėnas (Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius University) followed by EU policy on Fintech and funding opportunities’ session (presenters: Liudmila Andreeva-Paskov (DG FISMA, European Commission); Emilia Chehtova (Policy Officer, Innovation Policy & Access to Finance Unit, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission); Stéphane Ouaki (Head of Department, European Innovation Council, and SME’s

Executive Agency EISMEA, European Commission); Justyna Lučinska and Viktoras Mongirdas - National contact points for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, Research Council of Lithuania).



Afterwards the brainstorming session on future collaboration and final remarks followed – we asked the participants to share their impressions, the possible outcomes from the networking in groups and future plans.

### 3) Feedback

- At the end of the event we had a wrap-up session and encouraged the participants to share their impressions, what went well and what are their expectations and insights after the event, the plans afterwards, how support offices can help.
- Also, we collected written feedback at the end of the workshop (gave some time to complete it) and sent the feedback form to the participants who left on the second day of the event.

The first informal feedback expressed by each of the participants orally indicated that researchers were very satisfied with the workshop and the organization of the event. Especially the possibility to get to know each other and to learn about the funding opportunities and calls was emphasized.

- Survey Results: (19 returns)

#### **What worked best about the workshop and why (also including organization and call)?**

- Amazingly well organized (5x), hospitality
- The combination of social and academic activities during the day. This schedule made it easier to interact with other researchers in a more relaxed and natural way.
- Key note speakers, business representatives, networking (2x)
- Discussions in groups (2x), socializing events (2x)
- Proximity to the hotel
- Management overall, communications/instructions/contacts
- Nice atmosphere and schedule to network
- Lots of opportunities for real networking, participants motivated to share their experience and interest in establishing collaboration
- Opportunities to speak with the potential collaborators in formal and non-formal way.
- Connection between business and research
- Interesting open discussions
- Scheduling, visiting, time to chat, interdisciplinarity for a better brainstorming
- PhDs and professors working together
- Opportunity to communicate with people from different fields in small groups
- Discussions with business representatives from Fintech
- Well organized workshop both scientifically and culturally

- Found persons working in the same field of interest, got new research ideas, got acquainted with new research ideas, funding opportunities
- Everything was perfect (2x), good programme and participants, interest social programme and very carrying organizers

**What could be improved and how (also including organization and call)?**

- Pity, but missed the last meeting
- Additional hours for the group discussions might have been very beneficial (3x)
- More guided discussion between the participants
- More participants needed for better level of communication and result.
- Intentions of collaboration agreements working in the groups
- More time to talk about other research fields/objectives is needed
- The presentations of politicians not needed, better to spend this time on networking/discussions
- To identify the topic of each participants 1 slide presentations could be prepared by each participant before the workshop
- More chances to present what participants are doing, in what projects they would like to be involved.
- The slight deviation from schedule, stricter adherence to this
- More key note lectures, more practical info on funding opportunities
- Promotion of the event (2x), it was more problem of the University of Padova
- Checklist of the things to do/achieve during the brainstorming to better guide conversations
- During funding opportunities session to hear the success stories from more people who successfully used such opportunities
- Maybe less online presenters/ more physical presentations, but it does not depend on the organizers

**What do you think about this format of holding the workshop in general? What could be improved?**

- It is the best way to organize such a meeting with different groups of different backgrounds
- It was very appropriate and useful. As far as I am concerned it would be desirable that speakers could attend at workshop in person.
- Format was excellent (4x), also the idea to have different workshops in different universities
- Enjoyable, wishing to have more time for formal discussions
- Really good, more discussion sessions and presentation from business partners (5 minutes to present themselves)
- First day the group session was great to get to know each other, for the second day, it was excellent to have random group to mix the knowledge, also a group section with the people of the same interest could be added effectively
- Liked the format (3x)
- One additional day to develop the ideas
- It is a perfect idea → keep continuing

**Have you identified a call that you are planning to apply in?**

- Yes, we have and will work on it (8)
- Not yet (7)
- Other answer (1)

**Have you been inspired to collaborate with your Arqus colleagues, and how might Arqus facilitate that collaboration?**

- Yes (7x), Arqus is a great framework to develop teaching and research initiatives among partners.

- More time to talk about other research fields/objectives is needed.
- We are developing a draft from the University of Granada to collaborate with several Arqus universities. Once the draft project is established, we would appreciate if Arqus could facilitate us to meet with the collaborators.
- Arqus can support in finding the partners for HE applications
- good facilitation
- During non formal/structured events
- Arqus can support networking, application development
- I plan to organize a teaching staff mobility so as to start further collaboration in research
- We're already planning to work together
- Now I better know some local colleagues who actively participate in different Arqus activities. Regarding international – in progress
- Seed funding instrument seems very interesting
- Share research ideas and projects of members using a platform that could allow to find people that want to collaborate or just give feedbacks in a „protective“ environment
- I am motivated to collaborate with my colleagues
- The event has already helped to exchange contacts/no need to facilitate that collaboration further as far as Arqus is concerned.
- I met persons with whom I could collaborate.
- I am inspired, the exchange of ideas of our research interests and activity was perfect.

#### Other comments

- It will be nice to have a presentation of the research made at Vilnius University/  
Interest to have presentation of the teaching masters topics and PhD program at Vilnius University

#### Suggestions:

- On the e-materials from organizers of the event: to have permanent **archive with all e-materials** and open access in one place (with one link) it would be additional positive result to have the possibility to present and share the outcomes of project.
- Granada's RFF on AI was occasionally promoted during the event and the participants are motivated to work on their ideas using the **upcoming forum format**.
- Share research ideas and projects of members using a **platform** that could allow to **find researchers willing to collaborate** or just **give feedbacks** in a „protective“ environment.

#### 4) Lessons learned

- What worked well?

The workshop itself was aimed at starting to create a community of researchers for their future collaboration, also to present Fintech business sector perspective to the researchers. First two days of the event showed that this new event format of networking is very appreciated and welcomed by the participants. They all expressed their favorable opinion on the way the networking was arranged, the interdisciplinary and intersectoral discussions, some of them even suggested to have more additional time for interactions in the groups, but having the lack of the attendance from the universities did not give us the opportunity to extend the formal discussions part in the agenda. They also positively evaluated the mixture in the working groups, having new know-how and new interdisciplinary ideas (also PhD students working with the senior researchers). Concerning the informal networking part - participants enjoyed the possibility to network in the informal way participating in the social part of the programme – so we can approve that this adaptation in the program worked well for the start of closer connection and linkages between the researchers from different universities.

On the third day of the event the participants were satisfied with the presentations of funding opportunities (though there were the suggestions to have more practical information, success stories of the interdisciplinary research).

- What didn't work and why? How can these aspects be improved?

The second stage in the organization of the event was very challenging and stressful – we started early with the first stage and after having selected expressions of interest we planned to proceed successfully with the registration, but it turned out that geopolitical situation changed the intentions of some participants to come to the event and this ongoing intense situation in geopolitics was a major factor for the cancellations and no hope to arrange the replacements and to fulfil the numbers given by the indicators.

Another not favorable factor was that some of the researchers joined the event only by the end of the first day, some left on the third day in the morning (not finishing attending the whole program) – this process should be carefully managed not only by the organizers, but also by the responsible universities' WP contacts to be sure the attendance of the whole event. Having this "late coming, early leaving" cases created challenges to rearrange the groups for networking (but instead of 4 groups, 3 groups were formed to network; the last day we arranged brainstorming session by asking the participants to express individually their impressions, to share and reflect on their intentions and thoughts on future actions to collaborate further).

- What changes should be made/considered?

The cancellations, "late coming, early leaving", lack of replacement cases suggest that Arqus officers from all universities should actively participate in the communication, reaching the target audiences, registration, selection, replacements (if needed) processes and collectively share the responsibility to warrant certain number of the participants in the projects events in order not to leave the burden to assure the reach of KPIs only to the organizing partner. Some of the researchers had comments that they do not receive enough information about Arqus activities in their universities, so this should also be considered.

Attached documents, material, additional information:

- **Program of the event** (enclosed)
- **Practical information sent to the participants before the event** (enclosed)
- **List of participants by institution** (enclosed)
- **Photos of 1-2-3 Days:** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/vilnius-university/wh20Kn>
- **Videos:**
  - o **Day 1:** 18/05/2022: Official opening and workshop idea presentation & Key note lecture by prof. dr. Simon Chesterman, Dean and Provost's Chair Professor of the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and Senior Director of AI Governance at AI Singapore: "We, the Robots? Whether, When, and How to Regulate Artificial Intelligence": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGyFhyE624U>
  - o **Day 2:** 19/05/2022: Key note lecture by prof. dr. Adrei Kirilenko, Professor of Finance, Founding Director of the Cambridge Centre for Finance, Technology & Regulation (CCFTR), University of Cambridge: "The Optimal Selection of Crypto Assets": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zmHXWog8QM>
  - o **Day 3:** 20/05/2022: Exchange on the best practices by Mr. Linas Būtėnas, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius University; EU Policy on Fintech by Ms. Ludmila Andreeva-Paskov, EC, DG FISMA; Instruments and initiatives to foster innovation from access to finance perspective, EIC Pathfinder, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions by Ms. Emilia Chehtova, Policy Officer, Innovation Policy & Access to Finance Unit, DG Research&Innovation, EC; Mr. Stéphane Ouaki, Head of Department EIC, European Innovation

Council and SME's Executive Agency (EISMEA), established by EC; Dr. Justyna Lučinska, National contact point for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, Research Council of Lithuania; Dr. Viktoras Mongirdas, National contact point for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, Research Council of Lithuania:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nrh9tDeP0s>

- **Presentations on funding opportunities** (+prepared and sent handouts before the event) and Promotional presentation on Lyon workshop following Vilnius workshop (June 1-3) and pre-announcement of seed funding call due in June 2022: [https://vult-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/anzelma\\_useliene\\_cr\\_vu\\_lt/Es-WYlt5P1pKrzAgd5fIYUsBuS\\_KYGpmDms4CVBHov7DIg?e=Nyglb7](https://vult-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/anzelma_useliene_cr_vu_lt/Es-WYlt5P1pKrzAgd5fIYUsBuS_KYGpmDms4CVBHov7DIg?e=Nyglb7)
- **E-survey form** sent out for the participants (the answers selected till 31<sup>st</sup> of May): <https://forms.gle/ZMACk3cSikywgzQQ7>
- **Promotion of the event** (before and after it):
  - o <https://www.arqus-alliance.eu/news/arqus-ri-workshop-vilnius-university-2022>
  - o <https://www.arqus-alliance.eu/news/arqus-ri-workshop-artificial-intelligence-2>
  - o <https://www.vu.lt/en/news-events/news/10790-during-arqus-research-innovation-workshop-in-vilnius-questions-of-ai-speed-autonomy-and-opacity-were-discussed>
  - o <https://www.arqus-alliance.eu/index.php/news/ai-speed-autonomy-opacity-fintech-workshop-arqus-ri>



## Interdisciplinary Research Workshop: “FinTech: Finance, Technology & Regulation”

Vilnius (Lithuania), May 18-20, 2022

### Agenda and main focus on topics, synergies and networking

18/05/2022	19/05/2022	20/05/2022
<p><i>Day 1</i> <i>Who we are together: interdisciplinary synergies</i></p> <p><b>Venue: Aula Parva Hall, Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius</b></p>	<p><i>Day 2</i> <i>Who we are together: interdisciplinary science – AI and FinTech-business synergies</i></p> <p><b>Venue: Aula Parva Hall, Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius</b></p>	<p><i>Day 3</i> <i>Who we are together: science-business and fundings’ synergies</i></p> <p><b>Venue: Aula Parva Hall, Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius</b></p>
<p>09:00-09:30 Arrival, registration, welcome coffee</p> <p>09:30-10:00 Official opening and workshop idea presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Prof. dr. Edita Sužiedėlienė</b>, Vice-Rector and Pro-Rector for Research of Vilnius University</li> <li>- <b>Prof. Dr. Aida Mačerinskienė</b>, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Vilnius University</li> <li>- <b>Prof. Dr. Tomas Davulis</b>, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Vilnius University (tbc)</li> <li>- <b>Anzelma Ūselienė</b>, Head of Research Projects Division, Vilnius University</li> </ul> <p>10:00-11:00 <b><i>We, the Robots? Whether, When, and How to Regulate Artificial Intelligence</i></b></p> <p>Key note lecture by <b>prof. dr. Simon Chesterman</b>, Dean and Provost’s Chair Professor of the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and Senior Director of AI Governance at AI Singapore</p> <p>11:00-11:30</p>	<p>09:00-10:00 <b><i>The Optimal Selection of Crypto Assets</i></b></p> <p>Key note lecture by <b>prof. dr. Adrei Kirilenko</b>, Professor of Finance, Founding Director of the Cambridge Centre for Finance, Technology &amp; Regulation (CCFTR), University of Cambridge</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Discussion among researchers, experts, AI + FinTech companies’ representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Evelina Kvedaravičiūtė</b>, Project Manager for Financial Market Development, Bank of Lithuania</li> <li>- <b>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saulius Masteika</b>, Vice-Dean for infrastructure of Kaunas Faculty and Chair of FinTech study program, Vilnius University</li> <li>- <b>Andrius Petkevičius</b>, CEO at BCCS (Blockchain CyberSecurity Compliance Solutions) Cluster</li> <li>- <b>Audrius Ramoška</b>, FINTECH Lithuania, Co-Founder and CEO at <i>Soverio</i></li> <li>- Representative of Fintech Hub LT (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Linas Būtėnas</b>, Blockchain &amp; Education visionary, Data Analysis &amp; AI Expert, Vilnius University</p>	<p>09:00-09:30 Exchange on the best practices by <b>Linas Būtėnas</b>, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius University</p> <p>09:30-10:00 EU Policy on Fintech by <b>Ms. Ludmila Andreeva-Paskov</b>, EC, DG FISMA</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Introduction to research funding opportunities:</p> <p>Innovation policy and access to finance, DG Research &amp; Innovation on the topic related to access to finance for innovation by <b>Ms. Emilia Chehtova</b>, Policy Officer, Innovation Policy &amp; Access to Finance Unit, DG Research&amp;Innovation, EC</p> <p><b>Mr. Stéphane Ouaki</b>, EC, DG Research &amp; Innovation</p> <p><b>Dr. Justyna Lučinska</b>, Research Council of Lithuania</p> <p><b>Dr. Viktoras Mongirdas</b>, Research Council of Lithuania</p>

<p>Coffee break</p> <p>11:30-13:00 Introduction session (working in groups)</p> <p>13:00-14:30 Lunch</p> <p>14:30-17:00 Guided Walks and Talks at the Vilnius University and Vilnius Old Town</p> <p>17:00-19:00 Free time allowing individual networking and meetings</p> <p>19:00 Dinner by invitation of Vilnius University</p>	<p>Joint Photo of Participants</p> <p>11:00-11:30 Coffee break</p> <p>11:30-13:00 Session by working in groups together with researchers, experts, AI + FinTech companies' representatives.</p> <p>Moderated by <b>Linas Būtėnas</b>, Blockchain &amp; Education visionary, Data Analysis &amp; AI Expert, Vilnius University</p> <p>13:00-14:30 Lunch</p> <p>14:30-16:00 Session by working in groups and conclusions.</p> <p>Moderated by <b>dr. Gediminas Rumšas</b>, Vice-dean for Partnership and Projects of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Vilnius University</p> <p>16:15-16:30 Walking to the Museum</p> <p>16:30 – 18:00 Guided excursion at the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights</p> <p>19:00 Dinner and Lithuanian food tasting by invitation of Vilnius University</p>	<p>11:00-11:30 Coffee break</p> <p>11:30-11:45 Presentation of Lyon workshop on AI</p> <p>11:45 -12:30 Moderated brainstorm session on future</p> <p>12:30-13:00 Final remarks and closure</p> <p>13:00 Lunch and Departure</p>
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Each connection, the ideas in the relevant areas with different approaches on the topic and motivation to share your insights among colleagues from different science fields are welcome. During the workshop, the thematic scope includes the following interdisciplinary points:

1. *Digital transformation (banking, investment, insurance, environment, health, energy, etc.)*
2. *Artificial intelligence in the data intensive domains of finance, government, business; big data analytics*
3. *RegTech: technologies for supervision and compliance*
4. *European FinTech policy: risks, regulatory strategies and consumer protection*
5. *Computational finance: crypto assets, blockchain technology, algo and high-frequency trading, hedging and investing strategies*
6. *Security and privacy solutions*

Main focus during the interdisciplinary workshop will be on the topics, synergies and networking activities as well as generation of new ideas together with colleagues from Arqus Universities. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact dr. Gintarė Tamašauskaitė-Janickė (Vilnius University) by e-mail: [gintare.tamasauskaite@tf.vu.lt](mailto:gintare.tamasauskaite@tf.vu.lt)

## Interdisciplinary Research Workshop: “FinTech: Finance, Technology & Regulation”

Vilnius (Lithuania), May 18-20, 2022


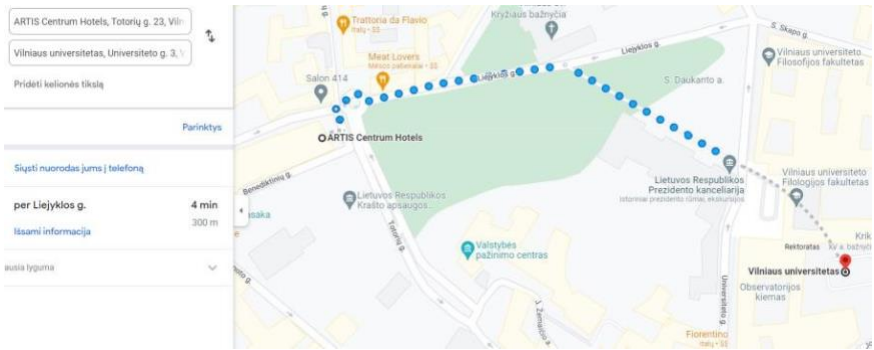
### Practical information sent to the participants

#### Some useful details of the program

Date & Time	Action in Program	Venue & Address	Remarks
18/05/2022 09:00-09:30	Arrival, registration, welcome coffee	<b>Near Aula Parva Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b> Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	<a href="https://www.vu.lt/en/about-vu/maps-and-pictures">https://www.vu.lt/en/about-vu/maps-and-pictures</a>
18/05/2022 19/05/2022 20/05/2022	All Coffee Breaks	<b>Near Aula Parva Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b> Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius,	Provided by Organizers
18/05/2022 13:00-14:30	Lunch	<b>At the Restaurant “Narutis”</b> Pilies Street 24, Vilnius	Provided by Organizers <a href="https://www.narutis.com/restaurant-bar.html">https://www.narutis.com/restaurant-bar.html</a>
18/05/2022 14:30-17:00	Guided Walks and Talks at the Vilnius University and Vilnius Old Town	<b>Meeting Point:</b> Near Restaurant “Narutis”(after the Lunch)	Provided by Organizers
18/05/2022 19:00	Dinner by invitation of Vilnius University	<b>At the Restaurant „La Boheme“</b> Šv. Ignoto Street 4, Vilnius Near the “Artis Centrum Hotel”	Provided by Organizers <a href="https://www.laboeheme.lt/">https://www.laboeheme.lt/</a>
19/05/2022 11:00	Joint Photo of Participants	<b>Aula Parva Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor or outside</b> Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	
19/05/2022 13:00-14:30	Lunch	<b>At the Restaurant “Narutis”</b> Pilies st. 24, Vilnius	Provided by Organizers <a href="https://www.narutis.com/restaurant-bar.html">https://www.narutis.com/restaurant-bar.html</a>
19/05/2022 16:15-16:30	16:15-16:30 Walking to the Museum	<b>Meeting Point:</b> Near main entrance to Old Campus of Vilnius University, Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius	Walking together to the Museum
19/05/2022 16:30-18:00	Guided excursion at the Museum of	Aukų Street 2A, Vilnius	The tickets and guided excursion provided by Organizers <a href="http://genocid.lt/muziejus/en/">http://genocid.lt/muziejus/en/</a>

	Occupations and Freedom Fights		
19/05/2022 19:00 – 21:00	Dinner and Lithuanian food tasting by invitation of Vilnius University	<b>At the Restaurant “Lokys”</b> Stiklių Street 8, Vilnius	Provided by Organizers <a href="https://lokys.lt/en/">https://lokys.lt/en/</a>
20/05/2022 13:00	Lunch	<b>At the Vilnius University</b> Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Provided by Organizers

**Some other useful details:**

<p>Event Venue</p>	<p>Old Campus of Vilnius University, address: Universiteto Street 3, Vilnius Aula Parva Hall (in Lithuanian: “Mažoji aula”), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">Main Entrance to Old Campus of Vilnius University</p>
<p>Hotel</p> <p>“Artis Centrum Hotel”</p> <p><a href="https://artis.centrumhotels.com/en/">https://artis.centrumhotels.com/en/</a></p> <p>Address: Totorių Street 23, Vilnius</p>	<p>Near Vilnius University, ~4 minutes of walking</p>  <p>We hoped that you booked already your hotel. However, if you need the accommodation, we kindly remind about the suggested opportunity to stay in recommended hotel „Artis Centrum Hotel“.</p> <p><b><u>Offered rates by hotel: „Artis Centrum Hotel“ for our event</u></b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standart sgl room – 54 eur night</li> <li>• <b>Standart double room for sgl use – 59 eur night (recommended)</b></li> <li>• Standart double room for two persons – 67 eur night</li> <li>• Executive room – 84 eur night</li> <li>• Rates include: VAT, breakfast (hot buffet), internet: WiFi and LAN, usage of the recreation center: 10 meters length swimming pool with integrated Jacuzzi, sauna and Turkish bath in the morning and evening hours, usage of fitness room all day, porter service, personal belongings safety box in the room, coffee/tea in the room, library.</li> <li>• Not included: city tax – 1 eur/night/per person.</li> <li>• Free cancellation 24 hours before the day of arrival.</li> </ul> <p>PROMO CODE: „FINTECH“ provides special offered rates by the hotel</p> <p><b>!!! To reserve your room, please contact personally directly the hotel „Artis Centrum Hotel“: Ms Justina Miroslavska (office manager and reservations) by e-mail: <a href="mailto:reservations.artis@centrumhotels.com">reservations.artis@centrumhotels.com</a> and indicate your surname, name, arrival and departure dates, event name and PROMO CODE: FINTECH.</b></p> <p>We kindly remind that participation in the event is free of charge. Vilnius University as a host institution does not provide any compensation for travel or accommodation expenses for participants. Funding is available for travel and accommodation costs for participants <u>from Arqus universities but within the framework of the Arqus European University Alliance</u>. For details, please contact directly the Arqus Officer at your University.</p>
Taxi from Vilnius Airport – to hotel	<a href="https://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/services-at-the-airport/taxi">https://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/services-at-the-airport/taxi</a>
Other transport	<p><b>Bolt</b> is a transportation app used for requesting a fast and affordable ride and scooter sharing.</p> <p><a href="https://www.govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius/vilnius-pass-attractions/bolt-eng">https://www.govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius/vilnius-pass-attractions/bolt-eng</a></p> <p><b>Trafi app:</b> from public transport, car (integrated platforms like “City Bee” and “Spark”) and bike sharing, to taxis:</p> <p><a href="https://www.govilnius.lt/plan-your-trip/getting-around-vilnius-/public-transport">https://www.govilnius.lt/plan-your-trip/getting-around-vilnius-/public-transport</a></p>
COVID-19	As of 1 May 2022, travellers arriving in Lithuania are no longer subject to COVID-19 control requirements: they no longer need to take a pre-travel COVID-19 test, even if they have not had the disease or have not been vaccinated, they are not

	<p>required to complete a questionnaire of the National Public Health Centre, nor there are any restriction on arriving foreigners.</p> <p>Relevant information about COVID-19 in Lithuania from official source of information by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania</p> <p><a href="https://koronastop.lrv.lt/en/">https://koronastop.lrv.lt/en/</a></p>
LRT English News	<p>LRT English website of the Lithuanian National Broadcaster:</p> <p><a href="https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english">https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english</a></p>
Tourism in Vilnius	<p><a href="https://www.govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius">https://www.govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius</a></p>

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact dr. Gintarė Tamašauskaitė-Janickė (Vilnius University) by e-mail: [gintare.tamasauskaite@tf.vu.lt](mailto:gintare.tamasauskaite@tf.vu.lt)

**Contacts in urgent case:**

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Interdisciplinary Research Workshop: “FinTech: Finance, Technology & Regulation”  
Vilnius (Lithuania), May 18-20, 2022

Venue: Vilnius University, Universiteto g. 3, Vilnius

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**Arqus R&I – WP1 Large Workshops report**

**“Arqus Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization”  
(Artificial Intelligence Workshop 2)**



Key information	
Institutions: Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1; Université Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne	Names of organizers: Salima Hassas (Polytech, LIRIS, Université Lyon 1), Amaury Habrard (Laboratoire Hubert Curien, Université Saint-Etienne), Laura Bousquet (DRI, Université Lyon 1), Romain Thinon (DRI, Université Lyon 1)
Workshop title: “Arqus Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization”	Dates: 01-03/06/2022
Place: Campus de la Doua, Université Lyon 1, Villeurbanne, France	Number of participants: 66 (total) 28 (local) / 33 (Arqus partners) <sup>1</sup> / 5 (others)

<sup>1</sup> Final attendant numbers by university in the list of participants attached.

## 1) Workshop planning and resources

- Choice of "angles" and scientific approach

As announced in the WP description, we held a workshop on AI and digitalization. These are manifold topics that impact various areas of society and our daily life. As a matter of fact, not only do they involve technical questions, but also ethical, legal and social ones. Therefore, we decided not to focus on only one perspective and instead to offer different group sessions.

At first, the idea was to hold the event focusing on many topics before the one in Vilnius, more focused on FinTech and AI & Finance (it seemed wise to progressively reduce the scope). It was not possible due to the postponement of the event in Lyon.

The chosen topics for the event in Lyon were:

- Core AI
- AI & Finance
- AI Health & Care
- AI Humanities & Societal Challenges
- AI & Law
- AI & Teaching

These angles and topics were chosen under the guidance of Professors Salima Hassas (Polytech, [LIRIS](#), Université Lyon 1) and Amaury Habrard ([Laboratoire Hubert Curien](#), Université Saint-Etienne), professors in computer science and organizers of the event. As leaders of the working group "IA & Apprentissage Automatique (I3A)" of the [Fédération Informatique de Lyon \(FIL\)](#) they had indeed a clear idea of which resources we have in Lyon Saint-Étienne and which topics would be able to gather as many researchers as possible. For the organisation of this kind of event, the identification of key resource persons is obviously a prerequisite.

Thanks to the diversity of the chosen angles, we had, among others, researchers working in the fields of psychology and neuroscience, business management, transports, health, computer science and law.

- Workshop's goals

The workshop's goals were these of WP1, which is to say to build a community of researchers gathering experts of the same topics with perhaps different approaches. To this end, we worked on giving participants an opportunity to get to know each other and their work, which is why we paid much attention to creating an atmosphere that favoured networking.

The aim being to encourage the development of new collaborations and thus multiply the number of potential collaborative projects, three types of complementary sessions were set up:

- a plenary session during which the objective was to present, as exhaustively as possible, the state of play of AI research in each of the partners. The idea here was to be able to involve, even indirectly, colleagues or laboratories that did not, for one reason or another, attend the event.
- thematic sessions, the heart of the event, during which everyone was able to introduce themselves, describe their work, his/her previous projects, their ideas for the future and their needs to achieve them.
- plenary sessions dedicated to the presentation of funding opportunities that participants could take advantage of to transform the ideas shared/developed into real projects.

- Contacts with potential participants

The event was initially planned for January 2022 and had to be postponed because of the pandemic. While the registration procedures were quite "basic" for January 2022 (call published – see attached – and registration via a form to be sent by return mail), the postponement allowed us to structure things better: development of a [dedicated website](#) and development of a digital registration form allowing to process the registrations in a more efficient way.

Since the postponement happened shortly before the initial date, we already had a programme and potential participants. However, having the workshop take place in June meant that some people could, in the end, not participate. Therefore, although we kept the same angles, we had to rethink the programme. We contacted all the previous participants, shared the call again with all Arqus members and modified the programme/thematic sessions according to the profiles of the participants who confirmed their comings.

Furthermore, we reached out to the universities of Minho and Wrocław, which is why we were joined by 2 researchers from the latter. Participants received the programme a month prior.

The other AI workshop took place in Vilnius two weeks before. Some participants, particularly from Granada, enthusiast about their experience in Vilnius and already working on joint projects, decided to join us and registered just a few days before the workshop.

There was no selection for the workshop, except if the home university decided to set one up. Considering that people dropped-in and out until the very last minute, we really recommend to keep the registration process as flexible as possible. If a too drastic selection procedure occurs, the risk is to face many last-minute cancellations and thus not having as many participants as hoped/needed.

In order to encourage communication between the participants, we sent them beforehand a booklet with their contact info, research topics and pictures (see attached).

- Difficulties encountered

The main difficulty had to do with the pandemic, which is an external and unpredictable one. Because of the postponement, some researchers interested in the event could not attend it. Yet, the opposite is also true since for some the new dates were more suitable.

Another difficulty also due to the postponement was linked to the timing of the Horizon Europe calls for projects: by the beginning of June 2022, the majority of the calls for the Horizon Europe 2022-2023 work programmes had already been closed, while those for the 2023-2024 programmes had not yet been made public. The number of calls which participants could embrace at a short or medium term was therefore limited.

The objectives and the structure of the event itself also raised some questions: as it was built and shaped as a networking one, it differed from more "classical" scientific events. It may have "scared off" some researchers who wanted to participate in a more traditional "conference" type event (especially after having been kept out of them for almost two years due to Covid-19).

This format also requested to find local researchers willing to act as "leaders" for each thematic session and, above all, to find enough time to make them work together in the preparation of the event. This is clearly the area where there is most room for improvement.

## 2) Workshop outcomes (tangible and intangible results)



The first day began with the opening words of Anne Giroir-Fendler, Vice-Rector for International mobility at the University Lyon 1 and Dana Daïa, Lyon Arqus Project Officer. It was followed by a presentation of the European funding opportunities in research by Armand Nacheff and Isabelle De Sutter from Horizon Europe – French National Contact Point for Cluster 4.

Each university had then the opportunity to present the state of the art of their research through a presentation that participants were asked to prepare before the event. All the participants took part in the exercise, which gave a broad view (without claiming to be exhaustive) of the resources and expertise within each university.

Some colleagues and laboratories, although not present at the event, were able to take advantage of it and are now involved in discussions concerning the medium-term setting up of collaborative projects.

After lunch, the thematic sessions were introduced, so that each participant could decide the sessions they wanted to attend on each day. They were meant to be moments of discussions, although there also was room for individual presentations. The first thematic sessions, dedicated to core AI, finance and health and care took place at the end of the first day.

We closed the day with a cocktail event which was both a welcome one for this workshop and a farewell one for Arqus AL6 Research Focus Forum on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Thereby, we hope to have encouraged and helped dialogue and future collaborations between climate change and biodiversity experts and AI ones.

The second day was solely dedicated to parallel sessions. The first ones were on core AI, health and care, and humanities and societal challenges. After a coffee break, it was followed by sessions on law, finance, and core AI. The after-lunch sessions were about humanities and societal challenges, law and teaching. Participants could then choose to go or to further exchange on AI and teaching.

The last day began with a short introduction to Arqus funding possibilities since some had expressed an interest in knowing more about what Arqus can offer (them) before presenting the results of their discussions in the following plenary session. We put forward the Arqus seed funding.

Participants were then asked to present the results of their previous thematic sessions. They particularly gave us feedback on the common points of their research as well as on the potential future collaborations they had discussed.

The workshop ended with a presentation on calls for research funding. Gael Maugis and Smail Niar from Horizon Europe - National Contact Point Cluster 4 could join us only virtually, which is why it was a videoconference.

General ideas and comments which emerged from the discussions:

- **Online collaborative pads** were open for each topic. Participants, even the ones joining us remotely, wrote down everything that was discussed. It is a precious trace of the discussions that took place and it will be online for at least a year. It can also be modified if participants wish to use it further. The wish to use these pads as a working basis for discussions and exchanges over time was expressed on many occasions. It now remains to find the tool/methods to work in this direction.
- The **creation of an “Arqus marketplace”** allowing researchers to either express their needs or offer their services was mentioned several times. If this marketplace would have an Arqus-dedicated scope, it wouldn't have the ambition to force community members to work in isolation.
- The **creation of an Arqus Network of expert evaluators**, keen on reviewing proposals and helping applicants to improve them, was suggested by a professor at Lyon 1 who is experienced in this field.
- The **RFF on AI planned in Granada (Spain)** in September 2022 was advertised as often as possible. It seems that many researchers are keen on using the event as an occasion of following-up collective discussions.



### 3) Feedback

#### 3.1 Informal feedback

The collected informal feedback was very positive, with an emphasis on the good atmosphere that allowed for great networking. Participants also enjoyed the thematic sessions and the opportunity to get information on funding opportunities.

#### 3.2 Survey results (26 answers)

**What worked best about the workshop and why (also including organization and call)?**

- Networking aspect (x11)
- Thematic sessions (x7)
- Overall organisation (x7)
- Schedule (x3)
- Sessions on funding opportunities (x2)
- Social event (x2)
- Pads as archives



- Overall presentations by each university
- Booklet sent beforehand
- Call
- Presentations during sessions
- Diversity of approaches
- Easy registration
- Food

**What could be improved and how (also including organization and call)?**

- More structured thematic sessions (close to traditional presentation format) (x4)
- Give clear guidelines for universities' presentations so that they are more similar (x2)
- Communicate more about Arqus before and during (x2)
- Better pre-event communication (x2)
- Having locations close to one another (x2)<sup>2</sup>
- Use methodologies for group discussions
- Propose a more content than networking-oriented event
- Make it compulsory for all participants to (shortly) present their work
- Have more specific topics
- Tell participants in advance that they will have to prepare a common university presentation
- Have longer thematic sessions
- Involve industrial partners
- Moderators didn't know in advance what was expected from them<sup>3</sup>
- Design sessions in order to respond better to open EU calls in the future 6 months.

**What do you think about this format of holding the workshop in general? What could be improved?**

- Really liked the format (x13)
- Need for more structured thematic sessions (x2)
- Would like a more conference-style event (x2)
- Would have liked that the organisers determine who will take part in which session (x2)
- Have an overview of the thematic sessions' content in advance
- Have presentations on funding before the thematic sessions
- Have keynote speakers
- Could be a good idea to place the workshop in one place only
- More involvement of the European institution
- A working paper session would have been appreciated

**Have you identified a call that you are planning to apply in?**

- Yes (x8)
- No (x8)
- Not yet (x5)
- Work-in-progress (x4)

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<sup>2</sup> Because it was exam time, we had to do with the rooms and facilities available. University calendar to be taken into account for the organisation of future events.

<sup>3</sup> In this case, they are moderators from the partner universities. The initial idea was that the moderators (from Lyon Saint-Étienne) of each of the sessions would be supported by a colleague from an Arqus university. Due to scheduling issues, this could not be prepared sufficiently in advance. To be improved next time.

**Have you been inspired to collaborate with your Arqus colleagues, and how might Arqus facilitate that collaboration?**

- Yes, already in talks with Arqus partners (x16)
- Yes, interested but no identified partner (x9)
- Named Arqus partners they are in talks with (x7)

#### **4) Lessons learned**

##### 4.1 What worked well?

The networking aspect worked really well since the majority of participants stated that they had discussed concrete projects with researchers from other Arqus universities, some already planning on applying for a fund. The format of parallel and topic-focused sessions is thus effective to help build a research community. The thematic sessions were also appreciated and the chosen topics interested the participants. The interdisciplinarity of some of the sessions was a very positive aspect.

Having online pads was also a good idea since it provided a written trace of what was discussed.

Last but not least, we benefited from the impact of the previous AI workshop in Vilnius. Some participants had attended it and had already discussed potential joint projects. Hence, announcing Lyon's workshop in Vilnius worked really well.

##### 4.2 What didn't work and why? How can these aspects be improved?

For internal reasons, we had to send the programme rather late. Despite attendees registering late, it also left little time for them to prepare for the workshop. Moreover, it impacted the pre-event communication and explains why some participants complained about not having received enough information beforehand. Some moderators of the sessions were unsure of what they had to do, which reinforced a feeling of a lack of structure. Therefore, we have to make sure we brief the moderators enough beforehand.

Furthermore, the format of the event and especially its networking and less scientific content orientation was not fully understood. This is of course influenced by the habit of having events only dedicated to showing research results, but it also proves that we have to be careful of communicating enough about the format and the networking objective.

##### Documents attached

- Initial call
- Program
- List of participants
- Booklet of participants (to be updated soon)

*All the documents displayed during the event (partners' presentations, French National Contact Point presentations, Arqus funding opportunities, etc.) will also be made available to participants.*

## Pre-information on the ARQUS Workshop on Artificial Intelligence & Digitalization

The Universities Lyon 1, Lyon 3 and Saint-Étienne organize a large workshop on the theme **“Artificial intelligence and Digitalisation”**. We invite academics and researchers from all career stages and all disciplines coming from the Arqus universities to participate.

The 3-days conference will take place in **Lyon in January 2022 (17-19)**.

### Topic of the conference

The advances of Artificial Intelligence (AI) have led to a considerable growth in many domains: research, economics, health, ethics and law. This implies some significant transformations in the technologies based on AI systems but also numerous societal impacts.

The objective of this workshop is to promote exchanges on various aspects of AI. On the one hand, **a first goal will consist in discussing advances in core AI methods technologies** such as Machine Learning, Robotics, Trustworthy AI, Neuro-symbolic AI, Hybrid AI, AI & ethics. **A second objective will be to cover some applications and associated societal impact**, including but not limited to, AI & Health, AI & Environment, AI & Transport, AI & Society, AI & Energy, Responsible AI, AI & law.

### Interested in the workshop from Lyon/St-Etienne Universities

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Theme from the [Federation of the computer science labs in Lyon \(FIL\)](#) and [associated Labs](#)
- Research labs in Ethics and Law
- Research teams in AI and Health (Hospices Civils Lyon)
- Research teams in AI and Applied Sciences

The workshop will be organized around presentations of ongoing projects or already existing Arqus collaborations and shorter presentations on specific topics/research. It will give participants the opportunity to share interests and goals, exchange ideas and identify common interests that might lead to future joint research activities. The goals of this event are also **to develop cooperation in between the Arqus European University Alliance members with a particular emphasis on transdisciplinary approaches, plan future answers to E.U. funded calls for projects, develop student exchanges** (lecture semesters, research internships, PhD co-directions, *etc.*).

Funding is available for travel and accommodation costs for participants from Arqus universities within the framework of the Arqus European University Alliance. Please contact the Arqus Officer at your university.

Requests for more information and declaration of intent shall be sent before **November the 14<sup>th</sup> 2021** at [Anne.Giroir-Fendler@ircelyon.univ-lyon1.fr](mailto:Anne.Giroir-Fendler@ircelyon.univ-lyon1.fr) & [romain.thinon@univ-lyon1.fr](mailto:romain.thinon@univ-lyon1.fr).

# Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalisation

Programme  
June 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

## Arqus

### European University Alliance

e-mail: [ARQUS@univ-lyon1.fr](mailto:ARQUS@univ-lyon1.fr)  
[arqus-alliance.eu](http://arqus-alliance.eu)

## Location

### Campus La Doua

BU Sciences, 20 Avenue Gaston Berger, 69100  
Villeurbanne  
Amphi ISTIL, 15 Bd André Latarjet, 69100  
Villeurbanne



The Arqus Research and Innovation project within the framework of which this event is organised, has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement n° 101017448.

# Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalisation

## Programme

### Day 1: Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00 – 10:00 B.U Sciences

Registration and Welcome Coffee

10:00 – 10:30 Conference room

Opening words and agenda of the 3 days

10:30 – 11:30 Conference room

Funding opportunities in research  
- global challenges and European ambitions w/ Horizon Europe National Contact Point Cluster 4 Digital (Armand Nacheff & Isabelle de Sutter)

11:30 – 12:30 Conference room

Partners' presentations (state of play AI each partner)  
Chairs: Salima Hassas (Lyon 1), Amaury Habrard (UJM)

From 12:30 Lunch at Domus

14:30 – 16:00 Conference room

Presentation of thematic subgroups

16:00 – 16:30 Espace Galerie

Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00 Salles ISTIL 16, 20, 22

Sessions in parallel  
- Core AI (Amaury Habard - UJM, Salima Hassas - Lyon 1)  
- AI & Finance (Stéphane Loisel - Lyon 1, Richard Baron - UJM)  
- AI Health & Care (Nicolas Pronost - Lyon 1)

Social event (in common with the other Arqus event on Climate Change and Biodiversity)

20:00 – 22:30

Le Selcius

43 Quai Rambaud, 69002 Lyon

### Day 2: Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 – 10:30 Salles ISTIL 16, 20, 22

Sessions in parallel

- Core AI (Amaury Habard - UJM, Salima Hassas - Lyon 1)  
- AI Health & Care (Nicolas Pronost - Lyon 1)  
- AI Humanities & Societal Challenges (Élise Lavoué - Lyon 3, Piotr Malak - Wroclaw)

10:30 – 11:00 Espace Galerie

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Salles ISTIL 16, 20, 22

Sessions in parallel

- AI & Law (Mouna Mouncif-Moungache - UJM)  
- Core AI (Amaury Habard - UJM, Salima Hassas - Lyon 1)  
- AI & Finance (Stéphane Loisel - Lyon 1, Richard Baron - UJM)

From 12:30 Lunch at Domus

14:30 – 15:30 Salles ISTIL 16, 20, 22

Sessions in parallel

- AI & Law (Mouna Mouncif-Moungache - UJM)  
- AI Humanities & Societal Challenges (Élise Lavoué - Lyon 3, Piotr Malak - Wroclaw)

15:30 – 16:00 Espace Galerie

Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:00 Salles ISTIL 16, 20, 22

AI & Teaching (Salima Hassas - Lyon 1)

Free evening allowing individual networking, labs visit etc.

### Day 3: Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 – 11:00 Conference room

Review and feedback from the thematic sessions. Projection and initiation of transversal / wider reflections

11:00 – 11:30 Espace Galerie

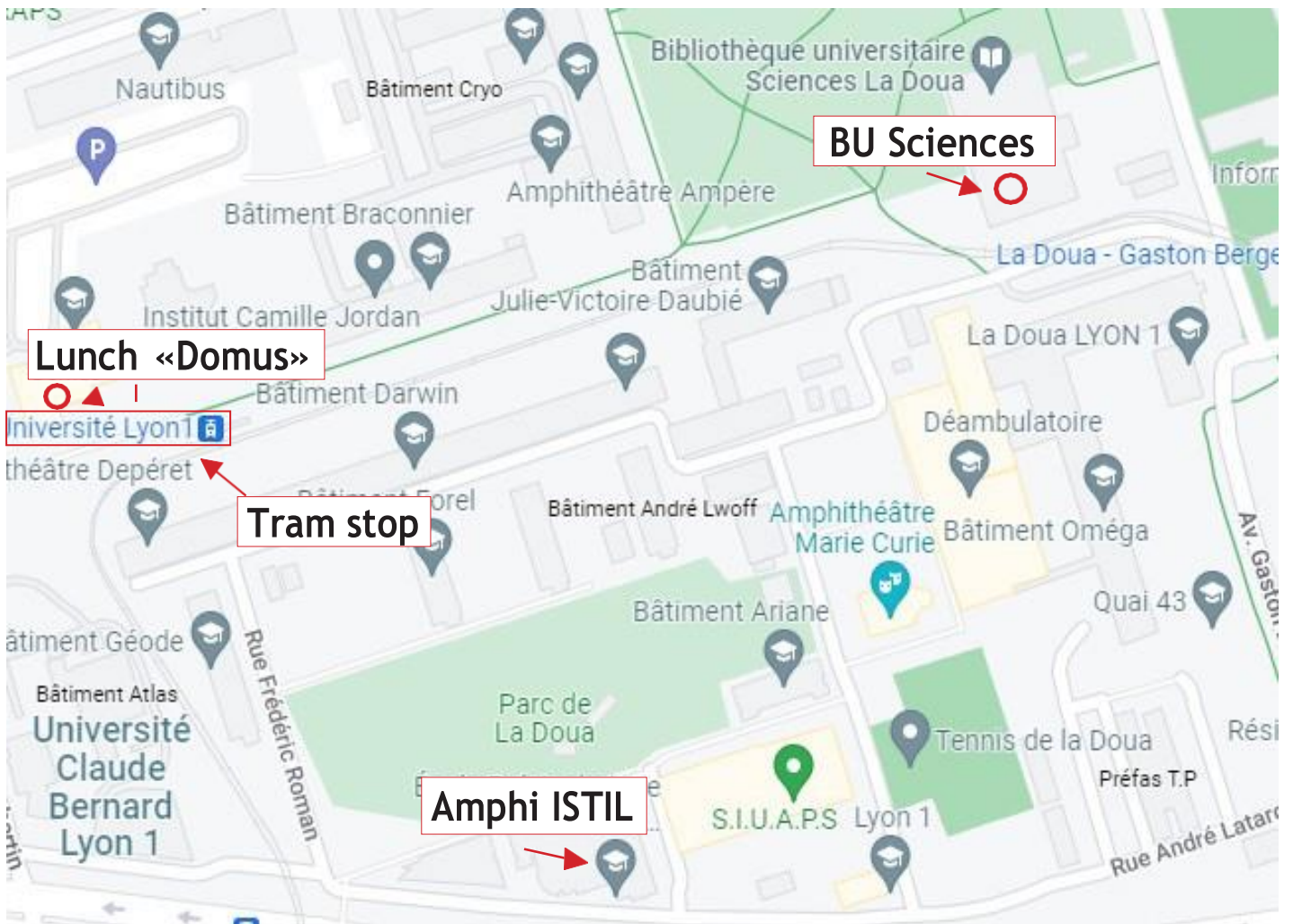
Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 Conference room

Research funding and calls presentation (Horizon Europe, Arqus Seed Funding, etc.) w/ National Contact Point Cluster 4 (Smail Niar & Gael Maugis) and Lyon Ingénierie Projets - Lyon 1 (Valérie Laget)

From 12:30 Farewell Lunch at Domus

# Access Map



## Train station to Université Lyon 1

From Part-Dieu train station (Single trip ticket : 1,90€)

- T1 tram direction IUT Feysine: Université Lyon 1 stop
- Metro line B direction Charpennes: Charpennes stop and then T4 tram direction La Doua - Gaston Berger: Université Lyon 1 stop or T1 tram direction IUT Feysine: Université Lyon 1 stop

From Perrache train station (Single trip ticket : 1,90€)

- Metro line A direction Vaux-en Velin La Soie: Charpennes stop and then take T1 tram direction IUT Feysine: Université Lyon 1 stop or T4 tram direction La Doua - Gaston Berger: Université Lyon 1 stop
- T1 tram direction IUT Feysine: Université Lyon 1 stop

→ [www.tcl.fr](http://www.tcl.fr)

**ARQUS Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization (Lyon, 01-03/06/22)**  
**List of participants (1/2)**

	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>University</b>
1	Opdahl	Andreas L	Bergen
2	Gallofré Ocaña	Marc	Bergen
3	Guribye	Frode	Bergen
4	Lindqvist	John	Bergen
5	Arias-Aranda	Daniel	Granada
6	Arjona-Sanchez	Miguel José	Granada
7	Benitez	Carmen	Granada
8	Bermudez-Edo	Maria	Granada
9	Calvo	Francisco	Granada
10	Garcia Martinez	Luz	Granada
11	Martín Ríos	Raquel	Granada
12	Morales-Garzón	Andrea	Granada
13	Núñez Molina	Carlos	Granada
14	Raven	Adam	Graz
15	Bierbauer	David	Graz
16	Gremsl	Thomas	Graz
17	Plakolb	Simon	Graz
18	Wood	Guilherme	Graz
19	Adama	Sophie	Leipzig
20	Bogdan	Martin	Leipzig
21	Krajsic	Philippe	Leipzig
22	Atger	Daniel	Lyon 1
23	Bayssière	Magali	Lyon 1 (LIP)
24	Bedejus	Alison	Lyon 1
25	Bonifati	Angela	Lyon 1
26	Bousquet	Laura	Lyon 1
27	Chaput	Rémy	Lyon 1
28	Duvault	Doriane	Lyon 1
29	Falcon	Mélodie	Lyon 1 (LIP)
30	Ghenciu	Adriana	Lyon 1
31	Ghodous	Parisa	Lyon 1
32	Hassas	Salima	Lyon 1
33	Laget	Valérie	Lyon 1 (LIP)
34	Lefort	Mathieu	Lyon 1
35	Loisel	Stéphane	Lyon 1
36	Matignon	Laetitia	Lyon 1
37	Maucort-Boulch	Delphine	Lyon 1
38	Monteiro Martins	Levi	Lyon 1

**ARQUS Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization (Lyon, 01-03/06/22)**  
**List of participants (2/2)**

39	Pronost	Nicolas	Lyon 1
40	Thinon	Romain	Lyon 1
41	Vigneron	Rayane	Lyon 1
42	Lavoué	Élise	Lyon 3
43	Pouzet	Clémentine	Lyon 3
44	Barbaroux	Nicolas	UJM
45	Baron	Richard	UJM
46	Chamberfort	Cyril	UJM
47	Denis	Benoît	UJM
48	Habrard	Amaury	UJM
49	Mouncif-Moungache	Mouna	UJM
50	Caenazzo	Luciana	Padua
51	Lanera	Corrado	Padua
52	Melis	Giulia	Padua
53	Michieletto	Stefano	Padua
54	Rodà	Antonio	Padua
55	Uccheddu	Francesca	Padua
56	Breskienė	Ineta	Vilnius
57	Kriksciuniene	Dalia	Vilnius
58	Sakalauskas	Virgilijus	Vilnius
59	Šapkauskienė	Alfreda	Vilnius
60	Łętowska	Agnieszka	Wrocław
61	Malak	Piotr	Wrocław
62	Ali	Mahmoud	Other
63	De Sutter	Isabelle	Other (MESRI). Horizon Europe - National Contact Point Cluster 4
64	Maugis	Gael	Other (MESRI). Horizon Europe - National Contact Point Cluster 4
65	Nachef	Armand	Other (MESRI). Horizon Europe - National Contact Point Cluster 4
66	Niar	Smail	Other (MESRI). Horizon Europe - National Contact Point Cluster 4



**Arqus R&I – WP1 Large Workshops report**  
**“Climate Risks in a Changing World” (Climate Change WS 1)**



<b>Key information</b>	
Institution: University of Graz	Name(s) of organizer(s): Harald Stelzer and Philipp Weißert
Workshop title: Climate Risks in a Changing World	Dates: April 26 to April 29 2022.
Place: Schloss Seggau, Styria, Austria	Number of participants: local / Arqus partners / others: 21/22/1

## 1) Workshop planning and resources

- Choice of "angles" and scientific approach

As indicated in the WP description we have planned a workshop on climate change. Climate change poses many risks, including natural, societal, and transformational risks. Most obvious are the natural risks that are based on temperature increase and changes in climatic patterns such as increases in severe weather events, changes in ecosystems and biodiversity loss, sea level rise, and climate tipping points. Many climate change impacts also have posed or will pose great risks to our societies, including increasing risk exposure for vulnerable populations and political instabilities aggravated by changes in resource availability. To mitigate climate change impacts, we need a deep and rapid transformation towards a low carbon society. However, disruptive societal transformation also involves risks, unintended consequences, and (in some cases) undesirable feedback loops. Societal responses to climate change impacts can create additional risks, especially if those responses exacerbate current inequities and power imbalances. In the workshop we planned to share knowledge and ideas on research concerning natural and societal risks and develop a better understanding of how they might be related. The Arqus workshop has brought together researchers from across the seven Arqus universities to exchange research ideas and explore potential for collaboration. The workshops were open to researchers from all disciplines.

- Workshop's goals

Based on the goal of WP1 to build a community of researchers the workshop was set up as a mixture between getting to know each other, brokerage event, and networking. We have had people joining from climate physics, risk monitoring, biology, system science, sociology, economy, law, philosophy, agriculture, circular economy, chemistry, communication. In the workshop, participants shared ongoing research projects and priorities, identified prioritized research topics for the future, and discussed concrete ideas for research projects and open funding calls.

- Contacts with potential participants



The workshop was the first workshop on the topic, followed by a Workshop in Bergen. We therefore started collaborating with colleagues in Bergen early and decided for a joint call for participation. This call is attached at the end of the document. It was first published before Christmas 2021 on the ARQUS homepage and sent out by the contact points for WP1 of the ARQUS universities. To inform and also to get support for additional financing the members of the Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz were involved in the process of setting up the call already beforehand. As the first registration deadline (February 25) was too short, partially due to the Christmas break at most ARQUS universities, we prolonged the deadline for two more weeks. At the end of this period we had over 120 registrations for one or both Workshops in Seggau and Bergen. Graz had reviewed more than 70 registrations. We then send the list to the different ARQUS universities asking them to start the process of selection. This process took a very different route at the different ARQUS universities. There was also a high discrepancy of registrations from the different ARQUS

universities. We informed all registered persons about the procedure of selection by their Universities and asked them to get in contact with their responsible ARQUS officers. Once we received the names and e-mail addresses of all chosen participants, we started to inform people about the workshop in Seggau and provided them with all the needed information in several e-mails.

- Difficulties encountered

Difficulties started with the selection processes at some of the ARQUS Universities. For example, there were over 40 registrations from the University of Granada. After a long internal process only 4 people were selected. Also, the timeline of the selection processes was very different. The University of Vilnius confirmed the participants immediately after the closing of the registration. In the case of the University of Leipzig there were only view registrations and at the end only one person attending the workshop. Many e-mails were written to the responsible persons for WP1, asking them for their assistance, also to open up the registration again for new participants. Already at the beginning of February, we as coordinator, identified potential people as well and gave this list to the responsible persons or contacted researchers directly. The results of these inquiries were also very different at the ARQUS partners. At the University of Graz, we reached out and were able to bring up the numbers of participants (all of them belonging to the field of Excellence Climate Change Graz).



A second difficulty we faced approaching the workshop were many people resigning their participation due to various reasons, first of all health reasons. We were in constant contact with the venue in order to avoid cancellation fees (the cancellation policy of the venue was sent out to all ARQUS partners beforehand). Based on the financial aid of the Field of Excellence Graz and the Vice-Rectorate of the University of Graz we were able to come to an agreement with the venue, accepting late cancellations without charge. However, it must be reported, that we had the feeling, that there was a lack of responsibility from researchers. At the same time there were also some last-minute registrations, from Graz and Padua. Nevertheless, we were not able to reach the target numbers. We continue to support the University in Bergen, also with our experience in the first workshop, and hope that they will exceed the numbers, so that at the end we will reach the number of participants in both workshops.

## 2) Workshop outcomes

- Report on the activities (description of the workshop plan and activities conducted)

After a short Introduction to the Workshop and the ARQUS Alliance by Petra Schaper-Rinkel (Vice-Rector for Digitalisation) and Maria Heinemann (ARQUS Coordinator at the University of Graz) the Key note lecture was given by Gustaf Arrhenius (Director of the Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm) with the title *Values, Risk, and Population Ethics in the Time of Global Warming*. Unfortunately, the speaker could only present online, due to health reasons. Still, there was a lively discussion on population ethics and climate change risks and impacts. Due to the experiences of the Research Focus Forum in Bergen, Mario Müller and Philipp Weißert gave a compact overview of funding in Horizon Europe. After lunch the first round of Intro sessions took place. Due to the number of participants this was divided into two groups, each with the presentations by four researchers. The researches were assigned to the slots beforehand, not following certain topics but rather having researchers presenting from the same University at the same time, whenever possible). The information provided by the researches beforehand was too limited and last-minute changes needed to be taken into account. However, the main reason for the composition of the sessions in this way was to foster an interdisciplinary perspective. So, we provided the opportunity to also listen to researchers from very different fields. The participants were able to change between slots thus we needed to stay within the time limit of 20 minutes. We expected people to introduce themselves and talk about their research: Who am I, where do I work, what is the setting of my work, what are my main research topics, what is most interesting for me at the moment (linked in some way to climate change or biodiversity), what are the proposals in which I think my work would fit (we had sent out a targeted list of HEU project calls beforehand). There was the possibility to use PowerPoint, but people were not obliged to use it. After the second intro session, the plenary reconvened before dinner to identify those HEU calls most interesting to the participants. For this we had sent out the open calls linked to climate topics as well as the draft work programs of cluster 5 and 6 for future calls. We had also prepared lists of these calls and provided them in the folder we distributed at the beginning of the workshop. Researchers then had the opportunity to write down their names on provided flipcharts next to the calls that they are interested and thus share this information with others.



The second day started with a session on Stakeholder Engagement in EU Projects. The Transacademic Interface Manager of the University of Graz, Holger Hoff, gave an online lecture on his experiences with stakeholder engagement and valuable insights in the set up and continuation of stakeholder contacts. After a discussion, Luzia Strasser presented some aspects of stakeholder engagement within the ARQUS alliance and gave an overview of results and workshops in this area. This was followed by some initial statements of participants of their experience in stakeholder engagement. Before and after lunch we continued with the intro sessions. We then reconvened in the plenary to

match groups towards those calls that had gained the most interest. The groups were then given the opportunity to talk about their understanding of the call and to exchange contacts for further work on project proposals. After this we allowed groups to share their results in an informal matter.

The third day started with three more introductions, before the workshop ended with some last remarks and the collection of the feedback sheets.

Throughout the workshop we also gave researches the possibility to suggest ways of how to best use the available ARQUS seed funding (10.000€ / partner). The suggestions were mostly to finance workshop(s) for emerging consortia, also including additional partners or stakeholders. Two other suggestions were to enable networking meetings for PhD students and to fund postdocs to write proposals.

### 3) Feedback

- Collected informal feedback at the end of the workshop

The first informal feedback indicated that researches were overall satisfied with the workshop. Especially the possibility to get to know each other and to learn about funding opportunities and calls was emphasised.

- Survey Results: (22 returns)

#### What worked best about the workshop and why (also including organization and call)?

- Secluded location, nice that local people also stayed (10x)
- Group work dynamics, informal and open / easy to communicate, get to know colleagues / interesting discussions with colleagues from different fields (9x)
- Well-planned / Breaks gave a lot of opportunity to connect / intense program-good to have two full days / Great balance between informal group times and presentations (9x)
- Social aspects / great mix of people
- Paired groups worked well
- EU calls session (2x)
- Great to have multidimensional interdisciplinary meetings
- Selection phase at my university (Granada) worked well
- Well adapted to last-minute changes
- 20 minutes-slots were excellent
- Organization and call worked great
- Match making and keynote talks



#### What could be improved and how (also including organization and call)?

- More dedicated call / session for fewer specific HEU calls
- Prior knowledge in the calls
- Lectures in person (2x)
- Could more be done to ensure that groups formed will take next steps?
- Meet before online
- Friday presentations on Thursday (3x)
- Social activity in nature / walk (2x)

- Presentation sessions
- Not enough time after the groups were formed to put ideas into more realistic forms
- Selection of people in each session – very little connection
- Objective of WS not clear because it involved PhD students and postdocs with no power on decision making about projects. (2x)
- I missed instructions to harmonize presentations and focus on most relevant aspects
- One full day of presentations – one full day of project/group discussions (2x)
- Location too remote (3x)
- Less time for presentations -more time for group discussions (3x)
- Introduce more on interdisciplinary possibility for research cooperation
- Organization of matching groups to the calls could have been better but worked in the end.

**What do you think about this format of holding the workshop in general? What could be improved?**

- Great to get to know each other → Could be long term investment in networks! / People present could act as multipliers at home (6x)
- Mixture of sessions too broad, organize by themes of interest in advance / Stricter participant division / smaller more homogenous subgroups (4x)
- Was Great! (5x)
- Easy to choose topics of presentations to attend
- Creative Processes take time - this kind of workshop allow for them.
- Organize groups before – if people don't respond bother them until they do.



- Good start! For next steps split into specific topics.
- No splitting into two rooms- had to miss interesting contribution.
- Smaller groups (for presentations)
- Budget for formed groups and arrange follow-up meeting
- Helpful to get contacts, but another workshop more focused on specific calls will be necessary to set up a proposal
- More SSH representation
- Very good idea but involve more senior people (with more interest in collaborations)
- Improve spread of call

**Have you identified a call that you are planning to apply in?**

- Yes (15)
- No (2)
- Other answer (3)

**Have you been inspired to collaborate with your Arqus colleagues, and how might Arqus facilitate that collaboration?**

- Yes (15x)
- Help in preparation of proposals / Assist with more meetings, specialized workshops (6x)
- Will see
- Continue contact so relationships get built
- Mainly connected to colleagues from my own university I did not know about before
- Send us list of people signed for diff. projects and put us directly in contact

- List name of people below group picture to identify
- Enable to meet again not only within one consortium but also together for different calls.

**Other comments?**

- Seggau very nice. Meeting at University might be advantageous in terms of introducing research facilities to colleagues.

**4) Lessons learned**

- What worked well?

The workshop itself was aimed at creating a community of researchers. This was based on the idea that they need to get to know the research undertaken in the different universities and to get to talk about their research interests. The Intro sessions fulfilled this task quite well. Also, some people would have preferred shorter introductions and staying within one group. We have chosen the 20 minutes, so it was possible for the researcher to present some projects and ideas for future collaborations. In most cases this was prepared well by the researchers, even though in some cases a lack of strict requirements for the presentation was obvious. However, we wanted to give them the freedom to come up with new ways of presenting their research. Overall, we think that we have accomplished what we wanted, by getting the researchers interested in the work of each other. Also, the social program and the venue have supported this task. We also think that with the design of the workshop we were able to mix elements of known academic events with new elements of support information, discussion and team/consortia building. We also had the feeling that researchers of all career stages appreciated the presentation giving an overview of funding opportunities and were interested to follow up on it.

- What didn't work and why? How can these aspects be improved?

The recruiting process was quite challenging. Even though we started out quite early and had a lot of registrations, we were not able to fulfil the numbers given by the indicators. Much seems to depend on the communication of such an event. Here we faced the problem, that we wanted to try out a new format, distinguishing the workshop from a conference. We felt we had communicated that this was foremost a networking event and the possibility to set up consortia for new projects. We therefore aimed at more experienced researchers. However, based on the career state of many participants we had a very mixed group with very different experiences in and possibilities to initiate collaborations leading to EU projects.

Due to last minute cancellations we knew that some researchers might not be able to discuss with many other researchers from their own field. This made discussions advancing their research difficult, yet it might have led to approaching topics in a more interdisciplinary way. The latter was one of the intentions of the workshop to facilitate the setting up of consortia.



Communication with and feedback by the researchers was limited beforehand. We had sent out calls beforehand and wanted to prepare lists for matchmaking. However, due to the lack of respondents we were forced to use one of the first sessions to assign researchers to certain calls. Giving the time constraints, we hoped to get further with the process of proposal development. Nevertheless, we now see a good foundation for future work on these proposals.

- What changes should be made/considered?

For the future it would be very important to include the other ARQUS officers from the start, so that they better understand the aim of such workshops and be able to better communicate them to their researchers. After the positive experience with the workshop we should now be able to communicate the difference to a conference to the researchers and explain them what they can expect and gain from participation from the beginning.

- Involving people definitely seems to be a challenge: ideas to overcome it?

Planning of such workshops in time of the pandemic is always a challenge. For a long period, the Covid situation in Austria was not clear.

We see the need to start a campaign that shows the importance of ARQUS to the researchers of the different ARQUS universities. The information on ARQUS by some of the participants was very limited. This needs to be communicated better.

Start to engage all responsible people early in the process. As we concentrated our planning on the idea of two consecutive workshops in Graz and Bergen, we did not communicate our ideas well enough to the ARQUS officers at the partner universities. Thus, it was not clear to them how to answer important questions and communicate the aims of the workshop to their researchers. We should also try to increase ownership and responsibility for the recruitment process.





Attachments:

- List of participants
- Program

<b>Name - Last</b>	<b>Name - First</b>	<b>Arqus University</b>
Werner	Malgorzata	University of Wroclaw
Pöhlker	Mira	Leipzig University
Wilkerson	Brooke	University of Bergen
Betti	Marianna	University of Bergen
Cariñanos González	Paloma	University of Granada
Galve Arnedo	Jorge Pedro	University of Granada
Guerrero Rascado	Juan Luis	University of Granada
Zamorano Toro	Montserrat	University of Granada
Kirilov	Plamen	University of Lyon
Yu	Jie	University of Lyon
Chaput	Virginie	University of Lyon
Giroir-Fendler	Anne	University of Lyon
Toska	Klajdi	University of Padua
Morosinotto	Gregorio	University of Padua
Salpina	Dana	University of Padua
Danese	Giuseppe	University of Padua
Semaškaitė	Eglė	Vilnius University
Gorban	Ina	Vilnius University
Podeniene	Virginija	Vilnius University
Stankūnavičius	Gintautas	Vilnius University
Cohen	Viktorija	Vilnius University
Šapkauskienė	Alfreda	Vilnius University
Meyer	Lukas	University of Graz
Hadler	Markus	University of Graz
Weber	Bettina	University of Graz
Hofer	Miriam	University of Graz
Albert	Ossoa	University of Graz
Posch	Alfred	University of Graz
Thaller	Annina	University of Graz
Abermann	Jakob	University of Graz
Hirschmugl	Manuela	University of Graz
Herdy	Stefan	University of Graz
Stern	Tobias	University of Graz
Aschemann	Ralf	University of Graz
Borsky	Stafan	University of Graz
Strasser	Luzia	University of Graz
Stelzer	Harald	University of Graz
Heinmann	Maria	University of Graz
Schaper-Rinkel	Petra	University of Graz
Weißert	Philipp	University of Graz
Raggautz	Andreas	University of Graz
Müller	Mario	University of Graz

**Climate Change Risks in a Changing World**  
**Schloss Seggau**  
A-8430 Leibnitz, Seggauberg 1

**Program**

26<sup>th</sup> April Arrival  
18:30 Dinner

27<sup>th</sup> April

8:30-9:00 Arrival and Coffee

9:00-9:15 Opening with Professor Petra Schaper-Rinkel (Vice-Rector for Digitalisation); Lukas Meyer (Speaker of the Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz) and Maria Heinemann (ARQUS Coordinator at the University of Graz)

9:15-10:30 Key note lecture by Gustaf Arrhenius (Director of the Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm) *Values, Risk, and Population Ethics in the Time of Global Warming*

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Overview of funding in Horizon Europe and ARQUS Seed Funding

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Intro session 1 (two groups) 4 +4 (numbers refer to researchers able to introduce themselves)

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:15 Intro session 2 (two groups) 4 +4

17:15-17:30 Break

17:15-18:15 Market place 1 (small groups)

18:45 Wine tasting in the old wine cellar & Workshop Dinner sponsored by the Province of Styria (Empfang des Landes Steiermark/Ressort Landeshauptmann Schützenhöfer)

28<sup>th</sup> April

9:00-10:30 Stakeholder Engagement in EU Projects (Holger Hoff)

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 Intro session 3 (two groups) 4 +4

12:15-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Intro session 4 (two groups) 4 +4

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:15 Market place 2 (small groups)

17:15-17:30 Break

17:30-18:30 Presentation of developed ideas from the Market places

18:45 Dinner

29<sup>th</sup> April

9:00-10:30 Intro session 5 (two groups) 4 + 4

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 Closing session

12:30 Lunch

Departure

Arqus R&I – WP1 Large Workshops report

Climate Risks in a changing world (Climate Change WS 2, Bergen)



Key information	
Institution: University of Bergen	Name(s) of organizer(s): Brooke Wilkerson, Jakob Grandin, Nora Haukali
Workshop title: Climate risks in a changing world	Dates: June 7-8, 2022
Place: USF Verftet, Bergen, Norway	Number of participants: local / Arqus partners / others: 12/30/0

**1) Workshop planning and resources**

This workshop was the second in a series of two workshops on climate change. Both workshops were framed around the challenges of understanding and researching the various dimensions of risk (see attached workshop call). The workshop in Bergen focused in particular on explorations of how risk informs societal transformation and pathways for mitigation and adaptation. Together, the two workshops aimed to enable researchers to explore climate change risk from multiple disciplinary perspectives and provide a forum for exchanging research ideas and interests within this overarching theme.

The workshop was designed to maximize interaction and participation, and we included a mix of parallel sessions with presentations and active workshop activities in small groups. The workshop goal was to give participants the opportunity to make connections, to explore inter- and cross-disciplinary research, to develop and discuss project ideas, and to become more familiar with the research strengths and resources available at each partner institution.

Workshop planning started in May 2021 in collaboration with organizers of the first workshop in Graz. We issued a joint call for participation and stayed in close contact in all phases of planning to ensure continuity and compatibility between the two workshops and to use resources effectively in the recruitment process.

The recruitment process started with sending out the call in December 2021. We followed up the call by contacting specific researchers at Arqus universities with relevant research interests. The original registration deadline was February 25, but we extended the deadline by two weeks to encourage more applications. At the end of this process, we received 120 applications who were interested in one or both of the workshops. This list was then sent to the respective universities to allow them to conduct an internal selection process. We then received the list of participants whose participation was approved by each university.

While in general the process went smoothly, it's worth highlighting the difficulties we encountered in order to learn for planning future workshops. First, some universities had very few participants (for example Leipzig sent only two participants). Even though we targeted our recruitment efforts at universities with few participants, it was difficult to increase those numbers. Second, the internal selection process at Granada took more than a month. This is not a problem if there is adequate time before the workshop, but in our case, it meant that we didn't not know who was coming from Granada until less than a week before the workshop. This made it difficult to plan the workshop, especially the parallel sessions. This also created challenges for the participants who had to find a last-minute hotel room in Bergen during a very busy and expensive time of the year.

Two days before the workshop, we had a total of 54 participants signed up. In the days leading up to the workshop we had one person cancel because they couldn't find accommodation, two cancel due to illness, and two cancel due to their flights being cancelled (our workshop unfortunately coincided with a staffing shortage at major European airports). In addition, we had five people who simply did not show up, without any explanation (one from Bergen, one from Graz, two from Vilnius, and one from Wrocław). This was in spite of several email reminders sent to participants to remind them that not showing up would have economic consequences for us, and meant that they were taking a place that someone else could have taken.

Lastly, it's important to note that the funding available for the workshop was quite limited. It was, for example not adequate for booking a traditional conference space or the typical meeting space at the university, or providing a dinner. Fortunately, we were able to find a concert venue which was just within the budget. This venue, overlooking the sea and with ample outdoor space for informal discussion, was well suited for the dynamic workshop format that we were foreseeing. We also received extra funding from the University of Bergen research department for the dinner. We feel strongly that providing shared meals, such as dinner, is vitally important in any network-building event (and indeed, one of the research project ideas described below was developed over dinner!).

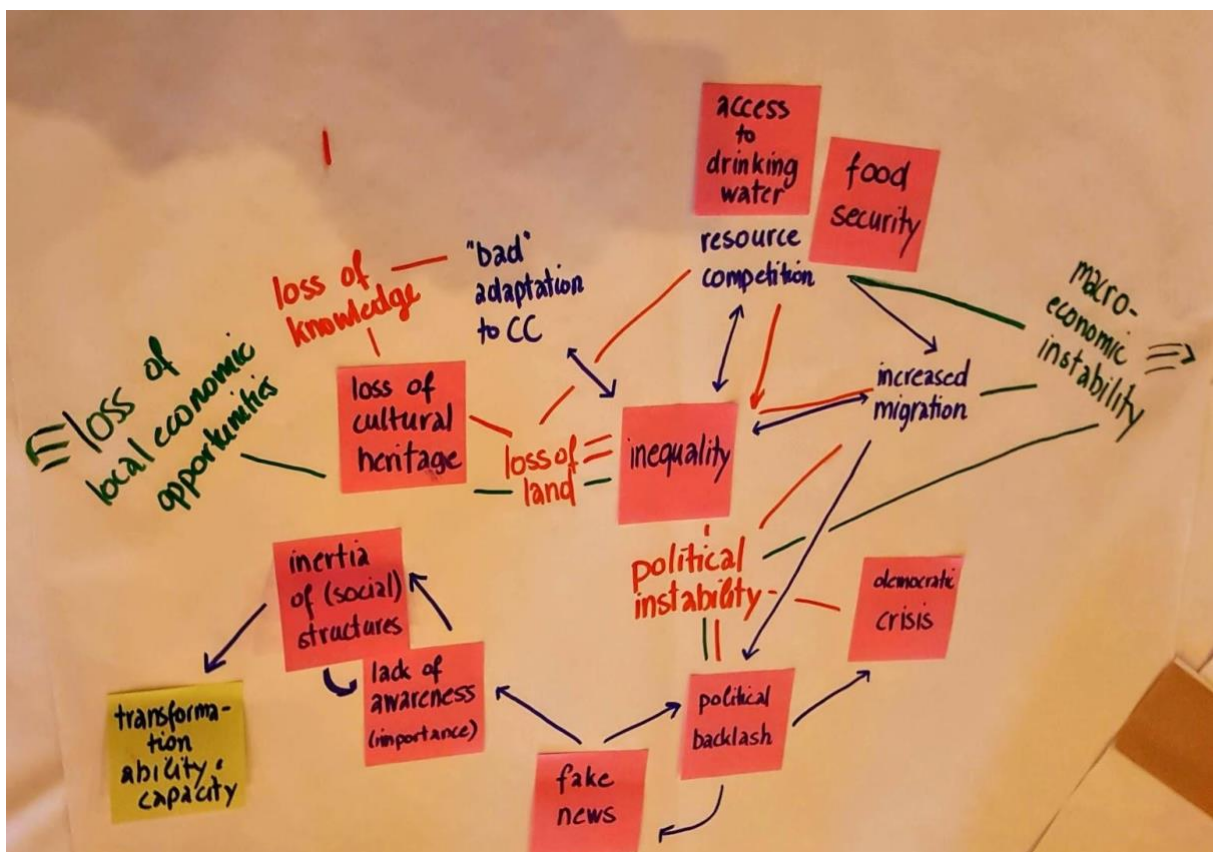
## **2) Workshop outcomes**

The workshop plan is attached. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, after coffee and a brief welcome, we started with a keynote session, with two keynote speakers, followed by a discussion. The speakers addressed the topic of "climate risk and pathways for societal transformation" from their perspectives. The first speaker was Øyvind Paasche, head of the climate dynamics department at NORCE research center and head of innovation for the climate futures program. The second speaker was Stina Oseland, director of the Climate Agency at Bergen municipality.

After a coffee break, we had our first parallel session. We chose a dynamic structure for the parallel sessions in which four speakers give five minute presentations, and then the audience splits into groups for small group discussions with individual speakers. Though this format was new for most participants, it's one that we've successfully used before in other University of Bergen events, including the biannual "Beyond Oil" conference and the annual Bergen International Student Conference (BISC). It makes more room for discussion and interaction than more traditional parallel session structures. After lunch we had a second round of parallel sessions.

Later in the afternoon, we began the workshop activities. The aim of the workshop activities was to take participants through a process of identifying research gaps in climate risk, intersect their own research interests with these research gaps, and connect with others to find complementary interests and develop research ideas to fill those research gaps. Participants broke into groups of 5-6 on a chosen theme (physical and biological, societal and community, urban, and energy transformation).

The first phase of the workshop was building a "mind map" of climate risks and their interrelations within their chosen theme (see photo). The groups then identified 2-4 of the most important climate risk challenges that they identified and discussed concrete research needs to address the challenge.



Example of a mind map created in the workshop

At the end of the first day, the workshop groups shared their results in plenary. After the close of the workshop, we offered an informal walk through town to see some of the tourist sites followed by a social dinner at the national aquarium sponsored by the University of Bergen.

The second day of the workshop started with the third and final parallel session. We then continued with workshop activities. This day we had two tracks. The first track was to work on project ideas. Four people “pitched” project ideas that they wanted to further develop with others. People who wanted to discuss those ideas moved into breakout spaces to further develop research ideas together. The ideas were on the themes of: geohazards and communication of uncertainty; scientific communication on controversial topics; urban climate justice; and urban mobility (which later joined with the urban climate justice group). At the close of the workshop session, each group presented key points from their discussion and their plan for keeping in touch going forward. About 75% of the participants participated in this track.

The second track built on the workshop results from the previous day. It happened that this group of participants had a more technical energy background, so they worked further on connecting research needs for energy transitions to their own research interests and identifying capacities at Arqus universities to address those research needs. This group also reported back on their discussion at the end of the session.

At the end of the day, we facilitated a discussion and reflection on the workshop among the participants, then asked them to fill out a survey.

In terms of tangible results, the workshop produced three concrete research ideas, each with participants from several universities working on them and with a plan going forward to develop them into full research proposals (see table 1). In terms of intangible results, we saw clear evidence of new connections being made and discussions across universities and research fields. Some of the comments from the final reflection support this, including: “welcoming atmosphere for sharing ideas”, “easy to talk to people”, “intensive discussions”, “new perspectives on other disciplines”, and “building a research community.”

*Table 1, List of contact people for the emerging research projects*

Contact person	Email	Research theme
Jorge Pedro Galve Arnedo	jpgalve@ugr.es	Geohazards and communication of uncertainty
Salvatore Pappalardo	salvatore.pappalardo@unipd.it	Climate justice, urban heat islands
Alberto Neftali Villanueva Fernandez Eduard Nedelciu	nef@ugr.es claudiu.nedelciu@uib.no	Science communication on controversial topics

### 3) Feedback

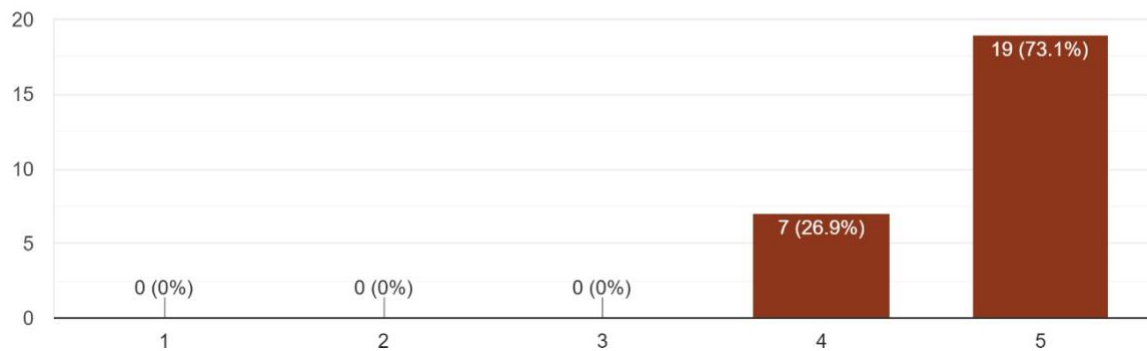
We received 26 responses to our survey. Participants were in general quite positive about their experiences in the workshop (see graph), and the average general impression of the workshop was 4.7 out of 5 (where 1=bad and 5=excellent). Comments included:

- The workshop was really insightful due to the participants interactions and the loose structure of the event

- I really enjoyed the number of people involved as it allowed us to talk to everyone, and it felt really cosy. Having people from such different backgrounds was also great, and I learnt a lot from everyone.
- I think that the dynamic to promote participation and interaction has been very effective
- great opportunity to find links among different disciplines and to meet very interesting researchers

What is your general impression of the Arqus Climate Workshop in Bergen (1=bad; 5=excellent)

26 responses



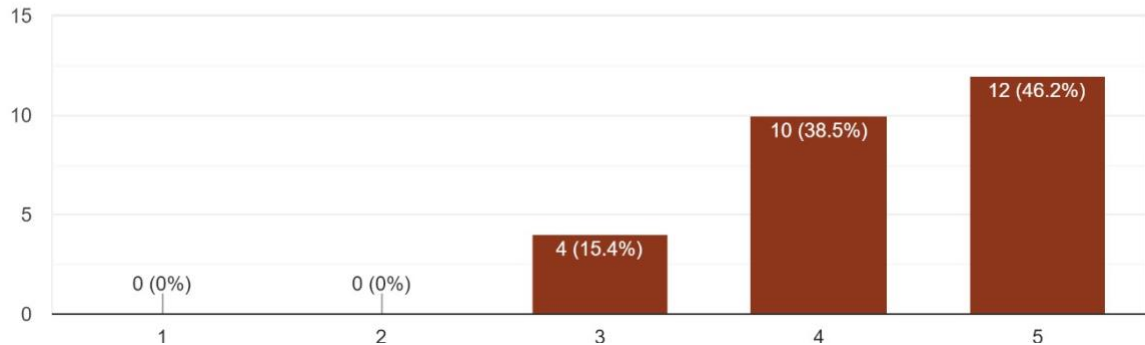
In response to “I received all the information needed before and during the workshop, we received one “3” and the rest were “4” and “5”, with an average of 4.4 out of 5. Some comments here related to organization at the university level. For example, one person commented that they weren’t sure who was “allowed” to apply to the workshop. Others would have liked more information about the parallel sessions and a list of participants beforehand.

The question “have you been inspired to collaborate with your Arqus colleagues, and how might Arqus facilitate that collaboration?” also received positive responses, with an average of 4.3 out of 5 (see graph).



Have you been inspired to collaborate with your Arqus colleagues, and how might Arqus facilitate that collaboration?

26 responses



Participants' comments include:

- While not being in a position to apply for any other projects/grants, I see a lot of possibility to connect with other researchers on a smaller scale. The meeting was very fruitful!
- Having parallel sessions and allowing participants to talk to presenters helped a lot and then having the time to work on project ideas and develop ideas enabled some form of project idea materialization.
- Yes, I think that there is a realistic possibility to participate in a HE call.

Suggestions for facilitating collaboration include:

- Arqus could provide a data platform about researchers profiles and area of expertise among the alliance
- To keep on going the collaboration I think that a common pool( like GDrive or teams / slack...any digital platform) where to share email/ info on grants/ research interests would help

We also asked about the specific components of the workshop: the plenary session, the parallel sessions, and the workshop sessions. The response to each of those components was almost all "4" and "5", with a few "3". Plenary sessions got an average rating of 4.7 out of 5; parallel sessions an average of 4.4 out of 5; and the workshops an average of 4.3 out of 5.

People were generally quite positive to the variety of formats, and the critical comments we received mostly related to wanting more time (for questions in the plenary, for discussion in parallel sessions, and for further developing ideas in the workshop sessions – and for the workshop in general). The response to the question "what is your impression of the general structure (for example, the balance between plenaries, presentations, and workshops)?" also was all "4" and "5", with an average of 4.4 out of 5.

In response to the question of how the workshop could be improved, we received several comments on the challenges of finding accommodation and a desire for smoother communication around administration and logistics between the sending and host universities. Several also expressed a desire for a longer workshop and/or organization of optional extra activities after the workshop that would give more opportunities for informal networking.

To the question of “what worked best about the workshop and why (also including organization and call)?” we received many positive comments on the pacing and interaction of the workshop. A representative sample includes:

- The place was amazing, the dynamics of the sessions, the food (specially dinner), the walk, and the good vibes of the group. Thanks for making this possible!
- Networking - amazing level of interaction and good vibes from participants really. I think the overall organisation was inclusive and people felt comfortable and at ease to share their interests during chats and parallel sessions and approach collaboration with an open mind.
- In my opinion, most of the people was very pro-active and all of the participate in the different activities. Organization has been fine. Congratulations
- It was always very participative, it was very easy to stay active.
- Many things, but the parallel sessions were particularly productive.
- Of course the organisation (working and resting time, lunch and dinner...) was also very good. So much so that even though the timetable was very different from my usual schedule, I had no problem adapting to it quickly.
- For sure the opportunities to integrate with other colleagues, starting building possible relationships and collaborations.
- Intense days, forced people to be present and involved. Presentations of work and ability to have more informal conversation along the way
- We could discuss more about the topic and we could work together to achieve our goal.
- The opportunity to get in contact with other researchers has been significantly enhanced by the workshop and how it was organized.
- The space given to discussions and exchange between researchers was great!
- For me it felt light, in the sense that even though we had a lot to do, it was not tiring because of the breaks, the different "activities" etc.

#### **4) Lessons learned**

For lessons learned in the planning/recruiting phase, please see section 1. What follows is a list of reflections from the actual workshop:

- Our meeting venue was a non-traditional, informal concert location. This had the advantage of changing the feel and expectation for the workshop and put people in an informal and collegial frame of mind. In addition, the meeting location was by the sea, so during lunch and coffee breaks, people could sit outside and get some fresh air, which helped provide meaningful pauses between intense activities.
- We thought carefully through the program to create different forums for interaction, including workshop activities in which everyone participated on a level playing field. No format will be perfect for everyone, but we felt that maximizing discussion would benefit the most participants and create the greatest long-term value for Arqus.
- We had less focus on the calls, as we saw that we had many early career participants who are not in a position to lead a project proposal. In addition, we feel that the focus on networking around shared and complementary research interests will have a greater long-term positive impact for Arqus (and the comments from participants supports this). Despite this, three concrete research proposals were initiated during the workshop, which we consider to be a success!
- In the future, Arqus should ensure that there is adequate funding for workshops, including meals. We would have liked to extend the workshop one more day but did not have the funding to do so. Considering the amount of money universities spent to send people to Bergen, this is a missed opportunity.

- Questions arose about how to involve researchers with relevant backgrounds/interests who were not at the workshops. Arqus may need to explore additional avenues for ensuring continuous network building among researchers, including those who have not had the opportunity to participate in workshops.

## **5) Attached documents**

1. Workshop call
2. Workshop program
3. List of participants by university
4. Photos

## 1. Workshop call

### Climate Change Risks in a Changing World

The Arqus Alliance invites researchers interested in network building and new collaborations around climate change related issues to participate in the Arqus workshops on climate change. In these workshops, participants will share ongoing research projects and priorities, identify prioritized research topics for the future, and discuss concrete ideas for research projects and open funding calls.

Climate change poses many risks, including natural, societal, and transformational risks. Most obvious are the natural risks that are based on temperature increase and changes in climatic patterns such as increases in severe weather events, changes in ecosystems and biodiversity loss, sea level rise, and climate tipping points. Many climate change impacts also have posed or will pose great risks to our societies, including increasing risk exposure for vulnerable populations and political instabilities exacerbated by changes in resource availability.

To mitigate climate change impacts, we need a deep and rapid transformation towards a low carbon society. However, disruptive societal transformation also involves risks, unintended consequences, and (in some cases) undesirable feedback loops. Societal responses to climate change impacts can create additional risks, especially if those responses exacerbate current inequities and power imbalances. We need to identify and explore desirable and equitable societal pathways to respond to climate change.

In order to respond to these challenges, we must better understand them. The Arqus workshops will bring together researchers from across the seven Arqus universities to exchange research ideas and explore potential for collaboration. The workshops are open to researchers from all disciplines.

In the first workshop (Graz, Austria) we plan to share knowledge and ideas on research concerning natural and societal risks and develop a better understanding of how they might be related. The second workshop (Bergen, Norway) will build on the results of the first workshop, through further explorations of how risk informs societal transformation and pathways for mitigation and adaptation. Together these workshops will enable researchers to explore climate change risk from multiple disciplinary perspectives and provide a forum for exchanging research ideas and interests within this overarching theme.

**The registration deadline is February 25.** Spaces are limited, so we encourage people to sign up early.

Sign up at <https://skiemaker.app.uib.no/view.php?id=11758211>

For questions:

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## 2. Workshop programme



### Arqus workshop on climate change, Bergen, 8–9 June 2022

To mitigate climate change impacts, we need a deep and rapid transformation towards a low carbon society. However, disruptive societal transformation also involves risks and unintended consequences. Researchers need to identify and explore desirable and equitable societal pathways to respond to climate change. The second Arqus climate workshop in Bergen, Norway will build on the results of the Graz workshop, through further explorations of how risk informs societal transformation and pathways for mitigation and adaptation. In the workshop, participants will share ongoing research projects and priorities, identify prioritized research topics for the future, and discuss ideas for research projects and open funding calls.

#### Programme

June 8th: What is the problem? Assessing risk and pathways for societal transformation		June 9th: Framing research agendas for desirable and equitable societal transformation	
0830-0900	Registration and coffee	0830-0900	Morning coffee
0900-0915	Welcome and opening	0900-0915	Welcome and summary of day 1
0915-1015	<b>Keynote &amp; discussion: Climate risk and pathways for societal transformation</b> <i>Øyvind Paasche, Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research and Stina E. Oseland, Climate Director, Municipality of Bergen.</i>	0915-1015	<b>Parallel session 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy transitions (Tilbygget)</li> <li>• Biodiversity (Sardinien)</li> </ul>
1015-1030	Coffee break	1015-1030	Coffee break
1030-1130	<b>Parallel session 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transforming cities and communities (Tilbygget)</li> <li>• Climate modelling (Sardinien)</li> </ul>	1030-1200	<b>Workshop, part 1: research agendas</b>
1130-1300	Lunch	1200-1300	Lunch
1300-1400	<b>Parallel session 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep and rapid transformation (Sardinien)</li> </ul>	1300-1340	<b>Workshop, part 2: research agendas</b>
1400-1430	Coffee break	1340-1400	<b>Concluding remarks</b> <i>Håvard Haarstad, Director, Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation</i>
1430-1630	<b>Workshop: Risk and transformation pathways</b>		
1630-1700	Conclusion and closing of day 1		

### 3. List of participants

Name - First	Name - Last	Arqus University
Thomas	Bruckner	Leipzig University
Johannes	Quaas	Leipzig University
Subina	Shrestha	University of Bergen
Rafael	Rosales	University of Bergen
Nora	Haukali	University of Bergen
Munavvara	Dzhuraeva	University of Bergen
Mauro	Passarella	University of Bergen
Mathias	Venning	University of Bergen
Joran	Buwalda	University of Bergen
Jesse	Schrage	University of Bergen
Jakob	Grandin	University of Bergen
Håvard	Haarstad	University of Bergen
Eduard	Nedelciu	University of Bergen
Brooke	Wilkerson	University of Bergen
SOLEDAD	RUIZ PEÑUELA	University of Granada
PALOMA	CARIÑANOS GONZÁLEZ	University of Granada
MANUEL	SIERRA ARAGÓN	University of Granada
LUZ MARINA	RUIZ HERNÁNDEZ	University of Granada
JORGE PEDRO	GALVE ARNEDO	University of Granada
FRANCISCO JAVIER	ABARCA ÁLVAREZ	University of Granada
FERNANDO	MORALES DE RUEDA	University of Granada
EMILIA	FERNÁNDEZ ONDOÑO	University of Granada
CARMEN	DÍAZ LÓPEZ	University of Granada
BLANCA LUISA	DELGADO MÁRQUEZ	University of Granada
ALBERTO NEFTALÍ	VILLANUEVA FERNÁNDEZ	University of Granada
Stefan	Herdy	University of Graz
Luzia	Strasser	University of Graz
Andreas	Raggautz	University of Graz
Weidong	Zhang	University of Lyon
Virginie	Chaput	University of Lyon
Sylvain	Pichat	University of Lyon
Plamen	Kirilov	University of Lyon
Jie	Yu	University of Lyon
Feng	Pan	University of Lyon
Anne	Girior-Fendler	University of Lyon
Salvatore	Pappalardo	University of Padua
Federica	Romagnoli	University of Padua

Anna	Panozzo	University of Padua
Justas	Kažys	Vilnius University
Egidijus	Rimkus	Vilnius University
Alfreda	Šapkauskienė	Vilnius University
Aistė	Lekoveckaitė	Vilnius University

#### 4. Photos









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