

JOINT RESEARCH ACTION PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – MAY 2022

The Joint Research Action Plan (JRAP) is a strategic document of the Arqus Alliance, which strives to strengthen and expand its cooperation in the field of Research and Innovation. The aim of the Joint Research Action Plan is to prepare framework conditions that enable the partners to create, enhance and encourage bottom-up research collaborations and project initiatives.

TARGET GROUPS

All career stages will be addressed in the JRAP, but in order to facilitate bottom-up research collaborations, a special focus will be placed on early-stage researchers (ESR) and PhD support.

Early Stage Researcher

- Master and PhD-Students
- PostDocs

Senior Researchers

Senior Research Management

- Vice-Rectors
- Research deans

Research Support

- Research Support Offices, International Offices, Technology Transfer Offices...
- Libraries
- Communication

External Stakeholders

- Ministries
- European Commission
- other European University Alliances

RESEARCH THEMES

Focus Areas

- Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation
- Climate Change and Green Deal
- European Heritage and Identity

Other topics of Collaboration

- Cancer Research
- Changing Societies
- Digital Humanities
- Healthy Aging
- Human Brain
- Surface Science/Smart Materials
- etc...

STRUCTURES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Cluster Map	Infrastructure Database (EuRep)	Communication and Collaboration Formats	Research Support Offices (RSO Networks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprehensive and comprehensible overview of Research and Innovation connections between Arqus Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a shared catalogue to facilitate the joint use of unique or rare research infrastructure in a number of categories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> already established successful and valuable formats that allow researchers to connect, meet and exchange e.g. summer schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mapping of each partner's support teams communities of practice bench-learning & training

FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES

Research Network

The aim of Arqus is to create and enable the right support, context and structures to foster opportunities and bottom-up connections between researchers of the Arqus partner universities. To this end, the following activities are proposed:

- **Research-oriented meetings** organized at each partner institution, which ideally will result in interdisciplinary research networks and joint research proposals.
- **Staff exchanges (early stage and senior researchers, support staff...)** as well as innovative **short-term and virtual exchange opportunities**.
- **Central online forums** within the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Climate Change and/or European Culture and Heritage.
- Improving **networking of ESRs** by reflecting on alliance strategies to enhance e.g. Doctoral Networks and COFUND schemes.

Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) Support

Considering the central role of the doctoral cycle in future deepened cooperation, special attention should be paid to the opportunities offered to researchers at the beginning of their careers, as these are often more in need of networking and collaboration opportunities. This includes Post-Docs, PhDs or even Masters' students. The following activities are proposed within this area of ESR support and development between the Arqus universities:

- **Short- to mid-term research stays** for PhDs, which could be developed into a visiting scholar scheme for postdoctoral researchers.
- **Cotutelles/international diplomas:** a first step could be the facilitation of bilateral agreements.
- **Shared offers** for early-stage researchers such as research-focused courses/seminars/lectures/summer and winter schools.
- Setting up a **recurrent mentoring programme**.
- **“Lab”-rotation fellowships.**
- **Master student internships**
- **Learning meeting(s)** for Arqus stakeholders in doctoral education (one per year)

Additional focus will be placed on early-stage researcher trainings, tools and guidelines:

- Sharing of **transferable skills courses/training offers** (online and in person)
- Services to help ESRs **write joint proposals** for European projects and submit publications.
- Development of **best practice tools and tutorials** concerning the “*how to*” of Open Science practices.
- Development of tools and recommendations concerning the role(s) of science and scientists towards society: e.g. Citizen Science.
- **Development of guidelines** discerning and helping the future evolution of research assessment practices, helping ESR recognising the diversity of research profiles.

Openness and Open Science

In an *Openness Position Paper* – including Citizen Science, Open Innovation and Open Education – the Arqus members agreed to implement, update, link, and promote **relevant policies and guidelines**, to support their researchers in making research data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable according to the **FAIR Principles**, and to introduce rewards for following open science practices, such as an Arqus open science prize.

The Alliance is exchanging and developing **joint training materials** – in particular for early-stage researchers – and will implement and maintain an OS Ambassador Network to advise researchers interested in the practice of OS.

Transfer and Outreach

Transfer of knowledge and competences and realizing synergies by taking advantage of the complementary strengths of the partner institutions are central aims of the European University Initiative, and form part of Arqus' core values. The Arqus Alliance strives to:

- Present the research within the Alliance (in at least the main focus areas) to the European Commission through establishing the “**Arqus Research Days**” in Brussels.
- **Structure joint research** activities to facilitate maximum knowledge and competence transfer between participating institutions.
- Take advantage of the possibilities for **providing input to the European Commission** and promote research themes prioritized by Arqus.
- **Showcase Arqus research collaborations** and results at relevant conferences and events in Europe.
- Seek **collaboration with local and regional stakeholders** for relevant research projects to promote impact of research results.
- Communicate information about Arqus research collaborations to the public, demonstrating its relevance to the community, and taking every opportunity to exchange with society and share the results of research.

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