



ANNUAL REPORT

OCT 2023
SEPT 2024

The background of the page is covered with a repeating pattern of the Arqus logo, which is a stylized 'Q' inside a circle, in a light gray color.

Arqus Annual Report

2023-2024



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Dorothy Kelly

Coordinator of the Arqus Alliance

Dear Arqus Community,

Looking back to the academic year 2023-24, it is a great pleasure for me to reflect on the remarkable impact we have made together.

Six years since the foundation of Arqus, we celebrate the progress made and continue working towards a shared future through our three mission-based Boards: Education, Research & Innovation, and Societal engagement.

This academic year, Arqus reaffirmed its commitment to the design and implementation of a **European Degree**, through the publication of the Arqus Position Paper and the considerable work of the EDLab project. Leading a consortium of four alliances, Arqus coordinated the EDLab pilot project, exploring the implementation of the European Degree (Label). We thus continue to be at the forefront of shaping future European higher education policies, and the transformation of the European Higher Education system.

In **education**, the three Joint Master's Programmes Arqus offers continue their success: European Studies, Translation and the new International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence Master's Programme. Arqus universities are working on the design of five more Joint Master's programmes and two Bachelor's programmes, which are expected come to fruition by 2026. The Alliance has consolidated its commitment to strengthen joint programmes, certifications, mobility and learning opportunities. We are also proud to have awarded 29 scholarships to PhD and Master's students after three editions of the Arqus Talent Scholarship Fund.

As for the **research** dimension of our Alliance, progress is evident through our Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers, the Arqus PhD Week for Careers Beyond Academia and the Open Science Ambassadors Network. During this academic year, with the conclusion of the Arqus RI SwafS project in December 2023, Arqus has developed different initiatives aimed at supporting researchers and academics for the development of joint research projects as well as offering training in innovation strategies and transferable skills.

The Arqus Alliance perseveres in its mission of building transformative excellence with and for all. Through the actions promoted by our **Hubs and Communities of Practice**, Arqus is fostering innovation in teaching, staff development, diversity and inclusion, plurilingual competences and deeper intercultural understanding. The hugely successful Arqus **Annual Conference** held in July 2024 in Braga was devoted to the theme of connecting universities and addressing challenges, fostering cooperation at all levels being the key goal of the Alliance.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Moving forward, our goal is to strengthen our collaborative efforts, expand the involvement and engagement of our communities, and enhance the internal and wider societal impact of our shared endeavours.

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of our universities' leadership, as well as to our students, academics, professional staff and stakeholders for their valuable contributions and steadfast support of Arqus. Together we will continue to build bridges with the strong belief that this collective effort will drive meaningful, systemic and lasting transformation in our universities.

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

01 | THE ALLIANCE



9

Universities

317,000+

Students

23,800+

Academics

14,500+

Technical Staff



Vision:

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

Mission:

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

Major Goals:

1

Effective barrier-free cooperation at all levels of institutional activity in order to better respond to existing and emerging societal challenges.

2

Joint evidence-based institutional learning, arising from acting as a common laboratory beyond the mainstream, innovating in pursuit of systemic, structural and sustainable impact.

3

Engaged communities of learners, academics, professionals and alumni in multi-level habitats working together for sustainable progress.

4

Co-created attractive flexible challenge-based and research-driven academic offer.

5

Joint transformational disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and innovation.

6

Enhanced intercultural competence, global understanding and respect for diversity throughout our communities.

| MEMBERS |

arQus

European University Alliance

- University of Granada
- University of Graz
- Leipzig University
- University of Lyon 1
- Maynooth University
- University of Minho
- University of Padua
- Vilnius University
- University of Wrocław



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth



University of Minho
uminho.pt



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



Vilniaus universitetas



**Uniwersytet
Wrocławski**

| ASSOCIATE PARTNERS |

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



02 | A YEAR OF EXPERIENCES





Qus
University Alliance

► 2-4 July
**2024 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

University of Minho,
Portugal

 Co-funded by
the European Union

| October 2023 |

Arqus Conference “Higher Education and Human Rights”

On 3 October, at the Braga Public Library, the University of Minho organised the Arqus Conference “Higher Education and Human Rights”. They counted on the participation of Professor Myroslava Antonovych, the Director of the Centre for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at the associate partner Ukrainian National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA). She highlighted the role of higher education institutions in preparing citizens who are more aware of the social value of human rights. The event was moderated by Professor Manuel João Costa, Pro-Rector for Student Affairs and Pedagogical Innovation at the University of Minho.

The following day Professor Antonovych also gave a talk about the abduction and transfer of Ukrainian children by Russia, at the School of Law of the University of Minho. This session included presentations by Assunção do Vale Pereira and Patrícia Jerónimo, both professors at this School.

From September to November 2023, the University of Minho hosted Ukrainian students and professors within the framework of the Alliance’s initiative “Arqus for Ukraine”.



AIFRS 2nd International Seminar in Romance Studies

35 Arqus students from the Universities of Granada, Graz, Leipzig, Minho and Padua took part in the 2nd International Seminar in Romance Studies hosted by the University of Granada. The seminar focused on language contact phenomena, mutual influences and convergent tendencies of the Ibero-Romance languages in Europe and America.

This Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) was organised with a first phase held online and a second phase with the physical presence of the participants in Granada. The seminar is part of the Arqus International Forum on Romance Studies, an Arqus scientific network formally founded in 2021.

In the preliminary online module, from 3 to 6 October, students were introduced to general issues of Ibero-Romance contact linguistics and their historical circumstances. Then a series of face-to-face workshops and cultural visits took place at the University of Granada from 9 to 14 October.



Kick-off of the Arqus Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers in Graz

The 9-month Arqus Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers opened with the physical kick-off workshop from 5 to 6 October 2023 at the University of Graz. During this 2-day event, the mentees got to know each other to establish a foundation for the coming months. The mentees shared their challenges and visions for their academic careers as well as their plans for the mentoring process with other international young researchers. The workshop focused on group exercises and discussions led by Yasmin Dolak-Struss on how to get the most out of the mentoring relationship

and how to build successful communication with the mentor.

The aim of the Arqus Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers is to support the establishment of sustainable mentoring relationships between early-career researchers and established researchers across the Arqus partner universities. It is designed for doctoral candidates and early post-docs who are interested in professional support during the first stages of their academic careers.



Arqus Day at the University of Padua

The Arqus UNIPD local meeting held on 17 October 2023 gathered faculty, administrative staff and students in Padua to celebrate Arqus Day. This event provided a comprehensive overview of Arqus' achievements from the past year, alongside a preview of the initiatives planned for the upcoming year, encouraging active engagement and reflection. The meeting's highlight was the "Arqus Success Stories - Bottom Up" session, featuring updates from key project teams: EDLab, Cyberactioning and ArchiFun. Attendees were also inspired by presentations from the two winners of the Arqus Talent Scholarship and an introduction to future projects within the Student Agora, the Mobility Observatory and the Inclusion and Diversity Hub.

The gathering concluded with a networking reception, offering participants an informal setting to discuss ideas and foster connections within the local Arqus community. This annual event continues to strengthen Padua's collaborative efforts within the Arqus Alliance, celebrating shared goals and future directions.

| November 2023 |

Kick-off meeting of the Cyberactioning project

The Cyberactioning project team held its 2-day kick-off meeting at the Resource Production Centre for the Digital University (CEPRUD) on 13 and 14 November 2023. The Cyberactioning project is supported by the European Commission Call Digital-2022-Skills-03 for fostering specialised education programmes or modules in key capacity areas.

The 4-year project was conceived by four Arqus partners: University of Granada, University of Minho, University of Padua and Vilnius University. It was developed in collaboration with six SMEs and Research Centres, all of them covering four different European countries (Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain) and with a high level of expertise in the field of cybersecurity.

This first meeting gathered together 27 project members from the four universities, as well as experts from Amped SRL, Constella Intelligence AIQ, IMDEA Networks, Qascom SRL and EuroTux and DigitalSign.



11th Arqus Rectors Council meeting in Brussels

On 20 and 21 November 2023, the Rectors or their representatives from all Arqus universities held their 11th Arqus Rectors' Council meeting in Brussels.

The main goal of this meeting was to discuss the Arqus governance and organizational structures and the major guidelines for the future research dimension, joint academic offer, intra-alliance mobility and societal engagement dimension of the Alliance.

The programme of activities included three other meetings: with DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), with DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and with the European University Association (EUA). The first two were aimed at discussing the current major issues for the European Universities Initiative and the challenges faced: European Degree (Label), Legal Entity, Monitoring Framework, financial sustainability and future Investment Pathway as well as the global and research dimensions of Alliances.



"Arqus countries' 2023 human rights records review" student co-designed project

The Arqus student co-designed project, "Arqus Countries' 2023 Human Rights Records Review" was launched by an international team of students and former delegates from the Padua Model Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The aim was to engage students in assessing human rights records in their countries, supporting data collection and analysis for the UPR by the UN Human Rights Council. Students from the universities of Wrocław and Granada collaborated with the Padua team, sharing expertise on selected states and relevant issues.

This initiative coincided with the sixth edition of the Padua Model UPR simulation, inviting students, PhD candidates and professors to evaluate UPR recommendations in Angola, Bolivia, Italy and Turkey. Key topics included gender equality and child marriage in Angola, racial discrimination in Italy, and the Istanbul Convention in Turkey. Findings were presented on 23 November in Padua, with the attendance of Guillaume Ngefa, Chief of the UPR Branch. This event underscored Arqus' commitment to fostering collaborative, student-led research on critical global issues.

| December 2023 |

First Arqus and ENLIGHT Alliances Open Science Webinar

The first webinar of the Open Science series, organised by the European University alliances Arqus and ENLIGHT, took place on 13 December 2023. Presented by Pia Voigt, co-lead of the Open Science Agenda group in Arqus R.I. from Leipzig University, the webinar discussed Open Science practices, obstacles and needs in a European University alliance.

The series aims to identify and discuss obstacles and reservations in using Open Science, in addition to presenting best practices to help academics overcome these challenges. Open Science plays a pivotal role in the sharing of knowledge and research findings across various disciplines, making scientific research accessible to all, with benefits for both scientists and society as a whole. This first webinar set the basis for further collaboration between Arqus and ENLIGHT.



First Arqus Joint Programmes Training

On 18 and 19 December 2023, the Arqus Learning Pathways team organised a series of training courses at basic and advanced levels on various topics relevant to the design and implementation of joint programmes.

The training sessions were open to academic and administrative staff on departmental and central levels interested in the design and the development of joint programmes but without extensive experience in implementing them. The first module was an initial introduction to the why and how of joint programmes, while the second module covered the grounds for successful programme implementation.

The training courses took place virtually on Zoom and were held by experienced professionals from the field of joint programme implementation at Arqus partner universities. The implementation of these programmes, which are offered by two or more participating higher education institutions located in different countries, is one of the goals of the Arqus European University Alliance.



Arqus R.I. Final Conference

The Arqus Research and Innovation project held its final conference “Advancing research collaboration and shaping the future of the R&I dimension” in Brussels on 4 December.

More than 40 participants, of which a significant number of Vice-Rectors in charge of research or societal engagement at Arqus universities, as well as representatives of the Community of Practice of Research Support Officers and a member of the International Advisory Board, witnessed the presentation of main results and discussed the proposals made by leaders of Arqus R.I. for the future of the R&I dimension in the Alliance. The European Commission was represented by Roberta Monachello, the Arqus R.I. Project Officer at the Research Executive Agency.

A dozen new research project applications were the direct result of Arqus R.I. activities, according to a survey of researchers who had participated in the Large Workshops and Bridging Workshops organised by Arqus R.I.



| January 2024 |

Weekly Language Workshops for Teaching in English

On 12 January 2024, the Arqus Plurilingual and Intercultural Hub launched the first series of Weekly Language Workshops for Teaching in English. The series was addressed to professors, lecturers and instructors, as well as graduate students and administrators with teaching responsibilities who work at any Arqus university. During a total of six webinars, participants looked at elements of academic writing such as cohesive devices and discourse markers and also addressed the challenges posed by vocabulary and grammar.

Many teachers working at Europe's higher institutions of learning today are faced with new challenges as they begin to teach their core subjects in English. Successful classroom learning requires leadership and engagement that not only stimulates student participation but also facilitates comprehension. This workshop series was designed to address these needs and more. Participants had the opportunity to improve their overall fluency while practicing interactive communication skills, and gather new inspiration for their teaching curriculum.

Weekly Language Workshops for Teaching in English

12th January–4th March 2024



Co-funded by
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European University Alliance



Arqus Joint Master's Programme in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence

The first call for applications for the new Arqus Joint Master's Programme in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence was officially opened on 12 January 2024.

The Joint Master's Programme offers a unique international learning opportunity and a cutting-edge curriculum adapted to the latest industry trends and emerging threats. The Programme, taught in English, presents specialised academic training in Cybersecurity, Cyberintelligence and International Relations and Law for Cybersecurity, and is jointly developed and awarded by four Arqus universities: Granada, Minho, Padua and Vilnius.

The Master's Programme benefits from unique mobility opportunities, as well as strong industry support, with several companies actively involved in classes and seminars, significantly increasing the potential and employability of graduates. At the end of their studies, students will be able to integrate not only in any area of the cybersecurity industry but especially in cyberintelligence teams working at an international level.

EDLab Workshop and 3rd Webinar

On 11 and 12 January 2024, the EDLab consortium gathered at the University of Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona, for its 2nd Workshop focusing on the co-design of the European Degree Label. The goal of the workshop was to reach a consensus on the recommendations being prepared by EDLab on the criteria, guidelines and certificates for the Label. 40 participants from 20 institutions, including both full and associate partners, actively contributed to the discussion.

Also in January, the 3rd EDLab Webinar was organised to explore how joint programmes can enhance the global appeal of the European Higher Education Area. Titled “European Degree Label: Global Attractiveness,” this event underscored the added value these initiatives offer to employers. The EDLab survey results were presented during the webinar and then a panel discussion featured insights from employers, alumni, global networks, and international student recruiters



| February 2024 |

Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Hub meeting in Wrocław

Between 5 and 7 February 2024, members of the Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Hub Board met at the University of Wrocław to discuss the work plan and ongoing or planned inclusion initiatives. On the first day, Board members listened to a diverse panel of speakers, staff and students from Wrocław University who dealt with various aspects of inclusion. They also tried tools used in disability simulation labs, like glasses that simulate visual impairments and wheelchairs, and experimented with safety escape chairs and mattresses under expert guidance.

Over the next two days, intensive sessions focused on defining steps and roadmaps, and assigning responsibilities. They also discussed organizing the first Arqus Staff Week on Inclusion and Diversity. The meeting was a significant milestone, enriching both professionally and personally, deepening existing collaborations, and initiating new ones. It reaffirmed the joint commitment across the Arqus Alliance to work towards inclusion.



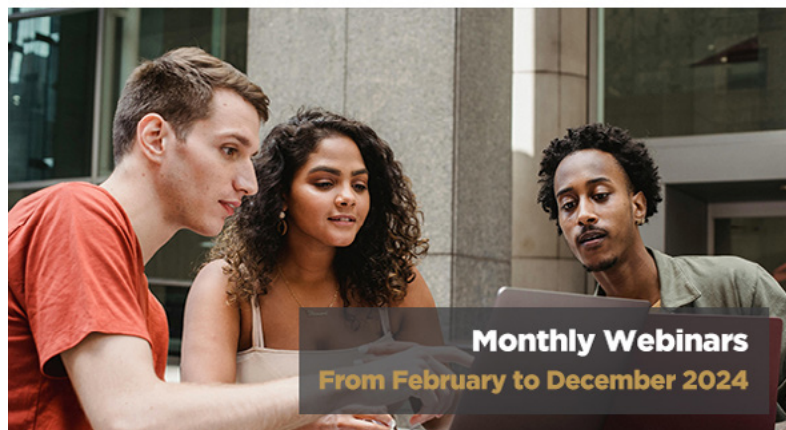
Alumni Talk webinar series

The Arqus Linking Local Ecosystems team launched the first edition of the Arqus Alumni Talk webinar series in February 2024. This series aims to help current students and staff face career challenges from the professional perspective of alumni. The talks, held in a synchronous online format, are organised by experts from the different Arqus universities and focus on topics such as integration into the labour market, starting a career, career progression and others.

The first talk, promoted by the University of Minho on 28 February 2024, aimed to present a short highlight on stress management and its impact on performance.

 **Arqus Alumni Talks**
European University Alliance

 Co-funded by
the European Union





French seminar on the European Diploma Label for Joint Degrees

Lyon 1 participated in the national seminar on the European Diploma Label for Joint Degrees, hosted by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR). The event focused on reviewing advancements and discussing proposals related to the European Diploma Label. Around 200 guests attended the event, which was open to all French higher education institutions, whether or not they were members of an alliance. This national seminar provided an opportunity to review recent experiences, exchange insights and collaborate on the future of joint degree programmes.

The discussions highlighted the fact that the European diploma label is an important lever for the universities' attractiveness and internationalisation. European universities have for many years sought to facilitate the creation of truly joint programmes leading to a single joint qualification, and see the European Degree Label as an important initiative to further this ambition.

| March 2024 |

Lyon 1 ambassadors and mentorship breakfast

On 5 March, the University of Lyon 1's Arqus team organised a breakfast for Ambassadors and Mentorship programme participants. The event aimed to showcase the opportunities within Arqus, with a presentation that covered the following points: introducing the different member universities, outlining the values and missions of the Alliance, presenting the opportunities provided by Arqus and a Q&A session.

Held at the Rockefeller campus, students introduced themselves, sharing their fields of study, hometowns, and fun facts. They learned about diverse experiences available, such as language courses at Arqus Café and mentoring programmes. Laura Bousquet and Gloria Ferrante provided insights into member universities, Alliance values, and opportunities. The Q&A session followed, where participants eagerly sought further details on Arqus activities. The event fostered a sense of community and enthusiasm among attendees, demonstrating the value of collaboration and exchange within the Arqus Alliance.



Arqus Student Agora Meeting in Wrocław

On 7 and 8 March 2024, the University of Wrocław hosted a meeting of the Arqus Student Agora team. The participants of the different Arqus universities had the opportunity to know first-hand what student life is like at this university.

The Student Agora members meet regularly and work to integrate students into the Arqus community. One of the benefits is the improvement of skills through participation in creative projects. They work to create new forms of personal development for students within the Alliance and to improve the service to students at partner universities.

During the meeting, representatives from the University of Wrocław presented the ways they support students by showcasing the work of all university units that come into contact with students, promoting the exchange of best practices and strengthening relationships between Arqus student services.

Arqus Microcredential Development Workshop

The Learning Pathways team organised the first Arqus microcredential development face-to-face workshop on 18 and 19 March 2024 at the University of Padua.

The event was an invitation and a unique opportunity for those who are passionate about advancing knowledge, exchanging ideas

and willing to collaborate in the development of microcredentials to push the boundaries of the academic landscape and the entire Arqus academic offering. Participants were provided with expertise and support in designing and developing microcredentials during the workshop and afterwards to ensure the highest quality of prepared microcredential courses.



| April 2024 |

Arqus Food Week at Lyon 1

From 8 to 12 April, the Arqus team at the University of Lyon 1 hosted the second edition of “À table avec Arqus: a culinary journey through Europe”. Collaborating with various organizations and departments of Lyon 1, the event offered a week-long gastronomical adventure for participants.

This initiative aimed to showcase the richness of European cuisine while also highlighting international opportunities available through Arqus. Throughout the week, attendees had the opportunity to experience the diverse flavours of Europe at four different restaurants across Lyon 1 campuses, including La Doua and Rockefeller.

Each day of the week showcased culinary specialities from different member countries, including Austria, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Poland, and Lithuania. Participants were treated to dishes representing the unique gastronomic traditions of these Arqus nations.



Arqus Green Mobility Days

To celebrate Earth Day on 22 April and Earth Month, the Alliance kicked off the inaugural Arqus Green Mobility Days. This initiative consisted of different local activities carried out by four Arqus partner universities (Granada, Lyon 1, Minho and Padua) with the common objective of raising awareness about sustainable ways of approaching international mobility and new strategies to tackle climate change.

The University of Granada organised expert talks on topics such as building a sustainable city, mobility practices at the university, and the Low Emission Zone in Granada. Additionally, an information booth was set up providing students with resources on reducing carbon footprints in international mobility and funding options for sustainable transportation through the Erasmus+ programme.

At the University of Padua, participants received eco-tips, played sustainability-themed games, collected eco-friendly giveaways, tried out e-scooters and joined a bike repair workshop. Students at the University of Lyon 1 could participate in a treasure hunt, a bee-wrap workshop, games to learn about the emission of CO₂ and an info-session on how to protect your bike from stealing.



Co-leads Meeting in Lyon 1

The co-leads of the different Arqus Working Groups met face-to-face on 23 and 24 April 2024 at the University of Lyon 1 to review the current status of the Alliance and the progress towards the common objectives and results set out in the 2022-2026 Work Plan.

The Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, the Secretary-General, Fernando Galán, Local Institutional Coordinators and other representatives of the Alliance also participated in this event.

This was the first face-to-face meeting of the Arqus Co-Leads after the implementation of the new Arqus Governing Principles and Provisions (GPPs), which came into force at the beginning of March following approval by all partner universities.

With representatives from all Arqus Working Groups across our three Boards in Education, Research, and Innovation and Societal Engagement, the meeting provided a crucial opportunity for a comprehensive review of progress, enhanced collaboration and the establishment of clear pathways for future progress within the Alliance.

| May 2024 |



BIP Plant Adaptations to Climate Changes

From 10 to 17 May, a total of 15 Master and PhD students from Granada, Louvain and Wrocław, along with 10 Master and PhD students from Portugal, embarked on a research visit to the Douro vineyards. This visit was part of the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) titled “Plant Adaptations to Climate Changes”.

The BIP was led by the University of Minho and co-organised by members of the Arqus Cluster on Sustainable Development and Climate Change from the Universities of Granada and Wrocław, as well as the Catholic University of Louvain. It aimed to provide students with practical insights into climate adaptation strategies.

After receiving training and developing projects during the virtual phase from 15 to 19 April, students explored the Douro vineyards at Quinta do Seixo and Sogrape (Portugal). They engaged in applied lectures before concluding the intensive course with online sessions in their respective countries.



English Glossary on Inclusion and Accessibility in Higher Education

On 24 May 2024, the Language Tools group within the Arqus Plurilingual and Intercultural Hub and the Language Services Unit of the University of Granada launched the ArqusTerm English Glossary: Key Terms and Definitions for Inclusion and Accessibility in Higher Education.

This glossary aims to serve as a benchmark for discussion in the field of inclusion and accessibility, both within the Alliance and in other bodies within the framework of higher education. Meticulously compiled through in-depth analyses of relevant sources, the glossary comprises 210 carefully curated entries and it is now available for consultation in the Arqus Termbase terminology collections.

The ArqusTerm English Glossary is intended not only to facilitate communication and debate within the Alliance, but also to contribute to the broader discourse on inclusion and accessibility in higher education.

| June 2024 |

Arqus PhD Career Week in Wrocław

The 4th edition of the Arqus Career Week took place at the University of Wrocław from 10 to 14 June 2024. This 5-day programme intended to support PhD and postdoctoral researchers in their exploration and pursuit of career paths beyond university research. The format was a combination of expert input and participatory approaches, focused on discussion and self-exploration.

The University of Wrocław hosted young scientists from Granada, Graz, Lyon 1, Padua and Vilnius. The event included conferences and panels led by researchers but also successful individuals beyond academia, featuring Magdalena Ślęzyk-Sobol, Anna Szczepankiewicz, Mateusz Bartoszewicz, Piotr Sula and Józef Orzeszyna. The programme offered talks and workshops, led by a group of career experts from international backgrounds, to help participants recognise their labour market skills and give insight into application and hiring processes as well as company cultures outside academia.



2nd International Summer School for doctoral studies at Vilnius University

The 2nd International Doctoral Summer School for future researchers of all disciplines took place from 17 to 21 June at the Botanical Garden of Vilnius University (VU) in Kairėnai.

This year Doctoral Summer School, organised by the VU Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies Office, attracted 26 PhD students in total. Four of them came, as part of the Arqus Alliance, from the universities of Graz, Padua and Wrocław.

Two types of activities were featured in the main part of the Summer School programme: entrepreneurship toolkit workshops for young researchers and training in scientific writing and publishing.

The workshops offered participants the opportunity to explore market analysis, value proposition development, and the selection of the most appropriate business model. The practical application of this knowledge was highly appreciated by the students: interdisciplinary and international teams worked together to develop their business ideas, taking into account intellectual property, pricing, financial planning, and marketing issues.



| July 2024 |

2024 Arqus Annual Conference in Braga

The 2024 Arqus Annual Conference took place from 2 to 4 July at the University of Minho in Braga, Portugal. This year's theme, "Connecting universities, addressing challenges", focused on enhancing dialogue and fostering collaboration within the Arqus community but also with other Alliances and European higher education stakeholders.

This major event brought together over 250 registered participants for internal meetings and networking opportunities aimed at advancing the Alliance's goals in education, research and innovation, and societal engagement. The conference served as the annual gathering for the Arqus community, featuring

university leadership, students, staff from partner universities, members of the Arqus International Advisory Board (IAB), colleagues from other Alliances, and experts. Various plenary sessions were live-streamed on the Arqus YouTube channel, allowing virtual participation.

The Annual Conference included the Arqus Awards Ceremony: The Arqus Teaching Excellence Award, the Green Mobility Days Award and the International Innovators Award. Additionally, the conference was integrated as part of the University of Minho's 50th anniversary celebrations, strengthening the bonds between Arqus member universities.



| August 2024 |



Summer school for German and Spanish

The Arqus summer school for Spanish and German, organised by the Language Centres of Leipzig University and the University of Granada, took place for the 15th time in August and September. Designed as an intensive Spanish or German course combined with intercultural activities, the summer school began with a week together in Leipzig for the 31 participating students.

The participants were welcomed at the official opening by Vessela Ivanova, Head of the Romance Languages Department for Spanish and Portuguese at the Language Centre of Leipzig University. She gave an introduction to the history of Leipzig University and the university library and encouraged the Spanish students to discover the diverse linguistic and cultural offerings of the city and region.

During the following two weeks, the students split up to complete the rest of the summer school. German participants travelled to Granada while Spanish students spent a further two weeks in Leipzig.

| September 2024 |



Summer School “Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education”

In September 2024, Arqus launched its first-ever Summer School on “Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education”. It took place from 17 to 19 September in Monteortone, outside Padua, Italy.

This unique event brought together educators, lecturers, and instructors from Arqus universities to explore how AI can transform the way we teach and learn. Over three days, participants engaged in a series of workshops, lectures, and hands-on activities designed to help them integrate AI responsibly and effectively into their classrooms.

The Arqus Summer School aimed to equip educators with the tools and knowledge to leverage AI in ways that enhance student learning, promote engagement, and foster critical thinking. The summer school focused on active learning strategies and the responsible use of AI.

Granada hosts a reception for incoming mobility students from Arqus universities

As part of the Welcome Week organised by the University of Granada for all mobility students for the 2024/2025 academic year, the Arqus UGR team arranged a reception to introduce the initiative, the local team, and fellow students.

On 12 September, a reception was held in the courtyard of the historic Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at the University of Granada for more than 50 undergraduate and master’s mobility students from Arqus universities, including Graz, Leipzig, Lyon 1, Maynooth, Minho, Padua, Vilnius, and Wrocław. Local students involved in the Mentor Programme also participated, offering support and guidance to the incoming students throughout the year.

The event featured a welcome address by Guadalupe Soriano, the Director of Arqus at the University of Granada. The local Arqus team, facilitated activities and dynamics for the students, providing them with information on how the Alliance can improve their mobility experience.



European funding workshop for postdoctoral research in Lyon 1

On 26 September, the University of Lyon 1 co-organised a workshop for PhD candidates and postdocs to prepare their applications for European funding for their postdoctoral research. It was a collaboration with Ability, a local project involving the universities of Lyon 1, Lyon 2, Lyon 3 and the École Normale Supérieure Lyon.

The workshop was titled “How can I get my postdoctoral research funded by Europe?”. Its focus was on Humanities and Social Sciences and the approach was very practical, with the

participants divided into small groups and working on different aspects, such as improving their CVs to better adapt them to the criteria and requirements for successful applications.

This event is part of Arqus Lyon’s policy and effort to create links and cooperation with local structures and projects. Moreover, this was the first step towards potential future collaboration with Bauhaus4EU, a European alliance of which the University of Lyon 2 is a member.







03 | OUR COMMUNITIES



Arqus Living Lab

The Arqus Living Lab was established in 2022 to address three key challenges that directly relate to the Arqus Alliance's efforts: Climate Change and Sustainable Development, European Identity and Heritage, and Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation. The clusters include academics, students, alumni, professional staff, and external stakeholders.

Arqus Living Lab acts as a framework for challenge-based addressing of societal issues and Sustainable Development Goals. In October 2023, a conference on "Europe as a Global Actor: Exploring Future Perspectives in Teaching and Research" was held.

In May 2024, the University of Minho hosted a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) on "Plant Adaptations to Climate Change" with Master and PhD students from the universities of Granada, Louvain, Minho and Wrocław, providing them with practical insights into climate adaptation strategies. During the summer of 2024, two schools were conducted: one in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, focusing on methodological challenges in European Studies, and another in Padua, Italy, addressing "Dissonant Narratives: Dealing with Difficult Heritage".





Arqus Communities of Practice

The Arqus Communities of Practice (CoPs) are domain-based communities of professionals that come together for bench and peer learning in all areas of institutional activity, as well as to offer staff development opportunities across all partner universities. The CoPs involve professionals or academics from at least four of the nine full members of Arqus, and may also include associate partners. A fundamental component of the CoPs is the exchange of practice among staff members of the Arqus universities, intending to create a mutual space for sharing experiences. Communities of Practice also contribute to developing Arqus' identity and sense of belonging across all partner institutions. Involving 134 members and almost a thousand participants, so far 11 Arqus Communities of Practice (CoPs) have been constituted and approved:

- Arqus International Forum on Romance Studies (AIFRS)
- Arqus Analytics
- Research Support Officers
- Artificial Intelligence for the sustainability in higher education
- Arqus Cultural Communities' Network
- Cultural Activities
- Community of Practice for Discrimination, (Sexual) Harassment and Mobbing Prevention and Management at Universities
- Project Finance Management Offices
- Exchange Network on Urban Studies
- Open Science Ambassador Network
- English-Medium Instruction (EMI) Community of Practice

In April 2024, an Arqus Communities of Practice board and CoPs leaders' evaluation meeting was organised at the University of

Wrocław. The meeting gathered members from various fields to reflect on the progress and impact of their collaborative initiatives. Participants shared insights on the challenges and successes encountered in their respective communities.

At the 2024 Arqus Annual Conference in Braga, Arqus CoPs and University of Minho CoPs members met and discussed important issues such as: raising motivation, finding funds, the frequency and means of meetings, etc. The meeting provided significant feedback on the role of collaborative initiatives gathering members from different universities.



OPEN SCIENCE AMBASSADORS NETWORK

Launched by the Arqus R.I. project, the Open Science Ambassador Network continues as a Community of Practice. It is aimed at the development of Open Science activities in the Arqus Alliance, in order to foster community and identity-building across our member universities.

Open Science is one of the guiding principles in research to strive for cooperation, reusability and transparency across disciplines and borders. It encompasses the reduction of obstacles for all actors involved and making research data, methods, and research findings openly available to the public.

The Arqus Network ambassadors are experienced experts in Open Science. They promote and commit to the implementation of Open Science guidelines and activities by inspiring and engaging other researchers (especially PhD students and postdocs) to practise Open Science, supporting others with their expertise.

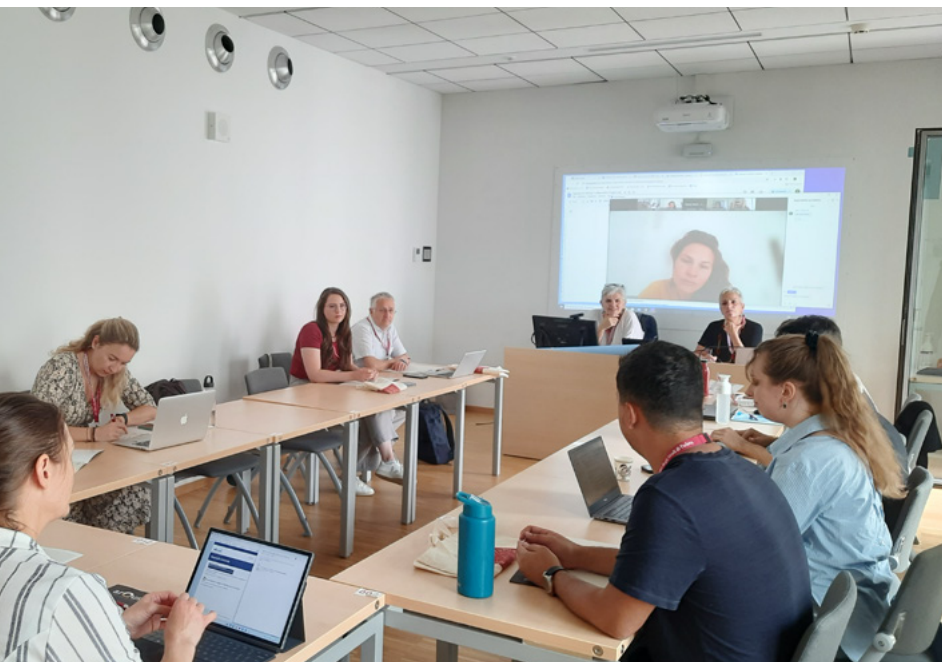
Inclusion and Diversity Hub

The Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Hub continues working towards an inclusive and diverse Alliance, integrating a gender and I&D lens into all Arqus activities.

The Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Action Plan guides the Alliance community collective responsibility towards inclusion and diversity, through specific actions and indicators to monitor progress, for a stronger, sustainable impact. This Plan is currently undergoing a thorough consultation process to improve the shared effort.

By sharing best practices, providing resources, and engaging in both internal and external networking, the Arqus I&D Hub team is building a strong foundation of knowledge and best practices in inclusion and diversity across Europe. They have participated in and presented their work at various international events such as panel discussions, conferences, and collaborative sessions, engaging in conversations with other Alliances and other European institutions.

Through the Professional Development Plan for Communities of Practice, the Arqus I&D Hub has supported the engagement of academics and professionals in inclusion and diversity efforts, which also strengthens collaboration within universities.



One of the Hub's key outcomes this year has been the creation of a comprehensive online repository, an interactive database of inclusive teaching and learning resources, I&D activities and initiatives to inspire students, educators, researchers, staff and institutions in adapting ideas to their own contexts.

In June 2024, Arqus and SAR (Scholars at Risk) members met to reflect on and act for academic freedom. The Action Plan to Support Students and Scholars at Risk demonstrates the Alliance's commitment to making the academic environment more inclusive and adaptive, supporting a globally aware and culturally sensitive community.



Plurilingual and Intercultural Hub

Multilingualism and interculturality continue to be central to the Arqus Alliance. The Alliance enhances the language skills of staff and students by promoting activities such as the Arqus Cafés, the plurilingual summer and winter schools, and diverse online programmes. The expected number of student participants has been exceeded by 50%, and the academic staff by 66%.

The Arqus Cafés 7th edition, which ended in December 2023, organised 19 cafés and offered 11 languages. Over 160 participants benefitted, thanks to the involvement of 25 tutors. The 8th edition of the Arqus Cafés then took place from March to June 2024, with 28 cafés and 530 members.

The online cafés have been expanded, not only in number but also in format as two universities (Leipzig and Vilnius) are now offering on-site cafés for their communities. In addition, they are now offering two levels: intermediate (A2-B1) and advanced (B2-C1) for several languages. This initiative has received great positive feedback from its participants, who underscore the opportunity to meet people from different cultures, practice language with native speakers, the weekly frequency, the flexibility by combining online and in-person cafés, and the friendly atmosphere.

The plurilingual summer language schools have drawn significant participation with nearly 70 Arqus students on board. A summer school for German and Spanish took place in August and September, combining language courses and intercultural activities through a short-term mobility at the universities of Granada and Leipzig.

Intensive language courses were also organised in Braga, Padua and Wrocław during summer 2024 to learn Portuguese, Italian and Polish respectively. In addition, Arqus online language courses had over 250 participants: A1 courses for German, Lithuanian, Spanish and Polish; English-Language Workshops for Staff; and talks in the Building the EMI Community of Practice series.

The online series 9 Months, 9 Universities continued to be a popular format with over two thousand views for the 2023/24 edition. This initiative consisted on a series of guest lectures that focused on specific topics related to language and culture and targeted mainly graduate and postgraduate students as well as early-stage researchers.

Furthermore, the Plurilingual and Intercultural Hub successfully offered a series of webinars for English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) under the umbrella of the Community of Practice “Building the Arqus EMI”. The second edition is expected to start in autumn 2024.

The Network of Language Centre Directors, another Arqus Community of Practice, has met four times to actively work on the action fields in its Agenda 2030 for a Plurilingual and Intercultural University.

The Hub’s team has also continued to add to the language resources and tools available to the Arqus Community. The Arqus Termbase is already public and the Arqus English Style Guide is expected to be published in November 2024. Resources for lifelong plurilingual and intercultural learning have been compiled and will soon be added to the Arqus Plaza: general language course, vocabulary and grammar trainers, terminology and practice resources, and materials for academic purposes and for teaching staff.



04 | ARQUS STUDENT AGORA



The Arqus Student Agora aims to promote student participation and engagement, enhance students' Arqus experience through student-led creative projects, accelerate their personal and professional development, and improve student services.

The main initiatives are the Arqus Student Ambassadors Programme, the Alumni Mentorship Programme, the Student Services Network Toolkit, and the Arqus Student Co-designed Projects (Arqus Change Makers' Space). Through them, the Student Agora aligns with the Arqus Alliance's core values of academic excellence, mobility, and societal engagement, empowering students to become change agents and collaborators, and helping to build a strong sense of belonging within the Alliance.



Arqus Student Ambassadors Programme

The Ambassadors Programme was launched in September 2023 and it has successfully created a network of 174 student ambassadors across member universities, each promoting the Alliance's values and strengthening local community engagement.

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



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



Arqus Alumni Mentorship Programme

Already in its second edition, this initiative helps students with personal and professional development, with the Alumni Mentorship Programme already seeing 40 mentors and 77 mentees.

Mentors are alumni of one of the Arqus Alliance universities, who have some experience and expertise in their field. They volunteer to guide and support a mentee in their career development, by sharing their experience, expertise and knowledge, providing guidance and feedback.

Mentees are current students or recent graduates of one of the Arqus Alliance universities. They are selected based on their academic and professional achievements, interests, and goals.

In February 2024 an Alumni Talk webinar series was launched, aiming to help students and staff better face career challenges. In March, Lyon 1 organised a breakfast for Ambassadors and Mentorship programme participants, which fostered a sense of community.



Student Services Network Toolkit

The Arqus Student Services Network Toolkit aims to enhance the student experience across Alliance institutions by fostering collaborative and supportive services, tailored to the needs of students across the Arqus universities. Created between student services and Arqus students, the toolkit was published in September 2024 and is accessible through the Arqus website.

This toolkit serves both student services staff across Arqus universities and students by providing a comprehensive database of resources available at each Alliance institution. The toolkit enhances transparency and usability, allowing students to easily locate relevant resources across the network.



Student Co-designed Projects

The Arqus Change Makers' Space (ACMS) was introduced to allow students to engage in discussions, pilot initiatives, and co-design projects. In 2023 and 2024, ACMS led two Calls for Student Co-designed Projects, resulting in the selection of 13 main projects being implemented across different Arqus universities, and 20 satellite events aimed at shaping the educational environment and increasing student engagement.

The student-led Arqus Change Makers' Space has become a transformative hub for innovative ideas and practices through creative student collaboration. This space empowers students as active contributors within the Alliance, involving them directly in projects that shape their academic, social, and professional environments.

One of Arqus student co-designed project is "Arqus Countries' 2023 Human Rights Records Review". Coordinated by students from the University of Padua, this project researches and analyses human rights records in the students' countries. As part of this project, in November and December 2023, students from the universities of Padua, Granada and Minho hosted three Human Rights Cafés to discuss democratic practices.



arQus
European University Alliance

05 | LEARNING PATHWAYS





Arqus Learning Pathways has launched several initiatives and is advancing Arqus' objectives regarding inter-institutional collaboration, high-quality education, mobility, lifelong learning, and innovative curricula. This reflects the collaborative effort across the Arqus Alliance to strengthen joint programmes, certifications, and learning opportunities.

Joint study programmes

Significant progress has been made on Arqus joint degree programmes. The three master's programmes Arqus already offer continue their success: European Studies, International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence, and Translation.

Five more Master's programmes and two Bachelor's programmes are currently being in development: Master's in Translation, Technology and Artificial Intelligence, Digital Environmental Law, Digital Humanities, and Sustainable Development; and Bachelor's in Business Data Analytics, and in Physics.

The selection of joint programmes promotes collaborative, cross-border education, advancing the alliance's vision of a shared academic space.

Microcredentials

The development of Arqus microcredentials is underway, following the training seminar held at the University of Padua in the spring of 2024. This demonstrates the Alliance's commitment to supporting diverse learning paths and addressing future workforce needs.

The Learning Pathways team has established the framework for jointly microcredential courses, with agreements for 16 already in development. A report on national regulations has been finalised, which pave the way for flexible and innovative learning opportunities, key to responding to the need for lifelong learning and upskilling.



Learning catalogues

The development of the joint catalogue and Lifelong Learning (LLL) catalogue is nearing completion and is currently being uploaded. Both catalogues are expected to be fully operational and open for users by spring 2025, ensuring a broad academic offering across Arqus institutions. Then they will gradually be expanded and updated as new microcredentials, courses and modules are developed.

The work on these catalogues for online and flexible academic offer reflects a strong effort toward improving the accessibility and inclusivity of education. The joint catalogue and the LLL catalogue will serve as crucial resources, enabling learners to access a variety of programmes across partner institutions, and fostering inclusivity and flexibility.

Arqus platforms

Since July 2024, three digital platforms have been established to gather all Arqus joint academic offer: Arqus Learning Management System (LMS), Arqus Google Workspace and Arqus Plaza. All users within the Alliance can access these platforms and services, fostering innovative learning pathways. The Digital Arqus team is working towards developing a joint system for digital certification, as well as implementing a Partnering Platform and an Alumni Platform into Arqus Plaza to facilitate collaboration.



Position Paper on the European Degree

After considerable work of all Arqus partner universities, the Position Paper on the European Degree was finalised and it is expected to be published in October 2024.

The Position Paper aimed to contribute to the policy debate on the European Degree and Label after the Higher Education Package published on March 2024. It is founded on Arqus' collective experiences, challenges and shared ambitions. By establishing a unified position on the European degree, Arqus ensures that it is at the forefront of shaping future European higher education policies, supporting greater student and staff mobility.

Guidelines and framework

The Guidelines for Curricular Enhancement, published in September 2024, ensure that Arqus educational offers maintain a high standard of innovation and quality, contributing to the academic excellence envisioned. These guidelines will play a critical role in supporting joint initiatives such as mobility windows, microcredentials, and collaborative programmes.

The Framework for awarding Arqus Mention was finalised and approved in March 2024. It is now moving into the implementation phase, developing the necessary digital tools for secure certification. The Arqus Mention may be awarded to students and graduates of Arqus bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree study programmes.

The Guidelines for the Award of the Arqus Label have been completed and are to be approved during the Arqus Board meeting in October 2024. The Arqus Label may be awarded to joint degree and certificate programmes, as seal of excellence, if they have a highly integrated curriculum and align with Arqus' vision and mission.

These key documents set the basis for the necessary frameworks and administrative groundwork. They have had a tangible impact on the structural and academic goals of the Alliance, setting the foundation for continued success in the next phases of Arqus.



Arqus Position Paper on the European Degree

October 2024

 Co-funded by
the European Union

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06 | TEACHING | INNOVATION



The Arqus Alliance is committed to promoting innovative student-centred learning, excellence in teaching, and challenge-driven research.

After the successful first edition in Vilnius, a Teaching Innovation Summer School was organised in Padua in September 2024. In addition, 13 online workshops have been organised on different topics, allowing members of our teaching community to share their methods and perspectives on teaching and learning. Over two hundred teachers participated in these events.

During Arqus 2024 Annual Conference in Minho, outstanding teaching practices were celebrated with Teaching Excellence Awardees sharing their best practices, inspiring other teachers to innovate and further enhance their students learning.



EDLab

From March 2023 to April 2024, Arqus led a consortium of four alliances (Arqus, ENLIGHT, EUTOPIA and SEA-EU) in the EDLab pilot project, one of the six policy experimentation projects funded by the European Commission to explore the viability of the implementation of the European Degree Label.

On 24 October 2023, the EDLab project team attended a joint mid-term meeting in Brussels. This event brought together representatives from six pilot projects on the European Degree Label and four pilots on legal entity status for European University alliances.

The EDLab team also met on 11 and 12 January 2024 in Barcelona for a workshop aimed at reaching a consensus on the recommendations regarding the Label's criteria, guidelines and certificates.

Following the steps of the previous year's first two sessions, two more EDLabs webinars took place in January and April 2024. The 3rd webinar, titled "European Degree Label: Global Attractiveness", explored how the Label and joint programmes can increase the global appeal and added value of the European Higher Education Area. The 4th and final webinar, "The road ahead to a European Degree: lessons learned from the European Degree Label Institutional Laboratory", spotlighted EDLab's pioneering work with the European Degree Label and offered a forward-looking vision for joint European higher education.

On 10 April 2024, the University of Padua hosted the conference "European Degrees: toward a full internationalisation of the higher education system". The event aimed to reflect on the potential of European Degrees from the perspective of global internationalization of Italian universities.

The Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, and part of the EDLab project team participated in the event.

This conference took place shortly after the European Commission introduced a new package of proposals to enhance transnational cooperation for undergraduate courses and international student mobility, known as the "Blueprint for a European Degree," on 27 March 2024. This initiative marks a significant step towards establishing a European Degree.



07 | ARQUS | PHD PURSUIT



The main focus of the Arqus PhD Pursuit team is to support Early-Stage Researchers and prepare them to integrate academia or the labour market at the European level. We provide PhD and postdoctoral researchers with the skills necessary to become internationally competitive inside and outside academia, and contribute to innovation strategies.

Furthermore, Arqus is dedicated to include extended academic staff in its activities. A very active Arqus network for career experts has been created to share projects, ideas and skills to develop programmes and activities for Early-Stage Researchers.



Arqus Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers

The interdisciplinary mentoring programme supports doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in their academic career development through peer-group training sessions and connecting them with experienced researchers who serve as mentors.

The second edition of the 9-month Arqus Mentoring Programme for Early-Stage Researchers kicked-off in Graz in October 2023 for a group of 9 postdocs and 9 predocs. Until June 2024, these Early-Stage Researchers benefited from one-on-one support from an experienced academic in their field.

Through a mix of online and in-person meetings, mentees participated in training sessions and discussions on research

funding, establishing and maintaining academic networks, mental health, time management, applying for academic positions and possible next career steps. The mentoring programme has proven to be an invaluable resource for a successful career in academia and brings about collaborations between researchers of different career stages and disciplines.

In September 2024 the next round of the Arqus Mentoring Programme was launched at the University of Lyon 1.

Careers beyond academia

In June 2024, A group of 26 PhD students and postdoctoral researchers participated in the Arqus PhD Week for Careers Beyond Academia, hosted by the University of Wrocław.

During this week of workshops, the Early-Stage Researchers received training on topics related to finding employment outside the university context, empowering and supporting them in the necessary first steps. International career professionals and successful PhD graduates provided workshops on recognizing and presenting your existing skills, the transition from academia to the business world and tips on job finding. Professionals also attended training sessions ("Train the Trainers") to exchange best practices.



A large, glowing lightbulb with the word "INNOVATION" written inside it, set against a background of a complex, abstract landscape with various small figures and structures. The lightbulb is the central focus, with a bright yellow glow emanating from within. The word "INNOVATION" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the bulb. The background is a detailed, hand-drawn illustration in a sketchy, artistic style. It depicts a landscape with rolling hills, winding paths, and numerous small figures engaged in various activities. Some figures are standing, some are sitting, and some are interacting with objects. There are also various structures and symbols scattered throughout the scene, including what looks like a small house, a tree, and some abstract shapes. The overall color palette is muted, with a lot of grey and brown tones, which makes the glowing yellow lightbulb stand out prominently. The style is reminiscent of a conceptual illustration or a piece of art that represents the idea of innovation as a central, illuminating concept in a complex world.



Arqus Talent Scholarship Fund

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

After the success of the first and second calls, the third call was launched in April 2024. In total, 29 scholarships have been awarded (7 PhD candidates and 22 Master's students).

Arqus Innovation Fund

The Arqus Innovation Fund aims to incentivise innovative bottom-up initiatives by Arqus staff and students by providing seed funding to foster innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, increase the visibility of Arqus internally and promote employee engagement.

The Alliance financially supports innovative activities developed by Arqus staff and students that go hand in hand with the objectives of the Arqus Alliance and its three major action lines: Education, Research and Innovation, and Social Engagement.

Three calls have been made in March and October 2023 and April 2024. To date, 45 initiatives and 124 sub-activities have been funded. A last call is planned for spring 2025.



09 | PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Arqus is committed to fostering knowledge and technology transfer, enhancing joint science dissemination, exploring deeper cooperation between our universities and their ecosystems, and contributing to regional and European innovation. The promotion of entrepreneurship has been successfully implemented with activities to promote the participation of students and alumni, connecting with our universities and their local ecosystems.

ISLYE

The Arqus International Soft Landing for Young Entrepreneurs (ISLYE) programme is a format of a start-up exchange between Arqus universities.

In March and April 2024, four ISLYE Digital Sessions took place. These webinars focused on the local startup ecosystems in Maynooth, Wrocław, Leipzig and Northern Italy (Trivene). The aim of this series was to inform the Alliance's entrepreneurs about the support available and how to choose the best mobility options for their business ideas.

The first mobility took place in September 2024, between the universities of Granada and Leipzig, and 4 further mobilities are in the planning. The ISLYE mobility programme gets entrepreneurs in touch with interesting local contacts via incubators and accelerators at the respective universities.



BIP Mentoring Programme: Turning Ideas into Businesses

This Blended Intensive Programme was an innovative initiative designed to connect Alumni of Arqus universities, with current students and recent graduates from Arqus partner universities. It was created by the University of Minho and participants from Granada, Leipzig, Maynooth, Minho and Vilnius took part.

The BIP Mentoring Programme: Turning Ideas into Businesses aimed to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices in entrepreneurship. It had an online phase from May to July 2024 with weekly sessions and an on-site part from 24 to 28 June in the city of Guimarães (Portugal). Planning for the 2nd edition in 2025 is underway.



10 | ARQUS ON THE MOVE

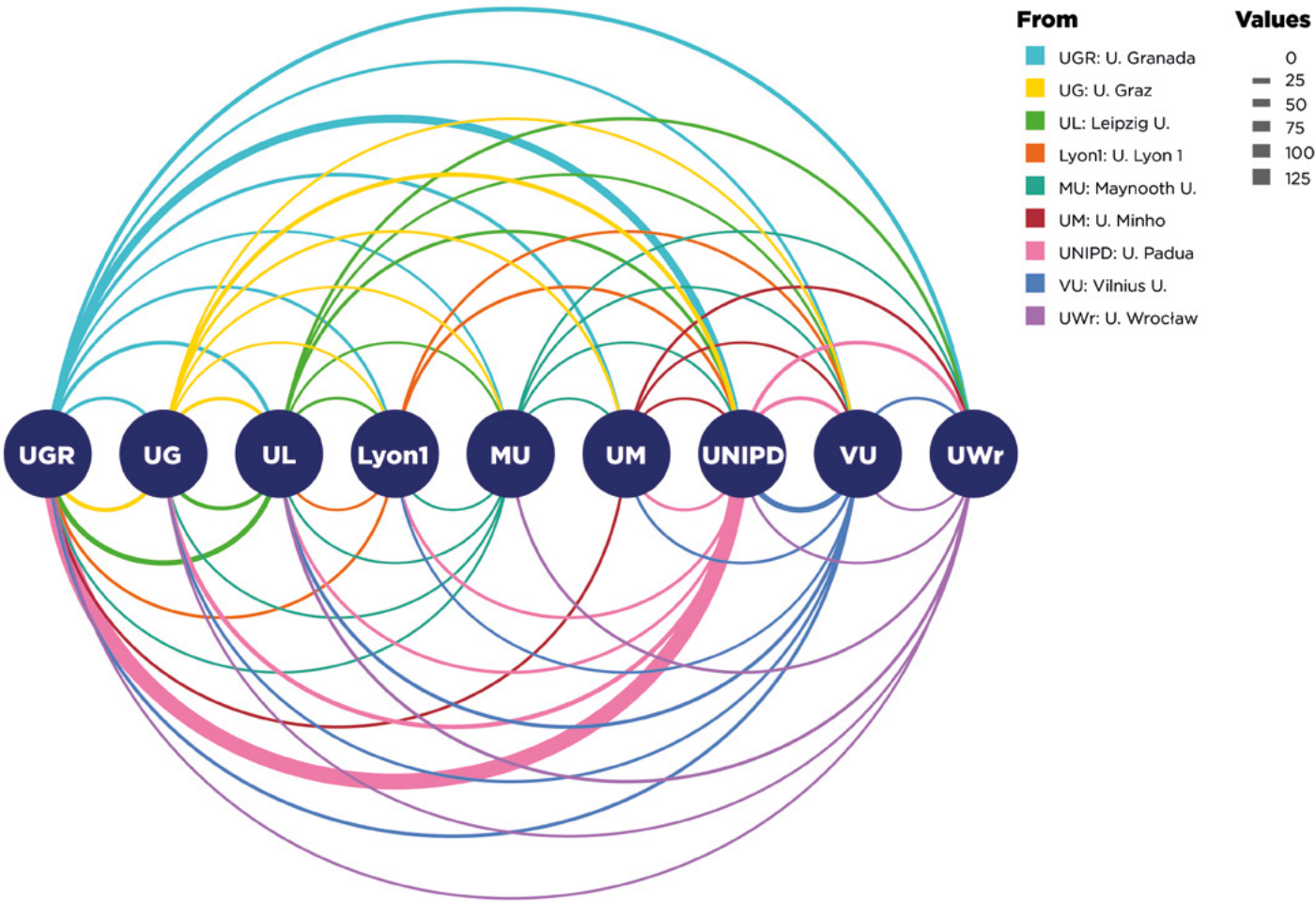


The main goal of Arqus on the Move is to cultivate a sustainable mobility culture within the Arqus Alliance by providing seamless mobility opportunities for all Arqus community members, as well as providing the necessary tools, instruments and funding, developing innovative forms of mobility, offering training and networking opportunities, observing mobility and boosting the visibility of different mobility programmes.

Through the Arqus Open Mobility Agreement, implemented in 2019 and pioneer within the European University alliances, Arqus students and staff can easily participate in mobility programmes at partner universities. The Alliance's mobility programmes, such as Twinnings and Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs), have increased accessibility to innovative international education, enriching academic experiences and intercultural competencies. The satisfaction of mobility participants, both students and professional staff, has greatly surpassed expectations.



Outgoing students





1st Edition

GROWING TOGETHER IN DIVERSITY

arQus MoVEs

Enhance and foster SOFT SKILLS

Boost STUDENT'S MOBILITY

Promote INCLUSIVE MULTILINGUALISM

Stimulate interest in GLOBAL ISSUES

Apply by **2nd November 2023**

Virtual Exchange

Prior to students mobility departure

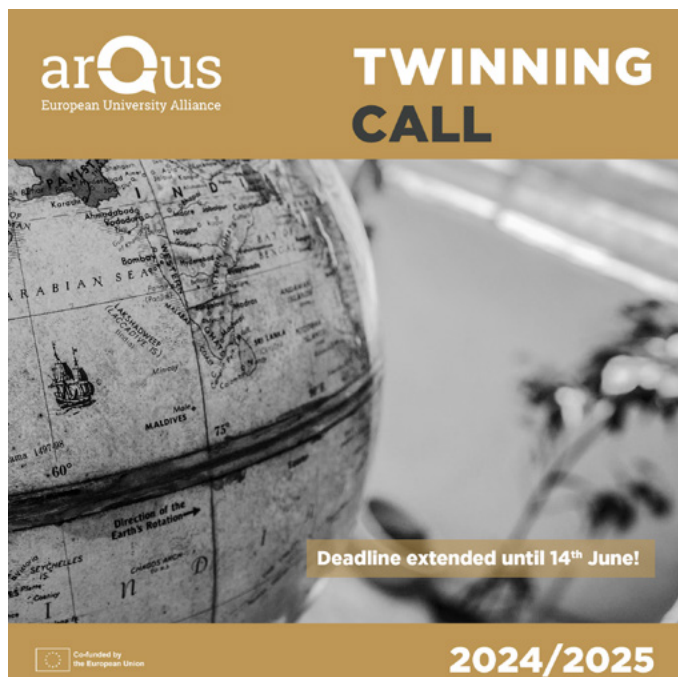
Confunded by the European Union

arQus European University Alliance

Arqus MoVEs

Arqus MoVEs (Pre-Mobility Virtual Exchange Programme) provides a standard learning pathway highly accessible to all Arqus students, including those of associated partners, planning an international mobility experience for the next academic year.

The initiative is intended as a pre-mobility project that involves students across different academic backgrounds, cultures, languages, ages and disciplines. The programme lasts 8-10 weeks and by combining synchronous and asynchronous activities the participants develop key skills such as intercultural and global competence, critical thinking, inclusive multilingualism, digital competencies, and others. The 1st and 2nd editions, launched in autumn 2023 and spring 2024 respectively, were very successful. The 3rd Arqus MoVEs edition will start in October 2024.



arQus European University Alliance

TWINNING CALL

Deadline extended until 14th June!

2024/2025

Confunded by the European Union

Twinning

Twinning 2.0 was launched in April 2024, the new name highlighting the novelties compared to previous similar initiatives. The emphasis is now on the main Arqus themes: climate change and environmental sustainability, artificial intelligence and digital transformation, and European identity and heritage.

It consists of an international mobility programme for groups from two Arqus universities, with lecturers and students reciprocally visiting each other's partner institution to carry out a joint programme and share learning experiences. This initiative aims to strengthen the subject-related collaboration of staff and students and create possibilities to carry out joint learning and teaching activities through piloting short-term flexible mobility schemes.

In September 2024, the 12 projects approved were announced. They will be carried out through the academic year 2024-2025, enabling more than 110 students and 24 lecturers to benefit from the mobility programme.

Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs)

Blended Intensive Programmes are short, intensive programmes that use innovative ways of learning, teaching and training for students and staff including the use of online cooperation. They are developed and implemented by at least two Arqus universities. Participants undertake a short-term physical mobility abroad combined with a compulsory virtual component facilitating collaborative online learning, exchange and teamwork.

A few examples of BIPs organised during the 202/24 academic year are:

- Plant Adaptations to Climate Change
- Mentoring Programme: Turning Ideas into Businesses
- Arqus International Forum on Romance Studies (AIFRS)
- Extensive livestock farming and landscape in Southern Europe
- Phraseological aspects of learning Russian as a foreign language
- Host-Fungus Interactions and Virulence: One Health Approach
- Cellular Membrane Dynamics



Arqus Mobility Observatory (AMO)

In February 2024, the Arqus on the Move team launched the Arqus Mobility Observatory (AMO), an initiative designed to contribute to the establishment of a sustainable mobility culture within Arqus.

The Observatory collects and analyses collected mobility data regarding the tendencies and potential of mobility within the Arqus Alliance, including general mobility data, types of mobility per institution, gaps and imbalances in long-term mobility among the Arqus partners, as well as the Alliance response to EU priorities (inclusion, digitalization, green mobility). By tracking this progress, the AMO supports ongoing improvements and enables the Alliance to make informed, evidence-based decisions, measure impacts, and proactively address emerging challenges.

The first Arqus Mobility Report for the 2022/2023 academic year was published in September 2024, marking the beginning of a planned annual series. This report establishes a baseline for assessing mobility trends, highlights key findings, and identifies areas for improvement.



Arqus Green Mobility Days

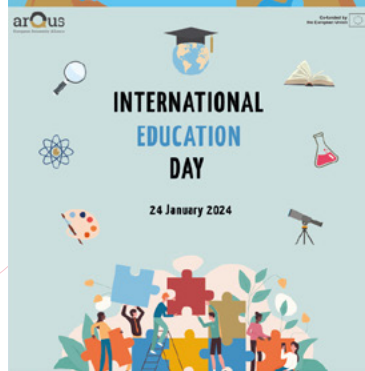
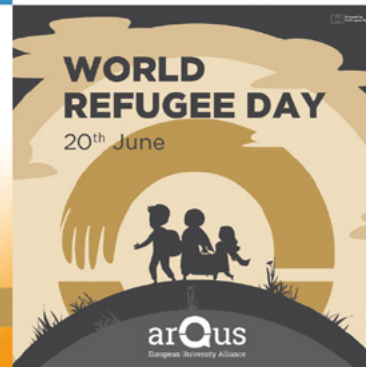
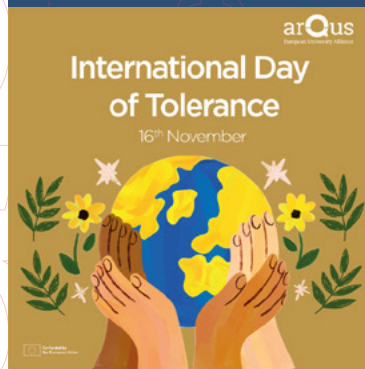
To celebrate Earth Day and Earth Month, the Alliance launched the first edition of Arqus Green Mobility Days. Four Arqus partners (Universities of Granada, Lyon 1, Minho and Padua) implemented various activities in their cities, promoting a more eco-sustainable approach to international mobility.

The agenda was featured by information booths active in 3 of the 4 cities, with about 400 students receiving tips to make their current or future exchanges less impactful. Beyond that, 10 workshops, a conference, a seminar, a focus group with exchange students followed by a round table and a cinema forum were held by partners on topics relevant to green mobility.

In addition, a call for ideas titled Green Mobility Days Award was open to assemble and share the best existing practices or future projects designed by a member of the Arqus community, proposing new ways to tackle climate change effects of international mobility. 16 proposals were submitted with very useful insights that will inspire the next Green Mobility Days edition in 2025.



11 | OUTREACH





Arqus Knowledge Pills

12 episodes this year.

The monthly podcast of the Arqus Alliance introduces research ongoing at Arqus universities in a short and comprehensive way. Each episode highlights one researcher from an Arqus university by inviting them to explain their research in 15 to 20 minutes.

The Arqus Knowledge Pills brings the scientific expertise of all partner universities through interviews that revolve around special research fields with social relevance or current topics. From October 2023 to September 2024, 12 episodes were published.




European Day of Languages

On the occasion of the European Day of Languages, participants from the Arqus Cafés shared their favorite words in the languages they were learning. The videos were posted on social media to show the Arqus Cafés initiative and encourage people to join, practice target languages and meet new people from around Europe.

Arqus Success Stories

The experiences and learnings of students, academics or professionals who have participated in or led some Arqus activities and initiatives have been regularly shared on the Alliance's social media channels. The goal is that these success stories can inspire others and increase the Arqus communities' engagement. From April 2023 to February 2024, 36 stories were published.



Arqus Success Stories
Building bridges towards a shared future

Arqus is a very enriching think tank!

Didier Leonard
Full Professor and Director of Polytech International Relations Department
· University of Lyon 1 ·

With my colleagues in charge of representing Lyon 1 in Arqus at the level of innovating teaching (Prof Daniel Guinet, Maeva Sagueton), we exchange ideas with colleagues from other partner universities.

The discovery of these new ideas and pedagogical practices will benefit the students of Lyon 1, thanks to the will of our teaching colleagues and with the collaboration of the Innovation, Conception and Accompaniment for Pedagogy service of Lyon 1.

Co-funded by the European Union

arQus European University Alliance

Lyon 1



Arqus Success Stories
Building bridges towards a shared future

The success of this publication was possible with the support and collaboration facilitated by the Arqus programme.

Jakub Pawlów
PhD student | Faculty of Chemistry
· University of Wrocław ·

I embarked on a scientific journey to ILM (Institut Lumière Matière) at the esteemed University of Lyon 1, under the guidance of Professor Georges Boulon, Doctor Honoris Causa at the University of Wrocław (2010). This experience let me explore advanced luminescence measurements, directly connected to my PhD research. The outcomes of the research were published in the prestigious Journal of Materials Chemistry C under the title "Influence of ionic liquid and oleic acid assisted methods on the spectroscopic properties of Nd³⁺-doped GdPO₄ nanoparticles". Our paper was featured on the cover of the journal's issue, showcasing the high scientific level of our results.

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Uniwersytet Wrocławski



Arqus Success Stories
Building bridges towards a shared future

Carla Rocha
Secretary for Mobility Programs
· University of Minho ·

Through the Arqus Alliance, the opportunities grow in multiple ways. Besides the partner institutions, it also creates the potential to connect with the Alumni, whose role is essential in supporting the education for entrepreneurship in the universities.

Presently, society is in constant change and requires a deeper understanding on the part of the universities for social life. In Arqus, I have had a fantastic learning and collaborative experience to link the nine local ecosystems and establish synergies among them.

I had the privilege to visit Maynooth University and it was an excellent experience. Each mobility is a discovery of infinite learning opportunities. Likewise, receiving other Arqus partners at the University of Minho would be a privilege!

Each mobility is a discovery of infinite learning opportunities

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Universidade do Minho

Arqus Advent Calendar 2023

For the second time, Arqus launched a very successful Instagram campaign in December 2023 encouraging students to test how multicultural they were, by asking questions about facts and traditions of Arqus countries.



Interviews with Talent Scholarships holders

A series of video testimonials from Arqus Talent Scholars was published on the Arqus YouTube channel to promote the initiative and get to know the students better.

| FIGURES |

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3,365 followers 

Impressions in the last year 223,690

Reactions in the last year 11,880

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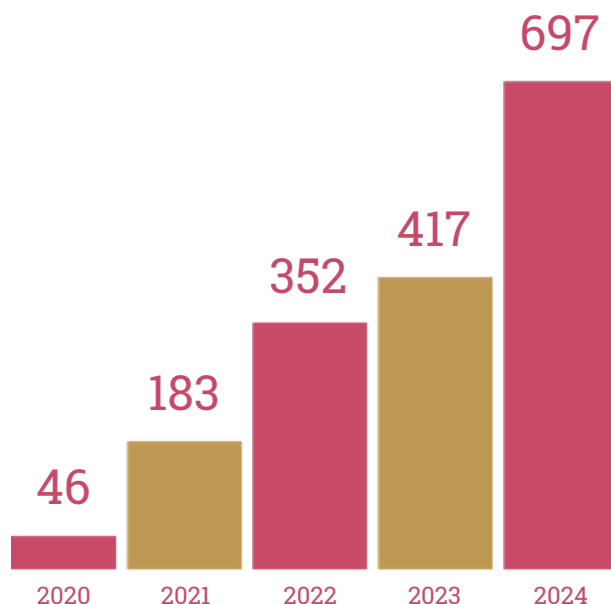
1,319 followers 

1,083 likes 

 Instagram

2,237 followers 

Total number
of publications





X

1,565 followers



YouTube

777 subscribers



Newsletter

3629 subscribers



arqus-alliance.eu

141,000+ users

214 news

574,136+ pageviews



Arqus Knowledge Pills

10 episodes this year

32 episodes in total

Up and running since
November 2020

12 | STRONGER
TOGETHER



EU Industry Days 2023

4 to 6 October 2023

From 4 to 6 October, the Arqus Alliance participated in the EU Industry Days 2023 that took place in Malaga (Spain). The EU Industry Days are Europe's flagship annual event focussing on key industrial policy discussions, connecting industrial frontrunners, and boosting the knowledge base of European industry.

The EU Industry Days serve as an open forum to discuss industrial challenges and co-create solutions and policy responses in an inclusive dialogue with a wide range of partners from industry, EU countries, civil society organisations, universities, and citizens. This edition offered participants the opportunity to connect with new partners through matchmaking, learn from experts about EU initiatives to support industrial stakeholders with know-how and funding, and access a varied exhibition showcasing new technologies and innovative solutions.

On 4 October, Gunnar Kaßberg (Team Leader of SMILE and Deputy Director of the SEPT Competence Center at Leipzig University) participated in the parallel session "Enhancing Workforce Development for Your Enterprise: The Role of Higher Education". Fernando Galán, Arqus Secretary General and Carlos Sampedro, Director for Transfer and Innovation at the University of Granada and member of the Arqus Board on Societal Engagement, attended the conference.



European Political Community Summit

5 and 6 October 2023

The Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, participated in the programme of activities aimed at the delegation of people accompanying the leaders of the European Political Community Summit held in Granada on 5 and 6 October.

The third meeting of the European Political Community brought together leaders from across the continent in Granada to discuss how to make Europe more resilient, prosperous and geostrategic. On Friday 6 October, the Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, gave the talk “Reflections on equality” at the University of Granada historical building La Madraza. In the session, the Arqus Coordinator described the progress and challenges toward the

Sustainable Development Goal number 5 “SDG5: Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls at a global level”. She also addressed the role of the university and, namely, the European University Alliances, in building a more egalitarian society through education, research, equality and work-life balance policies and plans, and communication with society.

Arqus has developed shared policies for inclusion and diversity for all the university communities, and is especially committed to ensuring greater access by girls to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines.



Una Europa Staff Week on Inclusion and Diversity

19 October 2023

Arqus participated in the Open Conference “European Alliances: a hotbed of different approaches to diversity and inclusion” that took place on 19 October 2023 in Bologna, Italy. The event was organised in the framework of the Una Europa Alliance Staff Week “Embrace Equity, Empower Inclusion”. Arqus, together with other six Alliances exchanged views on their different approaches and strategies to inclusion.

The Conference was open to the whole university community and to society at large, with the aim of both providing an understanding of the European University Alliances and their values, and encouraging the exchange of visions, insights and practices. Arqus was represented by Lucia Gennaro (University of Padua), Coordinator, together with Conny Melzer and Chiara Enderle (Leipzig University), of the Arqus Inclusion and Diversity Hub.





Conference “A look into the future. The evolution of research assessment processes and the advent of Open Science practices”

26 October 2023

On 26 October, the University of Padua (UNIPD) hosted the event “A look into the future. The evolution of research assessment processes and the advent of Open Science practices”.

The event aimed to promote and disseminate the results of the

H2020 project Arqus R.I. concerning the reform of the research evaluation processes and the issues related to the different aspects of Open Science, creating thus an opportunity for debate on the future perspectives about these topics.

Representatives from the University of Padua actively engaged in the Arqus R.I. project's topics. The event also counted on the participation of researchers interested in the subject matter and Open Science experts from the University of Lyon 1, the Aix-Marseille University and the University of Lorraine.

Selected invited speakers of the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) and the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) summarised the positions of their respective organizations and participated in a moderated discussion with the audience on the taken and planned actions, the reasons behind them and their implementation processes.

EQAR Annual Members' Dialogue in Granada

9 and 10 November 2023

On 9 and 10 November, the Arqus Alliance participated in the Annual Members' Dialogue organised by the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). This year's Members' Dialogue was hosted by the University of Granada in the Advanced Technical School for Building Engineering. The event mainly focused on exchanges in the framework of the Quality Assurance Fit for the Future (QA FIT) project, as well as on the EQAR strategy 2024-2028.

The Members' Dialogue brought together EQAR Governmental Members, stakeholder organisations, permanent observers and statutory bodies to discuss current policy developments in quality assurance as well as EQAR's current and future activities. It also served as a forum for exchange and networking among governments on issues related to quality assurance.

Fernando Galán, Arqus Secretary General, participated in the session "Knowledge Café" on 9 November. The Knowledge Café gave participants an opportunity to learn about specific developments, initiatives and case studies related to quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area and Bologna Process (EHEA).



Conference "Competing trends in international education: fostering responsible approaches" in Padua

15 November 2023

On 15 November 2023, the University of Padua organised the face to face Conference "Competing Trends in International Education: Fostering Responsible Approaches" at the Palazzo Bo in Padua. The event gathered together Arqus and other world-leading experts to discuss current trends, challenges and opportunities in the field of internationalization of Higher Education.

Cristina Basso, Vice-Rector for International Relations at the University of Padua, opened the event. Eva Egron-Polak, member of the Arqus International Advisory Board and Former Secretary General of the International Association of Universities, also participated with a presentation about the type of internationalization of Higher Education in this new era.

The EDLab project "European Policy Experimentation in Higher Education: Piloting a Joint European Degree Label" developed by the Arqus Alliance in collaboration with ENLIGHT, EUTOPIA and SEA-EU Alliances was represented by Laura Howard, Director General of the SEA-EU Alliance. She talked about the role of the European Universities Initiative in transforming European Higher Education.

SwafS Forum 2023

30 November and 1 December 2023

The Arqus Alliance participated in the Science with and for Society in European Alliances: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023 (SwafS Forum 2023). This event, held in Brussels on 30 November and 1 December 2023, highlighted the advancements achieved by 37 Alliances, Arqus among them, in their pursuit of fostering the exchange of valuable insights regarding the development of a common R&I European Research Agenda.

The Forum's Agenda featured engaging sessions, a series of roundtables, workshops and poster presentations, supplemented by keynote speeches and plenary presentations from distinguished European policy deciders and academic stakeholders. On 30 November, Joachim Reidl, Vice-Rector for Research at the University of Graz, presented the pilot on research assessment reform that is being carried out within the Alliance during the Workshop "Reforming Research Assessment".

Javier Valls, Full Professor of Law at the University of Granada and European Commission Advisor on Artificial Intelligence, participated in the Roundtable "Research Ethics & Integrity: The Role of New Technologies" held on 1 December. In addition, the Arqus R.I. Project Officer, Luisa Bernstorff, presented a poster on mainstreaming Open Science practices.



“What’s new in Brussels?” seminar

25 and 26 January 2024

The Arqus Coordinator, Dorothy Kelly, and the Arqus Secretary General, Fernando Galán, attended the “What’s new in Brussels? Recent Developments in European Policies and Programmes 2024” seminar, hosted by the Academic Cooperation Association. Set on 25 and 26 January in Brussels, the seminar focused on updates in the Erasmus+ programme and European policies for 2024. Participants engaged with experienced colleagues and policymakers, discussing topics like specialised educational programmes and modules, inclusion and diversity and international credit mobility. The event was a platform for fruitful discussions on responsible internationalization and knowledge security.

The seminar counted on panels regarding the European Higher Education in 2024, the future of the Erasmus+ Programme, and balancing openness and responsible practices in internationalisation. Parallel sessions took place on topics such as Erasmus priorities and the European Universities initiative, Blended Intensive Programmes, inclusion and diversity, monitoring framework of the European Universities Initiative, updates on the European Degree Label, financial simplification of the Erasmus+ programme, and strategies for international mobility.



Maynooth's "Advancing gender equality" event in Brussels

6 March 2024

Maynooth University, recognised as an EU Gender Equality Champion, convened an event in Brussels focused on advancing gender equality in higher education leadership to mark International Women's Day 2024. The event focused especially on highlighting the potential of European Universities to promote change. Maynooth hosted a reception to spotlight alumni's success stories, share insights from their experience and educate about Ireland's progress in gender equality.

The panel discussion "Advancing Gender Equality in Higher Education Leadership" brought together senior female leaders, including Aingeal O'Donoghue, Ambassador of Ireland to the Permanent Representation to the European Union, Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University, Professor Pilar Aranda Ramírez, former Rector of the University of Granada, and Professor Dorothy Kelly, Arqus Coordinator, to discuss best practices and policy implementation across Europe.





ESN Erasmus Generation Meeting 2024 in Seville

4 to 7 April 2024

The Arqus Secretary General, Fernando Galán, participated in the Erasmus Generation Meeting, the largest student conference focusing on the Erasmus+ programme organised by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), which took place from 4 to 7 April in Seville, Spain.

Fernando M. Galán and Yann-Maël Bideau, Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG EAC, chaired the session “On the pathway to the European Degree” which delved into the specifics of the European Degree pilot projects, outlining their objectives and discussing the potential impact on student mobility. The Arqus Secretary General shared how the EDLab project has notably contributed to the blueprint for a European Degree by testing the implementation of European and international joint degree programmes and the European Degree Label with special emphasis on France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

The Erasmus Generation Meeting is the largest student-led event focusing on learning mobility and the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme, and it provides a unique space to bring together students, alumni and authorities working on Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes. Under the theme “Removing barriers to active and equal participation”, the 2024 edition had two main pillars: inclusive international opportunities for all students and young people, and participation in democratic life in light of the European Parliament elections in 2024.

The event also featured dance and music performances, a flag parade showcasing the rich tapestry of cultures, enlightening plenary sessions, interactive workshops and the bustling hub of innovation known as the EGM Expo. During the event, the participants, together with the external jury, chose the Erasmus Destination of the Year 2024: Porto. The winners of the ESN Awards were also announced, highlighting the initiatives from around the Erasmus Student Network.

3rd European Student Assembly ESA24

10 to 12 April 2024

A total of 7 Arqus students from the Universities of Granada, Graz, Leipzig, Padua and Wrocław participated in the third edition of the European Student Assembly (ESA24) from 10 to 12 April.

With over 250 students hailing from institutions involved in 41 different Alliances across Europe, the ESA24 converged at the European Parliament in Strasbourg to deliberate upon 11 pivotal themes and formulate actionable resolutions. The Assembly itself was followed by a series of dissemination events gathering stakeholders and decision-makers where students advocated their policy recommendations.

The enthusiastic participation of the Arqus students in the ESA24 underscored the Alliance's commitment to fostering student leadership and engagement. Endorsed by the Arqus Student Council and the Arqus Student Agora Board, the Alliance's involvement highlighted its proactive role in shaping the future of European higher education.



Participation in EU Green

9 to 11 April 2024

From 9 to 11 April 2024, the EU GREEN Alliance's Executive Committee and Communication experts convened in Jarandilla de la Vera, Extremadura, to work on the improvement of their communication strategies and identify synergies, dependencies and priority actions. Fernando Galán, Arqus Secretary-General, and Marina Fernández-Peña Mollá, Arqus Communications Director, were invited to the meetings to share their inputs and showcase the experience in Arqus.



European Youth Week 2024

12 April 2024

The European Youth Week 2024 hosted numerous exciting breakout sessions organised by EU Institutions, Directorate-Generals, and youth stakeholders. Participants engaged in discussions on matters related to youth participation, democratic engagement, and other interests.

Fernando Galán, Arqus Secretary General, participated in the conference.



Final event “Towards a European Degree & a European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions”

29 April 2024

The conference on a blueprint for a European degree, which took place on 29 April in Brussels, brought together more than a thousand participants, both in person and online. Universities from all across the EU have called on the European Commission, Member States and the wider higher education sector to take the next steps to make a European degree a reality. They stressed the need for strong coordination between Member States, legislative changes and sufficient funding at European, national

and regional levels for what promises to reshape the landscape of higher education across the continent.

Over the past year, 10 Erasmus+ pilot projects have been testing the delivery of a European degree (label) and the establishment of a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions. During this event, organised by the Erasmus+ pilot projects in cooperation with the European Commission, they presented the results of their work. They showcased the clear added value of increased and institutionalised transnational cooperation fostered by the European degree, both for students, staff, employers, higher education institutions, higher education systems and the EU as a whole.

The European degree would make it easier for higher education institutions across Europe to set up transnational joint degree programmes, boost learning mobility within the EU, enhance students' transversal skills, and help meet labour market demands, making graduates more attractive to future employers. Furthermore, it will attract students from around the world and bolster European competitiveness.



EDLab
EUROPEAN DEGREE LABEL
Institutional Laboratory

“European University Alliances” talk on Europe Day

9 May 2024

On 9 May 2024, the University of Granada celebrated Europe Day in honour of the 74th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, under the European Union’s guiding principle of “United in Diversity”.

The commemoration events counted with the talk “European University Alliances”, by Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Commission

from July 2019 until April 2024. Lina Gálvez is also Vice-President of the European Foundation for Progressive Studies and Chair of this Foundation’s Scientific Committee for Studies and Policies

The session started with the words of the Rector of the University of Granada, Pedro Mercado. Lina Gálvez was then presented by Dorothy Kelly, Arqus Coordinator, who underscored the pivotal role of European Universities in addressing the pressing challenges confronting the continent and their crucial contribution to the defence of European values such as peace and diversity.

Arqus marked this Europe Day by highlighting to its communities of students, academics and professionals the significance of engaging in the European elections in June 2024. The Alliance joined the European Commission’s “Use your vote” campaign, encouraging citizens to exercise their right to vote and help change the world we live in, tackle the global challenges and stand for democracy.



II Conference of European Universities in Krakow

4 and 5 September 2024

On 4 and 5 September the II Conference of European Universities, co-organised by Patrycja Matusz (University of Wrocław Vice-Rector for Projects and International Relations) and the Foundation for the Development of Education Systems, was held in Krakow.

Participants shared their knowledge and experience in the field of European Universities. The conference was filled with panels, discussions and presentations that touched on the issue of good practices, as well as the challenges faced by Polish higher education institutions involved in international alliances.

The most important conclusion reached by the panellists was the recognition of European alliances as a key factor in changes in the internationalization of Polish universities. Alliances require new forms of institutional governance: legal status will strengthen cooperation within alliances and in some sense will be a test for the power of the bonds of cooperation within them. Alliances have strong ambitions not only educational but also for research and development.

Dorothy Kelly, Arqus Coordinator, was the keynote speaker of the opening lecture titled “Universities without borders: the transformative power of European University Alliances as a new form of internationalization”.





Arqus in EAIE 2024

17 to 20 September 2024

Hosted by the University of Toulouse and the Occitanie region, the 2024 European Association of International Education (EAIE) Conference took place in Toulouse, France, in September 2024. The EAIE Conference is Europe's largest fair dedicated to the internationalization of higher education.

Over 20 Alliances, representing more than 200 higher education institutions, gathered around the European Commission stand as pioneers of a new paradigm of cooperation and internationalisation in Higher Education, showcasing their collaborative efforts and the impact created on topics such as mobility or new joint programmes. Dorothy Kelly, as Arqus Coordinator, participated in two sessions: "Connecting education

research: How European Universities Initiative alliances are contributing to bridging the gap" and "Blueprint for a European degree".

Prior to the initiation of the Conference, the University of Toulouse and the Occitanie region organised a side event on the internationalisation of European Universities Alliances. Titled "Internationalisation of European Universities Alliances: the new frontiers", the event explored why and how European Universities Alliances build strategic partnerships with institutions and stakeholders beyond the European Union. Dorothy Kelly participated as moderator in the main plenary session. Fernando Galán played the role of rapporteur on the final panel session.

Conference on the European Degree and the Higher Education Package in Madrid

30 September 2024

The EDLab pilot project organised a national conference on the European Degree and the Higher Education Package, in collaboration with the EELISA Alliance.

The Conference, hosted at the Technical University of Madrid

(UPM), took place on 30 September. The objective was to disseminate the content of the Higher Education Package published by the European Commission in March 2024 and to contribute to the debate on the translation of these proposals to the national environment.

The Conference counted with the presentation of the package of proposals by Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of the Unit in charge of European Higher Education policies and programmes at the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. Other contributors to the following panels were the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Quality Agencies, the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities, the European University alliances with Spanish participation, student representatives and the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education.



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European University Alliance

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