

# 2026 Arqus Annual Conference

## “Voices of Impact: Weaving Stories Across Europe”

7-9 July 2026  
Maynooth University

Expected arrival day:

- 6 July for the Student Council, the Comms Team, and any group planning to meet on 7 July.
- 7 July for the rest.

Expected departure day: 10 July.

Main 2026 Arqus Annual Conference days:

- **Wednesday, 8 July:** Day 1 - full day
- **Thursday, 9 July:** Day 2 - full day

Venue of the plenary sessions: LT2 in the TSI building.

**Tuesday, 7 July** (*Annual Conference Day 0*)

**Retreats and Delegation Arrival Day**

*Student Council Retreat | Comms Team meeting  
Delegations arrival*

**09:00–18:00**    **WG internal meetings**

**19:30**    *Dinner Executive Council and International Advisory Board  
Stone Haven Restaurant  
Rectors’ Council Dinner  
Barber Town Castle Hotel*

### Wednesday, 8 July (Annual Conference Day 1)

Location of plenary sessions: LT2 in the TSI building

<b>08:00–09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>08:30–09:30</b>	<b>Networking breakfast</b>	
<b>09:30–10:15</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <i>Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University. Dorothy Kelly, Alliance Coordinator.</i>	
<b>10:15–11:30</b>	<b>Plenary session I – Journeys of Change: Personal Stories from the Heart of Europe</b> <i>Moderator: Rector Pedro Arezes (University of Minho, Arqus). Speakers: Erivelton Nepomuceno (Maynooth University, Arqus), Sharon Ferguson (EU Green Alliance, Atlantic Technological University), Elena Diana Radoi (graduated Arqus Master in Europea Studies). Rapporteur: Vanessa Alves (University of Minho, Arqus).</i>	
<b>11:30–11:45</b>	Coffee break	
<b>11:45–13:00</b>	<b>Plenary session II – Redefining the University: Institutional Transformation Through European Alliances</b> <i>Moderator: Rector Eva Inés Oberfell (Leipzig University, Arqus). Speakers: Martha Brandes (Maynooth University, Arqus), Fernando Galán (EU-CONEXUS), Adriana Miele (University of Lyon 1, Arqus). Rapporteur: Ninon Böhme (Leipzig University, Arqus).</i>	
<b>13:00–14:30</b>	Lunch with Campus or Cultural Tours	
<b>14:30–15:45</b>	<b>Plenary session III – Universities as Policy Shapers: Driving Change Through European Alliances</b> <i>Moderator: President Bruno Lina (University of Lyon 1, Arqus) Speakers: Susanne Conze (European Commission), Josep Maria Garrell (EUA), Caroline Censier-Calmus (French Ministry), Lana Par (ESU). Rapporteur: Dana-Maria Daia (University of Lyon 1, Arqus)</i>	
<b>15:45–16:10</b>	Coffee break	
<b>16:10–17:30</b>	<b>Education Board meeting</b>	<b>Societal engagement Board meeting</b>
	<b>Chair and Vice-Chair of the ExC with co-leads of transversal Working Groups</b>	<b>R&amp;I Board meeting</b>
	<b>RC &amp; IAB meeting</b>	<b>Other internal meetings</b>
<b>19:00</b>	Vivaldi - Gloria	
<b>19:30</b>	Gala dinner <i>Location: Pugin Hall</i>	

## **Thursday, 9 July** *(Annual Conference Day 2)*

*Location of plenary sessions: LT2 in the TSI building*

- 07:30–08:45**    **ExC meeting**
- 08:00–08:45**    **Networking breakfast**
- 08:45–09:00**    **Opening and recap**
- 09:00–10:15**    **Plenary session IV – *Beyond Borders: European Universities and Their Societal Footprint***  
*Moderator: Rector Rimvydas Petrauskas (Vilnius University, Arqus).*  
*Speakers: Ricardo Araújo (Mayor of Guimarães), Piotr Kepski (NAWA), Mattia Sartor (AIRFARM SRLS).*  
*Rapporteur: Julija Savickė (Vilnius University, Arqus).*
- 10:15–11:15**    **Arqus Awards ceremony**  
 Teaching Excellence Awards, Open Science Awards, Innovators Award
- 11:15–11:30**    Group picture
- 11:30–11:45**    Coffee break
- 11:30–16:00**    **Rector's Council meeting**  
*TSI Boardroom*
- 11:45–13:00**    **Cultural activities**
- Irish Sport Demonstration
  - Irish Céilí Dancing Demonstration
- 13:00–14:00**    Lunch
- 14:00–16:00**    **Internal meetings and/or Working Group meetings**
- 16:00–17:00**    **Closing session**  
*Member of the Arqus Student Council.*  
*IAB member*  
*Announcement next AAC*  
*Dorothy Kelly, current Alliance Coordinator.*  
*Guadalupe Soriano, Alliance Coordinator from 1 October 2026*  
*Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University.*

*Self-organised dinners*