

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE

Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this agreement is to build and strengthen strategic level partnership and long-term cooperation between the Parties, and to create a European University Alliance.

The Parties aim to seek a formal European University Alliance status and funding under the European Universities Initiative.

The name of the University Alliance shall be Risen University Alliance and it shall concentrate especially on sustainable entrepreneurship utilising six different focus areas (Hubs) defined by the Parties.

Strategic cooperation will be the aim also in other fields insofar agreed by the Parties.

Parties of the Agreement

- 1) Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- 2) Institute of Technology Sligo, Ireland
- 3) JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- 4) KdG University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Belgium
- 5) Óbuda University, Hungary
- 6) University of Sannio, Italy

Contents of the Agreement

Consistently with the European Commission communication (on 30th of September 2020) on achieving the European Education Area by 2025, this Risen University Alliance (hereinafter referred to as Alliance) will concentrate on closer and deeper cooperation between higher education institutions and the Parties will be acting as knowledge square, i.e. in education, research, innovation and service to society.

The main functions of the Alliance will be as follows:

- 1) In education the Parties will develop flexible study paths, modules and modular joint programmes in entrepreneurship and focus areas, increase life-long and digital pedagogy and learning possibilities and transnational study possibilities for European Degree.
- 2) In research the Parties will develop together long-term strategic R&D in focus areas and on entrepreneurship, specializing in sustainable entrepreneurship.
- 3) In innovation the Parties will create mechanisms for staff and student -based innovation, start up's and cooperation with local industries.
- 4) In service to society Hubs unite the HEI's with local industries and other stakeholders.

To carry out these functions

the parties will establish six focus areas (Hubs), which include education, R&D and innovation. Hubs will also be the key element for Service to society. Each Hub will be led by one Party and other Parties join the Hubs with relevant expertise.

In addition to these main functions the Alliance will promote overall student wellbeing and accelerate the mobility of students, staff and other stakeholders, paying attention to the physical, virtual and blended mobility. Mobility serves all the main functions of the Alliance.

The Parties will actively apply for funds from the European Commission and other sources. The Parties will allocate co-funding as agreed.

Organisation of the Alliance

Organising the necessary functions to the Alliance will be based on equality of the Parties. The necessary organs for the Alliance in its early stage are:

- **Rectors' Council**, consisting of all Rectors with one of the Rectors acting as a chairperson.
- **Alliance Management Team** consisting of representatives of university management (e.g. Vice Rectors, Directors etc.) appointed by the Rectors, one of them acting as a chairperson.
- **Teams for the main functions (Education, R&D, Innovation, Hubs) and Mobility**. Alliance Management Team members act as chairpersons for the teams. Staff members, students and other stakeholders are appointed to teams as team members.

The roles of the organs as well as chairpersons and members will be introduced by the Alliance Management Team for acceptance-by the Rectors' Council.

The organisation will be evaluated annually, and if necessary, modified by the decision of Rectors' Council.

Strategic planning

The Alliance will develop its Strategy during 2021 to provide the basis of cooperation for the Parties. This Strategy also works as a basis for European Universities -application to the European Commission (as Mission Statement). The strategy will be thereafter renewed every second year.

Entry in the Force, Term and Termination

This Agreement shall enter into force after all Parties have signed it.

New partners can be admitted by unanimous decision by the Rectors' Council.

A Party may leave the Alliance by submitting a written notice to the other Parties if Parties have been unsuccessful in their Erasmus+ European Universities application.

When none of the Parties decide to leave, the Parties will automatically renew their commitments in view of the next application round.

Other conditions

All the Parties will be responsible for their own costs, if not otherwise agreed by written agreement.

The Parties are not allowed to join any other European University Alliance within the Erasmus + European Universities initiative.

This Agreement can only be modified by a written agreement signed by authorized representatives of the Parties

Signatures

Signatures by Rectors, each on separate page.

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