

14-15th September 2023

II FORUM of European Universities Alliances

THEMATIC SESSION IV

Thursday 14th September 16:45h-18:15h

Monitoring framework for the EUI

INTRODUCTION

As the pilot Alliances are transitioning towards their consolidation phases with a new period of European funding, the European Commission has now launched a Monitoring Framework of the European Universities initiative to assess its progress and transformational potential as a whole and provide an evidence base for funding post 2027. This session will address all the dimensions of the current version of the Monitoring Framework as well as its evolution and impact on the future of the initiative.

Monitoring the progress of the European Universities Initiative is important to show the outcomes and transformative potential of the Initiative. When developing a monitoring framework for the European Universities Initiative, a sensible and weighed choice of criteria and/or indicators is necessary to measure concrete impact in the overall context of the initiative.

Developing a single monitoring Framework reflecting the wide diversity of European Universities alliances, with different starting baselines and focus areas, is absolutely key..

Also, a holistic approach is important, covering all missions of universities and alliances. It must be avoided that European University Alliances are subject to different monitoring frameworks going forward.

Furthermore, achieving impact is the ambition of all Alliances, but realising impact takes time. Therefore, it is important to take progress along the pathway to impact into account during the first years, realising investments and activities when working towards real impact. Given the early stages of development of the initiative and its activities, it is crucial to implement a framework capable of capturing both expected and unexpected outcomes. To do so, the perspectives and experiences of participants, learners and Associated Partners and society actors have to be taken into account as well, for example by implementing follow-up mechanisms such as end-of-stay reports, quality assurance surveys, etc.

The Member States and the European Commission have defined the global objectives of the initiative, and each Alliance has defined a strategic mission, vision and own objectives to align and contribute to some of the global objectives. Accordingly, it would be important that criteria and/or indicators and narratives for monitoring allow for reflecting the various missions, visions and objectives of all Alliances. This would support the creative and innovative potential that was being pushed by the setting up of the initiative. Any future Monitoring Framework would surely benefit from remaining sufficiently flexible to allow for shifting policy priorities as well as other external dynamics.

Finally, using existing data coming from proposals, reporting documents, survey input, joint activities, etc. would help to control the overall workload for the Alliances.

PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

The session will cover the general and specific aspects of the Monitoring Framework described below, with a panel composed of Policymakers and High-Level representatives of Alliances.

The future monitoring framework would surely need to reflect the broader framework conditions that European University Alliances are navigating, notably existing legal and administrative barriers to transnational collaboration as well as different funding levels and frameworks, which can pose a challenge for cooperation and affect progress. At the same time, such an exercise also poses a good opportunity to take stock of new regulatory and policy initiatives taken at regional and national levels to facilitate transnational collaboration.

Mobility of the whole community (students, administrative and academic staff), is a crucial component of the work of Alliances. Innovative models of enhanced mobility need to be recognised, and contextualising Alliances' efforts is key, taking into account the relative improvement, as well as blended/short/virtual offers.

Innovating education and creating joint educational models is another crucial topic for Alliances to deliver on. This goes beyond the potential work on a joint European degree. It also relates to novel pedagogies, challenge-based education and making education more flexible and personal. How to measure education innovation is a potential challenge.

The same applies to promoting European values and identity, supporting the digital and green transition, and inclusivity. How to monitor progress in these fields while respecting academic freedom and institutional autonomy?

The Alliances are also developing unprecedented activities that create synergy between all dimensions of the Knowledge Square (education, research, innovation, service to society) and this it would surely be an added value if reflected in the Monitoring Framework.

The impact of the European Universities initiative will be the result of joint forces: European policymakers, Member States, the Alliances, the individual higher education institutions and all Associated Partners from public and private sectors. Accordingly, close collaboration between and commitment of the different actors is needed, and the criteria and/or indicators cannot only be linked to the Alliances' sole performance but need to additionally reflect the role played by all stakeholders in this ecosystem. The impact of Alliances' dissemination mechanisms to engage with civil society is another dimension that could be reflected in the Monitoring Framework.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

The session will start with a presentation of the current structure and content of the Monitoring Framework as it was now introduced to the pilot Alliances.

The panel will then comment and reflect on the relevance of the current Monitoring Framework and its potential evolution, with respect to the following topics (without limitation):

- How to assess the progress and impact of the pilot Alliances and the European Universities initiative as a whole?
- How to ensure that the diversity of Alliances is respected in the Monitoring Framework?
- How to include the manifold dimensions of Alliances' activities: administration, mobility, education, research, innovation, link with Associated Partners and Citizens, etc.?
- How to best combine qualitative and quantitative criteria and/or indicators?
- How to best use the results of the Monitoring Framework for building a relevant Investment Pathway in view of the funding post 2027?

SESSION OUTCOMES

The session started with a thorough presentation of the current Monitoring Framework with the objective to assess the progress and impact of the European Universities initiative and provide evidence base for funding post 2027.

The panel members commented the Monitoring Framework and discussed on the definition of progress (project-related, short term, associated to the results achieved by internal actors of the project) versus impact (associated to the effects on stakeholders, mid-to-long term).

It was agreed by the panel members that the Monitoring Framework should capture the diversity of Alliances and their manifold dimensions. It should also be based on a good balance between qualitative and quantitative criteria and indicators, for instance in the form a “narrative with numbers”.

It was finally concluded that if the Monitoring Framework is well performed and well analysed, it could be a great opportunity for Alliances to prove the important impact they have already achieved on the higher education system and on society at large.

PARTICIPANTS

MODERATOR

Ludovic Thilly. Coordinator. EC2U European University Alliance.

Ludovic Thilly is Vice-Rector of the University of Poitiers, France, since 2012. He is the Coordinator General of the EC2U Alliance since 2020; he has coordinated the preparatory work and submission of the EC2U E+ projects in 2020 and 2023. He is also the Coordinator of the companion EC2U H2020 project (RI4C2).



Ludovic Thilly is the Chair of FOREU2 (group of 24 pilot II Alliances) and the Chair of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group of Universities (since 2017). He is a Member of several Expert Groups at the European Commission (DG EAC and DG RTD). Ludovic Thilly is Full Professor of Physics and active Coordinator of several national and international research projects.

PARTICIPANTS

PANELISTS

Vanessa Debiais-Sainton. Head of the Higher Education Unit. European Commission.

Vanessa Debiais-Sainton is Head of the Unit in charge of European higher Education policies and programme at the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. The unit is the lead service for the development and implementation of the European Education Area's higher education dimension, including the European Strategy for Universities presented in January 2022. This includes the development and implementation of flagship initiatives such as: 'European Universities' alliances, a joint European degree, the European student card initiative, a European Approach to Micro-credentials, the automatic recognition of higher education qualifications, tracking graduates and the higher education strand of Erasmus+. In previous posts in the European Commission, Vanessa has worked in DG Research and Innovation. Before moving to the European Commission in 2006, Vanessa spent eight years working for several chemical companies.

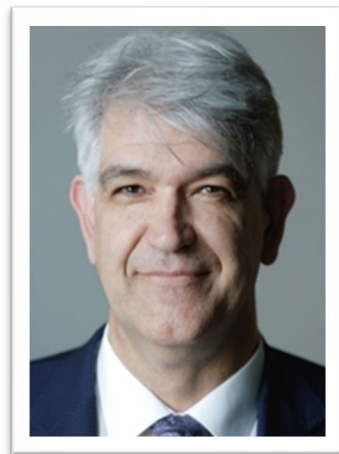


PARTICIPANTS

Peter Lievens. Coordinator. Una Europa Alliance.

He is Professor of Experimental Physics at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science, KU Leuven, Belgium. After his PhD at KU Leuven in nuclear physics (1991) he was Fellow at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland before returning to Belgium in 1993 to switch research topics towards nanoscience and experimental quantum physics as Postdoctoral Researcher of the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO).

He obtained tenure in 2001 as Research Professor and is Full Professor at KU Leuven since 2007. The focus of his work is on investigations of physical and chemical properties of atomic clusters and nanoparticles. In 2008 he became Vice Dean for Education of the Faculty of Science, where he got elected as Dean, taking office from 2009 until 2017. Since August 2017 he is Vice Rector at KU Leuven, currently responsible for International Policy, Interculturality and Alumni Policy.



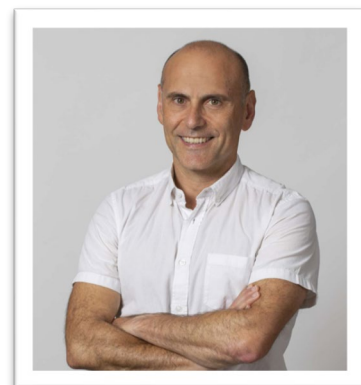
PARTICIPANTS

Igor Campillo. Director of Euskampus Fundazioa. ENLIGHT Alliance.

Igor Campillo is the executive director of [Euskampus Fundazioa](#), and leads the Impact Task Force of the European University Network to promote equitable quality of life, sustainability and global engagement through Higher education transformation, [ENLIGHT](#).

Igor Campillo has a PhD in Physics from the University of the Basque Country ([UPV/EHU](#)), and a Master in Journalism and Science Communication from the [Spanish Open University](#). He worked as assistant professor in the Faculty of Science and Technology of the UPV / EHU, as international projects manager in Gamesa Energy, as researcher and project manager at LABEIN-Tecnalia, as projects and outreach manager in the Nanoscience Cooperative Research Center - nanoGUNE, as manager of the nanoBasque Strategy in the Basque Business Development Agency - SPRI, and as director of the Technological Institute of the University of Deusto - DeustoTech.

Igor Campillo is co-author of more than 70 international scientific publications indexed in the Web of Knowledge and co-author of 3 patents extended to several countries (Europe, USA and China). He has been recently acknowledged as one of the [Spanning Boundaries Champions](#) for university-industry-society cooperation by the [UIIN](#).



PARTICIPANTS

Laura Delvaux. Vice-Director of the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability. EU-CONEXUS Alliance.

She is the Vice-Director of the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) coordinated by La Rochelle Université (France). She graduated from a Master in political science and international relations in the Law School of the University of Clermont-Ferrand (France) and the University of Quebec in Montreal (Canada) in 2014.

Over the last 10 years, she has worked in a consulting company helping businesses, NGOs and public institutions to get public and private fundings. Then, she got specialized in European funds, helping researchers to get European funds for their research projects. She also managed the financial and administrative launch of the ERDF-funded project “MiMedi” gathering 10 private and public partners with a budget of 13.6 million Euros (Laboratory FEMTO-ST, France).

She started in 2019 as a project manager in the general coordination team of EU-CONEXUS. She was responsible for implementation of project activities and development of complementary EU-CONEXUS projects. Since 2022 she has been coordinating the multiple activities of the Alliance and its sub-projects as Vice-Director of the European University. She has also been the Chair of the subgroup “Project Management” of the FOREU 1 group from February 2022 until September 2023.



PARTICIPANTS

Fernando Galán. Consortium Manager. ARQUS Alliance.

Fernando Galán is the Consortium Manager of the Arqus European University Alliance and has over 10 years' experience working on European higher education policies.

Before joining Arqus, Fernando was head of international engagement at Crue Universidades Españolas, the Spanish rectors' conference. He has also worked as policy officer at EURASHE, the European Association of Higher Education Institutions offering professional oriented programmes, and as President of the European Students' Association (ESU), being responsible for the coordination of its policy work. Fernando has been a member of the governing bodies of the European Higher Education Area/Bologna Process, quality assurance agencies and of different expert groups from the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the OECD, among others. In these roles, he has contributed to relevant documents at European level in the field of higher education, such as the Ministerial Communiqués, the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the Higher Education Area (ESG 2015), several EU initiatives, such as U-Multirank, and the work of UNESCO and the Council of Europe on the recognition of qualifications.

In addition, Fernando has participated as a speaker at several prestigious institutions (e.g. Harvard University), published several articles and collaborated in several books on European higher education policies.



PARTICIPANTS

Kevin Guillaume. Secretary General. Circle U. Alliance.

He has been Secretary General of Circle U. since September 2021. Circle U. is an inclusive, research-intensive and interdisciplinary European university alliance. The alliance consists of nine flagship universities in Europe with a shared dedication to the long-term transformational process of this unique collaboration. As Secretary General, Kevin is in charge of the day-to-day management of Circle U. legal entity and ensure the sustainable and strategic development of the alliance. Kevin Guillaume holds a master' degree in political sciences (international relations) from UCLouvain and advanced master's degree in political economics from KU Leuven. After first professional experiences in Chile and Brazil, Kevin started his career at the Ministry for higher education and research in the French-speaking Community of Belgium. As head of unit, Kevin was mainly in charge of the follow-up and implementation of European and international policy developments in higher education, including the Bologna Process. During this period, he serves as Vice-president then President of the ENIC Network. Kevin was then appointed director for international relations at the newly-established Academy of Research and Higher Education in the French-speaking Belgium. For the umbrella organisation representing universities, colleges and art schools, he coordinated the various initiatives, projects, actions in support of the internationalisation of those higher education institutions. In those various positions, Kevin Guillaume has acquired extensive knowledge and experience in specific fields such as internationalisation, mobility, quality assurance, recognition, governance, etc. He has been invited as expert at several occasions by the European Commission, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, EUA, EURASHE. In June 2022, Kevin was decorated *Knight of the Order of Academic Palms* by the French Government.

