



The strong and united voice of universities  
of science and technology in Europe

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IN MOTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

LEUVEN, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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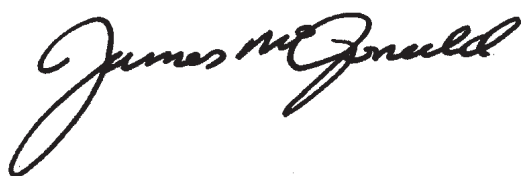
## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2018, CESAER - [the strong and united voice of universities of Science & Technology \(S&T\) in Europe](#) - has moved quickly to implement our new collaborative leadership structure, increased the participation of our Members and started new work across a number of key strategic areas. This puts into practice our intent, set out in the Work Plan 2018-2019, of [acceleration](#), [engagement](#) and [collaboration](#). I am delighted that, alongside our Directors, I have been able to work with Vice President colleagues for [Research](#), for [Education](#), for [Innovation & Impact](#), for [Leadership & Sustainability](#), and for [Resources](#). We have organised and refocused our task forces into these themes and introduced advisory committees so support the Vice Presidents. We have revised our approach to financial reporting and planning. Importantly, we have had constructive dialogue with European institutions such as the Commission, including Commissioner Carlos Moedas on the plans for Horizon Europe, and Commissioner Corina Crețu on regional development funds.

I am delighted to present you this Annual Report 2018 summarising our work and the impact created in the last year to demonstrate how we are contributing to European policies and programmes in research, education and innovation. Together with my colleagues in the Presidency and the Board, we look forward to continuing our success in 2019 and beyond.

With the political, economic, societal and technological challenges we currently face in the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there has never been a better time for our association to show leadership and make contributions to Europe that add value and demonstrate the distinctive role of universities of S&T.

CESAER is working well, thanks to the hard work of its staff, the collaboration of its Members, and the collective vision, expertise, experience and energy that we share.



[Professor Sir Jim McDonald](#)

President of CESAER

Principal & Vice Chancellor University of Strathclyde





## FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

We continued to expand the vibrant network of staff from over fifty universities of S&T from twenty six countries. Together, we connected to a wide range of stakeholders - including policy-makers, politicians and funders. We thus voiced the interests of our Members on key topics and developments in European policies and programmes for research, education and innovation with a dedicated focus on research and the EU funding programmes. For example, we are delighted that Karel Luyben (our Vice President for Research) is representing our [Members](#), the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities ([ALLEA](#)) and the European University Association ([EUA](#)) as chairman of the Executive Board of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

Our various [publications](#) testify our collective representation on key issues to senior policy-makers and funders at heart of (European) decision-making. They also demonstrate our direct support taking forward specific collaborative activities and initiatives which strengthen our collective position in relation to learning and teaching, research excellence and innovation, leadership, and strategic influence. In 2019, we have notably published our first two white papers complementing our positions stimulating debate, setting agendas, addressing specific (societal) challenges and providing guidance. You may expect more of those from us in the future to strengthen our authoritative and executive capacity and our profile as a thought-leader.

Building on the achievements in 2017 - such as adopting a Strategy 2025 and amending our Articles of Association - we delivered an even more effective, efficient and supportive membership organisation through the launch of a new website and information systems with exclusive access for our Members. Last year was a landmark year for us through the expansion of the Secretariat to four full-time equivalents.

Benefits to our Members also include an attractive range and programme of events, such as the CESAER Annual Meetings 2018 kindly hosted by the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest and the many events of our task forces and governing bodies.



[David Bohmert](#)  
CESAER Secretary General



STRONG

Our Members educate just over

**1 million students**

of which over 160,000 (16%) are international



We unite and employ over

**86,000 academic staff**

Our Members were awarded

**2 billion euros**

worth of European research projects



Including

**500 ERC Projects**  
**1,000 MSCA Fellowships**  
**4,000 Collaborative Projects**

UNITED

Within our Members, we reach out to over

**500 staff**



Together, they are involved over

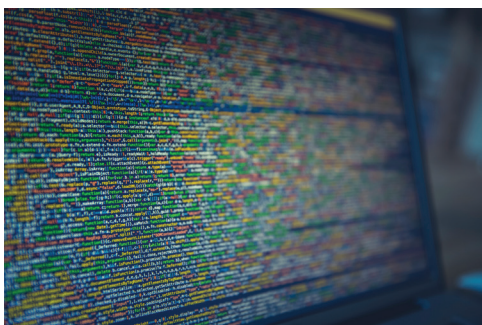
**900 times**

in our task forces and governing bodies

We published our

**first two white papers  
ever**

on Sharing experiences with Human Resources Strategy for Researchers and on The role of universities of S&T in innovation ecosystems



**15 statements & letters**

were published, advancing CESAER's united voice and defending the prioritisation of research, education and innovation in Europe



## MISSION, ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS

### MISSION

The mission is structured around five aims:

- **to learn from each other:** share information and best practice in the areas of higher education, research, innovation and university governance;
- **to influence key bodies:** aid policy-makers and funders to shape European strategies, policies and funding programmes;
- **to boost participation in (European) funding programmes;**
- **to promote our strengths globally:** support our Members in displaying their excellence and distinctiveness at European level and beyond;
- **to advance debate on key issues:** promote reflection and understanding of the role of science and technology in open knowledge societies.

### ACTIVITIES

We carry out activities connected with our five aims:

- share experiences, identify best practice and provide guidance;
- deploy task forces and (ad hoc) committees;
- organise events, such as meetings, workshops and conferences;
- monitor European policies and programmes and inform the Members about them;
- undertake consultations and surveys amongst Members and define, voice and represent their collective interests and contributions;
- publish press releases, input, statements and papers;
- liaise with European institutions and stakeholders;
- support communication of the Members in Europe and beyond;
- liaise with the Members and encourage the embedding of activities within the institutions;
- improve the functioning of our Association.



### BENEFITS

We provide the following benefits to our Members:

- unrivalled access to and exchange with networks of staff in like-minded institutions;
- connections to and influence on wide range of stakeholders, including policy-makers, politicians and funders;
- direct support to take forward specific collaborative activities and initiatives which strengthen our collective position in relation to learning and teaching, research excellence and innovation, leadership, and strategic influence;
- creating influential voice on behalf of Members, which takes account of range of needs and positions;
- collective representation on key issues to senior policy-makers and funders at heart of (European) decision-making, enabling us to lobby and influence effectively as group, and which also provides support where required for national representations;
- delivering effective, efficient and supportive membership organisation;
- offering attractive range and programme of events.



## CESAER ANNUAL MEETINGS 2018

From 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October, the representatives and leaders from our Members discussed the future of S&T at the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest (UPB). We gathered to celebrate the bicentennial year of UPB, celebrating 200 years of its mission to impact society for the better. Moreover, 2018 was a milestone year in the Romanian history, as it marked a century since the formation of the modern Romanian state. Finally, the gathering was timely with a view on the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2019.

The event thus emphasised the value of European collaboration in research, education and innovation for the benefit of society. Key topics discussed included the role of universities of S&T in research and innovation infrastructures and the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the next generation of EU funding instruments.

Our Board met with the European Commissioner for Regional Development Ms Corina Crețu whose speech emphasised the need for stronger incentives for research, the private sector, higher education institutions and public authorities to work together to scale-up and commercialise new ideas.

The CAM 2018 included an attractive range of programmes and events, such as seven workshops supporting the ongoing work of the our task forces and a conference on 'Engines of Excellence, Talent and Innovation' and the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> October.





## OUR MEMBERS IN 2019

Aalborg University - Denmark  
Aalto University - Finland  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev - Israel  
Brno University of Technology - Czechia  
Budapest University of Technology and Economics - Hungary  
Chalmers University of Technology - Sweden  
*Communauté Université Grenoble Alpes* - France  
Czech Technical University in Prague - Czechia  
Delft University of Technology - Netherlands  
*Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne* - Switzerland  
ETH Zurich - Switzerland  
Gdańsk University of Technology - Poland

Ghent University - Belgium  
Graz University of Technology - Austria  
*Institut National des Sciences Appliquées Lyon* - France  
*Instituto Superior Técnico* - Portugal  
Istanbul Technical University - Turkey  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology - Germany  
Kaunas University of Technology - Lithuania  
KTH Royal Institute of Technology - Sweden  
KU Leuven - Belgium  
*Leibniz Universität Hannover* - Germany  
Lund University - Sweden  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology - Norway  
Paris Institute of Technology - France  
*Politecnico di Milano* - Italy





*Politecnico di Torino* - Italy

Poznan University of Technology - Poland

Riga Technical University - Latvia

RWTH Aachen University - Germany

Tallinn University of Technology - Estonia

Technical University of Madrid - Spain

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology - Israel

*Technische Universität Berlin* - Germany

*Technische Universität Braunschweig* - Germany

*Technische Universität Darmstadt* - Germany

*Technische Universität Dresden* - Germany

Tomsk Polytechnic University - Russia

TU Wien - Austria

*Universidade NOVA de Lisboa* - Portugal

*Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya* - Spain

*Universitat Politècnica de València* - Spain

*Université Catholique de Louvain* - Belgium

*Université Paris-Saclay* - France

University College Dublin - Ireland

University of Porto - Portugal

University of Sheffield - United Kingdom

University of Strathclyde - United Kingdom

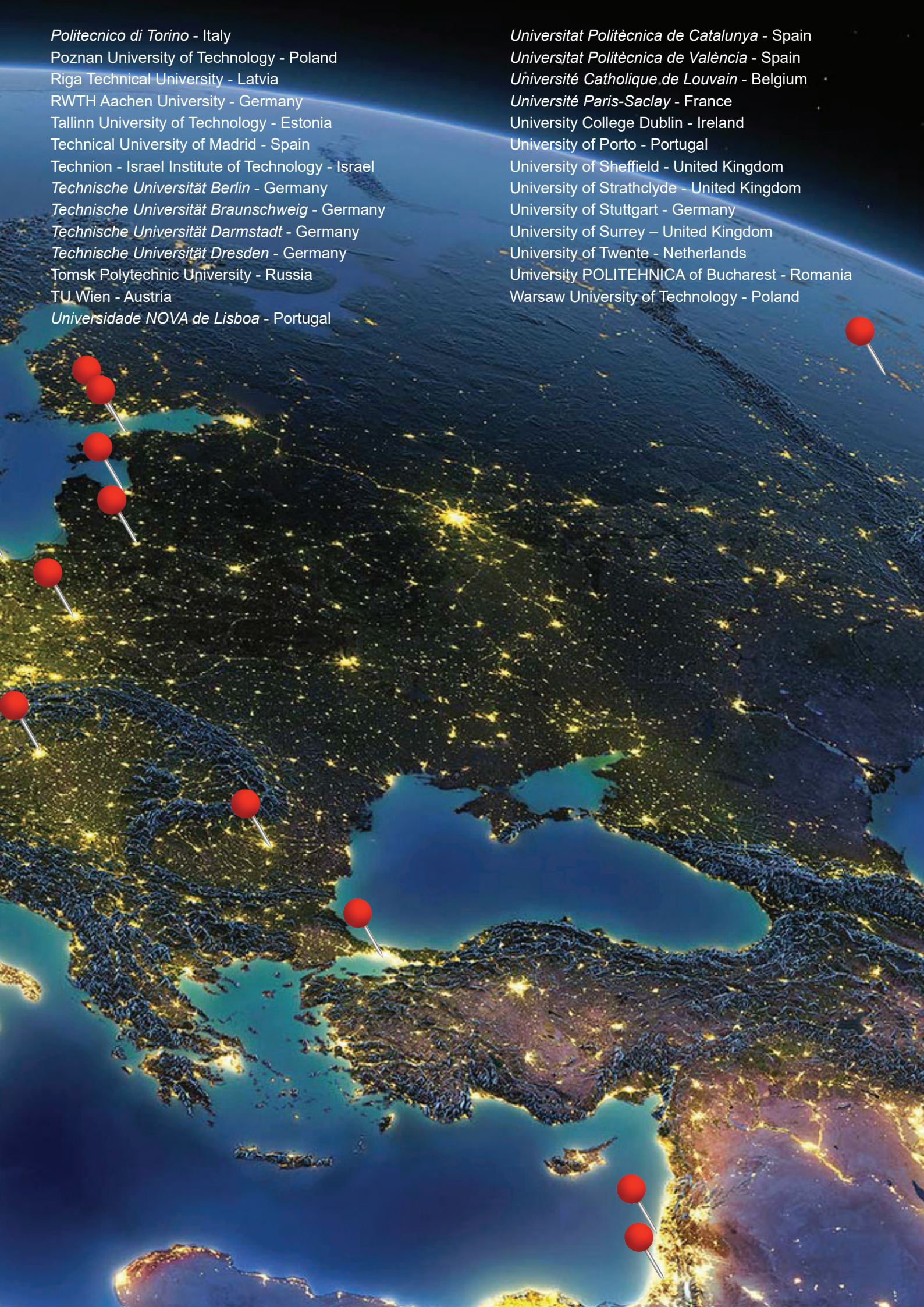
University of Stuttgart - Germany

University of Surrey – United Kingdom

University of Twente - Netherlands

University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest - Romania

Warsaw University of Technology - Poland





## PRESIDENCY 2018-2019

The Presidency is composed of the President and five Vice Presidents. One of the Vice Presidents acts as Treasurer. The Presidency is responsible for the ongoing affairs of the association and the preparation and implementation of the decisions by the General Assembly and the Board. The members of the Presidency are also members of the Board of Directors. In 2018, the Presidency was composed of:

### Sir Jim McDonald



**President**  
Principal & Vice Chancellor of  
University of Strathclyde

### Sigbritt Karlsson



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for Leadership & Sustainability**  
President KTH Royal Institute of  
Technology in Stockholm

### David FitzPatrick



**Vice-President for Resources & Treasurer Principal**  
Dean of Engineering at University  
College Dublin

### Wayne D. Kaplan



**Vice President for Innovation & Impact**  
Executive Vice President for  
Research of Technion - Israel  
Institute of Technology

### Karel Luyben



**Vice President for Research**  
Rector Magnificus Emeritus of Delft  
University of Technology

### Jurgita Šiugždinienė



**Vice President for Education**  
Advisor to Rector on Education of  
Kaunas University of Technology



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

Our association is governed by the Board consisting of Directors which are elected from amongst the Members. The Board enacts the decisions of the General Assembly and is vested with the widest powers with regard to the steering of the association not reserved for the General Assembly. In 2018, the following Directors completed our Board:



**Rajmund Bacewicz**

Director 2016-2019

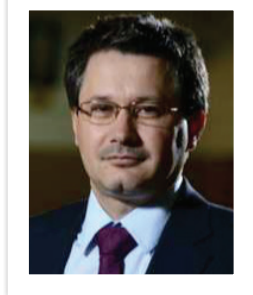
Vice-Rector for Research  
of Warsaw University of  
Technology



**Guillermo Cisneros  
Perez**

Director 2016-2019

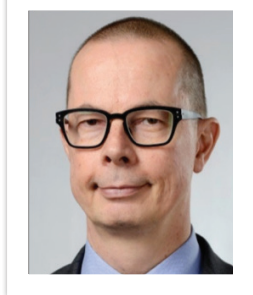
Rector Magnificus of Technical  
University of Madrid



**Mihnea Costoiu**

Director 2018-2021

Rector of University  
POLITEHNICA of Bucharest



**Anders Hagström**

Director 2016-2019

Director Global Education Affairs  
at ETH Zurich



**Holger Hanselka**

Director 2018-2021

President of Karlsruhe Institute  
of Technology



**Vojtěch Petráček**

Director 2016-2019

Rector of Czech Technical Univer-  
sity in Prague



**Arlindo Manuel  
Limede de Oliveira**

Director 2018-2021

President of *Instituto Superior  
Técnico*



**Rik Van de Walle**

Director 2018-2021

Rector of Ghent University



**Marc Zolver**

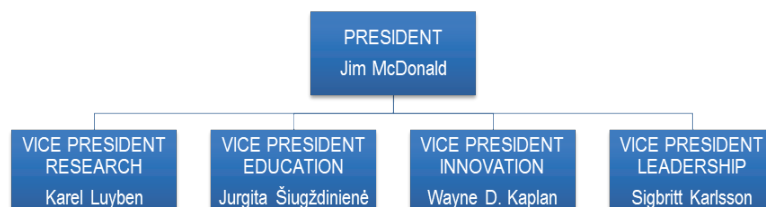
Director 2016-2019

Vice President for International  
Affairs at CentraleSupélec for  
*Université Paris-Saclay*

## FOUR STRATEGIC THEMES

Our work in 2018 was structured within four strategic themes each led by a Vice President:

1. Research
2. Education
3. Innovation and Impact
4. Leadership and Sustainability



## 1. RESEARCH

Excellent [Research](#) is at the core and focus of our association. To adequately reflect our Members' diverse contexts and perspectives, we define priorities through engagement of Members and wider stakeholders, linking to our association's strategic perspective and vision. The goal is that impact of activities goes beyond the institutional level and can have an influence on national as well as European structures and policies. The work under research is divided in three main areas:

1. a look into the future through the mapping of S&T defining trend in key scientific areas;
2. the implementation and adherence to open science by universities of S&T;
3. the role of universities in research and innovation infrastructures.

### TASK FORCE S&T IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

The Task Force S&T in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is a new body co-chaired by Marleen Stikker (*De Waag*) and Arlindo Oliveira. It will identify the drivers behind long-term trends in S&T in general with an initial focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), biotechnology and quantum technology.

### TASK FORCE OPEN SCIENCE

The Task Force Open Science advances the understanding and implementation of open science by our Members (researchers and support staff), with particular attention to Open Access (OA) to scientific publications and Research

Data Management (RDM). Karel Luyben (TU Delft) and Wilma van Wezenbeek (TU Delft) co-chair this task force of 41 persons from 30 Members. The task force aims at contributing to the following European OA goals to be achieved by 2020: First, push for full open access for all scientific publications. Second, a fundamentally new approach towards optimal research data management and reuse of research data: making good data stewardship and sharing the default approach for all publicly funded research. The Task Force has advanced cases studies on how different researchers approach data sharing. While focusing on RDM and OA, the task force will monitor the broader developments in open science, liaise with other relevant task forces on open education and open innovation and voice the interests of our Members.

### TASK FORCE RESEARCH & INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURES

The Task Force Research & Innovation Infrastructures supports our Members in affirming and furthering the role of universities of S&T in research and innovation infrastructures. Lars Börjesson (Chalmers) chairs this task force counting 19 persons from 16 Members. The task force published two statements in 2018, on Shaping the European Open Science Cloud, and Innovation Infrastructures. It also hosted a workshop and provided the central theme for a conference at CAM 2018, by the beginning of 2019, it has delivered a [white paper](#) on Universities of S&T as Engines of Excellence, Talent and Innovation - Roles in Research and Innovation Infrastructures.

## 2. EDUCATION

Our activities on [Education](#) focus on key topics of importance for our Members assuring human capital in S&T for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, ensuring employability of our graduates and improving career development of S&T graduates, and - in doing so - meeting the needs of business, industry, public services and society at large for skilled employees. We are working to influence the debate on the European Educational Area (EEA) and European University Networks and promote better understanding of the values of S&T programmes and degrees by business and industry and in view of the 'learning society'.

### TASK FORCE S&T EDUCATION FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

The Task Force S&T Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century supports our Members in assuring human capital in S&T for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, ensuring employability of our graduates and improving career development of S&T graduates. It addresses the following key areas:

1. human capital in S&T for 21<sup>st</sup> century;
2. interdisciplinary curricula;
3. opportunities for S&T universities to provide continuous education and professional development and up-skilling opportunities.

Ralph Bruder (TU Darmstadt) chairs this task force of 21 people from 18 Members.

### TASK FORCE COST OF STEAM EDUCATION

The Task Force Cost of STEAM Education is a new body and has recruited its first Chair, Thom Palstra (University of Twente). It creates an influential voice on behalf of the Members, enabling us to lobby and influence effectively as a group towards policy-makers and funders at the heart of European decision-making, and providing support where required for national representations.



### TASK FORCE MOBILITY

The Task Force Mobility promotes trust and cooperation amongst our Members to assure recognition of credits and degrees for student mobility (Lisbon Convention) and more opportunities for joint, double and dual degrees. We replied to the European Commission consultation on the mutual recognition of diplomas and study periods abroad, developing recommendations and a discussion paper on the topic. The task force jointly organised a successful session at ESOF 2018 in Toulouse on 'Open & responsible science & technology for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals' with the Task Force Ethics & Values, and organised a workshop on mutual recognition of diplomas and study periods abroad at CAM 2018.

Ravindranathan Thampi (UCD) and Monika Sester (Hannover) co-chair the task force with 31 persons from 23 Members.



### 3. INNOVATION AND IMPACT

Through [Innovation and Impact](#), we are pursuing opportunities to establish a distinct profile for our association, testifying the close collaboration of our Members with business, industry and public services directed towards delivering tangible economic, social and societal impact and skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including innovative and entrepreneurial mind-sets. Our particular focus is on innovation ecosystems, knowledge exchange and impact. Universities need to fully evaluate the impact of their innovation on society, and establish mechanisms to maximise this impact. The real issue to address is how to create value for business, industry, public services and society at large. Therefore, collaboration between different entities in research and innovation cycles is crucial. Universities are the basis of knowledge production and training of the professionals, researchers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

#### TASK FORCE INNOVATION

The Task Force Innovation supports the Members by addressing the strategic positioning of universities of S&T in innovation ecosystems, their relation with industry and governments. Tim Bedford (Strathclyde) and Bram Wijlands (RWTH Aachen) co-chair this task force of 30 persons from 24 Members and Yvonne Kinnaird (Strathclyde) acts as its Secretary. In 2018, the task force completed surveys on the role of universities in innovation ecosystems on innovative mind-sets and case studies on role of universities in innovation ecosystems. Additionally, it undertook a questionnaire on best practices on intellectual property management. It held a joint workshop with the Joint Research Centre on Regional Innovation Impact Assessment Framework of Universities and a workshop on Role of Universities in Innovation Ecosystems organised at the CAM 2018. It published a [white paper](#) on the Role of Universities in Innovation Ecosystems.



#### TASK FORCE IMPACT & OUTREACH

The Task Force Impact & Outreach supports our Members to maximise impact and provide world-class training in core research and innovation competences. It aims at increasing our Member's visibility and working on their capacity building in innovation, impact, S&T research and communication management. Christine Ahrend (TU Berlin) chairs this task force.

## 4. LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

The theme [Leadership and Sustainability](#) provides significant added value to the network underpinning efforts and issues being faced by universities under [Research](#), [Education](#) and [Innovation and Impact](#). It supports our Members' ability to deliver their ambitions and to demonstrate their successes.

### TASK FORCE BENCHMARK

The Task Force Benchmark inspires and supports our Members optimising the depiction of performance in important rankings and sharing experiences on and data from rankings and metrics issues. Mads Nygård (NTNU) chairs this task force of 35 persons from 25 Members and Kristin Brekke (NTNU) acts as its Secretary. Rona Smith (Strathclyde) leads the work on the Annual Member Monitor and Per-Eric Thörnström (Chalmers) leads the work on next generation metrics. The Task Force organised a workshop on optimising bibliometrics for engineering and technology with Elsevier, and published a statement on Assess and Reward Europe's Universities. Additionally it published the Annual Member Monitor 2018 and organised a workshop on next generation metrics during CAM 2018.

### TASK FORCE COMPETITIVE FUNDING

The Task Force Competitive Funding supports our Members in participating in and the shaping of European funding policies and programmes with specific focus on Horizon Europe and Erasmus and provide insights and share best practice concerning competitive funding from regional, national, European and international sources. Olivier Küttel (EPFL) chairs this task force of 35 persons from 22 Members and David Bohmert (CESAER) acts as its Secretary. The task force closely followed the developments next generation of EU funding instruments and published statements on the proposal for the Multi-annual Financial Framework from 2021 to 2027, Horizon Europe, and the next Erasmus programme.

### TASK FORCE ETHICS & VALUES

The Task Force Ethics & Values supports our Members in addressing the ethical challenges resulting from the scientific and technological developments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and provides guidance on how to optimise their contribution to contributing to finding solutions to United Nations



Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG). Jeroen van den Hoven (TU Delft) chairs this task force of 21 persons from 17 Members. In it co-organised a workshop on the contribution of S&T to the UN SDG during ESOF 2018.

### TASK FORCE HUMAN RESOURCES

The Task Force Human Resources inspires our Members in preparing and promoting talent for the 21<sup>st</sup> century through sharing best practice and organising events and training. The task force held a workshop on gender equality and diversity; launched and analysed of the Equality Survey 2018 and held a workshop on careers of early academics during CAM 2018. Notably, it published our first ever [white paper](#) on Sharing experiences with Human Resources Strategy for Researchers. Doris Klee (RWTH) chairs this task force of 32 persons from 23 Members.

### TASK FORCE LEADERSHIP

The Task Force Leadership reflects upon and reviews selected results from other task forces (white papers), contributes to the transformation of these results into leadership in a critical, yet constructive, fashion and advises the Board of Directors on leadership. It thus takes the lead in the conclusion of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with academic and societal players, processes white papers and works towards declarations. These MoU and declarations concern commitments on behalf of the Association offered by the Board of Directors for adoption to the General Assembly. Sarah Springman (ETH Zurich) chairs this task force composed of seven persons from seven Members.

## RESOURCES

The annual subscription 2018 amounted to € 9,000. The Annual Account for our fiscal year from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 was:

TYPE COSTS	COSTS
INTERNAL BODIES	76,000
SECRETARIAT	78,298
EVENTS	27,540
PROJECTS	3,000
ICT	19,985
ADMINISTRATION	13,433
SALARIES	436,637
TOTAL EXPENSES	654,893
INCOME	642,120
TOTAL INCOME	642,120
FROM RESERVE	12,773

## SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat ensures the execution and implementation of the decisions by the General Assembly, the Board and the Presidency and manages the daily operation of the association. The Secretariat has expanded to four full-time equivalents through the addition of a Senior Advisor for Research and a Communication & Education Officer.

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