

## The EELISA Governing Board meets in Paris to consolidate the alliance's strategy for the next period of Erasmus+ funding (2023-27).



EELISA Governing Board and Student Council members in Paris (November, 2022)

- The meeting is taking place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15 of November 2022 and is hosted by École des Ponts ParisTech and Université PSL .
- This key event will coincide in time and location with the second face-to-face meeting of the EELISA Student Council and the inauguration of the exhibition 'My European University' for the "EELISA Days".

14.11.2022

The European Universities initiative is pivotal to achieving the ambitious vision of an innovative, globally competitive and attractive European Education Area by 2025, in full synergy with the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area. The aim of such an initiative is to transform institutional cooperation between higher education institutions and to enable them to adapt to changing conditions, thrive and contribute to Europe's resilience and recovery. This is the framework which will work as an essential guide for the third in-person meeting of the EELISA (European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance) Governing Board in Paris.

Consolidating the strategic decisions for EELISA's Phase 2 is the main goal of this event that will gather Rectors, Directors and President of the nine universities of the alliance, along with representatives of EELISA students, faculty, staff and external advisors.

Thus, this Governing Board count on the participation of Anthony Briant, Director of l'École des Ponts ParisTech; Alain Fuchs, President of Université Paris Sciences et Lettres; Sabina Nuti, Rector of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna; Christian Lerminiaux, Director of Chimie ParisTech; Fabio Beltram in representation of Luigi Ambrosio, Director of the Scuola Normale Superiore; İsmail Koyuncu, president of İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi; Guillermo Cisneros, Rector of Universidad Politécnica de Madrid; Mihnea Costoiu, Rector of Universitatea Politehnica din București; Tibor Czigány, Rector of Budapest University of Technology and Economics, and Kathrin Möslin, Vice President of Outreach in representation of Joachim Hornegger, President of Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlange-Nürnberg.

Two external collaborators will also join the Board meeting: Research Scholar Wendy Purcell (Harvard University) and Jose Carlos Quadrado, Vice president of the European Network for the Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE), along with representatives from EELISA faculty, staff and students. EELISA President, Dale A. Martin, and the Executive Director of the Alliance, Sofia D'Aguiar, will be also part of this important gathering that will provide attendees with key background information on EELISA's works status of implementation and emphasize concrete results from Phase 1.

During this session, participants will also have the opportunity to meet Vanessa Debais-Sainton, Head of the Higher Education Unit of DG EAC, European Commission, who will be sharing a presentation on the recently launched 2023 Erasmus+ European Universities Call for proposals. This presentation will take place after the positive feedback from the European Commission on EELISA's Progress Report which highlighted the advancing of the Alliance towards its objectives.

This two-day event will be launched with a welcome speech by President of Université PSL, Alain Fuchs, on day one. "I am very pleased to open this governing board meeting, that takes place in a very sensitive and important time when Europe is confronted, more than ever, with crises of all kinds which question the responsibility of our universities to train young people who are committed and intellectually equipped to meet these challenges. Mobilising other disciplines, with the support of engineering schools, is a decisive step on the road to radical innovation: It fits into the heart of a global, interdisciplinary strategy with cross-learning of methods and best practices.", says Alain Fuchs, President of Université PSL.

Ecole des Ponts ParisTech Director, Anthony Briant will be in charge of opening the session of day 2. In his own words, "Ecole des Ponts Paristech is very proud to host the Governing Board of EELISA together with Université PSL. After having worked for the emergence of this European engineering alliance, to project it into a second momentum is very exciting, at a time when our world needs engineers more than ever to face the grand challenges of the ecological transition. The European scale allows us to have this impact, let's make EELISA the spearhead of a more sustainable and resilient society".

These keynote speeches will be followed by a roundtable in which the members of the Governing Board will share their expectations for EELISA. An inspirational moment that will pave the way to key decisions regarding the governance and structure of the Alliance, as well as its legal status, identity, strategic priorities and enlargement strategy.

In the words of EELISA President, Dale Martin, “EELISA’s renewed ambition, coupled with the experience of the first two years, requires us to keep working and to confirm our commitment to EELISA’s most innovative creations such as the EELISA Communities, the EELISA Credentials or the interdisciplinary approach to learning processes among others”.

“This event is of major importance to reach a common understanding on the status of implementation, risks and major milestones for our Alliance, and to make sure our strategy is aligned with the “European Universities” initiative of the European Commission”, says Sofia d’Aguiar, EELISA Executive Director.

Along with this Governing Board meeting, another important gathering will take place: the second in-presence [EELISA Student Council](#) meeting. Student representatives from all the EELISA partner universities met to discuss topics such as the functional organization of the Council, potential formulas and actions for the massive involvement of students in EELISA and the role of the Council for Phase 2 of the Alliance. This student meeting was preceded by a training session with Engineer and Doctor in Physics at ESPCI Paris - PSL Aurélien Baelde,

“Our goal is to implement the learnings from last year, bring them to the EELISA Governing Board and find ways to engage even more students in the future of EELISA!”, says Judith Wahl, Student Council Member.

The Governing Board and EELISA Student Council will also concur with the opening of the exhibition “My European University” on both PSL and ENPC campuses. An exhibition that will display portraits and testimonies of faculty, staff, students and collaborators already involved in EELISA. This showcase is part of the “[EELISA Days](#)” celebration that takes place from Nov. 10 to 17, 2022 - a full-week program of over twenty on-site, hybrid, and online activities hosted by each EELISA university in the context of the Elisa Leonida Zamfirescu’s birthday. From public conferences, to special workshops, to hackathons, exhibitions, and digital contests – a wide spectrum of events that will offer the opportunity to meet and experience EELISA

This exhibition will not be the only event that adds to the EELISA celebrations in Paris. On the occasion of this EELISA Governing Board meeting, the “Digital Twins for Infrastructures and Complex Ecosystem Programme”, laureate of the Europe Digital call for projects, will be launched with the presence of the representative of the Spanish embassy in France, and the partner companies.

This project, presented in framework of EELISA, has been developed by five of the EELISA partners: UPM, ENPC, BME, UPB and ITÜ. For UPM Rector, Guillermo Cisneros, “This project is an example of the limitless opportunities that our Universities can pursue to develop projects in specialised areas, unexplored niches.



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**EELISA**  
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EELISA provides the ideal umbrella to seek synergies and formulate projects, apply for funding, and create hubs of different geometry. I foresee this will become another building block of our Alliance, opening paths in many other disciplines and domains”.

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Some links of interest:

[What is EELISA](#)

[Members of EELISA](#)

[About EELISA Governance and Structure](#)

[Previous Governing Board photo albums](#)

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