

AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TAKES THE STAGE AT ESOF 2014

EuroTech Universities Alliance launches a magazine, debates MOOCs, and reinforces its European credentials.

The EuroTech Universities Alliance, an international partnership dedicated to producing new knowledge and translating it into action for the benefit of society, will highlight innovations in communication and education as well as technology at the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF 2014), 21-26 June in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The partners of the Alliance, the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), and Technische Universität München (TUM), chose ESOF 2014, organized around the theme of "science building bridges," as the perfect forum to offer practical examples of their contributions to society.

An ESOF session organized by the Alliance will turn the spotlight on MOOCs, Massive Open Online Courses, as a potentially disruptive innovation for scientific and technical education in Europe, on Tuesday morning, 24 June.

Further, the Alliance will present the first issue of *Technologist*, a new popular science and technology magazine with a mission to provoke public interest and informed debate.

Finally, EuroTech Universities Alliance will present selected research projects throughout the week. These range from novel scanning, imaging and modeling technologies to innovations in food, drugs, energy, and tactile sensing for cognitive machines. These exhibits can be viewed in The House of Future Technologies at the ESOF site.

AAAS CEO ALAN LESHNER TO GIVE KEYNOTE AT *TECHNOLOGIST* LAUNCH

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is inviting journalists, policy makers, and scientists to ESOF's House of Future Technologies at 10:30 on 24 June for the launch of the new magazine *Technologist* together with its associated website (www.technologist.eu). The new magazine targets the general public and covers science and technology from a European perspective and with a focus on grand societal challenges. Under the motto "Innovation.Explained" the magazine sets out not only to present relevant, timely, and accurate accounts of research and innovation, but also to stimulate discussion. The print-only magazine will be published four times a year in French and German as well as in English.

The leaders of all four EuroTech Universities – Presidents Anders Overgaard Bjarklev (DTU), Patrick Aebischer (EPFL), and Wolfgang A. Herrmann (TUM) and Rector Magnificus Hans van Duijn (TU/e) – will take part in the launch event. The keynote talk, focusing on communicating science across boundaries of all kinds, will be given by Dr. Alan I. Leshner, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and executive publisher of the journal *Science*.



WHAT TO MAKE OF MOOCs?

Once-dominant companies across a range of industries have experienced the destructive power of disruptive innovations. The advent of Massive Open Online Courses or MOOCs is sometimes portrayed as posing a similar threat in higher education, yet a number of leading universities have embraced it as an opportunity. EPFL in particular has been a pioneer in producing some of Europe's first MOOCs, and the EuroTech Universities are collaborating to develop a portfolio of MOOCs in key domains of science and technology.

An ESOF scientific workshop on MOOCs, organized by the EuroTech Universities Alliance, will take place in the Carlsberg Museum on 24 June at 9 a.m.

This session brings together four leaders who can survey the scene from complementary vantage points. EPFL President Patrick Aebischer was one of the first university chiefs in Europe to recognize the significance of MOOCs. Ana Carla Pereira, Head of Unit for Skills and Qualifications Strategies at DG Education and Culture from the European Commission, will represent the EU's position on the development of MOOCs in Europe. Joining them are two key figures engaged with bringing MOOCs to the widest possible audience: Johannes Heinlein is Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at edX, a not-for-profit, open-source platform for MOOCs governed by MIT and Harvard. Volker Zimmermann is a member of the executive board at IMC AG, a full-service e-learning provider with roots in Europe and customers worldwide.

ABOUT EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE:

The partners of the Alliance are the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), and Technische Universität München (TUM). Each is a leading European institution of science and technology with a distinctive profile in research and education. Collectively, their researchers produced nearly 11,000 ISI publications in 2013 alone. Since 2007, the EuroTech Universities have been awarded 760 million euros in EU research funding under the 7th Framework Programme, participating in more than 1400 EU projects and winning more than 140 ERC grants. From 2006 through 2013, they spun off more than 440 start-up companies. The Alliance runs an office in Brussels, further strengthening its engagement in the EU's research, innovation and higher education policies and programmes.

For more information:

About the EuroTech Universities Alliance www.eurotech-universities.org

About the EuroScience Open Forum www.esof2014.org

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