

NEWS

OPENING UP SCIENCE – POLE POSITION FOR LEADING UNIVERSITIES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Leading Universities of Science and Technology (TU's) are in pole position when it comes to opening up science. At its annual High Level Event held in Brussels today, the EuroTech Universities Alliance, a strategic partnership of Technical University of Denmark, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Eindhoven University of Technology and Technical University of Munich, calls on the EU for sufficient long term funding for models of Open Science which transcend disciplinary boundaries, national borders and engage a wider range of societal actors.

As one of the key priorities for EU research and innovation policy, Open Science attempts to capture the tremendous changes currently experienced in the scientific world. These changes are linked to an ever-increasing amount of data, the availability of digital technologies, the growing number and interconnectedness of actors engaged in science as well as the need to rapidly and transparently address the concerns of today's society.

"Technical universities' historical closeness to industry makes it especially easy for them to follow Open Science principles", says Jan Mengelers, President of Eindhoven University of Technology. Mengelers is one of five distinguished speakers at this year's High Level Event of the EuroTech Universities Alliance.

"Sharing research more openly not only benefits science, it also allows for industry to harness the so-called wisdom of the crowd. However, we also witness a certain nervousness of our industrial partners about the potential loss of exclusive rights and thus competitive advantage," explains Mengelers. "Open Science means finding a delicate balance."

An endeavour that is worth the effort as highlighted by selected scientists from across the EuroTech Universities while showcasing the Open Science dimensions of their projects at the event. Using body sensors and real-time data analytics, the Horizon 2020 project REACH is developing technologies to prevent health problems for elderly people. This project is built on a core team from the four EuroTech Universities together with industry and health care partners from across Europe. Seeking to harmonise 17 different areas of knowledge, REACH is a prime example of how an international strategic partnership of universities is instrumental in connecting expertise in data and digital technologies with other disciplines and sectors to bring solutions to European society.

"We need to make sure Europe's researchers are provided with the right skills and proper recognition for engaging in this challenging universe." recognises Wolfgang Burtscher, Deputy Director General for Open

Innovation, Open Science & Open to the World at the European Commission. “Researchers are the key players when it comes to putting Open Science into practice.”

For researchers to continue taking up this challenge and to ensure that Open Science is a springboard for future innovation opportunities, it is vital, according to the EuroTech Universities Alliance, that the EU commits to sufficient long-term funding. More concretely, a higher proportion of the Framework Programme’s budget should be allocated to collaborative solution-oriented research at lower Technology Readiness Levels.

ABOUT THE EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE:

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of four leading Universities of Science & Technology in Europe: DTU (Technical University of Denmark), EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), TU/e (Eindhoven University of Technology) and TUM (Technical University of Munich). By nurturing in-depth collaboration across research, education, innovation and entrepreneurship, the Alliance combines the complementary strengths of its partner universities to jointly achieve multi-scale initiatives of societal benefit. The Alliance engages in policy definition with key EU stakeholders through the promotion of its experience and expertise.

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Technologist Magazine & Website with Core Feature on Open Science

LIST OF PROJECTS SHOWCASED AT THE EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES HIGH LEVEL EVENT 2016

This year's EuroTech Universities High Level Event included an interactive demonstration of a variety of state-of-the-art solutions from across the EuroTech Focus Areas (Smart & Urban Mobility, Health & Bio-engineering and Data Science & Engineering) illustrating different dimensions of Open Science:

- Celonis, data-based optimization solutions for business processes across a variety of sectors
- Cooperative Driving, a robotic illustration of the range of disciplines and technologies needed for automated road transport
- Glasschair, a Google Glass App for hands-free wheelchair use
- Mobile Brain Scanner, an open source solution for minimally invasive brain monitoring in everyday situations
- REACH, a service system that will turn clinical and care environments into personalized modular sensing, prevention, and intervention systems that encourage the elderly to become healthy via activity
- Sensible DTU, an unprecedented student science experiment on “social fabric”
- Venice Time Machine, “Google Maps”- type experience of the past based on open access database of kilometers of digitized and partly visualized archival documents on the City of Venice