

NEWS ALERT

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EuroTech Engineer Network strives for paradigm shift in European Engineering Education

Partners from the EuroTech Universities Alliance and beyond have set in motion their common ambition to establish a unique European engineering educational offer that contributes to Europe’s competitiveness and protects European values. This is the focus of a proposal led by Technical University of Munich (TUM) which was submitted this week in response to the Erasmus+ pilot call for “European Universities”.

Driven by the EuroTech Universities Alliance, the “EuroTech Engineer Network” consists of Technical University of Denmark, École Polytechnique, the Technion, Eindhoven University of Technology, Technical University of Munich, as well as Czech Technical University in Prague and Tallinn University of Technology.

The long-term vision of this new network is to become the leading European ecosystem for Education in Science and Technology. The ambition is to “future proof” study programmes in science and technology, in order to address the changing needs of society by anchoring the knowledge triangle in European values. By combining excellence in science and technology with a strong focus on entrepreneurship and transversal skills, the EuroTech Engineer Network will shape societally-aware talent capable of taking adequate and sustainable decisions and accompanying and moderating technology-driven transformation processes.

Paving the way towards a unique European engineering education

If funded, the EuroTech Engineer Pilot Project will be a first stepping stone to turn this ambition into reality. “This proposal by the EuroTech Universities and its new partners is an ambitious step towards truly European engineering education”, says Wolfgang A. Herrmann, President of Technical University of Munich (TUM) and Co-Founder of the EuroTech Universities Alliance. “Human-centred engineering which includes societal aspects of innovation and design thinking lies at the centre of the future of engineering. At the same time, students are looking for study programmes that reflect this paradigm shift in mindset,” adds Wolfgang A. Herrmann.

For the proposal, the EuroTech Universities Alliance partners have extended their collaboration to the Czech Technical University in Prague and Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) due to their excellent reputation in collaborative education. “Engineering and IT go hand in hand at our university, which is reflected in our innovative study programmes,” says TalTech’s Rector Jaak Aaviksoo and states: “We believe modern technologies shall be even more extensively introduced into everyday teaching practice to the benefit of all students enrolled in the EuroTech Engineer Network.”

Background

In December 2017, EU Heads of state and government called on the Member States, the Council and the European Commission to take measures “encouraging the emergence by 2024 of some twenty 'European Universities', consisting in bottom-up networks of universities across the EU which will enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and contribute to the international competitiveness of European universities.” In October 2018, the Commission launched a first pilot call under the Erasmus+ programme with a view to test ambitious new cooperation models in European higher education. The first call is set to co-fund twelve “European universities” with €5 million each over a period of three years.

About the EuroTech Universities Alliance

Founded in 2011, the EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of leading European universities of science and technology: Technical University of Denmark, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Ecole Polytechnique, the Technion, Eindhoven University of Technology and Technical University of Munich. Together, the partners are committed to excellence in research and jointly developing solutions to the grand challenges of society.

By promoting in-depth collaboration across research and education, as well as nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship, the Alliance combines the complementary strengths of its partner universities to jointly achieve multi-scale initiatives of high impact to society and to industry. The Alliance also openly engages with all societal actors to raise awareness on the opportunities offered by science and technology.

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