

PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN ENGINEERING EDUCATION OF THE FUTURE

EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE STARTS INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMME

An alliance of leading European universities of science and technology is starting an international study programme with the goal of jointly shaping the engineering education of the future. This “EuroTeQ Engineering University” will be open not only to students enrolled at the partner universities, but also to engineers working in industry who are interested in life-long learning. The initiative will reinvigorate the symbiosis between society and technology together with various stakeholders and orient its programme towards human-centred engineering. The concept was now successful in the European Union's "European Universities" Initiative¹.

The EU will fund the project with approximately five million euros over the next three years. The initiative emerges from the EuroTech Universities Alliance, a strategic partnership of Technical University of Denmark (DTU), École Polytechnique (L’X), Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), Technical University of Munich (TUM) as well as Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. For this project, they have brought two other strong partners on board: Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) and Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU). EPFL and Technion, being located in non-EU countries and hence not eligible for funding, will contribute to the implementation of the programme.

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED CURRICULA

The partners will establish a joint engineering sciences study programme across different disciplines as well as across national and institutional boundaries, reaching well beyond individual technologies. The goal of the alliance is to look at technology developments on a holistic level. "Today, we can't talk about mobility without considering climate impacts, and robotics and artificial intelligence will not succeed without winning over human trust," says Professor Thomas F. Hofmann, President of TUM, which coordinates the project. "A modern engineering education must provide students not only with in-depth technical knowledge but also with an extended educational horizon, an entrepreneurial mindset and socio-political sensitivity."

In order to promote this understanding Europe-wide, the “EuroTeQ Engineering University” will not be restricted to students enrolled at the respective partner institutions. It will also be open to those who do not hold an academic degree yet, but who play an important role in value creation and communication processes. Students will be able to design their curricula in line with their learning objectives and career aspirations and benefit from new digital formats. In the spirit of life-long learning, they will be able to continue their education throughout their entire career.

¹ For more information on the European Universities Initiative, please visit https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative_en

INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINEES

The alliance will furthermore bring their university students together with vocational trainees pursuing a technical career and with a large number of stakeholders from industry, trade associations and various areas of society to explore the grand challenges of the 21st century and jointly formulate solution strategies. The project has already won the support of 45 collaboration partners. Thanks to this, the “EuroTeQ Engineering University” will gain comprehensive experience with the various qualification structures in Europe and will learn about the needs of the younger generation. These findings will in turn be integrated in the design of teaching at all partner universities.

“With EuroTeQ, we are building on the strengths of existing cooperation between the EuroTech Universities and our partners from Estonia and the Czech Republic, and on our multidisciplinary research-based curricula,” says Tatiana Panteli, Head of the EuroTech Universities Alliance Brussels Office. “We are also thrilled to add many exciting and challenging elements to this new European university, which will provide life-long learning opportunities for students and professionals, to ‘engineer’ talents for the industry and society of the future.”

PRESTIGIOUS PROJECT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Universities, introduced by French President Emmanuel Macron, are a flagship initiative of the European Commission, which aims at establishing ambitious European university alliances that will make the European university landscape even stronger in the fierce competition with the USA and Asia.

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About EuroTech Universities Alliance

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of leading European universities of science and technology committed to excellence in research and education, jointly developing solutions to the grand challenges of society. The alliance combines the complementary strengths of its partner universities to jointly achieve multi-scale initiatives of high impact to society and to industry in an international context. It engages with all societal actors to raise awareness of the opportunities offered by science and technology. The six EuroTech partner universities are: Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), École Polytechnique (L’X), Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), and Technical University of Munich (TUM). For further information, please see www.eurotech-universities.eu.