PRESS RELEASE

CHARM-EU ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025:

How are European university alliances shaping the future of a more competitive and sustainable Europe?

Utrecht, The Netherlands — 12 November 2025 (Hybrid Event)

The CHARM-EU Annual Conference 2025 takes place on 12 November 2025 in Utrecht and online. By highlighting the prominent role of higher education in driving Europe's competitiveness, sustainability and inclusion, the European University Alliance CHARM-EU positions itself as a leading force in shaping strategic responses to societal global challenges by contributing to the transformation of the higher education ecosystem.

Held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, the CHARM-EU Annual Conference 2025 will bring together key opinion leaders, European policymakers, university leaders, innovators, academic staff members and students to discuss how university alliances can contribute to Europe's leadership in professional skills development, talent attraction, mobility, internationalisation and regional development, among others. Through inspiring plenary sessions with top speakers and impactful workshops, this one-day hybrid event will critically examine how the European University alliance model can serve as a driver of European competitiveness.

CHARM-EU Rectors of the partner institutions expressed recently that *"European university alliances are more than academic partnerships — they are driving forces of innovation, competitiveness, and European values. CHARM-EU stands at the forefront of this transformation, fiercely defending European values in pursuit of a sustainable and democratic world. Through collaborative, cross-boundary educational offerings grounded in science, research, and academic freedom, CHARM-EU works to redefine the future of higher education*".

Securing Europe's academic future

European University alliances have emerged as pivotal actors as the European higher education landscape undergoes one of its most ambitious transformations in recent decades. With continued support from the European Commission, the European Universities Initiative now encompasses 73 alliances, with almost 650 higher education

institutions across Europe - fostering a transformative vision for the future of higher education in Europe.

At a time when Europe is facing multiple challenges, intensifying global competition for talent, and pursuing the dual digital and green transitions, the CHARM-EU Annual Conference 2025 conveys a clear message: universities are not merely institutions of learning — but strategic catalysts for a stronger, more competitive and resilient Europe. This transformation reinforces the strategic role of the European University initiative — a visionary endeavour that must be sustained to secure Europe's academic future.

CHARM-EU Annual Conference 2025 - Boosting European Competitiveness: European University Alliances as Catalysts for Innovation and Sustainability
Date: 12 November 2025
Venue: Bar Beton, Pythagoraslaan 101, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Format: Hybrid (in-person + livestream)
Registration: https://charm-eu.eu/event/charm-eu-annual-conference-2025
#CHARMEU2025

Media Contacts:
Hybrid-format conference accessible to accredited journalists in person and online. Available upon request: live-streaming of plenary sessions, press Q&A opportunities with top speakers, interview slots, visual materials.
Contact us before **10 November** at: charm-euoffice@ub.edu

Annual Conference 2025 Highlights:
The morning sessions will bring together leading voices from policy, academia, and industry to explore how universities can drive Europe's innovation, digital transformation, and labour market adaptability — underscoring the power of collaboration in shaping the future of higher education. With keynote speakers such as Thomas Estermann (EUA), Vanessa Debiais-Sainton (European Commission), and Wilco Hazeleger (Utrecht University). The afternoon workshops will translate the morning's strategic discussions into practical applications and measurable impact, addressing key topics such as open science, research, inclusion, transdisciplinary partnership, and digital interoperability. Full programme here.

About CHARM-EU:
Established in 2019, CHARM-EU is a forward-thinking European University alliance supported by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme. It brings together nine prestigious higher education institutions: the University of Barcelona (Spain), Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), Utrecht University (The Netherlands), Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), the University of Montpellier (France), Åbo Akademi University (Finland), the University of Würzburg (Germany), the University of Applied Sciences Ruhr West (Germany), and the University of Bergen (Norway). As one of the European Union's pioneering alliances, CHARM-EU has assumed a leading role in advancing transnational collaboration in higher education. Its achievements include the launch of increasing joint educational offers, the first and pioneer joint master's programme under the European Universities initiative, the development of challenge-based pedagogical models, and the promotion of open science and inclusive education, and transferability of the alliance results. CHARM-EU also played a key role in the European Degree Label pilot initiative (ED-AFFICHE). www.charm-eu.eu