



NEWS

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UAS4EUROPE presidents sign joint commitment to the SDGs / Discussions on the “Future of UAS4EUROPE”

UAS4EUROPE, the network of European Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS), jointly commits to strengthening the role and visibility of applied research and innovation in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The presidents of the member organisations discussed the “Future of UAS4EUROPE”. The next Networking Conference will take place on 11 May 2021.

At their meeting on 23 February 2021, the presidents of UAS4EUROPE's nine member associations signed a [joint declaration](#) underlining sustainability as a key driver in the development of future-proof Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS). Accordingly, the network commits itself to “use its position in Europe to strengthen the role and visibility of UAS in their commitment to the SDGs”.

Alongside the declaration, a [background paper](#) outlines the unique position of UAS in society to address the SDGs through the four focus areas of learning/teaching, research, governance and external leadership. In addition, the background paper lists best practices on SDG research and initiatives from some of the network's member UAS.

As a next step, a survey aims to identify challenges and opportunities related to the SDG framework from the perspective of UAS researchers, EU advisors and administrative officers.

“With its clear commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, UAS4EUROPE lives up to the responsibility that Universities of Applied Sciences carry due to their crucial role in regional ecosystems”, says Professor Christiane Fritze, Vice President of Hochschule Bayern e.V. and acting Chairwoman of UAS4EUROPE.

The agenda of the Presidents' meeting also covered the discussion on the future of the network, which celebrates its 5th anniversary in May. In this context, the presidents discussed the development of UAS4EUROPE into a legal entity, the establishment of a secretariat for administrative matters and a clear definition of accession criteria for new applicants.

Finally, the UAS4EUROPE presidents agreed to hold the upcoming Networking Conference, which will take place on 11 May 2021, in an entirely online format. The one-day event will entail a high-level political panel discussion and thematic hubs with multiple networking and matchmaking opportunities. More information on the Networking Conference will be available shortly at www.uas4europe.eu.

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About UAS4EUROPE

UAS4EUROPE is a joint initiative of [swissuniversities](#), [Hochschule Bayern e.V.](#), [EURASHE](#), [University Colleges Denmark](#), [Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences](#), [Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences \(ARENE\)](#), [Hochschulen für Angewandte Wissenschaften Baden-Württemberg e.V.](#), the [Austrian Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences](#) and the [University Alliance for SMEs](#). The initiative is committed to a strong position and increased visibility of UAS in the European research landscape. UAS4EUROPE represents 2.3 million students, more than 400 universities and more than 60,000 researchers.

For more information on UAS4EUROPE's activities, please visit our website: www.uas4europe.eu.

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