PRESS RELEASE
Lyon, October 18, 2019

THE UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON PRESENTS
THE FORMAL CONSTITUTION OF THE ARQUS EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE’S PRESIDENTS’ COUNCIL

The ARQUS European University Alliance project was presented on Friday, October 18, 2019, as part of a public event at the University of Granada (Spain). This presentation followed the formal constitution of the ARQUS Presidents’ council, the governing body responsible for establishing the general policies, medium- and long-term strategies and the main objectives of the consortium. The partnership agreement was subsequently sanctioned by representatives from the seven universities.

During this official presentation, Pablo Martin González, the Assistant Secretary of the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Academia, reiterated the Ministry's congratulations to the eleven Spanish participating consortia. He also detailed the specific support actions, both through national co-funding and through a commitment to amend legislation, which is a barrier to further European integration.

Professor Dorothy Kelly, Vice-President of International Relations at the University of Granada and ARQUS coordinator, highlighted that this initiative aims to facilitate structural, systemic and sustainable transformations for partner universities and, beyond that, for European universities and the education system as a whole.

The formation of the Presidents’ council resulted in the signing of the partnership agreement, which outlines its commitments and internal functioning over the next three years. The six action-oriented councils, as well as the student council, were formed to launch the first three-year work program in October and November. This ambitious program includes: local and foreign academic offers, inclusion, research support, entrepreneurship, multilingualism and European citizenship. Each theme is led by one of the partner universities.

The formal constitution of the ARQUS alliance Presidents’ council is set out in an institutional act dated Friday 18 October, sanctioned by representatives from the seven universities which make up this European university alliance:

- **Pilar Aranda Ramírez**, Rector of the University of Granada (Spain);
- **Dag Rune Olsen**, Rector of the University of Bergen (Norway);
- **Martin Polaschek**, Rector of the University of Graz (Austria);
- **Thomas Hofsäss**, Vice-Rector of the University of Leipzig (Germany);
- **Khaled Bouabdallah**, President of the Université de Lyon (France);
- **Rosario Rizzuto**, Rector of the University of Padua (Italy);
- **And Rimantas Jankauskas**, Vice-Rector of the Vilnius University (Lithuania).
Khaled Bouabdallah, President of the Université de Lyon, said during his speech: “This project is part of our European plans for 2025 and 2030, and extends beyond our current funding. It is built on a foundation of inclusion, excellence and interdisciplinary academic work. Our ultimate goal is to build a European network which is powerful and integrated enough to consider developing European diplomas for our students. This will require a significant increase in mobility and a high-level development of collaborative projects with our European partners. The ARQUS European university project, which was launched on October 1, 2019, is fully in keeping with the targets set by the new Université de Lyon, as well as its deployment schedule.”

About ARQUS

The ARQUS consortium is one of 17 projects funded by the European Commission under the call for “European Universities” projects and the Erasmus+ program. It brings together seven universities which are well established in their regions: Granada (Spain, the consortium’s coordinating institution); Bergen (Norway); Graz (Austria); Leipzig (Germany); Lyon (France, the Université de Lyon); Padua (Italy); and Vilnius (Lithuania).

- Seven partner universities in seven countries;
- 300,000 students;
- 22,000 academic staff members;
- 15,000 administrative staff members;
- https://www.arqus-alliance.eu/

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