

UNIVERSITIES WITH PURPOSE

Advancing the Third Mission through Engagement,
Knowledge Valorisation and Leadership

Maison Irène et Frédéric Joliot-Curie

Rue du Trône 100, 1050 Ixelles - Brussels

Brussels | 28 November 2025, 09.00-16.00

08:30
09:00

Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:00
09:10

Welcome Plenary

Carle Bonafous-Murat - Senior liaison officer, CPU (French Rectors' Conference), Brussels Office

09:10
09:30

Imagine the University of the Future

A dialogue to set the scene between **Daniel Mouchard**, President of YUFE Alliance and **Vanessa Debiais-Sainton**, Member of Cabinet, EVP Minzatu, European Commission, on Future Universities.

09:30
10:45

Panel 1: Universities and Civic Engagement – Strengthening Communities

This session explores the expanding civic role of universities, focusing on strategies for community partnerships, measuring engagement impact, empowering students, and influencing policy to drive societal change.

Panelists:

Bojana Čulum Ilić - University of Rijeka

Zoran Grozdanov – My Place under the Sun

Nathalie Ummels – Refugee Project Maastricht

10:45
11:00

Spotlight I: A YUFE community engagement initiative

Ines Huergo Gonzalez - Student at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

11:00
11:30

Coffee Break

11:30
12:30

Panel 2: Universities co-creating with industry and society: knowledge creation, management and valorisation

Discover how cross-sector collaboration, knowledge valorisation, and new reward systems can enhance the societal and economic impact of research beyond academic publications.

Panellists:

Roger Heijmans - E³UDRES² Alliance

Barbara Tan - University of Antwerp

Gareth O'Neill - Technopolis Group

Moderator:

Anastasia Constantinou - University of Cyprus

12:30
12:45

Spotlight II: “De Oorzaak” - a citizen science approach to assess the impact of environmental noise in an urban environment

Cedric Vuye - Professor at University of Antwerp

13:00
14:00

Lunch

The YUFE Alliance is happy to invite the audience for a light lunch

14:00
15:30

Panel 3: Inclusive Leadership in Turbulent Times: Reframing Kindness as Strategic Courage

This panel challenges the idea that kindness implies softness. Instead, it presents kindness as intentional and courageous leadership during uncertainty. It explores how ethical clarity and relational leadership can act as stabilizing forces in polarized academic and social contexts. In addition, it addresses the pressures inclusive leaders face in navigating ethical dilemmas, maintaining public trust, and upholding institutional responsibility in rapidly shifting environments.

Panellists:

Snježana Prijić Samaržija - University of Rijeka

Aleksandar Sušnjar – EQAR

Karen Bush – Former YUFE ED&I lead and HR professional

Moderator:

Daria Glavan - University of Rijeka

15:30
15:45

Closing Remarks: Rethinking Higher Education

Tasos Christofides - Rector of the University of Cyprus

15:45
17:00

Wintery Reception & Networking