

## Udice 2023 Forum

### Round table summary

#### **Round Table 3 European University Alliances as instruments for Europe's attractiveness and international collaborations**

The third round table, moderated by Philippe Knauth, Delegate Vice-President for the CIVIS Alliance at Aix Marseille University, was devoted to European University Alliances as instruments for Europe's attractiveness and international collaborations.

The aim was to discuss instruments for strengthening Europe's competitiveness, international attractiveness and global engagement, with a particular focus on the research and innovation sector.

The opening presentation by Siegfried Martin-Diaz, Head of the European Area Strategy Department at the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR), set out the MESR's vision for European alliances, and reviewed the various works underway at European level to plan for the future beyond the alliances' current funding period and maintain their activity.

One point that was particularly eagerly awaited by participants was to outline the avenues being pursued to strengthen research and innovation within the alliances, eliminate the separations between research/innovation and training ("silos"), since European funds dedicated to the Alliances are currently limited to training actions, and offer longer-term visibility. Future tools are under discussion and not yet finalized.

The round table discussion then involved 4 speakers.

Gareth O'Neill, expert on open science for the European Union and co-editor of the "Progress of University Alliance Projects Horizon 2020 SwafS call" report, presented some of the report's key conclusions and recommendations from the point of view of research-intensive universities. He also spoke briefly about the importance and prospects of supporting research and innovation activities within the Alliances.

Stéphane Ngo Mai, Vice President of the Université Côte d'Azur in charge of the European Alliance Ulysseus, then demonstrated in a very concrete way how the recent transformation of the UCA through its excellence initiative is being pursued at European level in the Alliance Ulysseus, with an approach that starts from local, regional, national and international areas of excellence to build the hubs of excellence of the UCA and then of the Alliance.

Iveta Putnina, Vice-Rector for Development and coordinator of the E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> Alliance at the University of Applied Sciences of Vidzeme (Latvia), continued this theme by showing how to support innovation using the example of this Alliance and its interaction with the "Coalition of the Willing", bringing together innovation players at European level.

Finally, Kseniia Smyrnova, Vice-Rector for Education (International Affairs) at Kyiv's Taras Shevchenko National University, made a strong case for Ukrainian universities to join the European Alliances and rapidly join the European Union's research area.