

Challenge EU

European University Alliance



MARCH 2025

ISSUE No 07



Co-funded by
the European Union

ChallengeEU: The Beginning of a New Chapter!



Nine European universities united in Offenburg on 12 March to sign an Consortium Agreement, officially launching the ChallengeEU Alliance. The alliance's goals include increasing mobility for students, academic staff, and the scientific community, as well as enhancing the quality, integration, and competitiveness of European higher education.

The joint journey of nine European universities has been ongoing, but the meeting at Hochschule Offenburg (12-13 March) marks the official start of ChallengeEU. The alliance is part of the prestigious European Universities initiative, a European Commission programme aimed at supporting innovative cooperation between universities in the European Higher Education Area.

ChallengeEU: A Partnership for Change

The ChallengeEU alliance is formed by: Hochschule Offenburg (Germany, project coordinator), South East European University (North Macedonia), ECAM LaSalle (France), Mid Sweden University (Sweden), Universidade Europeia (Portugal), University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland), Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (Latvia), Universidad Europea de Valencia (Spain), Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW (Switzerland, associated partner). The official representatives of these universities signed the agreement launching the alliance.

University authorities, researchers, administrative staff, and students will actively contribute to the alliance's work. Together, they will establish a common European campus – an international hub for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and personal development.

The alliance is creating solutions to allow academic community members to study and gain skills across multiple universities. Participants will also earn cultural and linguistic competencies, certified by credentials like micro-credential.

Mission: Future-Ready Higher Education

The launch of cooperation between universities from nine countries is a big step for the 83,000 students and 9,000 staff members of the academic community, as well as for the 25 million citizens living in the ChallengeEU region.

The overarching aim of the project is hidden in its name: “**C**ultivating **H**olistic **S**ust**A**inable **C**o**LL**aborations: **ENG**aging **E**xcellence in **E**uropean **U**niversities”.

By connecting universities, students and local stakeholders, the alliance members want to ensure that education responds to the challenges of today and the future and serves changes for the better. This is to be supported by cooperation, research and innovation.

It is also worth noting that 80 associated partners are involved in the ChallengeEU project. They represent sectors such as science, business, public administration and civil society. This demonstrates that the alliance’s influence will extend far beyond university campuses.

Kick-off Meeting in Offenburg

The signing of the Consortium Agreement in Offenburg is accompanied by many meetings of the working and management teams. Representatives from all partner universities have gathered at Hochschule Offenburg, with many additional participants joining online. This event provides an opportunity to discuss the project’s vision and objectives while developing an action plan for the near future. Moreover, it serves as a key moment for integrating the people who will shape ChallengeEU’s success.

ChallengeEU is not just an alliance of universities – it is a dynamic space for sharing experiences, fostering international competencies, and building a better future for students and society.



Academic Year Celebration 2025: Food for Thought and Awards



At the beginning of the year, HSO once again invited its transfer partners from industry, associations, social groups and politics to provide impulses for a shared future. "To meet the global challenges, a multi-perspective, multi-national view is required," Rector Stephan Trahasch stressed in his speech; "Internationality is a basic prerequisite for science and research." Another highlight was the impressive keynote address by Professor Katharina Hölzle of the University of Stuttgart, who called AI and robotics a "bridge to the future." In a further highlight, to much applause of the audience, 19 companies and institutions honored HSO students and graduates for their outstanding achievements in and outside of the classroom.

HSO Students Impress at UNESCO in Paris



At the start of the International Year of Quantum Science (YQS), HSO students wowed an international audience of experts with interactive installations. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization hosted the opening of the YQS in Paris at the beginning of February. Two student groups presented their projects between works of Picasso, Miro and Giacometti. They allowed their audience to experience unique 3D effects, move through virtual spaces and interact experimentally. The day certainly created lasting experiences for all involved.

New Endowed Professorship Strengthens AI and Robotics Research



With a five-year funding commitment, the renowned Carl Zeiss Foundation is enabling the establishment of an endowed professorship for “Applied Artificial Intelligence in Humanoid Robotics” at Hochschule Offenburg. The University is thus further expanding its expertise in applied AI and robotics in research and teaching: Two existing endowed professorships, three research institutes (IMLA Institute for Machine Learning and Analytics, WLRI Work-Life Robotics Institute and IBMS Institute for Advanced Biomechanics and Motion Studies), as well as the humanoid robots of Team Sweaty and the simulated robots of Team Magma in the RoboCup, already speak to HSO's achievements in these future-oriented fields.

Hackathon: An Edition Focused on Protection



The 3rd edition of the Genius ECAM LaSalle Hackathon took place on the first weekend of February, a competitive event bringing together students from various backgrounds. The goal: to collaborate and create an innovative startup centred around the theme of protection.

Organized by Genius ECAM LaSalle, a student club dedicated to entrepreneurship, this hackathon fully embodies its mission: to support and encourage innovation within the school. Over the course of 32 hours, the students received guidance from experienced mentors to help them through the startup creation process. Several conferences took place throughout the event, covering essential topics such as: how to create a startup? how to fund your project? the challenges of creating a sustainable startup, and how to pitch your project effectively.

Innovative projects were developed: a gamification-based solution to help people quit smoking, an initiative to reduce noise pollution and improve acoustic insulation in homes, a preventive and adaptable personal protective equipment designed to meet the needs of the construction and nuclear industries...

The Genius ECAM LaSalle Hackathon continues to demonstrate that, even in just 32 hours, it is possible to transform an idea into a concrete and innovative project.



ECAM LaSalle Re-Accredited with "Happy at School" Label



ECAM LaSalle is proud to announce the renewal of its "Happy at School" accreditation, a recognition earned following a survey conducted with Choose My Company among engineering students.

This year, the overall student experience received a score of 4.03/5, confirming the quality of the school's academic and human environment. ECAM LaSalle stands out for its high satisfaction rates, particularly in areas such as pedagogy and commitment to sustainable development. The educational environment is also a strong point, recognized for its quality and inclusiveness. The infrastructure on the Lyon campus, the teaching materials provided, and the overall atmosphere are highly appreciated by students, making learning and personal development easier.

The Lasallian values are well understood and shared by the students: "Mutual support," "sharing," and "work" are the most frequently mentioned words to define the spirit of ECAM LaSalle.

ECAM LaSalle stands out with several major strengths: programs that instill confidence for the future, CSR commitments that set it apart, a fulfilling educational environment, and a teaching team that is available and attentive to students' needs. These factors contribute to making the school a place where students can fully thrive, both academically and personally.

Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Report Released 2024



As part of the preparatory cycle, engineering students have worked on concrete scientific and technical projects. The themes explored varied depending on the partner institutions, while still aligning with the program.

Some notable projects this year:

- ✓ From solar trackers to submarines
- ✓ Design of an innovative closing system
- ✓ From 3D modeling to prototype fabrication
- ✓ Engineering and ecology with the design of an autonomous vegetable garden

To complete these projects, students applied their knowledge in engineering sciences, physics, mathematics, computer science, modeling, as well as their proficiency with fabrication tools such as laser cutting and 3D printing. Organized into groups, they had to adhere to a set of specifications, manage deadlines, and anticipate needs.

These projects provide an opportunity for evaluating and developing numerous skills, whether scientific, technical, human, or practical.

Taking notes belongs to the past



The FHNW start-up PlaynVoice transfers oral therapy sessions into structured medical reports and can even process the local Swiss dialects. User numbers have increased tenfold in the last six months.

Once a year, Swiss universities each send one start-up to the [Talent Pitch](#) Event in Zurich. The FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland sent PlaynVoice into the race. Despite fierce competition, PlaynVoice was among the top 3 and was the only software company to make it to the final.

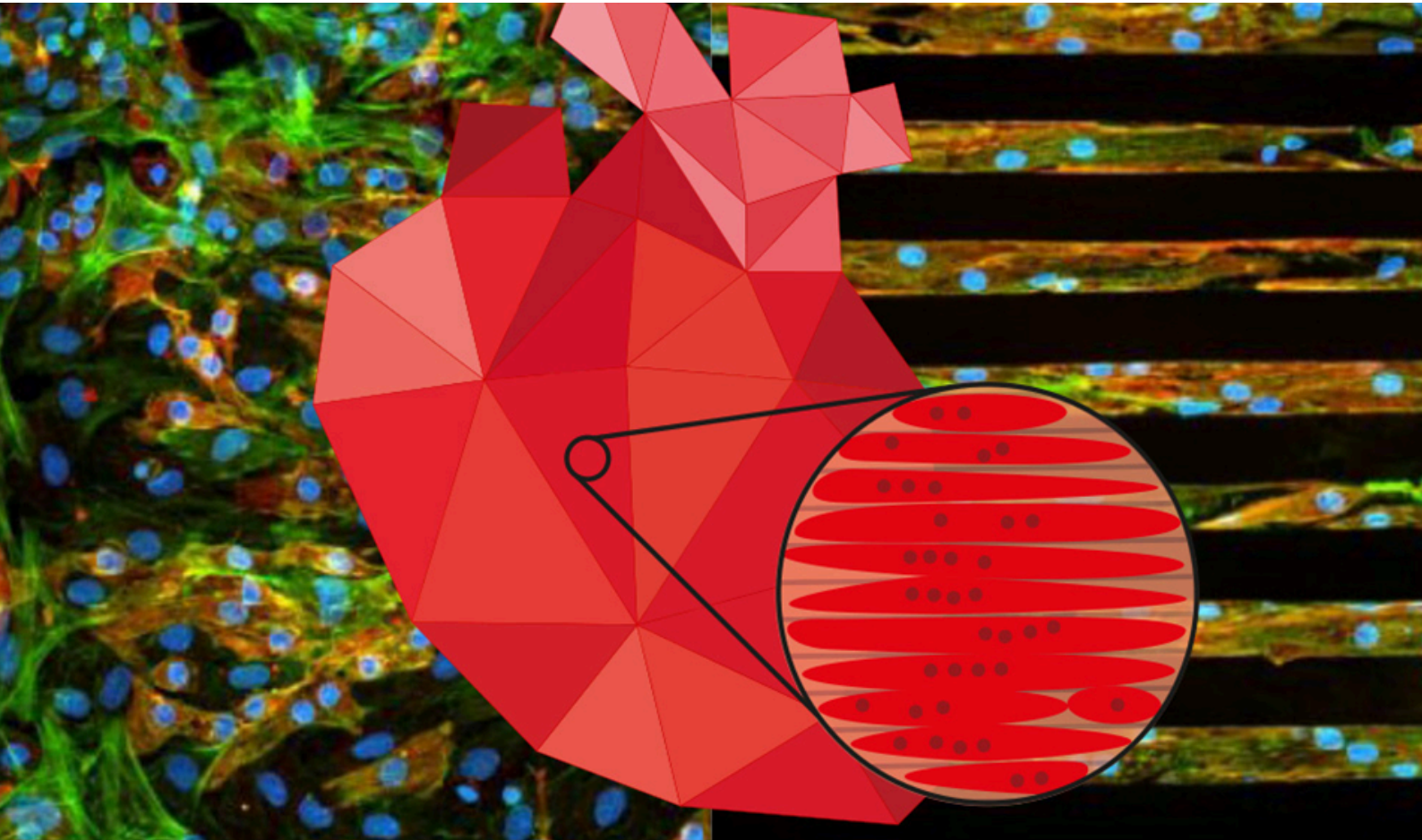
Emanuele Laurenzi and Dario Meyer, co-heads of the [ImpactLab](#) at the FHNW School of Business, see PlaynVoice as relevant to the healthcare system of tomorrow. Documentation and report writing are still among the most time-consuming tasks in healthcare.

‘PlaynVoice is simple,’ explains founder Samuel Siegfried. Press start and the app automatically transcribes oral conversations between patient and therapist. The app then reliably creates a structured report from the audio. PlaynVoice transcribes the consultations and creates a dossier for each person. It quickly became clear that PlaynVoice was meeting a real need. While just over fifty sessions with psychologists, psychiatrists and psychotherapists were documented via the platform in July 2024, the number had grown to 2,500 by January 2025. Studies show that up to five hours of work per week can be saved. This creates space for undisturbed therapy sessions.

PlaynVoice pays particular attention to data protection. Siegfried: ‘We are one hundred per cent compliant with national and European data protection laws (GDPR). However, we do more to ensure confidentiality in this highly sensitive area. We do not store any audio recordings, anonymise all transcripts and store all data exclusively on servers in Switzerland.’

More information (in german): [FHNW start-up PlaynVoice](#)

Artificial heart tissue based on origami



In the Nano Argovia project KOKORO (Japanese for "heart"), a team of researchers from the FHNW School of Life Sciences, the Department of Biomedicine (DBM) at the University of Basel, and Omya International AG are developing a novel, three-dimensional heart model.

To grow a multilayer heart tissue in the laboratory, the researchers used a biocompatible paper scaffold made of cellulose, on which they combined a layer of heart muscle cells with a vascular layer that is important for the blood supply. Using a macro pattern on the paper that led to a folding of the paper scaffold, as in origami, the researchers were able to significantly improve the contractility of the tissue. A micro pattern on the paper scaffold, which was also tested, contributed to a more uniform, aligned and thus stronger contraction.

Using the developed method, the researchers at the FHNW School of Life Sciences and the University of Basel were able to produce a functional, multilayer heart tissue in the laboratory – with better results than those achieved using conventional cell culture methods.

More information: [KOKORO project](#)



From 17–21 March 2025, the FHNW locations offer once again events, courses and exhibitions on sustainability.

During the week, the FHNW approaches the topic of sustainability in a variety of ways: there are swapping and sharing fairs on the campuses, inputs on various aspects of sustainability, performances, exhibitions, workshops and a sustainability challenge.

The FHNW Library and Corporate IT are also offering support for digital clean-up – saving data means saving resources!

Would you like to know more about the programme and the activities? Find out more here (in german): [FHNW Sustainability Week](#)

Conference on Innovation and Digitalization in the Food Industry Held at LBTU



The Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU), in collaboration with the Latvian Digital Accelerator (LDA), organized the conference "DIGIFOOD: Innovation and Digitalization in the Food Industry."

The event addressed key issues in the food sector's development, focusing on the opportunities offered by digitalization and innovation. Industry experts shared their experiences with the latest digital tools and technologies that enhance efficiency in food production, processing, and logistics.

Additionally, discussions explored how digitalization and artificial intelligence are shaping the future of businesses and whether these technologies are merely trends or real driving forces for business growth.

LBTU Renews International "Investors in Excellence" Certification

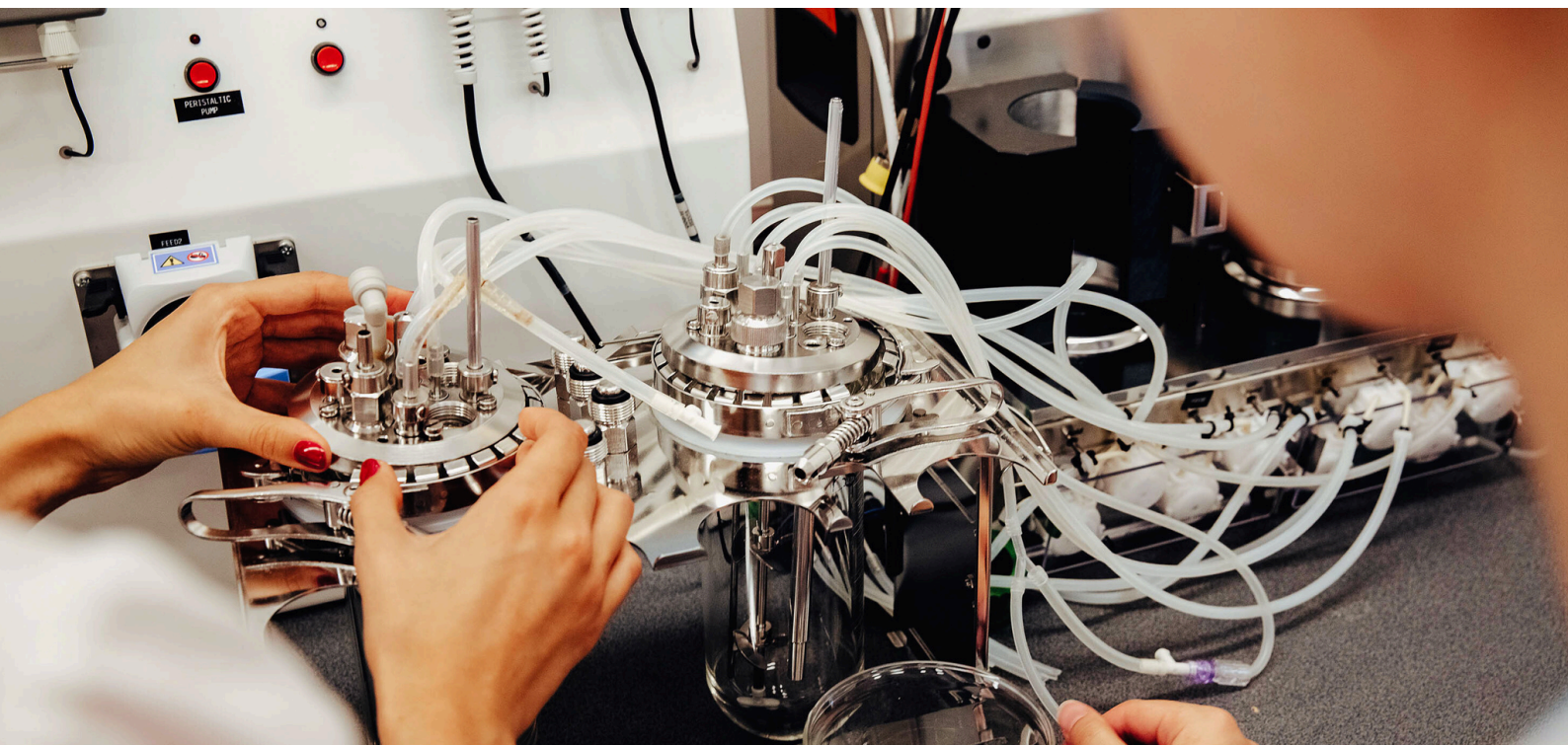


At the end of 2024, the quality management system of the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU) was recognized for the fifth time as meeting the international "Investors in Excellence" standard, earning recertification until December 2026.

The "Investors in Excellence" standard integrates best practices to drive organizational improvement, development, and sustainable growth in areas crucial to clients, employees, and stakeholders. This standard is used by organizations in Latvia, the United Kingdom, and globally.

Following an audit review, representatives of SIA Latvia Excellence confirmed that LBTU's operations comply with the "Investors in Excellence" standard, granting the university a renewed certification.

LBTU Launches Professional Growth Project for High School Students: "Engineer's Start: Explore, Research, Choose"



Starting in spring 2025, the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU) will offer a unique opportunity for Latvian high school students—the professional development project "Engineer's Start: Explore, Research, Choose." The project's main goal is to introduce young people to engineering, help them evaluate career opportunities in different fields, and prepare them for high-quality scientific research projects (ZPD).

Participants will engage in theoretical sessions, creative workshops, hands-on practical activities, and company visits, allowing them to step into the roles of various engineering professionals. Through this experience, students will gain in-depth insights into engineering professions and determine whether they want to pursue a career in the field. From spring to autumn, they will work closely with LBTU's most experienced lecturers, current and former students, and practicing engineers.

New AI project aims to prevent cyberattacks on wireless networks



Cyberattacks on wireless networks pose a threat to businesses and society, with risks such as ship rerouting and flight delays. Now Mid Sweden University's STC Research Center, in collaboration with the University of Vaasa in Finland, is developing an AI solution to detect intrusions.

Both Sweden and Finland, companies and public organizations are experiencing increasing cyber intrusions targeting critical infrastructure, with incidents reported in ports, airports, and industrial networks. The threat is particularly urgent in the Baltic Sea, where vessels have been affected by manipulated GPS signals, and in aviation, where network disruptions caused by external interference have prevented planes from taking off on time.

"We investigated whether this issue exists in the Sundsvall region and confirmed multiple intrusion attempts. In Finland, these incidents are even more frequent," says Mikael Gidlund, Professor of Computer Engineering and project leader.

The need for protection against network intrusions will continue to grow, and research in this area needs to stay at the forefront, he emphasizes. "We want to understand the real challenges faced by companies and public organizations so we can develop solutions that address them effectively. Both foreign actors and criminal groups are actively targeting networks, making it essential for research to stay ahead and counter these threats," says Mikael Gidlund.

The primary goal of the TRUST project, funded by the EU's Interreg Aurora program, is to develop an intrusion protection system that can not only detect and alert organizations about attempted breaches but also prevent external manipulation of critical data.

Additionally, the AI-powered interface will tailor alerts and responses to different users within an organization, ensuring that each recipient receives relevant and actionable information.

"An employee on a factory floor needs immediate, actionable information to respond quickly if autonomous machines are hacked, whereas supervisors and top management require detailed insights for strategic decision-making. The goal is to design an interface that effectively delivers the right information to the right people, ensuring timely and informed decision-making," explains Mikael Gidlund.

The collaboration between STC and the University of Vaasa is a new partnership that brings significant advantages, particularly through their complementary expertise.

"At Mid Sweden University, we have deep knowledge of AI and how wireless networks behave indoors, while the University of Vaasa has strong expertise in critical infrastructure and satellite positioning. Together, we cover the necessary competencies to develop an effective solution," says Mikael Gidlund.

The project is funded with just over 11 million SEK and runs until February 29, 2028.

More important to participate than to win, study on young biathletes shows



What if the Olympic motto – 'the most important thing is not to win, but to participate' – is true? The results of a new study in which researchers followed how young biathletes fare when they compete as seniors show that there is something to the motto.

The results of the research study are published in an article in the journal *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living* and constitute an interesting aspect to take with you now that the Junior World Championships in biathlon are held in Östersund from 25 February to 5 March.

"Our study emphasizes that biathletes must have a certain level of performance during their junior years, but we do not see that it is as important that you succeed in winning medals or top positions in the youth or junior World Championships to succeed as a senior. On the other hand, it seems to be an advantage to participate in international competitions at a young age to reach a high ranking in, for example, the World Cup and World Championships as an adult," says Malin Jonsson Kårström, researcher at the Swedish Winter Sports Research Centre at Mid Sweden University.

The link between junior and senior performance has been investigated in several different sports, but with the greatest emphasis on team sports. However, no previous study has examined the relationship between junior and senior performance in biathlon. The primary aim of the study was therefore to investigate whether the competition ranking in the Youth and Junior World Championships was related to World Cup performances as seniors.

All data was obtained from the International Biathlon Federation's database. Biathletes who ranked top 30 in the overall World Cup for ten consecutive competition seasons (2013/14 – 2022/23) were selected for further analysis. The study includes 82 men and 98 women, the majority of whom have competed in the Junior World Championships.

The biathletes were divided into performance groups based on their best World Cup ranking as seniors, where one group consisted of skiers ranked 1-6, another group of skiers ranked 7-15 and the third group consisted of skiers ranked 16-30. The analysis shows that the most successful biathletes reached several "milestones" in the World Cup (debut, top 40, 15, 6 and 3) at a younger age than their competitors, but there was no difference between the groups in results during the Youth or Junior World Championships.

Networking and 20th anniversary at FSCN Days



Research and networking were in focus during this year's FSCN Days, where participants got an insight into ongoing research projects. At the same time, Mid Sweden University's 20th anniversary was celebrated with a look back at how FSCN contributed to Mid Sweden University becoming a university.

Over two half-days, around 90 researchers and company representatives gathered. Popular science research lectures followed one another, interspersed with opportunities for conversation and to take part in more research results and new materials in the exhibition space.

"It is so important for us at FSCN to be able to invite and meet our partners and be inspired together. We really want to show the breadth of our research, with the hope that it will lead to more collaborations," says Birgitta Engberg, centre director at FSCN.

Valuable networking

Several participants highlighted networking as one of the most valuable parts of the FSCN days.

"It means a lot to be able to meet in this way – both to make business contacts and to meet new researchers who have joined FSCN. The FSCN days provide a unique combination of information about current research and opportunities to create new collaborations," says Britta Andres, research and development engineer at 2Dfab.

Ove Nordin, team leader at Nouryon's research and development department, also emphasized networking as a central part of the event. He also appreciated the structure of the many research presentations.

"FSCN's broadening towards new materials and processes, as well as the additional physics specialisation, has made the collaboration even more interesting for us. Not everything may be directly applicable to our research, but it provides ideas about different approaches in development work," he says.

New project presented

During the FSCN days, a new major research and development project was also presented in which Mid Sweden University participates through FSCN. Hans Pehrson and Anneli Wärn from the companies Polestar and Borgstena, both of which are part of the consortium behind Mission O House, talked about the project.

"It's really interesting to be here at the FSCN days. Since bio-raw materials are an obvious part of the future when it comes to phasing out fossil raw materials, I see it as obvious that we should work together," Anneli Wärn stated.

In addition to research and networking, the FSCN days also included a celebration of Mid Sweden University's 20th anniversary. There was also a historical look back at how FSCN was formed 25 years ago and its importance for Mid Sweden University to gain university status. All three centre leaders of all time – Myat Thun, Kaarlo Niskanen and Birgitta Engberg – were interviewed on stage by moderator Linnea Kibe and shared FSCN's journey to today's research centre.

"The research centre has changed and developed over these 25 years – and we will continue to do so. Our goal is to conduct relevant research, and that means that we must constantly develop," Birgitta Engberg stated.

SEEU Hosts Air Pollution Workshop with UK Artist Robin Price



UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



South East European University (SEEU) recently hosted the Air Pollution Workshop, featuring UK-based artist Robin Price, who introduced an innovative method for visualizing air pollution particles. His experimental photography technique combines a particulate sensor, electronics, and LEDs to transform invisible air pollution into striking visual representations. The more pollution the sensor detects, the more particles the LEDs “paint” into long-exposure photographs—creating a powerful depiction of air quality as if seen under a microscope.

This initiative is part of SEEU’s collaborative project with the University of Birmingham, aimed at raising awareness of environmental challenges through art and technology. Students actively participated in the workshop, experimenting with this innovative methodology to create their own pollution-mapped images.

Building on this success, SEEU plans to organize an exhibition in May, where these unique photographs will be showcased to the public.

The Ninth Exhibition of SEEU Faculty of Technical Sciences Showcases Creativity and Innovation



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УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



South East European University (SEEU) hosted the **Ninth Exhibition of Students of the Faculty of Technical Sciences**, bringing together students, parents, and visitors to explore a wide range of **creative and innovative projects**.

The exhibition was officially opened by **SEEU Rector, Acad. Prof. Dr. Abdylmenaf Bexheti**, who highlighted the **growing influence of technology** on modern life and future professions.

"We live in an era where our lives have become semi-virtual, and soon they will be even more digitalized. A significant part of work will be done remotely, and your mission as future professionals is to adapt to these changes. The skills and knowledge you acquire at SEEU will help shape a sustainable and innovative future," stated **Rector Bexheti**.

The exhibition showcased the **remarkable work of students** from the **Architecture and Design** and **Interior Design** study programs. Through their projects, students demonstrated **technical expertise, creativity, and a forward-thinking approach** to design and innovation.

This annual event serves as a **platform for students to present their ideas**, engage with industry professionals, and gain valuable exposure in their fields. It also reflects SEEU's commitment to **nurturing talent and fostering innovation**, ensuring that students are well-equipped to meet the demands of an ever-evolving professional landscape.

SEEU Celebrates March 7 – Teacher's Day and the First Albanian School Day



UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



South East European University (SEEU) marked **March 7 – Teacher's Day and the First Albanian School Day** with a special event attended by **students, professors, teachers, and distinguished guests**.

In his keynote address, **SEEU Rector, Acad. Prof. Dr. Abdylmenaf Bexheti**, highlighted the **vital role of education and teachers in shaping society**. He emphasized that for an institution like SEEU, this day carries a **profound significance**, symbolizing the **historical journey of education in fostering national awareness**.

"These are the best moments to reflect. In today's conditions of freedom—almost ideal for fulfilling this mission—we often fail to fully appreciate the values that others have sacrificed to preserve and cultivate," said **Rector Bexheti**.

The **historical significance of this day** and the impact of education on national development were further elaborated by **Prof. Dr. Demush Bajrami**, Dean of the **Faculty of Languages, Cultures, and Communication**.

The event featured a rich **artistic program**, curated by **Maestro Jeton Pustina**, with performances by **soloists Lyra Stafaj and Sevdije Rushiti**. A highlight of the celebration was the **traditional dance "Malësorja"**, choreographed by **Elez Mema** and performed by the dance group of **SHKA "Xheladin Zeqiri"**.

Moderated by **student Hava Nasufi**, the event radiated a **festive and inspiring atmosphere**, reinforcing the importance of **preserving and promoting educational and cultural values**.

The European University presents the VEnCE Program in Alicante



On March 6, the Alicante campus of the European University hosted the official presentation of the VEnCE Program. A project of the European University Foundation, in collaboration with Club Deportivo Arena, aimed at improving the quality of life of cancer patients at any stage of their illness through physical exercise.

The event was attended by the rector of the European University of Valencia, Rosa Sanchidrián, the director of the VEnCE program, Itziar Pagola, the president of Club Deportivo Arena Alicante, Alexey Krupnov, as well as representatives from the city council and other institutions. "The VEnCE program we are presenting today embodies our essence and what we wanted to bring to Alicante. We aim to promote initiatives that, based on research, help improve people's lives," noted Rosa Sanchidrián, rector of the European University of Valencia.

The program, which has been present in cities such as Madrid, Valencia, and Barcelona for almost seven years, demonstrates the benefits of physical exercise for cancer patients. "Cancer changes your life. This is where physical exercise can intervene in a reliable, safe, and proven way, improving quality of life. The purpose of VEnCE is to provide scientific evidence about these benefits," explained Itziar Pagola, director of the VEnCE Program.

The event reaffirmed the university's commitment to social initiatives with tangible results. "Our Foundation was born with the spirit of impacting as many people as possible through social initiatives that yield visible results on the ground. VEnCE is a clear example of this," stated Teresa Román, managing director of the European University Foundation. With programs like VEnCE, the European University continues to demonstrate its dedication to improving community health and wellbeing through evidence-based approaches.

The European University of Valencia participates in the III Women's Race of Alicante



On March 9, the Alicante campus of the European University of Valencia had a strong presence at the III Prosolia Women's Race held in PAU 5 of Alicante. A total of 55 volunteers, including students and staff from the university center, joined this solidarity initiative that broke participation records with more than one thousand runners.

The race, which raised funds for the Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer, was attended by the Councilor for Social Welfare and Public Rights, Begoña León, and the Councilor for Sports, Toni Gallego, who gave the starting signal for this 5-kilometer event that ran through the streets of PAU 5.

The European University students demonstrated their commitment to the community through various volunteer actions. "This collaboration perfectly represents the values of our university, combining practical training for our students with service to the community," explained Noelia Rodríguez Blanco, director of the Alicante campus, who also had the honor of presenting some of the trophies to the winners.

The 2025 edition has exceeded all previous expectations, establishing itself as a reference sporting event in the city that combines the promotion of physical activity, the visibility of women's role in all areas of society, and support for solidarity causes. With initiatives like this, the European University reinforces its commitment to promoting healthy habits and its roots in the Alicante community.

The European University of Valencia celebrates the Annual Congress of Detectives of the Valencian Community



The European University of Valencia has been the venue for the Annual Congress of the Official College of Private Detectives of the Valencian Community, an event that brought together leading professionals and authorities in the sector. The event, held at the emblematic Turia Campus, was attended by Carla de Paredes, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences; José Rodríguez Jurado, Deputy Delegate of the Government; Emilio José Rodríguez, Dean of the Official College of Detectives; and Carlos Gajero Grande, Senior Chief of Police.

During the ceremony, Carla de Paredes was awarded the Cross of Professional Merit with white badge, in recognition of her academic and professional commitment. In her speech, she highlighted the essential role of private detectives as "guardians of truth and transparency", underlining the commitment of the European University to ethical and rigorous training in this field.

The congress addressed key issues for the future of the sector, such as the impact of artificial intelligence on private investigations. Joaquín Rieta, CEO of Digitalidoso, and Jorge David del Carpio gave a presentation on the opportunities that this technology represents. Carlos Orts Calabuig also analyzed the legal implications of the use of records.

The event concluded with an awards ceremony and the induction of new members, reaffirming the European University's commitment to innovation and excellence in private research.

More information:

<https://universidadeuropea.com/noticias/carla-paredes-condecorada-congreso-anual-detectives/>

UWM in the QS by Subject Ranking: Medicine Debuts, Agriculture and Forestry Maintain Strong Standing



Researchers at the University of Warmia and Mazury (UWM) continue to strengthen the institution's global position. In the prestigious QS World University Rankings by Subject, medical sciences have made their debut, while agriculture and forestry have maintained their high ranking from the previous year.

The QS WUR by Subject evaluates 55 disciplines across five major fields: arts and humanities, engineering and technology, life sciences, natural sciences, and social sciences & management. Each discipline is assessed based on five criteria: Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, International Research Network (IRN), Citations per Paper, and H-index Citations. The most critical factors include citation counts in Web of Science and Scopus databases, as well as the H-index, which measures the impact of a researcher's publications.

The latest QS ranking, published in March, brought significant recognition for medical sciences, which entered the ranking for the first time, placing in the 701-850 range.

Further cementing UWM's reputation in medical education, in June 2024, the faculty celebrated the graduation of a cohort that achieved the highest scores nationwide on the Medical Final Exam.

Meanwhile, agriculture and forestry have once again secured a strong position in the 201-250 range for the second consecutive year. According to Professor Piotr Bórawski from the Department of Agrotechnology and Agribusiness, this success is largely due to the high number of publications in prestigious scientific journals and strong international collaborations, particularly with researchers from the United States—widely regarded as a global leader in scientific research.

The field also ranks well in the Employer Reputation category, indicating strong recognition from industry professionals. Current research in agriculture and forestry at UWM focuses on renewable energy sources (RES) and energy transformation, aligning with global research trends and EU policies aimed at transitioning away from coal-based economies by 2050. These initiatives seek to mitigate climate change and its negative effects on the environment and public health.

UWM's agriculture and forestry discipline has been featured in the QS World University Rankings for four years, consistently improving its position. When asked whether an even higher ranking is possible in the future, Professor Bórawski expressed confidence that further progress is within reach.



UNIVERSITY
OF WARMIA AND MAZURY
IN OLSZTYN

Anastazja Kuś's Moment of Glory



Anastazja Kuś secured a silver medal at the World Athletics Indoor Championships in Nanjing. Representing AZS UWM Olsztyn, she ran the third leg of the women's 4×400-meter relay.

Notably, the Polish team received a last-minute invitation to compete in China after other national squads withdrew. The American team entered as the clear favorites—and they lived up to expectations, winning in 3:27.45. Just behind them, the Polish quartet—Justyna Święty-Ersetic, Aleksandra Formella, Anastazja Kuś, and Anna Maria Gryc—delivered a strong performance, securing second place with a time of 3:32.05. Australia completed the podium, taking bronze.

UWM Scientists on Brain Awareness Day: Neurological Diseases Remain a Challenge



On March 14, in honor of European Brain Awareness Day, a press conference dedicated to brain health and neurological disease education was held at the University Clinical Hospital. During the event, Professor Marcin Mycko, head of the Neurology Clinic with the Stroke Unit, presented “The Brain – The Human Command Center”, discussing the latest research findings.

“The structure of the brain is incredibly complex, and despite extensive research, we still know relatively little about how it functions. Repairing brain damage is a daunting challenge. Fortunately, neurology has made remarkable strides. As a neurologist with decades of experience observing patients with nervous system disorders, I can confidently say that today, we are achieving medical breakthroughs that were unthinkable just a few years ago,” said Prof. Mycko.

He also highlighted the prevalence of neurological diseases in Poland:

- 100,000 people suffer from multiple sclerosis (MS),
- 90,000 live with Parkinson’s disease,
- 300,000 are diagnosed with epilepsy,
- 500,000 have Alzheimer’s disease,
- 15% of the population experiences migraines,
- Approximately 80,000 Poles suffer a stroke each year.

In addition to the lectures, conference attendees had the unique opportunity to embark on a virtual reality (VR) journey through the brain, experiencing its intricate structures in an immersive setting.