

Statement by the French, German and Polish Rectors' Conferences (CPU, HRK, KRASP) on European Research, Education and Innovation as well as University Policies

11.12.2018

The so called Partial General Approach (PGA) of the EU-Council on the proposals of the EU Commission achieved in the last days constitutes an important step forward for European Higher Education and mobility as well as research and innovation policies. The EU Parliament is also close to finishing its position on these policy areas. The Rectors' Conferences of France, Germany and Poland welcomed the willingness of all responsible sides to come to swift conclusions on the future funding programs of the EU in a joint meeting in Berlin on 29.11.2018.

They repeat their position that "Universities play a crucial role in making the EU stable and future-proof. They bind together capabilities in excellent research, innovation, education and culture in order to create future generations of responsible European citizens." ¹

Therefore, the three rectors' conferences

- welcome **the new pilot program of the EU "European Universities"** that took up the initiative of the Sorbonne speech of the French President Emmanuel Macron and will support the closer cooperation of networks of European Universities. This puts the central role of universities in the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation in focus. The pilot is developing into a veritable test case of multilevel cooperation of the EU-Commission, member states and regions crosscutting various policy fields. While it is too early to draw conclusions on this new program they would like to emphasize the fact that the real common governance and strategy of the "European Universities" require a flexible approach, the question of knowing how many institutions might be involved in each project remains a moot point.
- reaffirm their opinion that **regional innovation ecosystems** benefit from universities in their very centre. The cooperation of these ecosystems should be supported by the EU as was already proposed by the rectors' conferences by funding "territorial connections" via Horizon Europe, cohesion funds and the new inter-regional Innovation instrument.²
- support the decision of the EU Council in the PGA to separate the 2nd cluster of the proposal of the Commission on Horizon Europe in two clusters "**Culture and inclusive societies**" and "**Civil security for society**".
- emphasize the need to raise **the planned EU budget** for the future EU framework program for research and innovation "Horizon Europe" to 120 billion Euro for the period 2021-2027 in line with the demands of the European Parliament and the need for assuring the future competitiveness and societal cohesion of the European Union.

¹ https://www.hrk.de/fileadmin/redaktion/hrk/02-Dokumente/02-05-Forschung/Trilateral_Declaration_of_CPU_HRK_KRASP_final.pdf, also http://www.krasp.org.pl/resources/upload/Inne_dokumenty_KRASP/trojstronna_deklaracja_cpu_hrk_krasp-1.pdf, p. 1

² dito, p.3-4