

Re-Imagining Higher Education and Research

GOALS

Our purpose is to ensure that European reform universities remain venues of **experimentation**. We aim to question what universities are and to re-imagine what they could be. We will promote **experimentation in teaching, learning, and research** within the Alliance. We will gather information about what is already happening, support and share new experiments, and offer recommendations for how we can move forward into the future.

MEASURES

- **Gathering and sharing** of information;
- Establishment of an **open database with innovative cases**
- Support for **experiments in teaching and learning**;
- **Training workshops** for younger academics who want to engage in new, collaborative, and interdisciplinary forms of research;
- **Research workshops** discussing the role of higher education and research in the modern world.

FIRST YEAR REPORT OF PROGRESS

We organized ourselves in four different groups, a **research group**, a **pedagogical group**, a **research support group**, and a **student group**. Each group has held several meetings and started on its activities. The research group organized its first workshop, *What Are Reform Universities (And How Do We Know)?*, September 24-25, at Roskilde University as well as a series of online **ERUA Talks**, in the spring and fall of 2021. The pedagogical group made its first **call for innovative projects**, joining researchers across the alliance in rethinking our models of teaching and learning. The research support group made a call for participants for their first **workshops for junior researchers**, focusing on how to build research networks. The student group has been especially active, gathering information about the different universities in the alliance. In June 2021, we finished the first large report, *What Are Reform Universities Today?*, based upon

this information gathering. The report gives an overview of the educational structures of the ERUA universities. It shows parallels and differences between the ERUA universities as well as discusses how our similarities differentiates us from other, more mainstream, universities. The report also offers a first draft of the research profile of ERUA. The good news emerging from the report is that the ERUA universities, in fact, have much in common and that **there are many possibilities of future collaboration**. In the summer and fall of 2021, we have continued collecting information about **the place of teaching in academic careers, structures of research support, ways of measuring impact, examples of “learning in the field,”** and much more. This information gathering will feed into other reports, policy papers, and open databases in 2022.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In the near future, the pedagogical group will launch a **second call for innovative projects** and the research support group will host its first **workshop for junior researchers**. More calls and workshops will follow in 2022. The research group will continue with its ERUA talks as well as with two additional workshops, one on *“The History and Legacy of Reform”* at the University of Konstanz in the spring of 2022 and another on *“Digitalization and Education”* at New Bulgarian University in the fall of 2022. Before the second workshop, the student group will collect information about courses teaching “digital skills” at the ERUA universities. These cases will go into an **open database**

on the alliance website, together with the cases of “learning in the field” that we already collected. We will also collect information about **academic development courses** at the ERUA universities with the goal of establishing a joint **catalogue** of such courses. In addition, we plan a **policy paper on the place of learning in academic careers**, following up on the information gathering that we did in the fall of 2021. In June 2022, we will finish a second version of the report, *What Are Reform Universities Today?*, based upon the earlier report as well as what we have learned from meetings, workshops, and information gathering.



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