

Dear members of the European Reform University Alliance family,

Today, we celebrate the first birthday of the ERUA—a milestone not just for us, but for the vision of Europe itself. Reflecting on the journey that brought us together here, I am reminded of President Emmanuel Macron’s Sorbonne speech in 2017, where he proposed the concept of European Universities as a transformative force. His words sparked a vision—one **of the universities** as spaces not only for learning and research but as **active architects of European unity**.

Europe is like a symphony orchestra, diverse in its instruments and traditions, yet united in creating harmony. What keeps this orchestra in tune? Shared values and commitment to democracy, the rule of law and human rights. This is where the European University Alliances like ERUA play an important role. **We are not just another EU project; we are an alliance—a community united by shared purpose and vision, shared values, governance, rights and responsibilities.** Together, we are building a sustainable, long-term strategy for transformative transnational education, research and community engagement.

Our efforts include groundbreaking initiatives like the development of **European degree**, which will allow students to seamlessly pursue academic and personal growth across borders.

At the same time, ERUA champions in **quality Lifelong learning**, creating **microcredentials** and **flexible learning paths**, ensuring that education remains accessible, personalized, and relevant to learners of all ages and backgrounds.

In addition, ERUA drives forward progress through **research clusters**, uniting experts across disciplines to tackle Europe’s most pressing societal challenges. **We believe** that those clusters will embody our commitment to fostering collaboration and generating solutions that benefit the entire continent and beyond.

Recently, ERUA joined the **Community of Practice Project**, a significant step that enables us to work collectively with other forward looking European University Alliances. This collaboration fosters **common actions and policy shaping**. By aligning strategies and sharing best practices, we amplify our social impact and ensure that **our collective voice is heard** and will define the future of education and research in Europe.

The importance of this mission cannot be overstated. As the European Commission rightly emphasizes, universities are the “drivers of the EU’s global role and leadership. ERUA embodies this idea by fostering connections among **students, academics, researchers, administrators and institutions**, creating a deep sense of **belonging and unity that transcends borders**.

As we celebrate this first year, let us remember: **we are not just building for today, but for the future. We are Alliance, We are ERUA.** Let us continue this meaningful journey together, **creating harmony of Europe’s diverse symphony**.

Thank you.