

EURECA-PRO KICK-OFF EVENT FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABILITY

In July 2023, EURECA-PRO secured European Commission (EC) funding for the further development of the European University on Responsible Consumption and Production. Last week, the alliance came together for the official kick-off event at Hasselt University from 5th to 8th of February.

Delegations from all partner universities travelled to Belgium to discuss future tasks within EURECA-PRO. In the course of the week, a number of different work package meetings were held focusing on topics such as project management, governance, education, research and dissemination. Central topics were digitalisation, the further development of study programmes as well as a better inclusion of students. In this context, the EURECA-PRO student council met for the first time in phase 2.0 to share their insights and experiences with the team. As members of the student council, students have the unique opportunity to play an important role in the setup of their European University and to actively shape the future of the European higher education landscape.

The EURECA-PRO kick-off event was very much centered around the topic of sustainability. For example, locally produced vegetarian and vegan dishes were served during the whole week. Furthermore, the event aimed to get as close to zero waste as possible. Participants were, therefore, encouraged to bring their own bottles and coffee mugs from home in order to banish disposable products. In addition, the cultural aspect also played an important role during the week and included a guided city tour as well as a Belgian night with traditional Belgian specialities.

The kick-off event was a valuable opportunity to discuss and network with colleagues from all 9 partner universities. The coming months will be used to build on the results of the kick-off week and to further develop the European University on Responsible Consumption and Production.