

EURECA-PRO Establishes Legal Entity

Milestone marks a new chapter for the alliance, formalising EURECA-PRO as a long-term European University Alliance.

Brussels, 30 June 2026

On 30 June, the EURECA-PRO Alliance reached a major milestone with the formal establishment of its legal entity as an International Nonprofit Organisation (INPO). The founding documents were signed in Brussels by Bernard Vanheusden, Rector of Hasselt University, on behalf of the alliance's nine partner universities, marking EURECA-PRO's transition from a project-based collaboration to a permanent European University Alliance.

From Project to Permanent Alliance

The establishment of the legal entity marks the culmination of nearly two years of collaboration among legal, governance, and project-management experts across the alliance. It transforms EURECA-PRO from a project-based initiative into a permanent European University Alliance with a stable governance framework to support long-term cooperation, internationalisation, joint funding opportunities, and deeper integration across the alliance.

As the EURECA-PRO coordination team explained, *"Establishing a legal entity is a crucial step in the maturation of a European University Alliance. It demonstrates a shared commitment among all partners to continue building a common future and provides the structures necessary to deepen cooperation and achieve lasting impact."*

Joining a Select Group of European Alliances

Establishing a legal entity for a European University Alliance remains a complex and demanding undertaking. To date, only 14 of the 73 European University Alliances have successfully achieved this milestone.

With the establishment of its International Nonprofit Organisation, EURECA-PRO joins a select group of alliances that have formalised their cooperation through a dedicated legal structure. The achievement provides greater stability, continuity, and strategic capacity, enabling the alliance to pursue its mission more effectively and sustainably.

Most importantly, the new legal entity sends a clear message about the future of EURECA-PRO: it is not a temporary project, but a lasting European University Alliance built on long-term commitment, shared values, and a common vision for higher education in Europe.

A Collaborative European Effort

The process of establishing the legal entity began during EURECA-PRO's first funding phase with an extensive benchmarking exercise led by the Silesian University of Technology (SUT), which identified Belgian law as the most suitable legal framework for the alliance. A dedicated Legal Working Group, bringing together experts from all partner universities, then developed the statutes for the International Nonprofit Organisation, with an interdisciplinary team from Hasselt University (UH) coordinating the process.

Reflecting on the collaboration, members of the Legal Working Group said: *"Each country has its own legal logic. The challenge was to bring those differences together into one structure that inspires trust for everyone. It was only by combining legal, strategic, and operational perspectives that we realised how complex the process was - and that no single partner could have achieved it alone."*

The establishment of the legal entity marks not the end of a process, but the beginning of a new chapter for EURECA-PRO. With a permanent governance structure in place, the alliance is ready to deepen its cooperation, strengthen its impact, and continue working towards a more connected, innovative, and sustainable European Higher Education Area.

About EURECA-PRO

EURECA-PRO was founded in 2020 as part of the European Universities Initiative launched by French President Emmanuel Macron in 2017. Centred around the theme of "Responsible Consumption and Production," the alliance is dedicated to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12 while fostering deeper cooperation and connection across Europe. Since its creation, EURECA-PRO has developed joint study programmes and innovative educational pathways that enable students to move seamlessly between partner universities through integrated international learning experiences.