

**The European higher education sector and Brussel's  
policy making - how can Universities make themselves  
heard, how can they influence the implementation of  
“Horizon 2020”?**

**Prof. Marco Gilli**  
**President of CESAER**  
**Rector of Politecnico di Torino**

# Introduction to CESAER

- Non-profit international association of leading European universities of technology and engineering schools/faculties at comprehensive universities and university colleges
- Established in 1990 in Leuven
- Currently counts 56 members from 25 countries
- Detailed info at: <http://www.cesaer.org>

# CESAER vision and mission

- To be the main European point of reference for engineering education, research and innovation
- Serving as a close network for mutual learning of universities of technology committed to excellence
- Contributing to European developments by dialogue with EU institutions
- Inspiring reflections and fostering understanding of the role of engineering in modern knowledge-based societies supporting sustainable development

# CESAER objectives

- Promoting excellence in education and LLL integrated with research and innovation in the knowledge triangle
- Supporting research-based education preparing students for addressing complex problems
- Promoting advances at the frontiers of research
- Stimulating cooperation between universities towards strengthening EU as location for RTI
- Working with industry and other societal actors towards strengthening innovation in Europe
- Providing excellent research infrastructures

# Strategic initiatives

- Stimulating the modernisation agenda for research and technology (SMART)
- Human resources for research
- U-Multirank
- Dissemination
- Dialog with EC
- Steering/influencing of EU policies

# Strategic initiatives in the past working year

## **CESAER SMART - Initiative follow up**

- “Knowledge Triangle”, Joint CESAER – DG EAC Workshop, 8 March 2012
- Joint SMART/ULAB Workshop on Modernisation of universities
- Follow-up of SMART Task Force “University research strategy and management”

# Strategic initiatives

## **CESAER addressing the issue of Human Resources for Research**

- CESAER Task Force Human Resources
- CESAER joining the Institutional Human Resources Strategy Group

# Strategic initiatives

## U-Multirank

- CESAER as stakeholder in pilot in 2012 and associated partner in project implementation in 2013-14



# Strategic initiatives

## Participation in major European conferences and meetings

- EUGENE LLP Academic Network on European and Global Engineering Education
- CLAIU-EU Conference "The Engineering Doctorate" (19-20 February 2012)
- EIT Conference (25-26 June 2012)
- 4<sup>th</sup> European Convention of Engineering Deans (29-30 March 2012; co-organisation with SEFI)

# Strategic initiatives

## **Monitoring of FP7 participation and strengthening cooperation among member institutions**

- CESAER strongest network among top 50 HEI in FP7 (2012 FP7 Monitoring Report)
- Using analysis and mutual benchmarking of participation as basis for forging more links between EU15 and EU12 member institutions (“widening participation”)

# Strategic initiatives

## Annual seminars on key issues

- **2010:** Addressing the Grand Challenges through Advanced Engineering Education, Research and Innovation
- **2011:** Universities of Technology facing globalisation
- **2012:** The battle for brains

# Position papers

- CESAER Position on Erasmus for All (June 2012)
- ***CESAER position towards the Commission proposal for HORIZON 2020 (February 2012)***
- CESAER response to ERA Framework Consultation (November 2011)

# CESAER position on H2020

- Some recommendations to the EC:
  - Acknowledgment of the importance that H2020 is devoting to the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation; universities of technology are key actors in this frame.
  - Welcomed a clear profile oriented towards “excellence” and support to the envisaged synergies with the research and innovation oriented parts of the Cohesion Policy Funds
  - Welcomed the integration of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) and emphasizing the need for coordination and intensive interaction with the other parts of the programme.
  - Offered detailed recommendations for sharpening and clarifying the formulations in the Rules for Participation.

# CESAER position on H2020

- Some recommendations to the EC (cont.):
  - Suggested a rebalancing of the budget distribution: e.g. the budget for the Marie Curie Actions (MCA) is by far too moderate and does not adequately consider the key role of and the strong demand for the Marie Curie Actions; also the Research Infrastructures would deserve a higher budget.
  - Suggested a flat rate for indirect eligible costs higher than 20%, at least for universities and research organizations – *not considered, so far.*
  - Suggested an overall budget higher than EUR 80B – *not considered, so far.*

# Politecnico di Torino and the EU 1/2

- Number-one ranked university according to the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (since 2009).
- Very active at the EU and international levels, both for research and education.
  - 15% international students (highest in Italy).
  - 50% courses offered in English.
  - 40% of budget from research projects and contracts.
  - Member of several international university networks (e.g., CESAER, CLUSTER, TIMES, COLUMBUS)
  - Partner in over 160 FP7 projects, over EUR 45M funding.

# Politecnico di Torino and the EU 2/2

- Contributed to position papers on H2020 by Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research and other national and EU organizations.
- Faculty includes several national FP7 delegates/experts and members of EU bodies.
- H2020 at the top of POLITO's priorities:
  - Various incentives to stimulate the participation to multidisciplinary projects and collaboration across departments.



# Thanks for your attention



**Prof. Marco Gilli**  
President of CESAER  
Rector of Politecnico di Torino

CESAER