

A common strategy of the European universities for the development of the European Research Area

HRK - The German Universities in the European Research Area (ERA). How should we prepare ourselves?

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Overview

- EUA core messages
- EUA contribution to ERA and Horizon 2020 policy development
- Memorandum of Understanding between EUA and EC
- EUA R&I activity areas for 2014

Universities are essential stakeholders in building an European Research Area (ERA)

- Embedded in cities and regions, they enable social and economic development
- Implement diverse missions in education and research
- Educate knowledge workers and researchers
- Able to foster interdisciplinary research skills and expertise
- Are focal points for dialogue and knowledge exchange with society
- Build international cooperation upon institutional historical and cultural links, strengths and capacities

EUA as Voice of European Universities - Statements to ERA and Horizon 2020 policy development

Developed in wide consultation with its members:

- Smart People for Smart Growth: Statement by the European University Association on the EU Flagship Initiative “Innovation Union” of the Europe 2020 European Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, 3rd February 2011
- EUA position on the EC “Green Paper” on a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding; 10th May 2011
- EUA position on the EC consultation document on the “ERA Framework”, 30th November 2011
- EUA Input to the Debate on the Rules for Participation in Horizon 2020, 10th May 2012
- **Memorandum of Understanding between EUA and the European Commission, 17th July 2012**
- Statement addressed to Heads of State and Government attending the “EU Budget Summit”, 8th November 2012
- Statement sent to EU Irish Presidency Chair of trilogue negotiations between Council, European Parliament and European commission, February 2013

Summary of main points on EUA's statements

- Excellence, simplification, open competition, European added-value, cost model flexibility, transparent evaluation processes
- “Bottom-up” funding instruments must be strengthened to support basic science (European Research Council, Marie Curie Actions and Future Enabling Technologies Programme)
- Essential contribution of the social sciences, arts and humanities should be retained and strengthened
- Greater synergy between Competition policy (Horizon 2020) and Cohesion Policy (ERDF & ESF) could be achieved by changing the regulations to allow universities to be initiators of ERDF funding applications in research, training and innovation activities (Smart Specialisation Strategy).

EUA Voice of European Universities- Stakeholder consultation processes with the European Commission and European Parliament

Examples of EU R&I policy dialogues:

- EU policy dialogues (since 2005):
 - Framework programmes: FP6, FP7, Horizon 2020 mid-term reviews
 - Specific initiatives: ERC, EIT, Maria Skłodowska-Curie Programme
 - Other bodies: ERAC, ERIAB
- Human Resources and Mobility Steering Group through several Working Groups (since 2005)
- Consultations on energy policy within the SET Plan (since 2009)
- MoU Stakeholders Platform (since 2012)

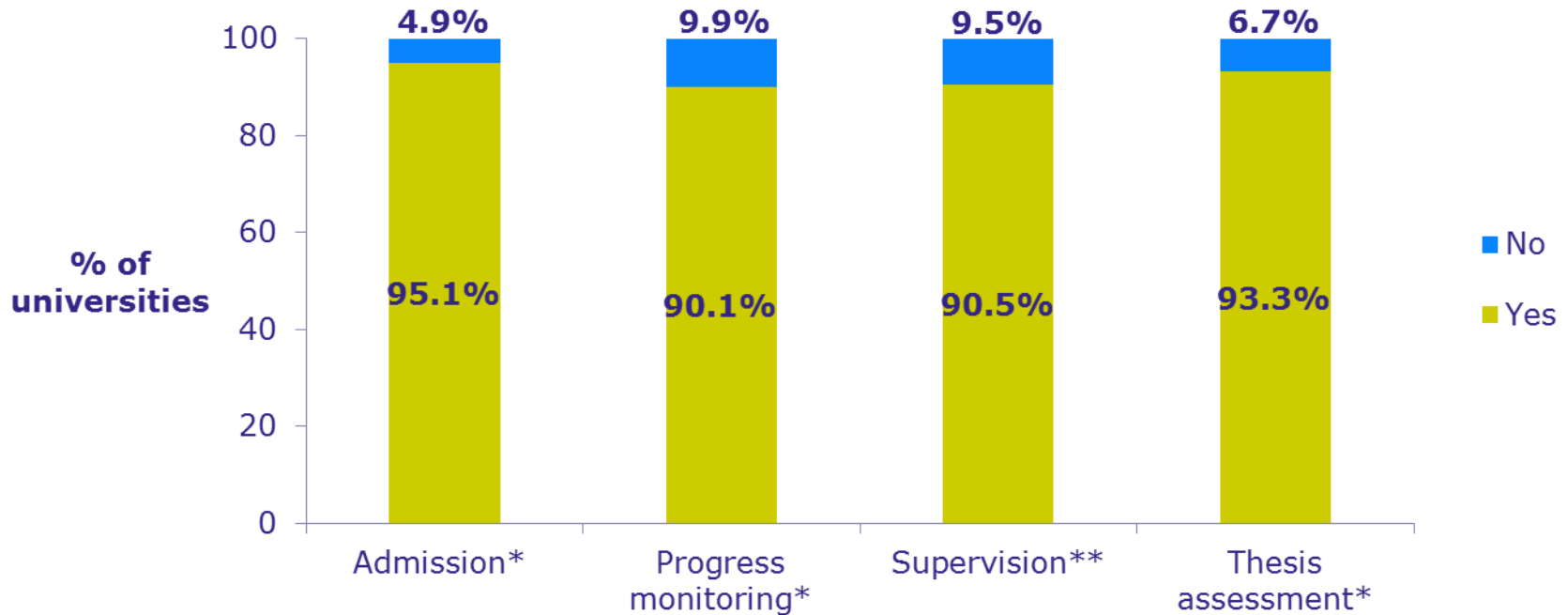
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EUA and EC

A partnership approach to achieve ERA

- Signed on 17 July 2012 - EARTO, EUA, LERU, NORDFORSK - together with a Joint Statement (including also Science Europe)
- Priority areas in 2013:
 - I) doctoral training, research careers and mobility, and gender strategies
 - II) Cross-border cooperation/smart specialisation strategies
 - III) Open Access to scientific publications
- Survey on doctoral training, research careers and mobility addressed to EUA membership
 - 224 universities (30% EUA individual full members)
- MoU extended to 2014

EUA MoU survey outcomes – Highlights (I)

Institutional policies on doctoral education in the areas of:



Number of responses:

* 223/224

** 222/224

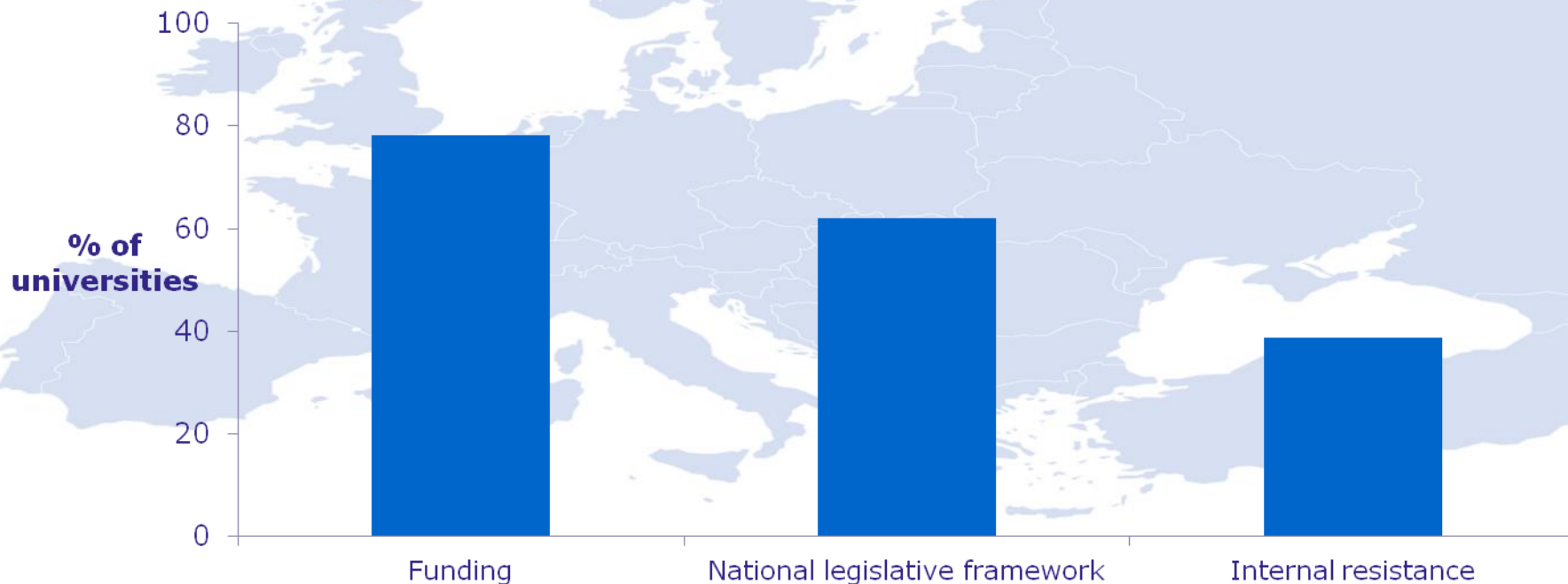


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Doctoral education

Identified obstacles for the development of institutional policies

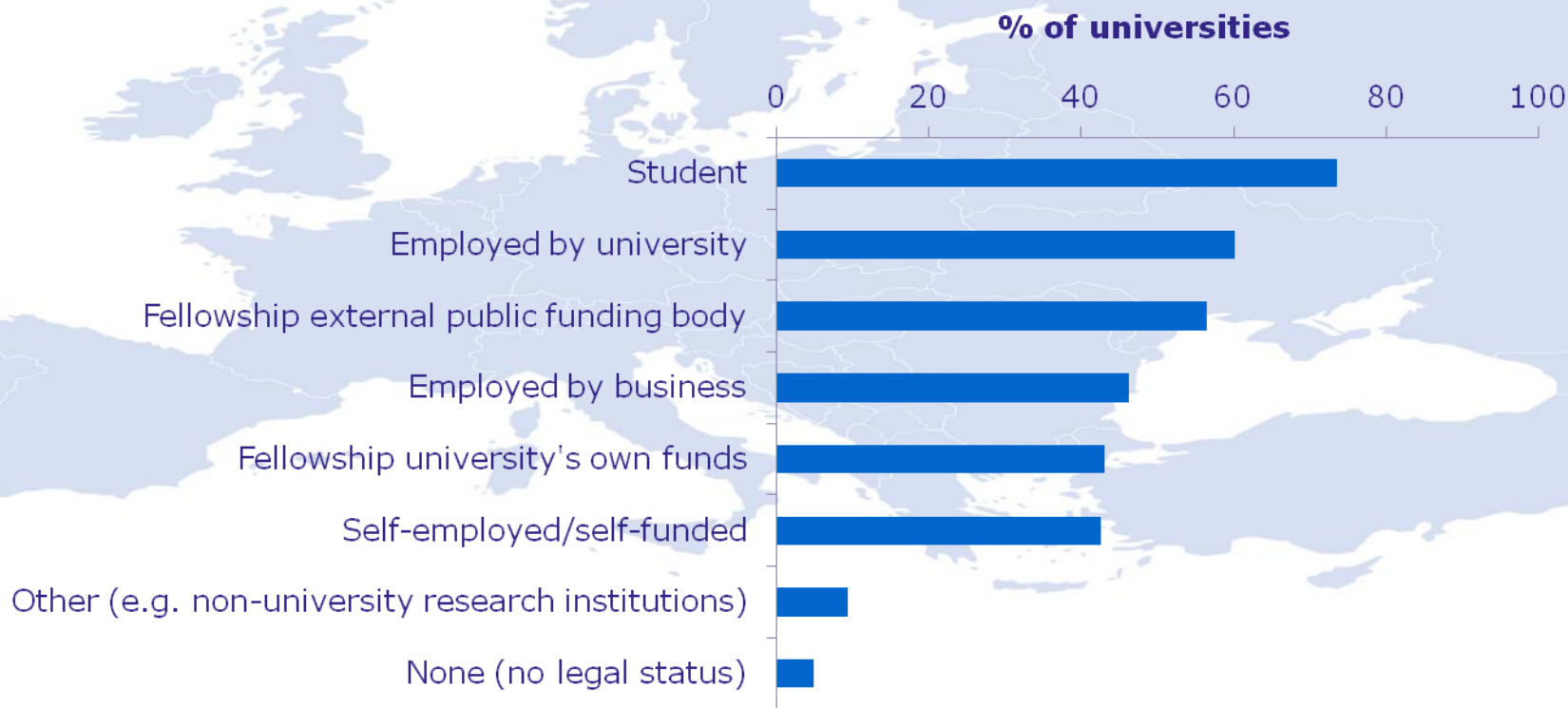


Number of responses: 119/119. Multiple choice question

Note: only universities that replied “yes” to Q23 are included in this analysis

Doctoral education

Legal status of doctoral candidates at the institution



Number of responses: 224/224. Multiple choice question

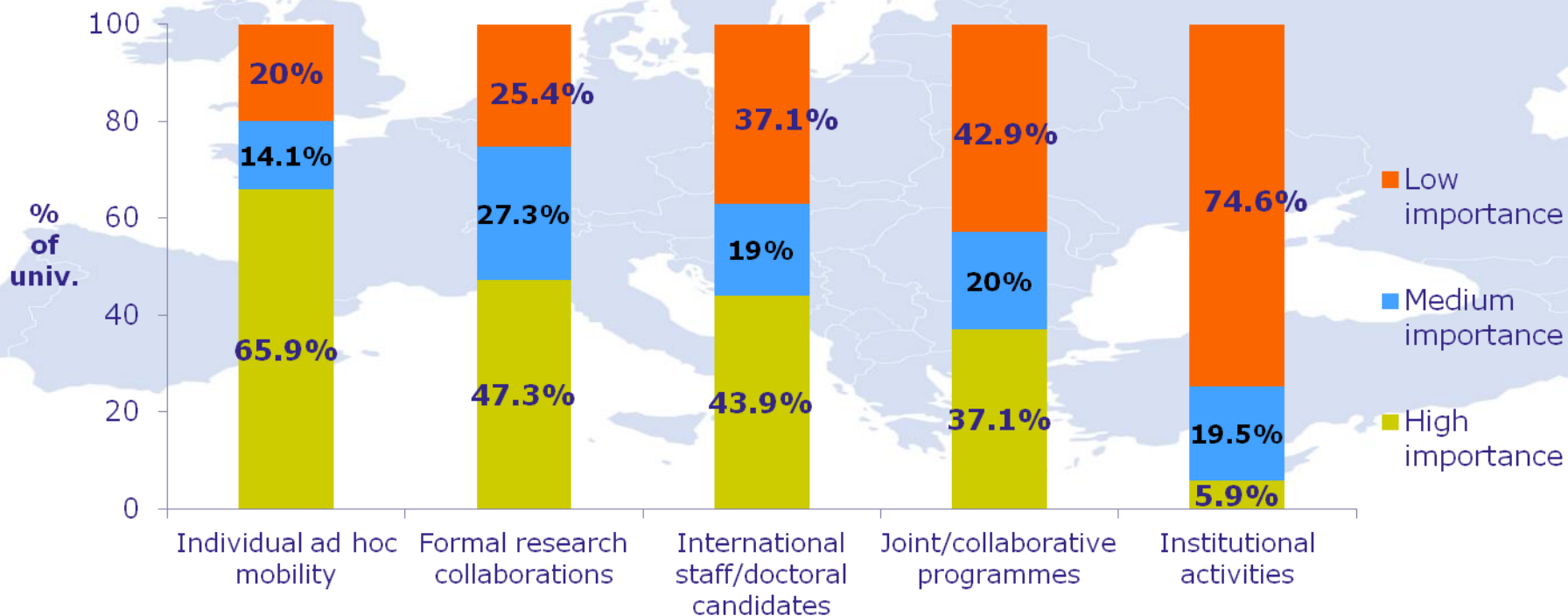


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International research collaboration

Ranking of international activities related to research



Number of responses: 205/224

Strategic objectives of EUA for universities in ERA

- Maintain and further develop the position of universities as a key stakeholder providing input to European R&I policy developments at the highest policy and political EU level
- Encourage university engagement in the next steps of the implementation of the European Research Area through follow-up action on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Consolidate the European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research, Education and Training (EPUE) as the main stakeholder representing the university sector in the SET-Plan
- Continue to develop and promote good practice guidelines in university-business cooperation to foster EU competitiveness in the long-term
- Continue to promote structural reform and building critical mass in doctoral education in Europe, strengthening international cooperation and addressing the improvement of researcher careers and wider employment opportunities

EUA R&I activity areas for 2014

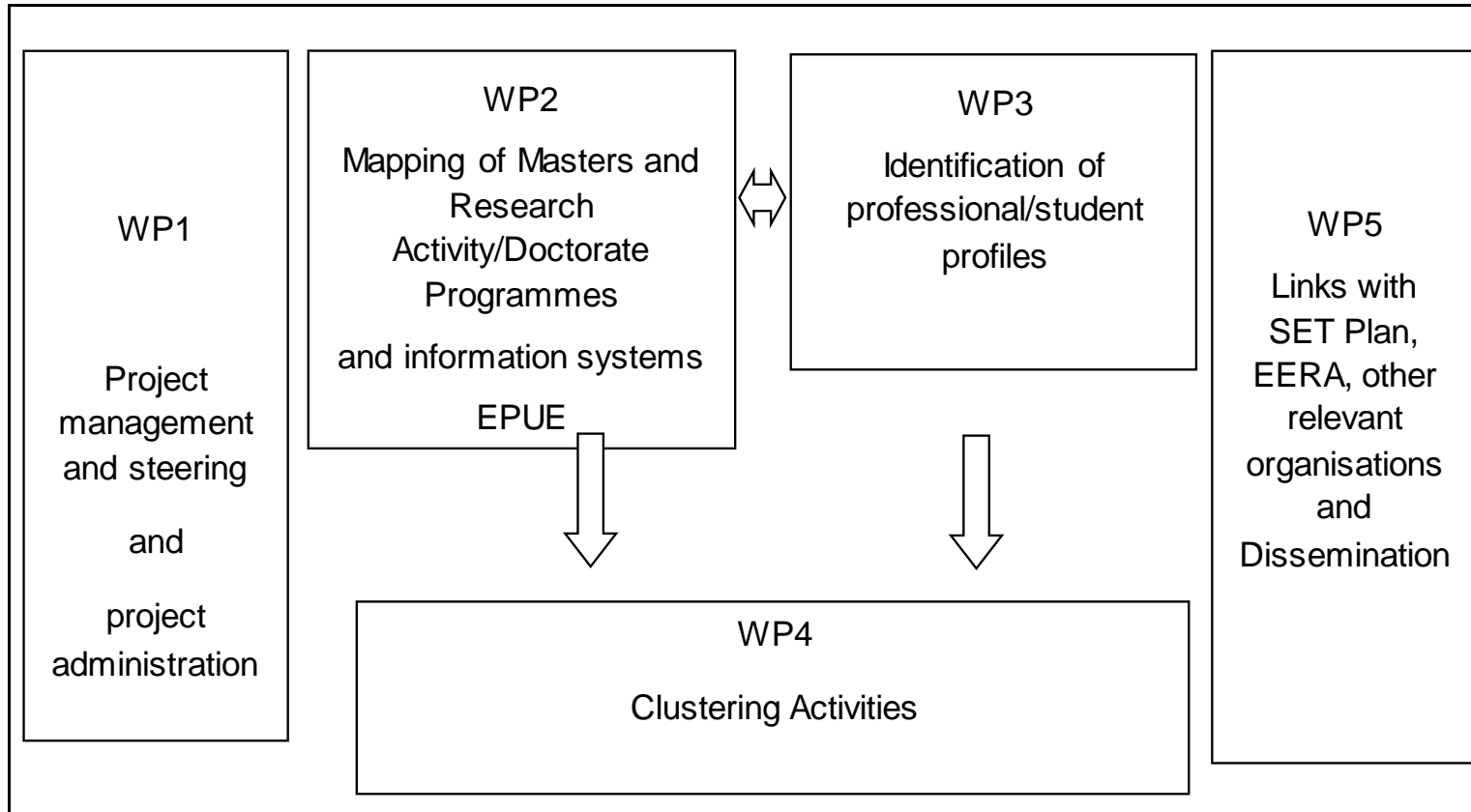
- Following-up the implementation of Horizon 2020 and the Structural Funds
- Implementing UNI-SET project on energy
- Strengthening cooperation with JRC on Smart Specialisation Strategies*
- Providing input to dialogue on access to research infrastructure*
- Continuing to promote:
 - University-Business Cooperation*
 - Open Access to Publications and Data*
 - Gender equality*
 - Doctoral Education and Researchers Careers*

* Also part of the MoU

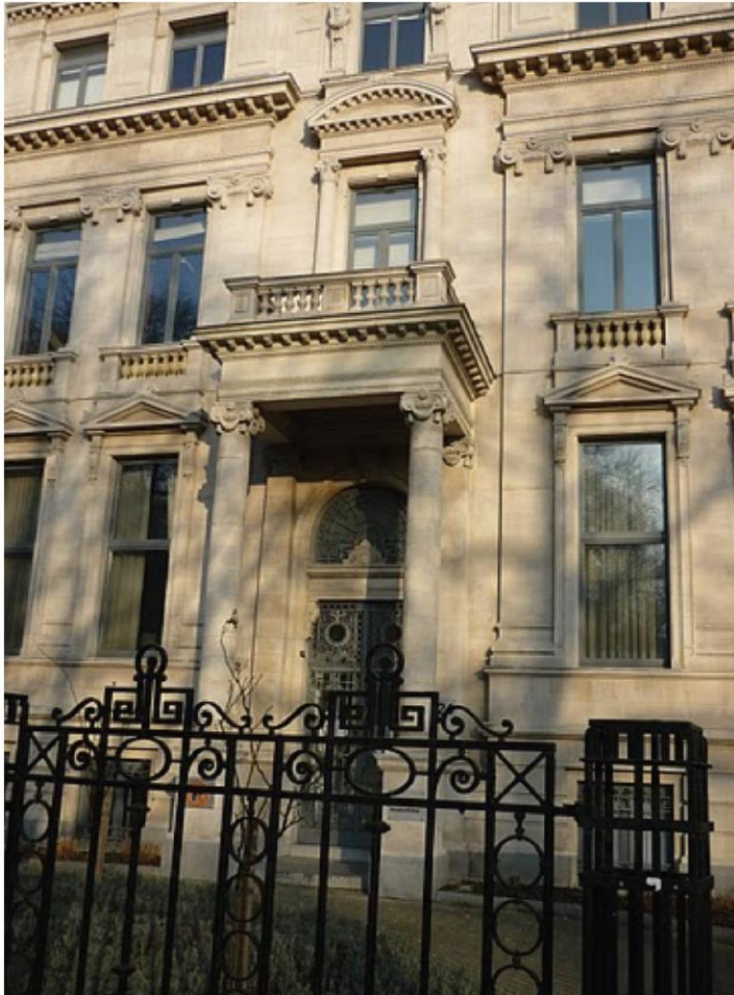
UNI-SET

Support action from the EU Commission under establishment

EUA-EPUE and KU Leuven (representing the universities in EIT KIC InnoEnergy) are preparing an action for the mobilisation of the research, education and innovation capacities of Europe's universities



WP 4 will provide an arena to create SSH-alliances of universities for energy



Thank you for your attention!

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