



SEA-EU

The latest news about the European University of Seas and their partners.

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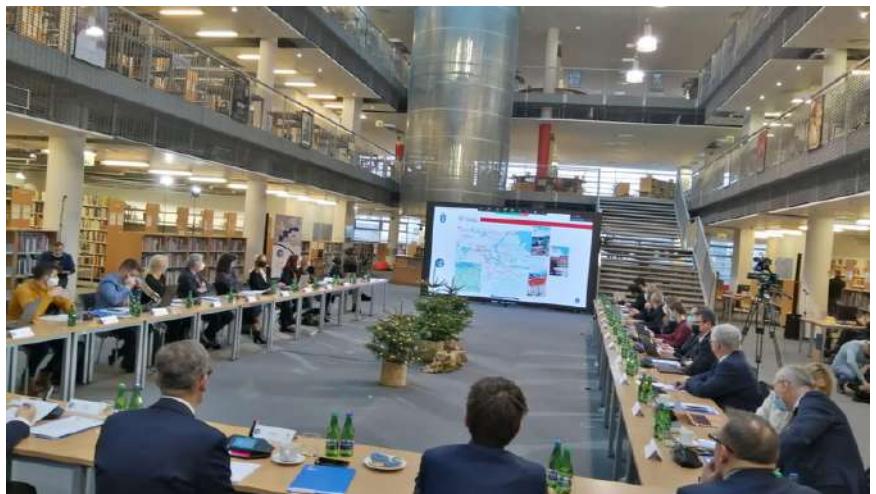
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EDITORIAL

Together towards the second stage of the Alliance

On 30 November, in the middle of the SEA-EU Technical Working Group meeting in Gdansk, the open call for the second phase of the European Universities was announced. We were finally discovering how the European Commission is taking up this challenge: what deadlines, what guidelines and what objectives it proposes to us to extend the *European University of the Seas* Alliance for 4 more years.

After almost two years working together but remotely across screens, this key news for our cooperation surprised us on one of the rare occasions that we found ourselves sitting at the same table. And perhaps it was a sign of the essence of this peculiar and ambitious initiative. Reading it together, having the opportunity to share impressions, concerns and ideas that through the screen would have lost much of their humanity and would have become just another report.

We are entering a second, more ambitious phase, inviting new partners to join this family of universities, and for four more years. We welcome them. Just like the brand new year 2022 that is sure to bring us many successes.

SEA-EU Governing Board meets in Gdańsk

On November 30th, and December 1st and 2nd, the Governing Board, the Executive Committee and the Technical Working Group of SEA-EU, as well as the Extended Executive Committee and Technical Working Group for the reSEArchEU (H2020) project, took place physically in Gdańsk, Poland.

With the almost full presence of the Rectors, Vice-Rectors for Internationalisation, work package leaders, and technicians, the meetings and events that took place each day were enriching and profitable thanks to a perfect organisation by our hosts from the University of Gdańsk.

The Rector of the University of Cadiz, Francisco Piniella, as well as the General Coordinator of the Alliance, Fidel Echevarría, thanked the unanimous choice of the University of Cadiz to serve once again as coordinator for the second stage of the SEA-EU initiative. In addition, management measures were also chosen, as well as the preferences for selecting new partners, since in the second phase, the European Commission is expecting extra efforts to increase the number of partner universities, in the case of SEA-EU, from 6 to 8, and perhaps even 9.

The week of meetings was complemented with numerous informal activities that facilitated a positive and enthusiastic atmosphere that permeated the outcome of each day.



Poland's first president, Lech Wałęsa, welcomes the Alliance

On the last day of the SEA-EU week in Gdańsk, the host University surprised the audience with a visit from Lech Wałęsa, the first democratically elected President of Poland, leader of the Solidarność movement, whose story was presented the previous day in the dedicated museum. The values of dignity and freedom shared by SEA-EU and this movement born in the late 1970s were at the centre of this reception, which once again demonstrates the transformative role of the Alliances.



New call for applications from European universities

The call for the second phase of the "European Universities" initiative was published on the 30th of November. This call is an opportunity to renew the Partnerships for 4 more years and includes some changes, such as the extension of the number of partners, and the switch to lump sum funding. There is an intensive timetable, with a deadline of March 22nd to submit proposals in a competitive call in which all existing alliances want to be able to stay.

The SEA-EU Coordination, led by the University of Cadiz, has proposed a series of measures to design this proposal. These measures include a specific working group for the drafting and a survey to all students and staff of the universities, as well as their different associated members and stakeholders. This survey will serve to adapt the design of the second phase to the real needs of the environment.



The SDGs in our universities

During May and June 2021, teaching staff and students of the SEA-EU partnership participated in two surveys on their level of knowledge of the SDGs and their intentions to include the SDGs in their teaching and learning respectively.

The questionnaire was distributed online in the partners' native languages. This survey was not intended as scientific research, but rather as an indication of students' awareness of sustainable development and the SDGs, and attitudes towards learning about them at university level.

A SEA-EU Forum on SDGs in university teaching will be held in June 2022, for which contributions are already being received.



Co-funded by the
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2021: The year when reSEArch-EU kicked off



The reSEArch-EU Project began in early 2021, committed to improving the SEA-EU Alliance's research infrastructure, with a special focus on improving its resilience, nourishing its entrepreneurial and innovative potential, studying how stakeholders may get more involved in academic endeavours, developing common open research data systems and policies, as well as consolidating a common research agenda acknowledging current challenges faced by universities and society.

The first steps in this project consisted of producing a Project Handbook -where the governing structure and procedures were set up, a Data Management Plan -where protocols regarding public sharing of research data in the project are nested - an ethics self-assessment -focused on personal data protection policies- and the project's webpage.

Once the basis had been set up, late 2021 brought the development of the first scientific deliverables: the Report on Best Practices in Open Science, based on a survey conducted by the University of Malta that studied current practices in open science across the SEA-EU Alliance, was sent to the European Commission in October and recently published on the reSEArch-EU webpage; while the Report on Stakeholder Engagement studies lessons learned in previous experiences with stakeholders such as the civil society, business or NGOs.

Inauguration of the SEA-EU LAB

On November 25, the opening of the first virtual teaching laboratory that the SEA-EU Alliance is installing at the University of Cádiz under the name SEA-EU LABS took place at the Puerto Real Campus Library.

The Rector, accompanied by the Vice-Rector for digitization and infrastructures, as well as the Library and Audiovisual teams and the SEA-EU Delegation, made a recording demonstrating the autonomous use of the facilities, which will allow the entire UCA community to record lectures, classes and communications of all kinds with professional results without the need for technical support.

It is an investment by SEA-EU in the UCA to take another step towards the transformation into virtual teaching.

[[video](#)]



Dipuactiva Outputs are now available

Once the four actions that made up the Dipuactiva program, funded by the Diputación de Cádiz, which included international mobilities for the support of young researchers, as well as conferences, workshops and seminars to promote cooperation in research of companies, administrations and researchers from our territories, reports have been published with their results.

The Dipuactiva program has been a success in all its lines of action, with 10 international visits of researchers and more than 100 participants between conferences and workshops.

These results are available on the SEA-EU website in English and Spanish at the following link.

[click here](#)



First face-to-face meeting of the Extended Executive Committee of reSEArchEU



As a conclusion of 2021, the first face-to-face Extended Executive Committee of reSEArch-EU took place on 1 December in the University of Gdańsk. In this meeting, internal reports reviewing project performance were discussed, and two important documents were approved: the first version of the Guiding Principles for the SEA-EU Academy and the first version of the Rules of Procedure for the Anti-Fragility Think Tank. The SEA-EU Academy will provide staff from all partner universities with learning opportunities in different fields of knowledge, thus strengthening the Alliance's human capital. The Anti-Fragility Think Tank will serve as a debate forum for experts on resilience and foresight.



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