The League of European Research Universities (LERU) is an association of 21 leading research universities that share the values of high-quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.

Founded in 2002, LERU’s mission is to advocate education through an awareness of the frontiers of human understanding; the creation of new knowledge through basic research, which is the ultimate source of innovation in society; and the promotion of research across a broad front in partnership with industry and society at large. The purpose of the League is to advocate these values, to influence policy in Europe and to develop best practice through mutual exchange of experience. LERU regularly publishes a variety of papers and reports which make high-level policy statements, provide in-depth analyses and make concrete recommendations for policymakers, universities, researchers and other stakeholders.

To celebrate its tenth anniversary, LERU will hold a special conference in Barcelona on 9-10 May 2012. The conference, entitled “European Research Universities - Guide and Engine for Europe 2050”, will provide a unique forum for the leaders of some of Europe’s top research universities to exchange views with their counterparts from outside Europe and with high-level representatives from the government and business sectors.

The conference will focus on the present and future roles of European research universities, relating them, in particular, to the EU research and innovation policy of the coming years. A comparison will be made with the situation in other parts of the world, including the US, Australia, China and Latin America, looking at topics such as frontier research and innovation, research assessment, management, funding, training and careers, mobility and the nexus between teaching/learning and research.

The leaders of LERU universities will share their views regarding the future of research universities in Europe and formulate proposals for how European research universities should evolve in order to remain a guide and engine for Europe 2050. Comments on those proposals will be voiced by high-level representatives from the EU institutions, the business world and LERU’s network counterparts from around the world, including the AAU, Go8 and C9.
Wednesday 9 May 2012

17.00h: Arrival and registration of participants

18.00h: Opening session
- Prof. Didac Ramírez i Sarrió, Rector of the Universitat de Barcelona and Prof. Bernd Huber, President of LERU and President of LMU München
- Mrs. Mairé Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research and Innovation (tbc)
- Mr. Morten Østergaard, Danish Minister for Research & Innovation (tbc)
- Prof. Douwe Breimer, former Rector Magnificus of the Universiteit Leiden

19.00h: Welcome reception, buffet and music

Thursday 10 May 2012

08.00-09.00h: Registration of the participants

09.00-10.00h: Welcome and introductory remarks
- Prof. Didac Ramírez i Sarrió, Rector of the Universitat de Barcelona
- Mr. Luis de Guindos, Spanish Minister of Economy and Competitiveness (tbc)
- Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell, Catalan Minister for Economy and Knowledge
- Prof. Bernd Huber, President of LERU and President of LMU München

10.00-11.30h: Research universities anno 2012 - A global perspective
Chair: Prof. Jordi Alberch, Vice-Rector Research, Universitat de Barcelona
- Europe: Prof. Malcolm Grant, President and Provost of University College London, Member of the LERU Board of Directors
- United States: Dr. John C. Vaughn, Executive Vice President of the Association of American Universities (AAU)
- Australia: Prof. Edward Byrne AO, Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, Deputy Chair of the Group of Eight (Go8)
- China: Prof. Jie Zhang, President of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University (tbc)
- Latin and South America: Prof. João Grandino Rodas, Rector of the Universidade de São Paulo

11.30-12.00h: Coffee break
12.00-13.15h: Reflections from an EU perspective

Chair: Prof. Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General of LERU

- Mr. Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Prof. Helga Nowotny, President, European Research Council
- Mr. José Manuel Leceta, Director, European Institute for Technology and Innovation
- Mr. Brian Ager, Secretary General, European Roundtable of Industrialists
- Mrs. Teresa Riera Madurell, Member of the European Parliament

13.15-14.30h: Lunch

14.30-15.15h: Plenary Address “The research university of the future”, Prof. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge

15.15-16.15h: Comments from an EU perspective

Chair: Prof. Alain Beretz, President of the Université de Strasbourg, Member of the LERU Board of Directors

- Mr. Robert-Jan Smits
- Prof. Helga Nowotny
- Mr. José Manuel Leceta
- Mr. Brian Ager
- Mrs. Teresa Riera Madurell

16.15-16.45h: Coffee break

16.45-17.30h: Global Panel Debate

Chair: Prof. Carlos Duarte, Director, UWA Oceans Institute, Member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) and Research Professor with the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

- Prof. Bernd Huber
- Dr. John C. Vaughn
- Prof. Ed Byrne
- Prof. Jie Zhang (tbc)
- Prof. João Grandino Rodas

17.30-17.45h: Conclusions, Prof. Bernd Huber

18.00-18.30h: Piano Concerto

18.30-20.00h: Reception