

Klaipėda Communiqué

Strengthening the European Network on Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate Research (UR) has become a major consideration amongst universities worldwide, for advancing both academic teaching and research activity. Numerous studies have shown that UR increases the quality of university studies. UR not only helps students but can also benefit the public, for instance through the outcomes of community-based UR. It is therefore essential that higher education institutions seek to involve students in research at the earliest opportunity. After the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to move UR forward together by means of a European network.

It is necessary to increase the exchange of good practices in mentoring and implementing UR. In order to both promote the *European Education Area* and *strengthen the European Higher Education Area* – and in line with the *European Strategy for Universities*, the *Digital Education Action Plan*, and the *European Skills Agenda* – we consider the following actions (amongst others) necessary to advance UR in Europe:

- Mutual support and exchange on UR between European universities (among students, staff, etc.)
- Institutionalization of an UR support structure at the European level
- Providing and sharing UR educational resources throughout Europe
- Creating avenues to address the UR needs of Network members
- Integrating UR within the current higher education strategy of the European Commission
- Establishing a regular *European Conference on Undergraduate Research*
- Collaborating with existing national and international networks on UR worldwide

Through UR we can break down barriers – between countries, universities, and communities. The European UR Network shall demonstrate the importance of UR for Europe.

24 February 2023

The undersigned Academic Vice Presidents

Academic Vice Presidents endorsing the Klaipėda Communiqué

Prof. Dr. Karsten Speck (University of Oldenburg, Germany)

Dr. Mark Sargent (LCC International University, Lithuania)

Prof. Dr. Dr. Marta Aymerich (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)

Dr. Michele Glacken (Atlantic Technological University, Ireland)

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Hölzl (Lucerne University of Teacher Education)

Prof. Dr. Chris Hughes (University of Warwick, UK)

Prof. Dr. Maja Klun (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Dr. J. D. Mininger (American University in Bulgaria)

Prof. Dr. hab. Przemysław Nehring (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Markéta Martínková (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

