

# Thinking knows no bounds

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## **Eucor – The European Campus EGTC**

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# About us



**2,300,000,000 €**  
TOTAL BUDGET OF THE 5 UNIVERSITIES



**117,000**  
STUDENTS



**15,000**  
RESEARCHERS



**13,500**  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATES



## HANS-JOCHEN SCHIEWER

President of Eucor – The European Campus,  
Rector of the University of Freiburg

“Studying and researching on a European scale, thinking and cooperating across boundaries: Eucor – The European Campus makes Europe into an everyday experience. We are harnessing the potential of the Upper Rhine region for joint and internationally competitive top-level research, for internationally attractive course offerings, and for European knowledge and technology transfer.”



- Eucor – The European Campus Universities
- Research institutes
- Higher education institutions

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## 5 UNIVERSITIES, 3 COUNTRIES, 1 CAMPUS

The European Campus is growing together. The Universities of Basel, Freiburg, Haute-Alsace, and Strasbourg and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology are strengthening their commonalities, taking advantage of complementarities, and creating synergies as the trinational alliance Eucor – The European Campus. In the heart of Europe, where the five universities are separated by a mere 200 kilometers, they are pooling their potential and defining joint projects for teaching, research, and innovation. The aim is to build up a clearly profiled and attractive science and research hub without walls or borders and with international outreach.

## AN ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIP

The European Campus developed out of a longstanding, trusting partnership between the universities reaching all the way back to the establishment of the Eucor network in 1989. In 2013 the presidents of the participating universities resolved to intensify their cooperation to form a “European Campus”. To achieve this goal, the participating universities got together in 2015 to found a common legal entity in the form of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). The individual universities retain their autonomy but can also act together under the name “Eucor – The European Campus.” As the first EGTC to be run exclusively by universities, the European Campus is a unique model project in the European research area.

## A UNIVERSITY-WIDE APPROACH

The European Campus impacts the participating universities in their entirety: in research, teaching, innovation, and administration. What this means in concrete terms is that the participating universities coordinate their planning and strategies more closely and can submit joint proposals, particularly in selected focal areas. To facilitate cooperation, they plan to establish and use common research infrastructures. There are joint course offerings with joint degrees. The vision is to make cross-border mobility into an everyday experience for students and researchers alike, thus opening up the entire trinational region to international top researchers, early-career researchers, and international students.

## A JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN

The universities on the Upper Rhine have given concrete shape to the cooperation and future development of the alliance in a joint strategic plan for the years 2019 to 2023. The groundwork was laid in a joint discussion process conducted at all levels of the universities. Taking the multitude of existing joint projects in research, teaching, and innovation as a basis, the strategic plan bundles competencies in a coherent structure and aligns them for the coming years.

## FOCAL AREAS OF THE EUROPEAN CAMPUS

The strategic plan sets the four thematic focal areas of the university alliance: quantum sciences and technology, personalised health – precision medicine, sustainability, and European identities. A comprehensive site analysis led to the definition of these focal areas, in which the universities are particularly competitive when pooling their efforts and where they stand to benefit most from collaboration.



## SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union has played an instrumental role in enabling the Eucor universities to intensify their cooperation in the past years. The strategic plan was developed as part of a project within the context of the Interreg Upper Rhine programme. It served to facilitate mobility for students and to promote the career entry and the intercultural competencies of students and university administrative staff. These structural measures were implemented from 2016 to mid-2019 with co-financing from university funds and regional public bodies. Funding from the Interreg programme also made it possible to establish the Upper Rhine Cluster for Sustainability Research and SERIOR, an international graduate academy in the area of interdisciplinary risk research, as European Campus pilot projects. Moreover, the member universities are currently collaborating with further higher education and research institutions in the trinational Upper Rhine metropolitan region to develop a concept for a cross-border research infrastructure.

# 5 universities

The trinational alliance extends across an area of 200 kilometers and comprises the Baden-Württemberg university towns of Freiburg and Karlsruhe, the Universities of Strasbourg and Haute-Alsace in the French region Grand Est, and the Swiss University of Basel.



## UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

 **ca. 13,000 students**

The University of Basel is the oldest university in Switzerland. It is a research university that cultivates a wide range of disciplines in its seven faculties. It is well positioned internationally in five strategic focal areas: life sciences, visual studies, nanosciences, sustainability and energy research, and European and global studies.

@ [www.unibas.ch](http://www.unibas.ch)

## UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG

 **ca. 25,000 students**

The University of Freiburg is distinguished by a mixture of traditional disciplines and cutting-edge research fields like biomimetics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. The course offerings at the comprehensive university range from microsystems engineering, medicine, and natural sciences to the humanities and social sciences. Twenty-three Nobel laureates have researched, taught, and studied there.

@ [www.uni-freiburg.de](http://www.uni-freiburg.de)





## UNIVERSITY OF HAUTE-ALSACE

 **ca. 10,000 students**

The University of Haute-Alsace is distributed across the towns of Mulhouse and Colmar and is known for its innovativeness, its expertise in international and intercultural relations, and its corporate partnerships in research and teaching. Its focal areas are materials science and research on the issues of mobility and interculturality.

@ [www.uha.fr](http://www.uha.fr)

## KARLSRUHE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (KIT)

 **ca. 25,000 students**

As “the research university in the Helmholtz Association”, KIT gears its main research fields toward the long-term challenges of society and offers a research-oriented university education.

Around 9,300 employees work together on a broad disciplinary basis in the natural sciences, engineering, and economics, as well as the humanities and social sciences.

@ [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu)



## UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG

 **ca. 50,000 students**

The University of Strasbourg is located in the heart of Europe and can look back on eminent scholars and a history reaching back nearly 500 years. It was named a University of Excellence on a permanent basis in 2016 and is distinguished by its interdisciplinary research, its comprehensive course offerings, and a rich cultural heritage. The University of Strasbourg has an international atmosphere: 20% of its students and 50% of its doctoral candidates hail from abroad. The university currently employs four Nobel laureates.

@ [www.unistra.fr](http://www.unistra.fr)

# Research

Research on the European Campus is international and interdisciplinary. Our researchers profit from complementary competencies and take advantage of synergies. The strong points of the French, German, and Swiss academic systems can be combined in innovative ways, thus enabling European technology and knowledge transfer across national as well as disciplinary boundaries. In the long term, the member universities plan to facilitate cross-border access to their research infrastructures. The goal is to place the entire Upper Rhine region at the disposal of our researchers as a trinational science and research hub.

## STRENGTHENING FOCAL AREAS

Quantum sciences and technology, personalised health – precision medicine, sustainability, and European identities – these four jointly defined focal areas are marked by cross-border research collaboration. A site analysis demonstrated that these areas offer particularly high potential for cooperation in the Upper Rhine region. By means of joint professorships and joint proposals for research funding, Eucor – The European Campus aims to further promote these focal areas and support integrated trinational research and teaching.



**G. PUPILLO**

Scientific director  
of QUSTEC

“At QUSTEC, we profit from our location in the Upper Rhine region in that our sites in Germany, France, and Switzerland have complimentary areas of expertise: We focus on a common research topic from the different perspectives of physics, chemistry, materials science, and informatics.”



**15,000**  
RESEARCHERS



**13,500**  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATES



**5 ACTIVE**  
NOBEL LAUREATES

## CROSS-BORDER DOCTORAL STUDIES

The European Campus has various international doctoral colleges and supports binational doctoral programmes with two supervisors at different universities. With the international doctoral programme “Quantum Science and Technologies at the European Campus” (QUSTEC), the university alliance is setting new standards in cross-border doctoral studies. The programme enables the best and brightest early-career researchers to earn a doctoral degree in this up-and-coming research field in an interdisciplinary and international setting, to conduct research at several universities, and to collaborate with industry partners. QUSTEC is being set up by Eucor – The European Campus with co-financing from the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 research programme.



### **B. KOCH**

**Director of the Upper Rhine Cluster  
for Sustainability Research**

“In the sustainability sciences, we are conducting cross-border research on the European Campus and taking advantage of the additional benefits afforded by the different perspectives and cultures of knowledge transfer. After all, it is particularly in border regions that the necessary transformation processes in the transition to more sustainability will need to be considered from a transnational perspective.”

# Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning transcend the boundaries of universities and countries on the European Campus. Students can draw up a trinational schedule and take courses at the five member universities of Eucor – The European Campus. In addition to knowledge and methodological competence, they thus also acquire language and intercultural skills.

## TRINATIONAL STUDIES À LA CARTE

There are two different basic forms of mobility: on the one hand integrated mobility in joint degree programmes, and on the other hand free mobility, in which students complete a semester or year abroad or just take individual courses “à la carte” at one of the partner universities – without additional fees and with transfer of ECTS credits. The universities support this by offering grants to cover travel costs. Students enjoy the same access to services at other member universities of Eucor – The European Campus as they do at their home university (online services, cafeterias, dormitories, reduced fares for public transit, mobility grants, library use, etc.).

## A VIBRANT CAMPUS LIFE

A number of student initiatives breathe additional life into the European Campus – in political, athletic, and cultural terms. The Student Council of Eucor – The European Campus advocates student interests. It is composed of representatives from the student associations of each of the five member universities. Physically active students also have the opportunity to discover the European Campus by bicycle. The annual “Tour Eucor” passes through all five towns of the European Campus and is organised by a student association. Another highlight is the Eucor Festival, at which students from the five universities get together to celebrate and enjoy live concerts by student bands from Germany, France, and Switzerland.



**960 COURSES**  
OF STUDY



**12 JOINT DEGREE**  
PROGRAMMES



**117,000**  
STUDENTS



## **NOLWENN JOUNOT**

**Student at University of Haute-Alsace and University of Freiburg (binational degree programme Regio Chimica)**

“When studying abroad, you acquire much more than just language and culture skills: Encounters and discoveries enrich everyday life and you get to know yourself better. Thanks to my year in the neighbouring country, I am steadily developing. It is worthwhile for anyone to have such an experience abroad.”



## **GEORG VON SCHNURBEIN**

**Professor, University of Basel**

“The different linguistic and cultural backgrounds as well as different didactic approaches enrich the cross-border courses that we can organise in the framework of Eucor – The European Campus.”

# Seed Money

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**PETER NICK**  
Professor for molecular  
cell biology, KIT

“In the field of plant science, we would like to offer a trinational master’s programme. Organising it involves close cross-border cooperation. We profited from Seed Money, which enabled us to create a position for the coordination of the project.”

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Joint projects in research and teaching between the universities of Eucor – The European Campus form the basis for the lively exchange and networking between researchers and students. To support this, the university alliance has established its own funding instrument, known as “Seed Money”. Each year, 300,000 euros flow from the budgets of the member universities into a common budget.

This leads to the first-ever trinational funding pool for initiating joint teaching and research projects in the Upper Rhine region. The first projects began receiving funding at the start of 2018. The high number of applications for funding testifies to the great interest in the research community of the Upper Rhine region in intensive cooperation and thus in the development of the European Campus.

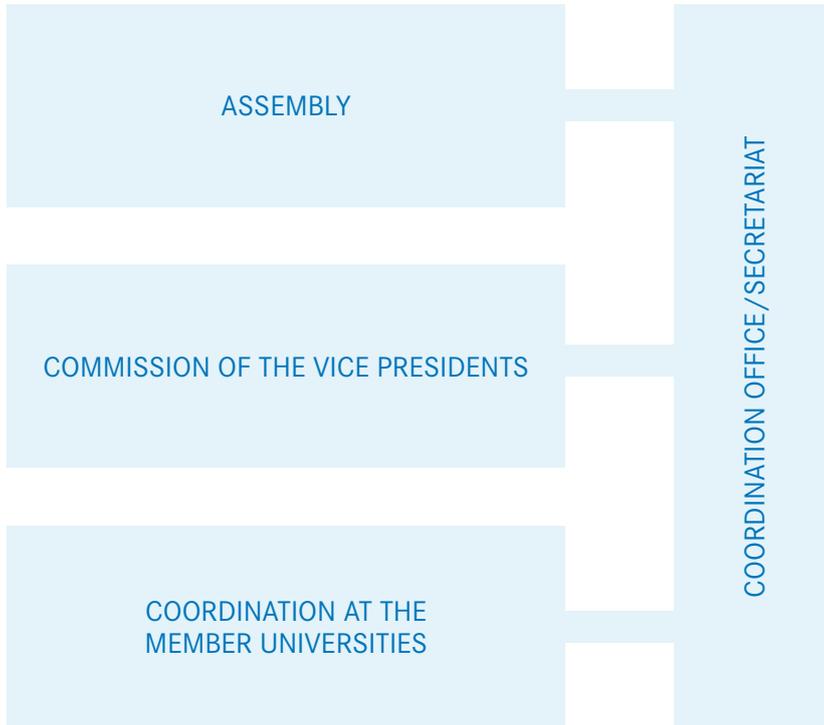
“We aim to use the Seed Money budget to fund bottom-up initiatives and to further mobilise the innovative potential on the European Campus,” says Prof. Dr. Hans-Jochen Schiewer, president of Eucor – The European Campus and rector of the University of Freiburg. “The seed capital allows us to develop new initiatives for the creation of cross-border course offerings and research projects.”

Eligible for funding are teaching projects as well as research and innovation projects. The researchers are expected to use the time in which they receive Seed Money for these projects to prepare larger funding proposals for national or European institutions. This enables them to secure a long-term financial perspective for the project. The projects are selected by experts from the member universities on the basis of their scientific quality, originality, and relevance. The projects are then reviewed by the university alliance for their strategic significance.

# Organigramme

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## GOVERNANCE



## ADVISORY BODIES



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# Europe at a glance:

## Research and teaching in the Upper Rhine Campus

