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Press release

Alliance for European Co-Operation in Higher Education

On July 16-17, the presidents of Europe's twelve leading universities in the economic and social sciences met at the University of Mannheim for strategy talks. On the initiative of President Prof. Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden they discussed developments in European higher education and explored the scope for co-operation.

Regular strategy discussions, the exchange of students and faculty, collaborative research programs, a joint position on European higher education policy, and even common study programs – the scope for these talks has been broad. “A strategy meeting of this kind is quite unprecedented and, by its nature, open-ended. Above all, our group wanted to have sufficient time for a comprehensive and open exchange about future forms of collaboration between top universities in Europe,” said Prof. Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden. “And we also want to send a clear signal of our commitment to a strong unified Europe.”

On Monday, in response to the University's invitation, university presidents from the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Sweden, the Netherlands, Hungary, and Israel arrived at the Mannheim Palace. The meeting started with presentations of their institutions and their ideas on European co-operation. It followed an initial discussion of the scope for research collaboration. On Tuesday, the focus was on teaching and European higher education policy, as well as on structural aspects of various forms of cooperation.

The University of Mannheim already has close partnerships with many of the participating universities. For example, together with the London School of Economics (LSE), Sciences Po (Paris), Bocconi (Milan), and the Central European University (Budapest) it founded ALUM, a European network for migrant research and policy. It also collaborates with the LSE in publishing the world's leading political science journal, the *American Political Science Review*. Together with the Stockholm School of Economics, Tilburg University, the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and the Université de Toulouse it runs the European doctoral research network ENTER, and it offers double degree programs for students from Mannheim University, inter alia with the Università Luigi Bocconi in Milan.

List of participating universities:

- London School of Economics and Political Science (London, UK)
- Sciences Po (Paris, France)

- Université Toulouse Capitole (Toulouse, France)
- Università Luigi Bocconi (Milan, Italy)
- European University Institute (Florence, Italy)
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain)
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (Vienna, Austria)
- Stockholm School of Economics (Stockholm, Sweden)
- Tilburg University (Tilburg, Netherlands)
- Central European University (Budapest, Hungary)
- Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (Herzliya, Israel)
- Universität Mannheim

You can find a press photograph at: <https://www.uni-mannheim.de/newsroom/presse/pressefotos/>

Photo caption: High-level meeting of the presidents of twelve leading European universities: Depicted in the photo are (from left to right, front row) Prof. Paul Kelly (LSE), Prof. Edeltraud Hanappi-Egger (WU Wien), Prof. Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden (Mannheim), Prof. Isabel Valverde Zaragoza (UPF Barcelona), Katarina Hägg (Stockholm School of Economics), Dr. Vanessa Scherrer (Sciences Po), Prof. Alexandra Mendoza Caminade (Toulouse 1); (back row) Prof. Stefano Caselli (Bocconi), Prof. Liviu Matei (CEU), Frédéric Mion (Sciences Po), Prof. Koen Becking (Tilburg), Prof. Renaud Dehousse (EUI), Prof. Uriel Reichman (IDC Herzliya), Dr. Eric Zimmerman (IDC Herzliya), Prof. Jaume Casals (UPF Barcelona), Prof. Dirk Simons (Mannheim).

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