

## EELISA GOVERNANCE MEETS IN PARIS TO MAKE STRATEGIC DECISIONS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN LINE WITH EUROPEAN PRIORITIES.



Working session of the EELISA Governing Board during last EELISA Global Meetings in Pisa (November 2024).

- On 13–14 May 2025, the EELISA Governing Board will convene in a pivotal meeting hosted by in **École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC)** and **Université Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL)** to reaffirm the commitment of institutional leaders—Rectors, Presidents, and Directors—to accelerating the implementation of EELISA across member universities.
- This significant EELISA event, which will also bring together representatives from the EELISA Executive and Academic & Scientific Boards, as well as the Student Council, will feature a high-level roundtable and a film screening.

Paris, 12 May 2025

As Spring blooms in Paris, the city becomes the stage for an intensive series of working days for EELISA, as strategic and advisory teams come together to address key issues with far-reaching impact—both for the EELISA community and the broader European higher education landscape.

The EELISA Governing Board meeting will open with a working dinner on May 13 during which **EELISA President Dale Martin** will officially pass the baton of the six-month Governing Board Chairship to the leaders of the new chairing institutions, **École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC)** and **Université Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL)**. This ceremonial transition will also serve as an opportunity to welcome newly appointed Rectors, Presidents, and Directors: [Óscar Martínez](#) (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, UPM), [Nicola Vitiello](#) (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, SSSA), [Regula Jöhl](#) (Zurich University of Applied Sciences, ZHAW), [El Mouhoub Mouhoud](#) (Université PSL), and the recently elected Director of Scuola Normale Superiore, [Alessandro Schiesaro](#).

A key objective of the meeting on May 14 will be to take stock of the commitments made at the [previous sessions in Pisa](#), recognize concrete achievements, and reinforce institutional support for the next phase of Alliance integration. The agenda will include an assessment of project progress, testimonials showcasing tangible outcomes across EELISA, and a facilitated session—led by **EELISA Project Coordinator Luis Salgado** and **EELISA Executive director Sofia D'Aguiar**—highlighting success stories from the year and half of **EELISA 2.0**.

Further discussions will focus on identifying **strategic priority areas for joint research initiatives** and advance on the establishment of an **EELISA Legal Entity** to serve as the Alliance's operational and service center—an essential step toward long-term sustainability. In addition, members will approve a **new enlargement strategy** aligned with the goals of EELISA 2.0 and consider the inclusion of new associated partners.

The Board will also address **key European political priorities** through a high-level roundtable discussion titled **"Shaping the Future with European Universities – Opportunities, Challenges, and Perspectives."** Featured speakers include **Ioana Dewandeler**, Policy Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture; **David Itier**, Head of Unit for European Strategies in Higher Education and Research at the French Ministry of Research and Higher Education; and **Antoine Mercier**, Representative of the French Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels. This roundtable will serve to reaffirm the European Commission's long-term vision for the European Universities Initiative while also highlighting France's continued political and financial support. Speakers will also reflect on the evolving context and geopolitical factors shaping the initiative's implementation and future direction.

The meeting will conclude with a comprehensive review of **EELISA's Joint Education strategy**, including developments in joint degrees, a shared course catalogue, micro-credentials, joint PhD initiatives, digital campus tools, and pilot programs for faculty training. A highlight of this session will be the **signature of a**

**joint statement on European Joint Degrees**, spearheaded by the Chairs and co-signed by the Board members—affirming the Alliance’s collective commitment to shaping the future of higher education in Europe

## GLOBAL WORKING SESSIONS: SHAPING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND ALLIANCE GROWTH

This important Governing Board meeting will be preceded by sessions of the EELISA Academic and Scientific Board, the EELISA Student Council, and the Executive Board starting today and tomorrow.

The first Board meeting, led by the **EELISA Dean of Studies Sophie Griveau**, and composed of prominent figures from the academic and scientific communities, will focus on aligning specific EELISA academic value propositions and their development. In-depth discussions will review key initiatives such as **EELISA Micro-credentials**, **EELISA Joint Degrees**, and the role of **EELISA Communities** as testbeds and incubators for innovative joint pedagogical offerings.

**The EELISA Student Council** will focus on onboarding new members and reinforcing its commitment to student engagement across the Alliance. Their session will also cover arrangements for the upcoming Student Council event, communication strategies, and improvements to the Council’s structure to ensure a stronger, more unified student voice within EELISA.

**The EELISA Executive Board** will focus on key strategic areas for the Alliance’s growth, including the current status of the **Hub-spoke structure** and the development strategy for the **EELISA Portfolio**. Dialogue will also encompass mobility within EELISA, the evolution of EELISA Communities as well as other critical topics aimed at advancing the Alliance’s impact and integration.

## TAKING SCIENCE TO THE BIG SCREEN: PRESENTATION OF THE EELISA SPECIAL MENTION

The sessions will conclude with a grand finale, featuring an open presentation of the film [A Mirror of the Cosmos](#), which won the **EELISA Special Mention** at the [2024 Film and Sustainable Progress Festival of Madrid](#). The special session will take place on 14 May at 5PM at the Amphithéâtre des loges 2 – Ecole nationale supérieure d’architecture Paris (PSL) and will be open to both meeting attendees and general audience.

Audience will have the chance to enjoy this thought-provoking about the Mar Menor lagoon, Europe's first ecosystem to be granted legal rights and the relationship between invasive species, mining, climate change, and the economic forces that shape our world.

The screening will be followed by a discussion moderated by the EELISA Student Council and featuring film's director **Isabelle Carbonell** along with **Roberto Casati**, Italian philosopher and thinker from the European Research Center CNRS of Paris, and **Rachid Dris**, researcher at the Water, Environment, and Urban Systems Laboratory (Leesu) of Paris.

A perfect ending to a series of working sessions expected to be fruitful and to continue paving the way for collaboration, at a time when transnational cooperation and highlighting the vital role of higher education are more necessary than ever.

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