

Agenda for CLUSTER-CESAER meeting

Wednesday April 10, 2024 – 4pm to 6pm

Moderator: Luc Sels, rector KU Leuven

4pm – 4.30pm

Introduction on CLUSTER: Jos Vander Sloten, secretary-general CLUSTER

Introduction on CESAER: Mattias Björnmalm, secretary-general CESAER

4.30pm – 5pm

Reflections on the position of KU Leuven in international networks: Luc Sels

5pm – 6pm

Open discussion along the following topics:

- What are the key challenges for both organisations?
- How can we support each other in achieving our goals?
- How do we see the interaction with other stakeholders such as the European University Alliances, LERU, European Commission
- Can we identify specific topics of collaboration between the working groups in CLUSTER and the task forces in CESAER?

To help explore further opportunities for collaboration between CLUSTER and CESAER (the discussion part of the agenda), all participants are invited to reflect on the following two topics before the start of the workshop. It may be helpful to liaise with colleagues across your own universities to get a full understanding of your universities view on these two topics.

- 1) **Advocacy in support of CLUSTER:** The first 'aim' of CESAER (as [listed here](#)) is advocacy at the European level so it would be welcomed to learn more about what concrete barriers CLUSTER and its members are currently facing in their collaboration and for what they want to achieve in the future. Basically, are there areas where you would like the EU (and the European Commission in particular) to change something to make things easier and better for CLUSTER and its members? For example in relation to EU policy and the type and functioning of the EU funding programmes such as Horizon and Erasmus? This could for example relate to the approach around dual degrees, EIT and its KICs, support to entrepreneurship, [boosting disruptive innovation](#), [advancing deep tech](#), and supporting engineering education for the future including in relation to [key technologies](#).
- 2) **Careers good practices:** As part of our [ongoing advocacy activities](#) on research careers, we are seeking good practice examples for how universities support their early-career researchers with a view to advocate for dedicated EU funding to expand such support (see [subheading 5](#)). It would be warmly welcomed if (some of) the CLUSTER members would be interested to provide good practice examples they may have. This relates to the efforts of the university for ensuring good student-outcomes for master students, PhD candidates and post-docs, and what the EU could potentially do to financially support such efforts.